

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP  
Christmas 10km Swim  
Coogee Beach  
Saturday 21 December 2024**

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I am delighted to welcome you here today to Coogee Beach alongside my wife Patricia.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather.

I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people joining us today.

I also acknowledge:

- President of the Cockburn Masters Swimming Club, Peter Marr and Event Coordinator Elena Nesci
- Representatives from Fremantle Ports and Port Coogee
- Our water safety partners, the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- And of course, the incredible volunteers and participants who make this event so special.

The City of Cockburn is proud to be a partner for the Christmas 10km Swim and I can't believe that this is now in its eighth year.

From its humble beginnings with 150 swimmers to now hosting over 600 swimmers and 250 paddlers, this event has become a highlight on Western Australia's open water calendar.

The 10km Challenge is now a must for anyone training for the Rottnest Channel Swim or Port to Pub, while the Merry Mile and Santa's Lap ensure there's something for swimmers of all abilities.

It's more than just a race – it's a festive celebration of community, challenge, and camaraderie in this stunning location.

This year's event also supports *Friends of the Community*, with organisers expecting to raise over \$1,500 through donations and proceeds.

To everyone competing today – whether you're chasing a personal best, swimming for fun, or testing yourself – congratulations for being part of this remarkable event.

Know that we are cheering you on all the way.

Thank you again to the Cockburn Masters Swimming Club, the event sponsors, and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

On behalf of the City of Cockburn, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable swim.

I look forward to seeing you in the water very shortly.

Thank you.