

# Soundings

Whadjuk Nyungar Boodjar



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The City of Cockburn acknowledges we are on the Boodjar (country) of the Whadjuk Nyungar people.

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## Message from the Mayor

**This edition of Soundings celebrates renewal and the many ways we are growing with our community to coincide with Dgilba, when the days are getting longer and the start of the massive flowering explosion is not far off.**

Inside our August issue, read how the City's adopted 2026-27 budget will ensure we continue to deliver value for our community through important projects, upgraded facilities and essential services (pages 4-5). These investments are designed to support our growing population while enhancing the lifestyle we all value in Cockburn.

You'll also read about the exciting growth of women's sport in our city, with the arrival of AFLW at Cockburn ARC Oval (pages 8-9) marking a significant milestone for local sport – particularly women's sport. This is complemented by progress on projects such as the Beale Park upgrades (page 6), which continue to create inclusive, high-quality spaces for residents to enjoy.

We also shine a spotlight on the stunning natural environment that makes Cockburn so unique. From blooming wildflowers and biodiversity initiatives to improved walking and cycling networks, there are many ways for our community to choose sustainability and protect our natural spaces. You can read more about these topics on pages 11 and 12.

Finally, I encourage you to read the inspiring story of Serena Gamble, featuring in our Quintessentially Cockburn series (page 10), whose dedication reminds us of the strength and generosity within our community.

Together, these stories reflect a shared commitment to building a sustainable, active and connected Cockburn now and into the future.

Enjoy the read.

**His Worship the Mayor Logan K. Howlett, JP**

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## Elected Members



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Read more about your Elected Members:  
[www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/ElectedMembers](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/ElectedMembers)

# Delivering value for our community

**The City of Cockburn's 2026-27 Budget, adopted at the 30 June Special Council Meeting, sets a clear focus: delivering the essential services our community loves and relies on, while continuing to invest in the infrastructure and spaces that create a connected, thriving and easy place to live.**

The budget is shaped directly by community priorities identified through the City's Strategic Community Plan. That means how Council decides to spend money is guided by what residents say matters most to them – funding is directed to where it will make the greatest difference, according to the community.

Like previous years, the City is operating in a challenging economic environment, and rising costs are affecting both households and local governments. Council has worked carefully to balance affordability with the need to maintain current service levels and deliver important projects that support our growing community.

A strong capital works program remains a key feature of this budget, delivering upgrades and new infrastructure across Cockburn. Highlights include

continued investment in major community spaces such as Beale Park in Spearwood, upgrades to local reserves and playing fields, and improvements to popular playgrounds including Manning Park.

Significant funding is also going towards improving road safety, resurfacing works, and footpath upgrades to support safer and more connected neighbourhoods. Investment in natural areas, parks and environmental initiatives will help protect and enhance the unique landscapes that make Cockburn special.

These projects sit alongside the ongoing delivery of more than 60 essential services – from maintaining over 400 parks and reserves to operating community facilities, delivering events and community programs, and providing 24/7 safety patrols through CoSafe.

Cockburn continues to provide strong value for money compared with other neighbouring local government areas, and high community satisfaction levels reflect the quality of services, facilities and public spaces delivered across the City.

Visit What's Happening in My Suburb:  
[www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/MySuburb](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/MySuburb)





# Key project highlights 2026-27

- Cockburn ARC surrounds development .....\$1.05 million
- Beale Park redevelopment ..... \$2.8 million
- Atwell Reserve changeroom upgrades..... \$4 million
- Manning Park playground ..... \$250,000
- Urban road safety improvements in Bibra Lake ..... \$720,000
- Memorial Hall electrical equipment upgrade..... \$80,000
- Upgrades at Port Coogee Marina (replacement of mesh decking and boardwalk paint).....\$400,000
- Cockburn ARC planning and upgrades ..... \$2 million
- Enhancement of our natural areas, parks and playgrounds, including shade sails and interpretive signage..... \$5 million
- Black Spot road projects..... \$5.8 million
- Road resurfacing..... \$8.7 million
- Drainage works..... \$4.8 million
- Footpath improvements.....\$1.06 million

# Key services being delivered every year to ratepayers

Waste collection – three bin services, four verge collections (three from January 2027\*) and six trailer passes



Three libraries, Seniors Centre, Youth Centre, Family Support Services, Cockburn Care, Cockburn ARC and Volunteer Resource Centre



Parks and reserves, sports grounds, recreation facilities, streetscapes, trees



Roads, footpaths and drainage infrastructure



CoSafe – providing a mobile safety and security patrol service to the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week



Free concerts and events for our community



\*From 1 January 2027, green waste verge collections will reduce from two to one as a 12-month trial. There will be no change to bulk verge collections.

