

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
on the occasion of the
Official Opening of the Walliabup Skate & Recreation Park
Bibra Lake
Saturday 25 August, 2018

Kaya

Wanju, Wanju, Beeliar Boodgar

Hello and welcome to the land of the Beeliar People

I thank Marie Taylor for her 'Welcome to Country'. Marie you always paint an amazing picture of the Dreamtime story-telling and how important it is to understand, appreciate and value Mother Earth and all it has to offer us as individuals, families, communities and a Nation.

Marie, the 2018 NAIDOC Theme; 'Because of Her We Can' is a solid message about the great work that you do in our community day in and day out and we thank you for that.

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

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Peter Tinley, AM MLA Member for Willagee and Minister for Housing, Veterans Issues; Youth;
- Councillor Philip Eva, JP;
- Councillor Stephen Pratt;
- Councillor Chontelle Sands;
- Councillor Lara Kirkwood;
- My wife Patricia;
- City of Cockburn staff including:
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer;

- Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning & Development;
- Mr Charles Sullivan, Director Engineering & Works;
- Ms Gail Bowman, Manager, Community Development;
- Mr Anton Lees, Manager, Parks & Projects;
- Mr Kevin Stripe, Parks Projects Officer;
- Mr Steve Atherton, Youth Development Officer and other members of staff here today;
- Christine Cooper, Kylie Fuller, Michelle Barnett and other members of the Bibra Lake Residents Association;
- Ecoscape – Frank Kotai & Mark Wohling (Landscape Architect);
- MG Group; the builders;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

The Bibra Lake skate park was a project initiated by the Bibra Lake Residents Association in late 2015.

Local residents & members of the Bibra Lake Residents Association, Kylie Fuller & Michelle Barnett presented a petition to Council which was predominantly organised by four young people Cameron Giles, Hunter Moore, Jai Grant and Cody Cleggett asking for a the old existing skate park to be upgraded for the young people of the area.

Council allocated a \$40,000 budget for the consultation and the design of the skate and recreation area in the 2016/17 financial year.

In 2016, Youth Services and Community Development contracted Ecoscope consultants to assist with the initial concept design and plans.

This involved many public meetings and consultation with local residents and young people.

Alongside Ecoscope's work the City held its own consultation using Comment on Cockburn.

The consultation process was completed in March 2017 and an Agenda item was presented to Council at the May 2017 Council meeting.

The Council resolved to move ahead with the Bibra Lake skate park and recreational precinct space and allocated a budget in the 2017/18 financial year of over \$2.0M.

Parks Services and Youth Services then worked together to manage the project as part of the Bibra Lake Management Plan.

MG group builders were awarded the Tender for the final design and construction phase of the project in mid-2017.

The construction is now complete and a unique high quality skate park, recreational and play space has been created for broad community use.

The new skate park and recreation area has been named in accordance with the local Nyungar place name for Bibra Lake- which is Walliabup and provides a unique name for the recreation facilities on the Eastern side of Bibra Lake.

This name is in accordance with an action in the City's Reconciliation Action Plan and local community consultation feedback.

Walliabup Skate & Recreation Park includes a state of the art unique skate park, playground equipment, 3 on 3 Streetball, scooter track, new toilets and a carpark.

The skate park itself is uniquely designed to imitate elements of obstacles that riders may find in the urban environment to develop their skills.

One such obstacle is the brick paved embankments and tiles.

The embankments are not unlike the embankments that previously surrounded the Cockburn Council buildings.

The skate park also has traditional skate park elements such as:

- the mini ramp, rails and ledges; and
- special features like the satellite dish, vertical wall and pool like transitions.

To add to the ownership and local connections I would be remiss to not mention the wonderful art work by Bibra Lake Primary school students located on the tiles on the pathways.

The skate park would not have been possible without the support from the Hon Peter Tinley's office with a \$440,000 Election Commitment administered through the Local Projects Local Jobs Grants.

On behalf of the Cockburn community I take this opportunity to thank Peter Tinley for his on-going commitment to community and for his valued friendship of our City, and of course, for the significant financial contribution towards this amazing project.

I hope to see you out there Peter performing a 180 'Ollie'; 180 'Heelflip'; 180 Kickflip; Tre flip; 50-50 Grind; an 'Air'; doing a 'Fakie'; or a Nose Grind.

Now over to the Honourable Peter Tinley.

Thank you Peter.

We now officially declare open the Walliabup Skate & Recreation Park.