



City of Cockburn  
COCKBURN CENTRAL PUBLIC ART PLAN

## Document Information

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Cockburn Central is the largest urban centre within the City of Cockburn. Experiencing significant growth and undergoing considerable change, the Centre is reflective of the wider City context which has experienced significant and sustained growth over the past several decades, quadrupling in size since 1971 to now over 106,000 residents.

Established residential suburbs surround Cockburn Central and the town centre precinct is tracking towards completion, however a considerable amount of development is yet to evolve within the Core Area. As a result the Public Art Plan is required to acknowledge not only local contextual attributes and its importance to the wider region but also long term aspirations for the Centre given its young and evolving status.

The City is committed to not only promoting the important environmental and cultural attributes of the Centre, including the Beeliiar wetlands - the most important inland natural asset in the region, but is also committed to the long term aspirations of the Centre of which hold desires for public spaces to evolve from being characteristic of a suburban centre, to holding unique characteristics of an important, diverse urban centre.

The City's public art framework apportions 1% of commercial, civic, institutional, and educational projects or public works greater than \$1M for public art investment, in addition to multiple dwellings in excess of \$2M (Local Planning Policy 5.13 Percent for Art). In order to provide a strategic basis on which to commission public art, this Public Art Plan has been developed to provide a planned and strategic approach that best highlights and complements Cockburn Central.

In developing the Public Art Plan consideration has been given to both artwork opportunities and to the contribution that public art can make to the physical environment, the community experience and the potential contribution to the local economy. The economic benefits might flow from increased visitor numbers and visitors spending more time within the Centre, and therefore more likely to spend time in cafes and restaurants.

With this in mind, the Public Art Plan provides a framework for prioritising key nodes and other locations ideally suited to concentrations of the proposed art opportunities in order to create focus areas and linking artworks that encourage people to access the Centre – particularly by foot.

The Master plan draws on the urban design analysis provide within the Cockburn Central Activity Centre Plan (2016), in addition to the relevant contextual analysis and development considerations within the Centres several adopted Structure Plans, including:

- Cockburn Town Centre
- Cockburn Central West (CCW)
- Cockburn Central North (Muriel Court)
- Gateways

# 1.1 POLICY CONTEXT AND ROLE OF THE PUBLIC ART PLAN

## Community Strategic Plan 2016-2026

The City's highest level strategic document - The Community Strategic Plan identifies the need to:

- Ensure high density living is balanced with the provision of open space and social spaces;
- Foster a greater sense of community identity by developing Cockburn Central as our regional centre, and;
- Continue to recognise and celebrate the significance of cultural, social and built heritage including local indigenous and multicultural groups.

This Public Art Plan is seen as an important contributor in meeting these high level objectives.



Above: Public art incorporated into a park bench at Cockburn Central Town Centre square

## LPP 5.13 'Percent for Art'

The City's Local Planning Policy LPP5.13 'Percent for Art' (LPP) makes provision for professionally produced artworks on private land as part of eligible developments within the City of Cockburn. In order to expand options available for developers and their artists and promote

public art in public spaces, the City has prepared this Public Art Plan and associated LPP Cockburn Central Percent for Art to broaden the options for developers in Cockburn Central West and the Cockburn Central Town Centre, to:

- Coordinate an artwork project themselves, within their subject site; or
- Coordinate an artwork project themselves within public land; or
- Make a cash-in-lieu contribution to the City, in which case the City will coordinate an artwork project within public land, in line with this Plan.

Additionally, this Public Art Plan provides guidance for future developments across Cockburn Central that may require a public art contribution into the future. For example future structure plans including the next stage of development for Gateways Shopping City should consider how any future proposal shall integrate with this Public Art Plan.

Alternatively, the City or individuals may decide to contribute and/or facilitate public art projects as funding becomes available from alternative sources, therefore the Public Art Plan seeks to coordinate these opportunities as they arise.

## Objectives of this Plan

- Physically enhancing public places, the public realm and buildings;
- Providing greater meaning and context to the precincts, places and buildings in Cockburn Central by providing linkages to the history, character and culture of the locality;
- Contribute to a 'sense of place' for Cockburn Central, by creating difference and identity for particular locations;
- Create local or regional landmarks;
- Encourage the increased use and enjoyment of public places, and;
- Contribute to the 'visitor experience' of the regional centre.

