

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
Opal Aged Care Treeby SOD Turning Event

Lot 7002, Abelia Road, Treeby

Monday 20 May 2019

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to join you on this beautiful autumn day; and to participate in the sod turning ceremony for Opal Treeby.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodian of the land on which have gathered today and I pay my respect to their Elders, both past and present and extend that respect to Aboriginal people who are with us today.

I acknowledge:

- Mr Yaz Mubarakai, MLA, Member for Jandakot;
- Mr Daymon Joseph, Regional General Manager WA for Opal Aged Care;
Ms Rosie Cartwright, Communications and Community Engagement Director;
- Mr Greg Zieschang, Head of Property;
- Opal Team members from surrounding homes;
- Representatives from KPA Architects (designers) and Perkins Builders (construction);
the building & property teams;
- Representatives from local placement agencies and community groups;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

This is another exciting project that will benefit our community in terms of health and well-being and particularly in the provision of modern facilities that meets the demand of people wishing to age in their local community and/or require higher levels of care due to illness requiring specialized care.

Investment in aged care facilities and those people that will become residents is a compelling argument given Australia's ageing

population and all that means for active lifestyles and caring for those who are seeking quality care services.

I congratulate Opal Aged Care on their on-going commitment to the Western Australian region and their investment in quality aged care facilities.

As we know the community has a growing need for new beds accompanied by quality health care services that meet the needs and expectations of prospective residents and their families.

The move from the family home, sometimes after many years, can be a traumatic experience and any transition needs to be well planned and involve all parties to achieve the best outcomes.

The decision by Opal Aged Care to commence work on Opal Treeby will create construction jobs in the first instance and product selection for the interior decoration and fit-out as the facility nears completion.

Jobs will be created for the members of staff who will take up the very important task of caring for the residents as they move into their new home and thereafter.

At a point where the unemployment rate is stubbornly 'locked' into around 6% these job creation projects are most welcomed – particularly the long term jobs that Opal Treeby will require.

I congratulate Opal Aged Care for their investment decision which will auger well for our community and the integration and connectivity with the proposed primary school and the community itself to bring that degree of happiness and excitement to all involved.

I extend my best wishes for the project and formally welcome Opal Aged Care to the Cockburn community.

Thank you.