# Beale Park upgrades close to the finish line

**In June, the redevelopment of Beale Park reached an exciting milestone, with new community facilities and sports floodlighting completed and ready for use.**

This first phase lays the foundation for the broader transformation of the 7.9-hectare Spearwood reserve into a modern, multi-use sporting and community hub.

At the centre of the upgrade is a new building featuring accessible unisex changerooms, public toilets and flexible indoor spaces designed to support a range of activities beyond organised sport. Together with the newly installed floodlighting, the improvements significantly expand how the reserve can be used, particularly during the evening.

Cockburn City Soccer Club, who make the park its home during winter, began using the new facilities this season, marking the first stage of activation for the site.

The redevelopment is focused on creating a shared community place that can host a variety of community groups and activities over time, and planning is underway to support these future opportunities.

Work across the reserve will continue this year, with the next stage to include landscaping, upgraded car parking and new recreation features such as a playground, barbecue area and multisport court.

Once complete, Beale Park will offer a significantly enhanced space for sport, recreation and community life, supporting our diverse and growing community.

The full redevelopment is expected to be completed early next year and will be celebrated with a formal opening event.

The \$15.18 million project is supported by a \$1 million contribution from the Western Australian Government's Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport.

This project is part of the WA Government's PlayOn WA, an exciting initiative to deliver 2,030 community infrastructure items across WA by 2030.

Stay up to date with the project at [comment.cockburn.wa.gov.au/BealePark](https://comment.cockburn.wa.gov.au/BealePark)



Photo: Michael Conroy, Silvertone Photography.  
Built by Shelford Constructions.



# Discover rare flora this spring

**Step onto a bush track in early spring and you might discover something remarkable – some of our region's most threatened species quietly emerging for their brief moment in the sun.**

September 7 marks National Threatened Species Day. In Cockburn, these species can be found in local reserves and coastal areas, often closer than you think. There are the Honeymyrtle Shrublands at Manning Park, the Banksia Woodlands at Bibra Lake Reserve and the Tuart Woodlands at Woodman Point.

These areas grow a range of stunning and rare wildflowers, including Grand Spider Orchid, the Coastal Banjine and the *Dampiera triloba*. These species are monitored and protected through targeted conservation efforts such as habitat management, weed control and community education.