## How to use the Plan

For development in Cockburn Central West and the Town Centre precincts (highlighted in Blue - Figure 1) this Public Art Plan should be read alongside the City's Local Planning Policy Cockburn Central Percent for Art.

All developers and their artists when reading this Public Art Plan are recommended to follow these key steps to inform the design of public art and location selection:

1. Consider the relevant contextual information provided within Section 1.2 About Cockburn Central.

2. Refer to Section 2 – artwork opportunities, of which sets out themes and narrative options to inform artwork designs.
3. Refer to Figure 5 - Elements to inform public art locations to identify potential installation locations.



Figure 1: Cockburn Central precincts and area subject to the City's LPP Cockburn Central Percent for Art (shown in Blue).

## Public art types

Public art has a broad scope with many possibilities for the form, function, materials and degree of permanency of the artwork. It can include any one or more of the following forms:

**Sculpture or standalone** objects that are not part of a building or other structure;

**Industrial or functional** works that serves an operational function within the built environment, such street furniture, bike racks, paving, fencing or lighting that has been designed by an artist.

**Building features** (incorporated into the architectural fabric) or applied to a surface, such as artworks applied to building facades, or murals on walls.

**Heritage / Memorial:** artwork designed to recognise the history or cultural heritage of a place, or to commemorate a person or past event.

**Aboriginal Art:** cultural, heritage or contemporary artworks which are specifically commissioned to be created by Aboriginal artists and/or to have involvement of locally Aboriginal people.

**Natural artworks** (land-form artworks);

**Temporary/ephemeral** works artwork designed to be installed for a short time frame (e.g. 1 week to 1 year), such as artwork in a seasonal programme or art made with materials that are intended to only last for a limited time.

**Interactive artwork** that the public can interact with, beyond merely touching the work, such as works incorporating sound, lighting or movement that responds to public or environmental interaction.

**Multimedia** artwork produced or displayed through the use of technical media such as digital imagery, film, video, and photography or projection art.

**Community Art** artwork that is created with the involvement of community members or groups, such as local residents or school students. Community art is usually produced through a collaboration project between a qualified artist and the community group.



Above: Multiple skateboards provide a wayfinding marker to signify the entrance to the Market Garden Skatepark.

## Existing public art

A range of public artworks exist within Cockburn Central. A selection of these are provided opposite.



## 1.2 ABOUT COCKBURN CENTRAL

### Why have public art in Cockburn Central?

The inclusion of public art within public spaces is seen as an important contributor to a unique, vibrant centre where people live, work and play. Importantly, the design and inclusion of public art can promote the history and context of Cockburn Central in addition to recognising future aspirations and plans for the activity centre. Together these elements form the basis of this Public Art Plan of which is structured as follows –

- Local contextual information for Cockburn Central;
- Identifies themes to inform artwork design;
- Identifies locations for public art, and;
- Details the design approval process.

### Contextual information

#### Geographic

Cockburn Central is located along the Kwinana Freeway 19km south of Perth's CBD containing the Cockburn Train Station. Of significance is the Centres proximity to the Beeliar Wetlands located approximately 2km to the west of the Centre.

#### Environmental heritage

Cockburn Central is located in the Bassendean Dune/Sandplain complex. The historic vegetation of the area would have been a Banksia dominated open woodland, with taller Melaleuca and Eucalyptus dominated woodland in swampy areas. Largely influenced by variations in the underlying water table, the Banksia Woodland included the occasional Jarrah in dune areas, but altering to sedge/heathland in wet areas.

Large areas of Banksia woodland have been cleared in the last century, largely to make way for pastoral land uses and, more recently, urban expansion.

This basic landscape history of Cockburn Central partly helps to identify significant features of the locality, but also provides local attributes to inform public art ideas.

### Proposed urban context

Aspirations for Cockburn Central include being the most important centre south of Perth, with a desire to evolve from a suburban centre to a vibrant centre hub for people to live, work and play. This will require public spaces and streets to match the quality architect currently emerging within the Town Centre and Cockburn Central West precincts.

