Port of Fremantle
Port Development Plan

We’re in a time of change

The Port of Fremantle is evolving and this is exciting for Western Australia. Significantly, Westport is planning for the transition of container trade from the Inner Harbour to Kwinana. Westport’s stage 3 business case will be submitted to the Western Australian Government in mid-2024 to inform decision making around the timeframe for the new container port’s construction.

Planning and visioning work is also being undertaken on how the Inner Harbour will be developed post container trades. The Future of Fremantle Planning Committee is developing a longer-term vision for the Inner Harbour and surrounds.

The Department of Transport is investigating relocation options for non-container trades, with consideration given to both the needs of industry and optimising Inner Harbour redevelopment plans.

Other related initiatives include the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation-led Global Advanced Industries Hub along the Western Trade Coast.

These and other considerations are all part of a complex and interrelated port planning environment.

About the Port of Fremantle

The Port of Fremantle is an economic powerhouse that performs a critical role facilitating trade for Western Australia, the nation’s best performing State economy.

The port handles more than 99 per cent of Western Australia’s container trade and is the fourth largest and one of the most efficient container ports in Australia. But the port is more than just containers. It also facilitates a range of other trades, including dry and liquid bulk, non-containerised break-bulk cargo, vehicles and cruise ships. The port operates in two locations - the Inner Harbour in Fremantle and the Outer Harbour in Cockburn Sound.

For 125 years, the port has been a key import and export location on the Australian continent, continually innovating and adapting to provide customers and the community with the best possible trade opportunities.

As the operator of the Port of Fremantle, Fremantle Ports is a government trading enterprise with the Western Australian Government as its sole shareholder. Its purpose is to facilitate trade for a more prosperous Western Australia.

Fremantle Ports operates predominantly according to a landlord port model that is common worldwide, working hand in hand with private sector partners in the overall provision of port services.

Fremantle Ports also provides and maintains shipping channels in Gage Roads and Cockburn Sound, navigation aids, seawalls and road and rail infrastructure within the port environs that allow port users to conduct their operations safely and effectively.
Your input is important

While Fremantle Ports has a deep understanding of the port’s operations, the views of importers, exporters, port service providers and other stakeholders are vital if we are to achieve a port development plan that meets the requirements of those who use it, as well as maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of port assets. The more assistance you can give us, the better Fremantle Ports’ planning for the future will be.

Why we need a port development plan

The State Government is undertaking visionary planning to secure the future of the State’s metropolitan port facilities and supply chains. Working closely with key partners such as Westport, the Future of Fremantle Planning Committee, the Department of Transport and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Fremantle Ports is contributing to this long term vision by preparing a Port Development Plan. To successfully facilitate trade, we need to periodically look at all aspects of trade and other activities that occur at the Port of Fremantle. This input will provide Fremantle Ports and Government the knowledge to make good strategic decisions and be flexible and responsive in the years ahead.

What the port development plan process looks like

The port development plan will be developed during 2023 and is scheduled to be completed by mid-2024. Fremantle Ports will be working closely with Westport and other Government partners undertaking parts of the overall planning task for a better trading future.

Fremantle Ports will be consulting widely, both directly and via surveys. In some cases that will be in partnership with others, such as Westport, and the Departments of Transport and Jobs, Tourism Science and Innovation. At other times, we will consult direct.

We have sought the assistance of specialised consultants to take advantage of their expertise in complex planning and, in particular, their experience in port planning within Australia and overseas. These consultants and our team will be undertaking a range of planned activities, including detailed baseline analysis of all aspects of port trade and operations, capacity modelling, developing capacity options, assessing fleet profiles, as well as preparing concept plans and cost estimates.

Where you can find out more

This document summarises the port development plan project. For more information about the project or to ask questions or provide feedback, you’re encouraged to contact the project team direct at:

portdevelopmentplan@fremantleports.com.au

Phone: (08) 9430 3566 or (08) 9430 3330

Phases of Port Development Plan

The majority of stakeholder engagement is expected to occur in Stages 2, 3 and 5, however Port Development Plan updates will continue to be communicated as and when appropriate throughout the Port development planning process.