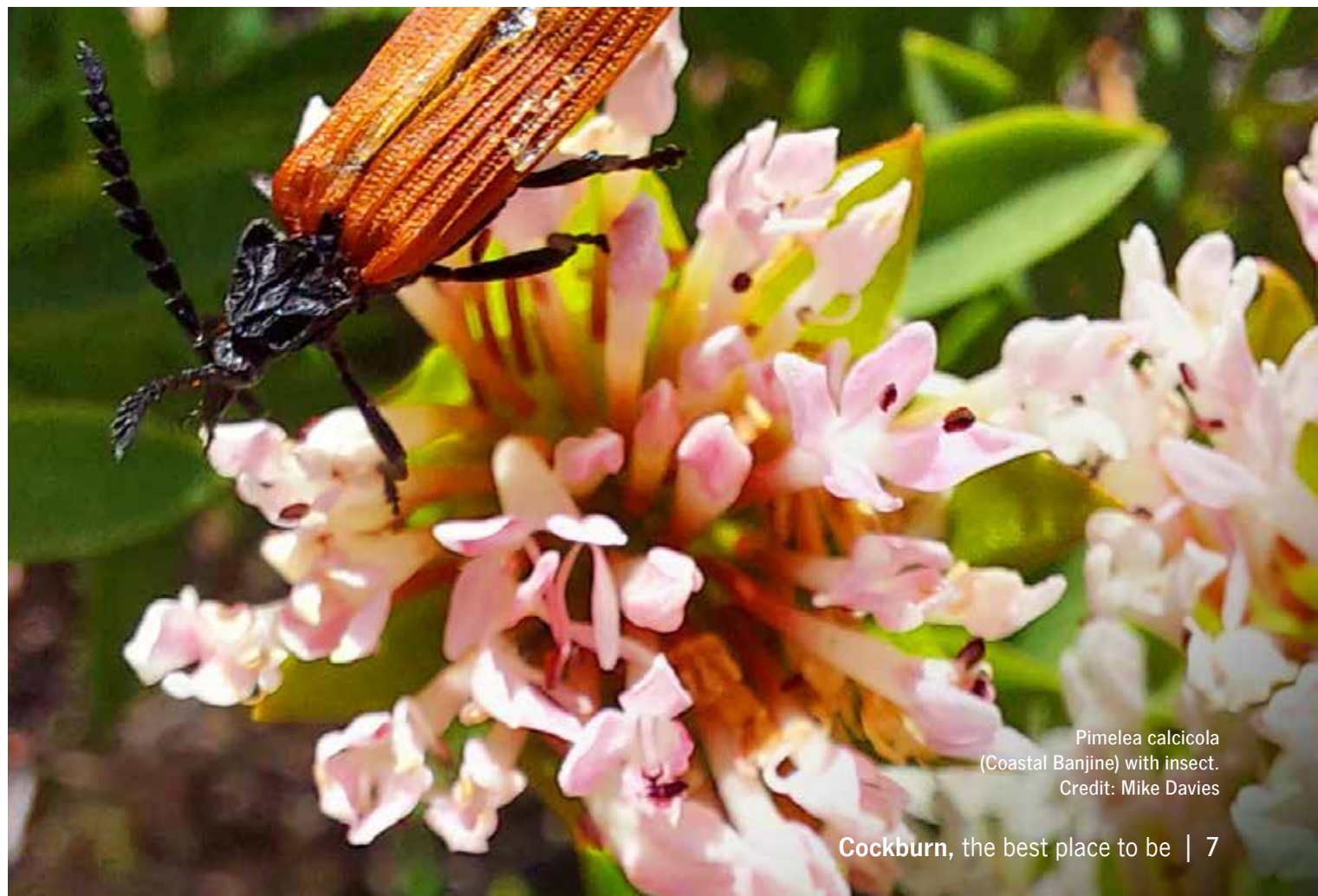
In September, the City will be offering several guided walks through these areas, led by local experts.

You can also download our wildflower guide to help you identify species:

[www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Wildflowers](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Wildflowers)



*Caladenia huegelii*  
(Grand Spider Orchid).  
Credit: Mike Davies



*Pimelea callicola*  
(Coastal Banjine) with insect.  
Credit: Mike Davies



# A new era of women's football begins

**AFLW history will be made in Cockburn on Sunday 16 August when the Fremantle Dockers women's team play their first of six home games at the club's official headquarters.**

While Cockburn ARC Oval has previously hosted AFL and AFLW pre-season matches, Fremantle's opening home game of the season will be the first time official AFLW premiership matches are played at the venue.

The milestone to host games in Cockburn in 2026 also celebrates the strong partnership between the Fremantle Football Club and the City of Cockburn, underpinned by a shared vision for the Cockburn ARC precinct to be the heartbeat of the Cockburn community.

The Club's decision to move AFLW matches to Cockburn is part of its Redevelopment Masterplan of

Cockburn ARC Oval and reflects the need to continue to invest in the women's program from a high-performance perspective.

City of Cockburn Chief Executive Officer Daniel Simms said the relocation of Freo's AFLW matches to Cockburn ARC Oval was testament to the City and Club's successful Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2023.

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“The City's endorsement of the masterplan will now address critical infrastructure gaps and unlock strategic opportunities for regional growth, particularly women's sport.”

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“Cockburn’s reputation as Perth’s playground continues to grow, and anchored by Cockburn Central Station, the Cockburn Central precinct offers direct north–south rail connectivity and growing east–west links,” Daniel said. The Masterplan, which was endorsed by the City of Cockburn at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 May, involves the development for recreation, education and community uses in a three-stage approach, including the achievement of hosting AFLW home matches at the facility for the upcoming season.

The City is excited to continue its partnership with Fremantle Football Club to benefit the wider community and grow the women’s game.

“Cockburn is a place of firsts, and offering AFLW games in Cockburn Central, one of Perth’s designated Strategic Metropolitan Centres and a key gateway for the south metro region, is something to celebrate,” Mayor Howlett said.

“Providing world-class facilities for women’s football is another step in our ongoing local government role in creating a cohesive, engaged and active community.”