Cockburn Centrals urban precincts and public spaces will have an urban feel about them but will provide for relevant markers and design references to local contextual considerations so as to promote local character.

It is vital that Cockburn Central's aspiration to evolve to an urban centre with concentrations of diverse development is balanced with connections to the natural environment, including good provisions of street trees. Streets within Cockburn Central West will contain native species along all streets with the exception of Veteran's Parade of which will be formalised through avenue plantings of Jacaranda's.

The sporting fields and the wetland area known as Yandi Park will be key recreation areas for residents, visitors and workers. Other surrounding precincts will be the location of smaller more urban gathering spaces such as is currently provided within the Town Centre square and the public space play area outside Cockburn Gateways.

Several pieces of public art exist within the Town Centre square. The City encourages developers and their artists to contact the City to further understand the design intent of specific yet to be delivered public spaces should artwork be proposed in these locations.

## Social context

Within the town centre a dominance of 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings exists however the Cockburn Central West precinct is expected to also provide a mix of 3 bedroom dwellings, as a result it is expected the current provision of 1 or 2 person households will expand to include families particularly in the proximity to recreation areas in Cockburn Central West.

The diverse dwelling types in addition to the broad range of visitors and workers suggests a diverse cultural and demographic context of which will take some time to better understand as the Centre evolves and new residents start to move in.

## Aboriginal history

The wider area of the Bibra Lake chain of wetlands, of which Cockburn Central located within, is associated with aboriginal mythology. According to aboriginal people the Waugal, a mythological creation serpent, created the surrounding landscape and resides in the water.

Prior to intensified suburban and residential development and landscaping, the wider water system including swamp and wetland areas and freshwater springs were utilised by Aboriginal people when camping and hunting. As a result, archaeological surveys undertaken in surrounding areas indicate that sites found to date have included mythological sites, artefact scatters, historic camp sites, meeting places and water sources.

The Elders of contemporary Nyungar families recount stories of their 'old people' and events that took place near water sources when on heritage surveys. In traditional times, movement took place along identifiable tracks or 'pads' which passed by rivers and between wetlands and swamps, forming a link between camping and hunting areas and were often used on a seasonal basis according to optimum availability of edible plant species and meat.

Being part of the eastern chain of lakes, Bibra Lake was an important trading post for Aboriginal groups of the Swan and Murray River regions. It holds significant value to Aboriginal people as a place where knowledge was transferred through generations, corroborees and a place where respect for animals and the environment were shared.

While there are no sites within the Public Art Plan area currently under the provisions of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, the association of Aboriginal mythology provides an interesting account of the sites heritage for some artists to draw inspiration from and provide connections to the past.

## 2 ARTWORK OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunity 1: Regional Connections

This concept relates to commissioning artists to create artworks that relate to Cockburn Central's regional narratives associated with Natural, Historic and Transport connections. These stories will promote Cockburn Central's:

- Close proximity and connections to naturally significant areas including the Beeliam Wetlands,
- Local history including Aboriginal heritage, and;
- Regional transport connections - noting the presence of the Cockburn Central Train Station and the Town Centres existing urban references, including street naming referencing transport elements.

### Opportunity 2: Community

This theme relates to a series of artworks that promote concepts relating to the local community and future desires for the Activity Centre, including - the Neighbourhood, Diversity, Innovation, and Recreation. A key outcome sought is to promote local identity, culture, and a sense of place for residents, workers and visitors relevant for a vibrant urban centre – not a suburban centre.

### Opportunity 1: Regional connections concept

Regional connections is about recognising Cockburn Central's importance as the largest and most influential urban centre, highlighting its central location in the in the South West region, and its strong connections to transport for residents, workers and visitors. It also seeks to promote the proximity of elements that contribute to and define the Centre's sense of place, with a key focus on the proximity of the Region's most significant inland natural asset – the Beeliam Wetlands.

The concept behind the Regional Connections theme also seeks to promote connections to the regions local history, stories and Aboriginal history given its emerging role as the region's largest civic centre and meeting place.

