

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Sister City Visit – Yue Yang City, Hunan Province
People’s Republic of China
Wednesday 16 August, 2017
Administration Building, City of Cockburn

Ni Hao

I extend a very special welcome to you on the occasion of your official visit to the City of Cockburn?

I acknowledge the Wadjup People of the Nyungar Nation the Custodians of the Land we meet on today and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

I acknowledge the members of the delegation from Yueyang City, The People’s Republic of China to the City of Cockburn being:

- Mr Liu Hesheng, Mayor, Yueyang Municipal People’s Government;
- Mr Fang Zhengqi, Director, The Tourism and Foreign Affairs Office of Yueyang Municipal People’s Government;
- Mr Li Yong, District Mayor, Junshan District People’s Government;

- Mr Liu Zhengren, Director, Yueyang Municipal Bureau of Commerce and Grain;
- Mr Wang Xingyao, Director, Yueyang Municipal Bureau of Housing and Urban-Rural Development; and
- Mr Chen Qigang, Director, State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Yueyang Municipal People's Government.

and to introduce:

- Councillor Chamonix Terblanche;
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services;
- Mr Stuart Downing, Director Finance & Administration;
- Ms Margot Tobin, Executive Manager, Strategy & Civic Support; and
- Ms Julie Klobas, PA to the Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr Johnny Pau – Interpreter;
- Tim Kelley (9.30 am – didgeridoo player).

Our sister city relationship was established on 28 November 1998 and has been strengthened by visits from Yue Yang City representatives in 2008, 2009, 2013 and on this occasion, 16 August 2017.

The City of Cockburn has made sister city visits in 1998 on the occasion of the signing of the Sister City Agreement and again in 2005 and 2010.

As you are aware, Australia and China have a long history of friendship, business ties and people-to-people links.

You will be aware that our joint mission is to enhance friendship between our people, promote mutual understanding and advance an in-depth cooperation between our two cities in all fields.

Your visit to the City of Cockburn provides a further opportunity to promote this joint mission.

In recognition of our sister city relationships with Yueyang, The People's Republic of China; Mobile, Alabama, United States of America and Split, Croatia a 'Friendship Way' has been created along one of the City's main roads - Spearwood Avenue from the suburb of Beeliar through to Coogee on the coastline.

Various pieces of public artwork, tree plantings and other tributes to our sister cities have been completed and there may be an opportunity for you to see this project later today.

China is Australia's largest trading partner and a growing source of tourists, students at our universities, and of course raw materials such as iron ore and coal. Gold is also high on the list of exports to China.

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth and water is a very valued resource. While dams are used to capture water more and more reliance has been placed on ground water aquifers and desalination plants to ensure a reliable and consistent supply of water to meet our needs.

We need to plan for the future and ensure that our agricultural and livestock industries, mining and oil and gas exploration are supported as well as future business and residential growth planned and maintained in a proper and orderly manner.

All countries across the world are being challenged in terms of climate change, dwindling resources and population growth.

How we manage our finite resources and the decisions we make will no doubt impact on future generations.

We look forward to working with officials from Yueyang to ensure that through building stronger ties in our communities and through business and educational opportunities mutual benefits will flow to both countries.

I will now ask Mr Cain to provide an overview of our City.

Before closing I would like to make a presentation to the Officials of Yueyang from the City of Cockburn.

Gift presentation.

Thank you!