Recent facility upgrades at Cockburn ARC Oval in 2025, which included dedicated AFLW changerooms, additional community changerooms and a covered 250-seat spectator terrace, were prioritised with the specific intent of supporting AFLW matches in future years.

Fremantle AFLW captain Ange Stannett said the opportunity to tap into new growth markets within the Cockburn area will be great for the game.

“We represent Fremantle wherever we play, and hosting home games at Cockburn gives us the chance to play in a state-of-the art facility and align with the broader growth of the competition overall,” Ange said.

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“As the AFLW competition continues to grow, it’s essential that we provide elite high-performance facilities for our athletes that reflect the professionalism of the game and the people playing it, and that is what Cockburn ARC Oval provides,” Fremantle Football Club Chief Executive Officer Simon Garlick said.

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Six Fremantle home games will be played at Cockburn ARC Oval. For more information and ticket bookings, visit [www.fremantlefc.com.au](http://www.fremantlefc.com.au)



Photo above: FFC CEO Simon Garlick, City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, Fremantle captain Ange Stannett and City of Cockburn CEO Daniel Simms.





# 'Selfless' Serena is Quintessentially Cockburn

**When Serena Gamble makes a commitment, it's as good as a cast-iron guarantee.**

She is the driving force behind Community Collective Hamilton Hill Incorporated, providing food, groceries and household supplies to a monthly average of 3,500 individuals.

With her steadfast supporters – husband Owen and their three children – Serena has been responsible for helping people from all walks of life put food on the table for nearly a decade.

The volunteer charity administrator and former chef manager was named Cockburn's 2026 Volunteer of the Year in May, making this can-do character undeniably Quintessentially Cockburn!

Serena's common response to an appeal for help is 'yes' because she makes herself personally responsible for the outcome, or she leans on a band of family, friends and volunteers who have earned her trust.

After many years growing up in group foster care as a child, the fact she can trust anyone is to her credit, and the Cockburn community is the fortunate beneficiary of her selflessness and commitment to helping others.

Serena previously ran a Feed It Forward food charity from the driveway of the family home in Hamilton Hill for seven years before forming the new charity and winning a tender to operate from the City of Cockburn's Southwell Community Centre.

Her motivation for helping others has deep roots in Christchurch, New Zealand, where she spent 11 years in foster care with around 100 other children after her family broke apart.

After spending two unsuccessful years trying to reconnect with her dad in Perth Serena was taken under the wing of Owen's parents, Ron and Elaine, who were seasoned foster carers.

"I spent years sharing clothes, shoes, toys, dolls, even baths as a foster child. That's why I get the need to be independent, and I work hard to make that possible for all people, whether they are homeless, struggling with bills or going through a rough patch," Serena said.

**To read more of Serena's story, and others in the Quintessentially Cockburn series, visit the City's website.**

Serena Gamble and her charity help save five tonnes of good-quality food from landfill every week by making it free for people in need.





# Short journeys made easier

## How often do you walk to the shops? Or ride to school?

For many of us, not as often as we'd like.

Sometimes it's the busy road that's hard to cross or the lack of a footpath through a muddy park. It just feels quicker and easier to jump in the car, but with fuel prices rising that choice is starting to bite.

Over the next decade, the City's new Bicycle and Walking Network Plan is focused on making it easier to get to school, the train station or your local café, without driving.

Shaped by community feedback, the plan targets unsafe crossings, disconnected paths and difficult school access. Upgrades will focus on key routes like Hammond Road and Russell Road, alongside safer intersections including Rockingham and Cockburn roads.

There's also a strong push around schools. A new "Safe Around Schools" program will assess every school and prioritise improvements like better crossings, continuous footpaths and calmer traffic conditions.

Across the network, the City will shift from painted bike lanes to safer, separated paths, while planning major links like the "Wetlands to Waves" corridor connecting neighbourhoods to the coast.

The goal is to make it easier to walk or ride for short trips instead of driving – saving residents money, incentivising healthier lifestyles and reducing traffic.

## Improving our intersections

Most of us know a local intersection or two that makes us anxious.

In July, the City began upgrading two local intersections to improve safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

At Carrington Street and Forrest Road, works are introducing a raised intersection, protected right-turn signals and dedicated pedestrian crossing phases. This will help reduce vehicle conflicts and slow traffic through the area. The works are being delivered by WCP Civil.