### Artwork locations

Artworks within this category are most appropriate in and around the alignment identified within Figure 2. The route highlighted in green identifies the most direct and important paths providing connections with the wider region, including:

- Direct access from the Cockburn central Train station and across the Centre;
- Access in and out of the centres key gateway locations, and;
- The most direct route towards the Beeliam Wetlands;
- Connections between the Beeliam wetlands and Yandi Park, and;
- Key routes connecting different precincts.

The following benchmark images provide examples to guide design discussions.

### Benchmark images (See page 12):

1. Artist unknown – source: [http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/arts\\_and\\_culture/public\\_art\\_projects](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/arts_and_culture/public_art_projects)
2. "Balance" by artist Vivienne Lowe
3. "Canoe people" Amanda Feher and Billy Doonan <http://amandafeher.com.au/portfolio/canoe-people/>
4. Artist unknown - Source: <http://www.koopertasmania.com.au/>



Figure 2: Regional connections theme alignment (green) and site specific artwork for Remembrance Avenue (orange)



Segmented Landscape by Jennyfer Stratman (Right) draws on ideas of landscape, architecture and human connection. The figures represent peoples inherent interconnection with the land and with each other. The steel segments have naturally oxidised to a textured rusty surface and blend with the earthy hues of the surrounding area while the red figures provide a sharp visual contrast.

Source: <http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/>



This work was made for Cardinia Shire as its form represents the natural environment unique to the shire. It is designed specifically for the forecourt of the Cardinia Cultural Centre and represents the building's direct relationship to the surrounding wetlands. Toolim is a Boonwurrung word for the local 'juncus' sedge which was once plentiful in the wetlands on this site and used extensively by the Traditional Owners for weaving. Toolim celebrates the history of the swamp and invites the community to reflect on the heritage of the area as well as changes to the local environment.

The work complements the architecture of the Cardinia Cultural Centre in both colour and form and on a windy day the sculpture moves like reeds in the water

Paul Johnson the artist lives and works in South East Queensland and has completed numerous public art commissions throughout Australia. Johnson sees public art as beginning with the site and local community; the artist has said: 'It self-consciously addresses a whole range of viewers while ensuring significant durability of both materials and ideas.'

Source: <http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/>

## Known site specific opportunities

### Aboriginal connections

Midgegooroo Avenue and Yandi Park provide obvious locations for public art relating to Aboriginal history given the presence of the wetland and the street reference to Midgegooroo.



Burleigh Heads Aboriginal rock inscription. The rock honours Yugambah men and women who served in defence of this country.

### ANZAC spirit and Aboriginal persons involved in war time efforts

Three street names in Cockburn Central West form part of a commemorative area in honour of our ANZACs. The three streets have a common theme around service, sacrifice and remembrance –

- Remembrance Avenue: Recognises the country's past military conflicts and the service men and women who did not return;
- Veterans Parade: Recognises those that came back from war. It includes a play on the use of 'parade' and its military connotations that occur each ANZAC Day, and;
- Legacy Way: Recognises the community's responsibility for caring for the families of those that did not return from war.

Future City plans for this precinct include public artwork to honour our Veterans, including Aboriginal Veterans involved in war time efforts. These works will be located along Remembrance Avenue and in and around the wetland.

Artworks that provide a function, including seating (See bench example - opposite) around the oval are strongly encouraged in consultation with the City's Parks Team.

### Benchmark images

The following benchmark images are provided for consideration:

1. Burleigh Heads Rock Inscription - Source: <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-anzac-day-war-memorials#ixzz4FOQX4mpU>
2. Unknown
3. Artist: Miriam Klein Stahl in collaboration with Pippa Murray Mosaics
4. Artist unknown - [www.lynnwoodwa.gov/PlayLynnwood/Arts](http://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/PlayLynnwood/Arts)
5. Architect - stARTT. Source: [www.archdaily.com/146875/whatami-at-maxxi-startt](http://www.archdaily.com/146875/whatami-at-maxxi-startt)



In situ road markings (example provided above) may provide relevant references. For example red poppy's could be provided within the Remembrance Avenue Road reserve.



The City and artists might explore opportunities within the landscape surrounding Remembrance Avenue. Depending on the project these artworks could be temporary artworks that are introduced for ANZAC day services each year.

