

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
Heading to the horizon: innovation Showcase and Platform Launch
Walyalup Civic Centre, 151 High St Fremantle
23 April 2026

Good afternoon

I am delighted to be here today for the 'Heading to the Horizon: Innovation Showcase and Platform Launch.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyungar people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

I also acknowledge my mayoral colleague, Ben Lawver, Mayor of the City of Fremantle, and our partners from the Ocean Impact Organisation, The University of Western Australia and For Blue, along with industry representatives and innovators here today.

My name is Logan Howlett, Mayor of the City of Cockburn, and it is a pleasure to join you for this Blue Gravity showcase and program launch.

The blue economy has been an integral part of our region and community for many decades.

From the Australian Marine Complex at Henderson through to a strong network of local businesses working across maritime, defence and offshore sectors.

The City of Cockburn has deliberately chosen to back this space because we believe the next wave of economic growth for the region runs through ocean-based industries.

Over the years, we've seen rapid growth and innovation.

From established industry to bold new ventures.

From local strength to global opportunity.

And that shift is only continuing to accelerate.

However this momentum does not build on its own.

It is supported by initiatives like Blue Gravity, which the City of Cockburn has proudly backed from inception.

Delivered by For Blue, Blue Gravity has grown into a key platform for accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship across the blue economy.

Connecting ideas, investment and industry, and creating the conditions for ventures to scale and succeed.

And we are already seeing results.

Ventures supported.

Investment attracted.

And growing recognition of Western Australia as a centre for ocean innovation.

Today is not just about showcasing that progress.

It also marks a next chapter.

A new platform giving innovators, SMEs, corporates and investors the infrastructure to connect, collaborate and grow

This is exactly the kind of enabling environment that turns good ideas into viable businesses.

For the City of Cockburn, our role is clear.

We are here not just to support industry, but to help shape the conditions for its future success.

Through partnerships like this, through initiatives such as the Henderson Innovation and Research Hub, and by continuing to position Cockburn as a place where innovation can start, scale and succeed.

The global blue economy holds many opportunities for coastal communities like Cockburn.

But to realise its full potential will take collaboration.

That is what today represents.

To everyone involved - thank you.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, partnerships and opportunities that emerge from this next chapter of Blue Gravity.

Thank you.

