

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
Official Opening – The Elemental Installation – An Adventure on
Paper
Wetlands Centre Cockburn
Saturday, 11 July 2026

Kaya Wonju Wonju – Hello and welcome to the official opening of The Elemental Installation – an Adventure on Paper. I am delighted to see so many families here today.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to First Nations people here today.

I also acknowledge:

- Professor Treena Burgess, Chair – Wetlands Centre Board and other Board Members here today;
- Ana Terrazas, General Manager, Wetlands Centre and other members of staff and volunteers;
- Rachel Riggs, Imaginary Leaps a creative learning artist who continues to bring the Home Program to life;
- Rickeeta Walley, Lakshmi Kanchi, Kate Hannah, Roe Kanchi & The Wetlands Centre Cockburn who have collaborated with Rachael;
- My wife Patricia;
- Deputy Mayor Phoebe Corke;
- Lorenzo Santoriello, A/Director Sustainable Development and Safety;
- Participants in the program of activities to unfold today;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys;

ELEMENTAL is an artist-led site-specific children & family project for all ages and abilities produced & developed by creative learning artist Rachel Riggs in collaboration with Rickeeta Walley, Lakshmi Kanchi, Kate Hannah, Roe Kanchi & The Wetlands Centre Cockburn.

The project has been realised thanks to support of the WA Government, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and Healthway through the Creativity & Wellbeing for Young people fund.

Today we'll see ELEMENTAL turn 4 spaces in The Wetlands Centre into an innovative installation with arts and play activities inspired by the four main elements – earth, fire, air and water.

Everything is made with paper, recycling our throwaways into a paper world adventure with colour & pattern inspiring play, storytelling, sound, movement, projections - the possibilities are endless!

Over Term 2 the HOME program children & carers have been creating & experimenting with different kinds of paper making together to transform The Wetlands Centre into a series of fantastical sets where each element comes alive with art play and hands-on activities.

Every ELEMENTAL area has 'Creation Stations' to build what you can imagine, with local artists facilitating creative play & sensory engagement, adding to the installation, with an exhibition of children's art from across the HOME program workshops.

So, let's journey through the interactive installations where you can explore, perform and play.

- **EARTH** - Make a flower for the tissue garden with storytelling, puppet time and percussion;
- **FIRE** - See the world of shadows, create shadow puppets & tell stories in the fiery cave;
- **AIR** - Come over the rainbow, fly a kite or a paper plane and wave your flag; and
- **WATER** - Feel silver whirlpools, swim with the fish and add to our watery poems.

So with no further ado I hereby declare official open The Elemental Installation – an Adventure on Paper.

Thank you.