## Opportunity 2: Community

### CONCEPT

This theme seeks to promote a strong sense of community for both residents and workers in Cockburn Central. It also seeks to contribute to the centres evolving status as an important location for employment and recreation. All are seen as important contributors to Cockburn Central's unique community. As a result the theme highlights 4 narratives –

- Neighbourhood;
- Diversity (culture);
- Innovation, and;
- Recreation.

Developers and their artists are encouraged to explore opportunities to contribute to these narratives with recognition of the following.

### Neighbourhood

In addition to Cockburn Central being a key location within the South-West region for shopping and services, it is also evolving to accommodate a diverse community made up of residents and workers. A portion of which already reside within the Town Centre precinct, with hundreds of others yet to move into the Centres other mixed-use precincts including Cockburn Central West and Cockburn Central North. Cockburn Central West for example is expected to accommodate 1,800 permanent residents, in addition to a significant amount of office workers. Therefore the theme of Neighbourhood seeks to promote a narrative that:

- Promotes connections between the 3 neighbourhoods - the Town Centre, Cockburn Central West and Cockburn Central North;
- Encourages engagement between residents, and/or;
- Explore the meaning and importance of neighbourhoods.

### Diversity (culture)

Cities and large urban centres by their nature are diverse. Diverse in the people they attract (culture) and by the activities that occur within

them. Cockburn Central will be no exception. This narrative seeks to recognise and celebrate diversity both for residents but also the diversity of the wider region. It seeks to promote the aspiration of Cockburn being a diverse and exciting urban centre where people want to visit and spend time in its public spaces. The wider regional community will at some point visit and spend time in Cockburn Central. Developers and artists may like to explore how public art can contribute to incidental gathering areas for a range of users.

### Innovation

Cockburn Central seeks to promote quality employment that supports the wider sub region. This narrative seeks to promote local innovation. This may relate to storey telling of a local success storey or celebrate Cockburn Centrals role as a forward thinking centre and promoting its role as the sub region's largest, most successful centre.

This narrative may also promote Cockburn Centrals proximity to, and important supportive role for the region's important industries.

