



## SOCIAL VALUES IN COCKBURN SOUND

The Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and Westport Marine Science Program is one of the largest and more comprehensive programs to fill important knowledge gaps in Cockburn Sound.

This three-year research program will help inform a sustainable port design and ensure a robust environmental impact assessment based on independent and objective science.

It will also provide a better understanding of the Cockburn Sound environment that will be useful to guide broader management of the marine environment.

### Social values are important

We recognise that Cockburn Sound is an important environment for the Perth community. It has many recreational uses, and is also home to marine wildlife.

The WAMSI-Westport Marine Science Program's Social Values theme has four projects dedicated to understanding how people use Cockburn Sound, and what they think is important.

	Project 1: Environmental values	Project 2: Recreational fishing values	Project 3: Other recreational values
<b>When</b>	Dec 2022 - Jan 2023	Nov 2022 - Mar 2023	Oct 2022 - Dec 2022
<b>What</b>	Focuses on how the community values the marine flora, fauna and natural habitats in Cockburn Sound. We recognise that some people might value Cockburn Sound's environment even if they don't visit it.	Speaking to the large recreational fishing community who uses Cockburn Sound, this project will identify the values important to them.	Focus on identifying and mapping all the other important recreational activities in Cockburn Sound, other than fishing.
<b>Who</b>	Around 1,000 people who are statistically representative of the different demographics across the Perth metropolitan area will be recruited by an independent research agency to participate in a survey, including people who do and don't visit Cockburn Sound.	Researchers will invite recreational fishers using the launch facilities, beaches and jetties in Cockburn Sound to participate in a survey, as well as members of local fishing clubs.	All recreational users of Cockburn Sound are welcome to participate in this online survey. Details will be advertised through recreational groups and at key local facilities, or you can email us for the survey link.
<p><b>Project 4: Environmental management options</b> - will use the information collected from the other three projects to help prioritise different options that could be implemented in and around the future port to enhance the parts of the environment that people most care about and reduce negative impacts.</p>			

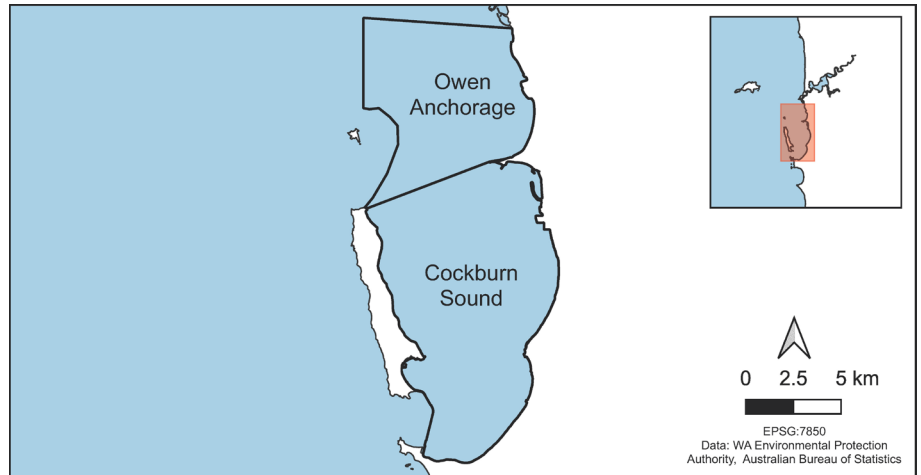
**Note:** If you use Cockburn Sound in a variety of ways, you might be approached to participate in more than one of the surveys (of course, there is no requirement to do so).

We will also run a small number of discussion groups with members of the relevant community to gather some more in-depth information about the values people have for Cockburn Sound, and to help inform the design of the surveys we will use.

## Social values are important

These projects will help to inform future management in Cockburn Sound by describing how people use and value the marine environment in the area.

- 1) The analysis of the data collected will explore differences in values and preferences between different groups of people, as well as identify what the 'average' or majority preferences are for using, managing and protecting the marine environment in Cockburn Sound.
- 2) The results from these projects will be communicated to the Westport Project Office to help inform their decision making. We will be working closely with the Westport team to facilitate this opportunity.
- 3) Survey outcomes will be shared with the community after conclusion of the Science Program.



**Figure 1.** The social values study site includes all of the Cockburn Sound marine environment and the immediate coastline, including the beaches, foreshore reserves and other public spaces.

**Note:** In accordance with our University Human Ethics procedures, results and data will only ever be shared and reported in a de-identified, anonymous way; any data that could reveal the identity of the participant will not be shared beyond the project team.

## A note about Indigenous cultural values

The WAMSI-Westport Marine Science Program's Social Values theme is addressing social values broadly across the Perth community, and members of the Indigenous community are welcome to participate in the surveys that will be conducted.

However, the Westport Project Office and WAMSI recognise the importance of Indigenous cultural values in Cockburn Sound, and that these values are deserving of dedicated attention.

Westport's Noongar Advisory Group will provide cultural, spiritual, community, wellbeing, economic, social and environmental advice to the Westport Program and promote culture and Country.

To learn more about how Westport is engaging with Traditional Owners visit <https://westport.wa.gov.au/engagement/aboriginal-opportunities/>

## Enquiries

- Questions about this research can be directed to Dr Abbie Rogers, Social Values Theme Lead at [socialvalues@wamsi.org.au](mailto:socialvalues@wamsi.org.au)
- More information about this research is available at <https://wamsi.org.au/research/programs/wamsi-westport-marine-science-program/>
- More information about Westport available at [www.westport.wa.gov.au](http://www.westport.wa.gov.au)
- Questions about Westport can be directed to [enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au)

We acknowledge that Cockburn Sound is situated on Noongar land and sea country, and that Noongar people remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of this country, and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge. We pay our respects to the traditional owners of the lands on which we live and work across Western Australia and Australia.

## Project Partners

