

## **Speech by Logan K Howlett, JP**

### **Roe 8 Celebration Walk**

**Sunday, 19 March 2017**

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Kaya, Wanju Wanju Beeliar Boodjar

(Hello, Welcome to the land of the Beeliar people)

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the Custodians of the Land that we are meeting on today and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present; and I extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us today.

I acknowledge:

- my mayoral colleagues in Brad Pettitt, City of Fremantle and Ron Norris, Town of Mosman Park;
- Cr. Philip Eva JP, City of Cockburn;
- Cr. Sam Wainwright, City of Fremantle;
- My wife Patricia;
- The long list of community groups and individuals that Kate Kelly has just read out;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

On the many occasions I have spoken whether they be at gatherings such as today, forums, workshops etc. I have always said that People Power can and often does change the course of history. This grassroots campaign (No Roe 8) was truly one such campaign. It will go down in the category of local, state and national significance where a government refused to listen or engage with its communities; and paid the price.

Congratulations to each and every one of you here today and to the tens of thousands who have stood tall, shoulder to shoulder in the face of adversity, never giving up no matter how tough it got – always focused on what was right – protecting Aboriginal sacred sites, the environment itself, preventing our communities from being cut in half, from being exposed to air borne contaminants and excessive noise. Our thanks go to the Aboriginal Elders who shared their dreamtime stories, who stood

amongst us and reflected on past wrongs of federal and state governments since colonisation, who conducted a special flag raising ceremony and who felt more than most the injustice that was occurring before our very eyes.

Before joining you today, I was listening to a Gerry and the Pacemakers CD and I now reference one of their songs; 'You'll Never Walk Alone.'

The lyrics in my opinion reflect upon our journey to date:

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high  
And don't be afraid of the dark  
At the end of the storm, there's a golden sky  
And the sweet, silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind  
Walk on through the rain  
Though your dreams be tossed and blown

Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your hearts  
And you'll never walk alone  
You'll never walk alone

Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your hearts  
And you'll never walk alone  
You'll never walk alone

For the children and grandchildren that are here today – you will see the barren earth unfold its natural beauty in the coming weeks and months, green shoots will appear before your eyes – the re-generation of the scarred Roe 8 corridor will have commenced.

Now is the time to:

- Engage with our community, including Aboriginal Elders and Aboriginal people;;
- Develop an overall management plan for the Roe 8 and 9 corridor;
- Remove Roe 8 and 9 from the Metropolitan Region Scheme;
- Explore the construction of homes/businesses at key strategic points in the corridor;

- Re-vegetate the corridor;
- Exploring connectivity from the coast to the wetlands;
- Protect the remaining banksia woodlands;
- Identify Interpretative signage;
- Document what has occurred; and
- Keep the **fences up** for they are now the protectors of the corridor.

For now it is a time for celebration, of healing, of thanking each other for what has been achieved at this historic point in time.

Thank you.