At Rockingham Road and Spearwood Avenue, works are introducing fully protected right-turn signals, upgraded pedestrian crossings and improved cycling connections. The project is being delivered by CIVCON Civil.

Both upgrades are expected to be completed in October 2026.

Together, these projects are part of the Australian Government's Black Spot Program, targeting locations where practical changes can make a real difference.





# Nature, right on your doorstep

**September is Biodiversity Month, and we are celebrating the rich variety of unique ecosystems within Cockburn, from thriving wetlands to bushland to our vibrant coastline.**

Spring is when these systems come alive, offering the perfect time to explore and connect with nature.

This year, residents can get involved through Wildlife Weekends at local libraries, guided walks with environmental groups and opportunities to contribute to citizen science projects.

Whether you're spotting species, learning from experts or simply enjoying the outdoors, there's something for everyone.

## What animals live in Cockburn's ecosystems?

### Wetlands

#### **Southwestern Snake-Necked Turtle (Yaakan and Booyi)**

Spring nesting season sees turtles crossing roads and paths near wetlands. Hatchlings are tiny, and adults eat frogs, fish and insects. In hot weather, they lie dormant in mud. Log sightings on TurtleSAT.

### Bushland

#### **Magpie (Kulbardi)**

Spring is nesting season, with magpies raising young that may be seen on the ground. Swooping is temporary. Known for their musical calls, they can even detect insects beneath the soil.

### Coastal

#### **Dugite (Dobiti)**

Dugites are more active in warmer months and play an important role in coastal ecosystems. They're usually shy – stay calm, keep your distance, stick to paths and leash dogs.

Visit: [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/BiodiversityMonth](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/BiodiversityMonth)



## Councillor Corner

**Councillor Carol Zhang shares what's top of her goal list this year.**



One of my goals is to complete the Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member). As a Councillor, I believe continuous learning is essential to serving the community effectively and making informed decisions on behalf of residents.

The diploma is helping me develop a deeper understanding of local government legislation, governance, strategic planning, community engagement, financial management and policy development.

By strengthening my knowledge and skills in these areas, I will be better equipped to contribute to transparent, accountable and effective decision-making.

My ultimate objective is to provide better service to our community and support good governance within the City. I want to ensure community concerns are heard, public resources are used responsibly, and Council decisions are made in the best interests of current and future residents.

Through completing the diploma and applying what I learn in practice, I hope to become a more effective Elected Member and make a positive contribution to the long-term wellbeing and prosperity of our community.



# Small-business owner events series levels up

**Our business networking events are getting a refresh, with a new name and a renewed focus on meaningful connection.**

Cockburn Small Business Connect will be held every second month, bringing together local small-business owners and their teams in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

The series is designed to strengthen relationships across Cockburn's local business community, creating opportunities to share experiences, build partnerships and support one another's growth.

With more than 10,000 businesses calling Cockburn home, most of them small or family-run, we know how valuable local connections can be.

Join us for the launch event on Wednesday 26 August at Port Coogee Marina, 5 Maraboo Loop. Visit the City's website for more information or to book online.

Subscribe to Business News and receive monthly updates and workshops to help support your business.

Visit: [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Business-eNews](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Business-eNews)



## Community engagement updates

### Get local updates that matter to you

Our new suburb pages on Comment on Cockburn make it easier to stay informed and have your say. Follow your suburb for updates, quick surveys and opportunities to shape your local area. Share your ideas, feedback and priorities to help inform decisions in your community.

**Join today and follow your suburb. Visit:**  
**[comment.cockburn.wa.gov.au/city-cockburn-local-suburbs](http://comment.cockburn.wa.gov.au/city-cockburn-local-suburbs)**

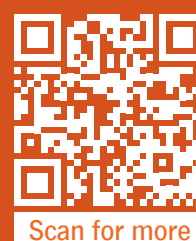


Local suburbs

### Are we on the right track?

Last year, residents shared their thoughts on parks and outdoor spaces across Cockburn. We've combined this feedback with information about the parks, reserves and open spaces in your suburb to identify local strengths, opportunities and future focus areas.

**Now it's time to check in with you. Have we got it right? Visit Comment on Cockburn to see what we've found out and tell us what you think.**



Scan for more

# The value of the tree next door

**On a hot afternoon, it's often the biggest trees that make the biggest difference – the ones shading the footpath, cooling the backyard or filling the air with birdsong.**

These are the trees many of us pass every day without a second thought, yet they quietly influence how our neighbourhoods feel and function.

