

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony
City of Cockburn Administration Building, 9 Coleville Crescent,
Spearwood.
9am, Monday 6 July

Good morning everyone.

I thank the Reverend Mitchell Garlett for his Welcome to Country and his sharing of the Nyungar language, customs, and dream time stories that continue to inform us as we share the journey of reconciliation.

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here with us this morning.

I also acknowledge:

- Ms Kylie Johnson, A/Chief Executive Officer;
- Other Members of the Executive and Members of Staff;
- Members of the Aboriginal Reference Group; and
- Members of the Community.

It is my great pleasure to officially launch NAIDOC Week 2026 here at the City, and to do so alongside our staff who play such an important role in supporting our community, each and every day.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme, 50 Years of Deadly, is both a celebration and a reflection.

It marks five decades of recognising the strength, resilience, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

“Deadly” is a powerful word – one that speaks to excellence, pride, and cultural strength.

Over the past 50 years, NAIDOC Week has grown into a national movement that honours the voices, stories and contributions of First Nations peoples, and challenges all of us to continue learning, listening, and walking together.

Here at the City, we are proud to support this important week, not only through events, but through our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, inclusion, and culturally safe community spaces.

NAIDOC Week is also a time to come together – to celebrate, to connect, and to learn from one another.

I encourage all staff to take part in the activities happening across our City.

On Wednesday acclaimed singer-songwriter Gina Williams-Ghouse AM will lead a special singing workshop at Success Library – a fantastic opportunity to experience language, music, and culture.

Also, one of our key community celebrations will be Moort Danjoo Koorliny – or Families Coming Together Family Day, taking place on Thursday 16 July from 10am to 2pm at the Yangebup Community Centre.

This free, family-friendly event is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate culture and connection.

There will be a special visit from the Fremantle Dockers women's team players as well as live performances, face painting, traditional damper making, and a range of community stalls and activities for all ages to enjoy.

Everyone is welcome.

Events like this are a reminder that NAIDOC Week is not only a time for reflection – it is also a chance to share experiences, celebrate community pride, and build stronger relationships.

Staff can visit the City's website and intranet for more details on all NAIDOC Week events and activities and these details are available for the community on the City's website.

I would like to thank our staff and community partners who have worked hard to bring these events together.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Kathleen Turtur, First Nations Community Development Officer - Reconciliation who recently graduated from the Yorga Djenne Bidi Aboriginal Leadership Program and who received her graduation certificate at a ceremony in Government House last week. An outstanding achievement; congratulations Kathleen.

Ladies and gentlemen, your efforts help ensure that NAIDOC Week is meaningful, inclusive, and accessible for everyone.

As we mark 50 Years of Deadly, let us all take a moment to reflect on our shared journey, acknowledge the work still to be done, and recommit to building a more inclusive and respectful future.

Thank you all for being here this morning, and I am pleased to officially launch NAIDOC Week 2026 at the City of Cockburn

Thank you.