



## Draft Port Master Plan – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) has prepared a draft Port Master Plan (PMP) which considers how the Port of Geraldton, Fishing Boat Harbour and freight and infrastructure corridors could develop over the next 15 years to accommodate additional trade and support economic growth in the Mid West. Below are the answers to some FAQs about the PMP. A copy of the draft PMP can be downloaded from the MWPA website: <https://www.midwestports.com.au/geraldton-port-master-plan.aspx>

### What is the purpose of the draft PMP?

The draft PMP is intended to provide strategic guidance to the MWPA Board, stakeholders and the Geraldton community about how the Port may develop in the future to accommodate increased trade. It looks at different trade forecast scenarios; considers what infrastructure would be required to accommodate different levels of trade; and identifies projects that could be undertaken within the Port and surrounding areas to provide the infrastructure and facilities that are anticipated to be required over the next 15 years.

The PMP is not a legal document – it shows what the Port **could** look like as it develops, not what it **will** look like. Every project that has been identified will require its own funding; detailed planning and design; and relevant environmental, safety and, in some cases, local government approvals.

### How has the community been involved so far?

When the PMP project commenced, MWPA sought feedback from the community via an online survey about what matters it considered to be most important. We received 230 responses to the survey and throughout the planning process held several one on one meetings with stakeholders, including existing and potential customers, lease holders, local businesses and government agencies. The feedback we received has helped to shape the direction of the draft PMP.

### I live near the Port, what does this mean for me?

The focus of the draft PMP over the next 15 years is maximising the capacity of the existing Port of Geraldton to increase throughput from approximately 16 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to up to 50 mtpa. This will lead to the creation of numerous sustainable jobs for the Mid West region, through direct employment, engagement of local contractors, and support for local businesses and industries.

Many opportunities identified in the draft PMP are focussed on improving operations and efficiency within the existing Port footprint, which will have minimal impact outside the Port boundaries. The draft PMP also recommends using land between Cream Street and the John Willcock Link for activities that support the Port's operations. This is consistent with the current Local Planning Scheme zoning for the area, which is 'Port Industry'. As land availability near the Port is limited, the draft PMP looks at locating some Port-related businesses at the Narngulu Industrial Estate. The Southern Transport Corridor is critical infrastructure to ensure that goods can reach the Port efficiently and this will need to be preserved and potentially enhanced.



### **Have you considered the environmental impacts that will be associated with the implementation of the PMP?**

MWPA is focussed on minimising its environmental impact and operates in accordance with an Environmental Licence from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). As in the past, any additional cargo types or increase in export volumes will require an amendment to the current Environmental Licence, which will go through a rigorous assessment process by DWER. Similarly, any new developments with potential off-site environmental impacts will need to be assessed and approved by DWER and potentially the Environmental Protection Authority. Given this, any new infrastructure would be required to be built to best-practice industry standards.

MWPA regularly monitors air and water quality and noise and our monitoring programmes will be continually developed as the Port grows.

### **What does this mean for the Oakajee Port?**

MWPA is responsible for managing land and waters at Oakajee, 23 kilometres north of Geraldton, which may ultimately be developed into a deep water Port. The current short-to-medium focus based on trade projections is on maximising capacity at the Port of Geraldton. This will enable us to grow in a sustainable, staged and incremental fashion, which suits the diverse and boutique nature of our current and forecast trade, of which no single project currently progressing could economically support the development of a Port at Oakajee on their own. However, the construction of the Oakajee Port remains a longer-term option, particularly for large volume iron ore projects and / or large shipments of other commodities that would require substantial buffer distances from residential land uses.

It is noted that MWPA does not control the land set aside for the Oakajee Industrial Estate.

### **What is proposed for the Fishing Boat Harbour (FBH)?**

The draft PMP foresees that the FBH will continue to play an important role in supporting the region's rock lobster industry and other emerging industries such as aquaculture. Some projects include new ablutions, upgrades to pen infrastructure, and increasing opportunities for tourism related development, which may include a Fishing Heritage Centre. MWPA will continue to work closely with FBH users, including the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative and the FBH Consultation Committee, to ensure that future tourist-orientated activities are compatible with and complementary to the activities of a working harbour.

### **Are you selling the Port to China?**

Mid West Ports Authority is a Government Trading Enterprise which means it is owned by the State of Western Australia and there are no plans to change this. We seek to build trade relations all around the world, not just with China, although China is one of our trading partners.

### **How can I have my say?**

MWPA is accepting public feedback on the draft PMP until **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**. You can have your say by filling out an online feedback form <https://www.midwestports.com.au/geraldton-port-master-plan.aspx> or printing a copy and either emailing it to [masterplan@midwestports.com.au](mailto:masterplan@midwestports.com.au) or dropping it by the MWPA offices at



298 Marine Terrace or 5 Chapman Road. MWPA will consider all feedback received.

If you would like to speak to a staff person about the draft PMP, please contact our Planning team on 9964 0539 or send your query to the [masterplan@midwestports.com.au](mailto:masterplan@midwestports.com.au) email and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.

We are holding a Public Information Session on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 6pm at the Spalding Park Golf Club to present the plan and answer community queries. RSVP is required for catering purposes via the following link [www.bit.ly/mwppaplan](http://www.bit.ly/mwppaplan). We will also be at Rock's Laneway on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 10-12 am holding a pop-up session.

### **What happens next?**

When the public feedback period has concluded, MWPA will review all feedback received and will determine whether any changes need to be made to the draft PMP. The final PMP will then be presented to our Board and the Minister for Ports for endorsement. Once endorsed, we will start working with our stakeholders to further investigate and implement actions in the PMP.

The PMP will be a live document that will be reviewed and updated as needed, in light of updated trade forecasts and technical studies that are completed.