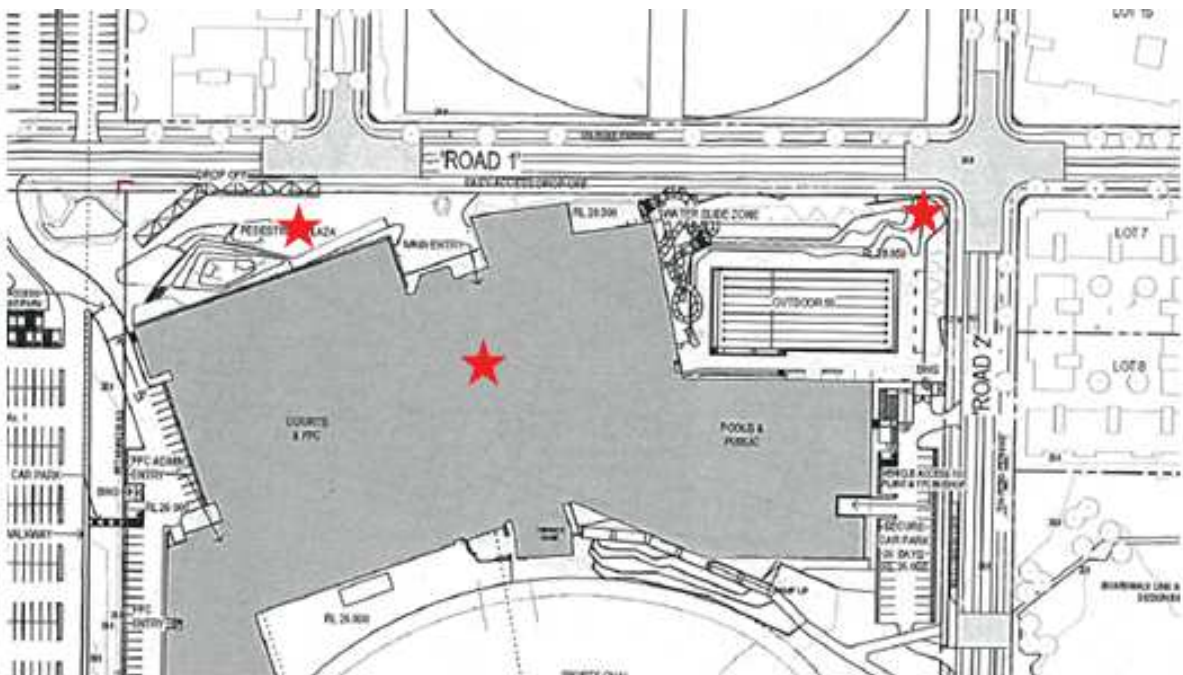
### Recreation

The Cockburn ARC and surrounding sport and parklands are the centrepiece of Cockburn Central West precinct. The precinct will be the region's most important recreation destination and will attract visitors from around the region. This narrative seeks to celebrate sport and recreation and contribute to the public realm area, in and around the Cockburn ARC.

Landscape design planning for the Cockburn ARC identified focus areas for public art, these are identified in Figure 4.



Figure 3 (above): Community theme (Blue). Figure 4 (below): Designated locations for public art at the ARC.





## Benchmark images (Opposite)

1. Artist – Judson Beaumont
2. Artist: Benedetto Bufalino
3. Unknown
4. Artists: George Mitchell
5. Unknown

## Elements to inform public art locations

Figure 5 (below) consolidates the relevant functional and urban design analysis to inform decisions regarding potential public art locations. The figure identifies key wayfinding locations, important corners and intersections, views and vistas, and major landmarks to inform public artwork locations.

It is important the artists engaged to develop concepts are able to have some flexibility in proposing the focus they wish to and the actual location of the artwork itself. Therefore the proposed locations identified within this Plan should be seen as indicative artwork zones and not totally prescriptive. Nonetheless these locations are informed through relevant analysis and should inform all design applications.



Figure 5: Elements to inform public art locations

## 3 IMPLEMENTATION

### Step 1 - Obtaining Development Approval: Condition Imposed

Development approval for eligible proposals will have a condition imposed which requires the proponent to obtain approval from the City for an artist to undertake an Art Project for the equivalent value of one per cent (1%) of the estimated total cost of the development, or to pay the equivalent as cash-in-lieu.

If the cash-in-lieu option is taken this will need to be paid to the City prior to the occupation of the building.

### Step 2 - Prior to Building Licence: Engaging an Artist

Developers and their artists will be required to undertake pre-lodgement meetings, and developers will be encouraged to consider how artworks may be integrated in their development or if public art is proposed within public land in accordance with the Masterplan.

At the pre-lodgement meeting the following will be discussed: the specific artwork opportunity, its location, theme, typology and budget against the conceptual framework and requirements of the Cockburn Central Masterplan.

Prior to applying for a Building Licence the proponent will need to submit a preliminary Public Art proposal for the City's consideration in principle support.

The proponent or their art consultant will need to find an artist or artists to design and create the Public Art in consultation with City staff. They can either contact artists directly or go through an agency such as Artsource, a non-government agency established by the Artists' Foundation of Western Australia to help developers choose an appropriate artist.

The selected artist will submit a design concept, responding to the Masterplan, discussing the artworks elements, preferred location of the artwork, time schedule and budget.

### Step 3 - Formal Project Approval

Subsequent to entering into a contract with the artists the proponent will submit an 'Application for Art Work Design' to the City for approval. This will include the contract between the developer and the artist, full working drawings (including an indication of where the art work is located) and a detailed budget.

### Step 4 - Fabrication and installation

Once approval has been issued, the artist can begin fabrication of the artworks, and installation is required prior to the first occupation of the building (if proposed within private land). A 'Notification of Artwork Completion' form will then be submitted to the City. Contact the City directly for this form.

Artworks within the public realm may require additional requirements such as a traffic management strategy during the implementation of the artwork. These requirements will be highlighted where possible in pre-lodgement meetings and confirmed within the final approval.

### Forms

Contact the City of Cockburn for the following forms:

- PERCENT FOR PUBLIC ART - APPLICATION FOR ART WORK DESIGN APPROVAL
- NOTIFICATION OF ART WORK COMPLETION



9 Coleville Crescent, Spearwood WA 6163  
PO Box 1215, Bibra Lake DC WA 6965  
P 08 9411 3444 F 08 9411 3333

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