Cockburn's new Tree Protection Policy has been introduced to help safeguard these larger, established trees on private property.

The policy allows everyday pruning and maintenance to continue, and exemptions apply for safety and bushfire requirements.

The approach reflects community priorities, with 76 per cent support during consultation.

It's a practical step toward protecting the tree canopy that supports cooler, greener and more liveable suburbs.

Learn more: [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/RegulatedTrees](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/RegulatedTrees)



## Councillor Corner

### **Councillor Tarun Dewan discusses his vision for Cockburn.**

When I think about the future of Cockburn, I see a community that feels like one big family. A place where people feel safe, respected and connected, and where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life regardless of their age or financial situation.

Many residents have spent years building their homes, raising families and contributing to our community. They deserve reliable services, safe neighbourhoods and opportunities to stay active and involved. I would like to see more activities for young people, more spaces for seniors to meet and socialise, and stronger programs that help reduce loneliness and support healthy ageing.



I also want to see greater support for women's sport and more opportunities for young people to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities. These activities help build confidence, discipline, teamwork and strong community values.

Just as importantly, our youth should have access to local employment opportunities.

Looking ahead, I want Cockburn to become a smarter and more efficient city by embracing new technology and innovative ways of delivering services. My corporate experience has taught me the importance of reducing waste, improving accountability and making sure every ratepayer dollar is spent wisely.

My vision is a safe, active and financially sustainable Cockburn where seniors are valued, young people are supported, families thrive and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.



# What's On in Cockburn

Shake off the winter chill and spring into action! From Children's Book Week to a community fun run, there's something for everyone at our upcoming events across the City.

Mark your diaries or visit our website for more information [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Events](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Events)



## AFLW Fremantle vs Port Adelaide (Round 1)

First home game: Be a part of history as the Fremantle Dockers women's team run out at Cockburn ARC Oval.

**Sunday 16 August**, 2.35pm - Ticketed event.

Cockburn ARC Oval, Cockburn Central.

Free entry for children aged 14 or under.

Tickets online or at the gate (non-members welcome).

[www.afl.com.au/aflw](http://www.afl.com.au/aflw)

Ticketed



Free

## Children's Book Week 2026

**22-28 August** - Free event

Cockburn Libraries.

Free, book online.



Free

## Cockburn Small Business Connect

**Wednesday 26 August**, 8.30-9.30am

Port Coogee Marina office, North Coogee.

Free, book online.



Free

## Fur Run

**Sunday 30 August**, 10am-1pm

Macfaull Park, Spearwood.

Free, canine companions welcome (on a lead).



Free

## Bibra Lake Fun Run

**Sunday 13 September**, 8am warm-up, 8.30am start

Corner of Gwilliam and Progress Drives, Bibra Lake.

6km or 12km course. Free, registration essential.

# Rethinking beach bins

**A walk along Cockburn's coastline may look a little different this spring.**

In recent years the City has reduced the number of beach bins along the coast from around 40 to just 13 between the Omeo shipwreck and Woodman Point. The shift is part of a more intentional approach to waste management, encouraging people to take responsibility for what they bring and leave with.

The results are promising. Between November 2025 and April 2026, around four tonnes of waste was collected from beach bins, with signs that less rubbish is being left behind. Thoughtfully placed bin signage is helping prompt behaviour change, and improved servicing schedules are keeping key areas maintained during busy periods.

Just as importantly, the change is sparking conversation. When staff are out emptying bins, it often leads to informal chats with beachgoers about litter, recycling, and the impact of small actions. Many in the community are already stepping up and regularly collecting litter during their visits to help protect the coastline for others.

During peak times the bins are serviced daily but the message remains the same: our beaches aren't landfill sites.

By taking a few simple steps, like thinking about what you pack for the beach, everyone can play a part in keeping Cockburn's coast clean and enjoyable for all.



## Changes to verge collections coming in 2027

From 1 January 2027, changes will be introduced to verge collections.

Some properties will move to new collection areas, and green waste verge collections will be reduced from two to one per year as part of a 12-month trial.

More information will be provided in October. Sign up to our monthly Soundings email newsletter for the latest updates: [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Newsletters](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Newsletters)

