

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**  
**Launch of the Wetlands Centre Augmented Reality Trail**  
**1 October, 10am-11am**  
**Education Room at The Wetlands Centre**  
**184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake, 6163**

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Kaya, Hello and welcome to the launch of the Wetlands Centre Cockburn Augmented Reality Trail.

Today is the first day of the Nyungar season of Kambarang, signifying the season of birth and the wildflower season where an explosion of colour can be seen through our banksia woodlands and beyond.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

I also acknowledge:

My wife Patricia;

Cr Tarun Dewan;

Professor Treena Burgess, Chair, The Wetlands Centre and other Board Members here today;

Ana Terrazas, General Manager, The Wetlands Centre and other staff and volunteers;

Nidia Hansen, 3D Artist;

Ms Carissa Bywater, A/CEO City of Cockburn;

Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Sustainable Development and Safety;

Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

In Cockburn we are blessed with a stunning coastline and our amazing banksia woodlands and a chain of wonderful wetlands.

These are more than just beautiful places to visit, they are vital habitats for our native flora and fauna, some of which are rare or threatened.

Protecting and preserving them for future generations is a priority for the City.

We think one of the best ways to achieve this is by empowering grassroots groups that are passionate about conservation.

Our long-term partnership with the Wetlands Centre, beginning all the way back in 1993, is a perfect example of this.

This partnership has taken many forms over the years.

Currently, we are in the third year of the current funding arrangement.

I am pleased to say that the Centre continues to exceed their agreed Key Performance Indicators.

Last year the Centre delivered over 10,000 hours' worth of educational programs to our community and generated 6,000 hours of volunteer work – remarkable achievements.

We continue to work together on the annual Earth and Ocean Schools Festival, attended by hundreds of young people each year.

The City is also proud to have funded events and projects such as the Centre's Cultural Community Day, last year's Oral Histories project and the annual Wetlands Conference.

I know we are also looking forward to supporting the Centre for the upcoming Bibra Lake restoration project.

And of course, there is this beautiful location.

The City invested \$6 million into redeveloping the Wetlands Precinct, where the Centre is based.

This included major upgrades to the Centre itself, with a new education room, nursery, and an artificial wetland.

This year, we were pleased to provide a \$5,000 Cultural Grant to help bring this new initiative – the Augmented Reality Trail – to life.

This exciting project gives visitors a fresh way to explore the precinct, integrating interactive digital elements into the trails and exhibits.

It's designed to educate, engage, and inspire people of all ages to learn more about our local plants and animals.

I am eager to test the trail myself and encourage everyone in our community to come and experience it through the month of October.

Thank you to the Wetlands Centre team, the artist Nidia Hansen, and all the staff and volunteers who make projects like this possible.

Your work enriches our community and helps ensure Cockburn's wetlands remain a treasured part of our City for generations to come.

I now formally launch the Wetlands Centre Cockburn's Augmented Reality Trail knowing that it adds a further dimension to the learning experiences of all who come to visit the Centre.

Congratulations once again.

Thank you.