

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Hamilton Hill Community Group Meeting**  
**Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall**  
**7.00pm, Wednesday, 20 July 2016**

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Good evening ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on the Greater Fremantle proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board relating to the transfer of Hamilton Hill and part of North Coogee to the City of Fremantle.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation on whose land we are meeting tonight and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and I extend that respect to Aboriginal people who are here with us tonight.

**I acknowledge:**

- Ms Christine Duckham, Committee Member, Hamilton Hill Community Group;
- Committee & other Members of HHCG;
- Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes;
- Councillor Kevin Allen;
- Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services, City of Cockburn;
- Ms Samantha Seymour – Eyles, Manager Corporate Communications, Governance and Community Services, City of Cockburn;
- Ms Simone Sieber, Community Development Officer, City of Cockburn;
- Ladies and gentlemen.

**Overview of Local Government Reform in the Perth metropolitan area from 2009 to 2016**

The latest round of local government reforms have been with metropolitan local governments since 2009.

We've seen:

- the Robson's Report that recommended 12 councils down from 30 dismissed by the State Government;
- various iterations following that with 15/16 local governments down from 30;
- Polls conducted in several communities;
- the white flag raised by the Premier in February 2015,
- Governor's Orders Issued and then Revoked; and
- An announcement from the State Government that they would not be entertaining local government reform in the Perth metropolitan area (aside from the Perth City Act) unless two or more local governments involved in the reform were in agreement.

Additionally, the State Government and local governments expended tens of millions of dollars as local governments fought to retain their districts, communities were outraged, staff were left to see how their jobs and careers were affected and service delivery in the sector adversely impacted.

From my discussions with mayors and shire presidents in the metropolitan area no-one wants to go down that road again.

### **City of Cockburn's position in relation to the Greater Fremantle proposal**

In terms of the Greater Fremantle proposal it is not supported by the City of Cockburn.

The City of Fremantle will be considering the matter at its 27 July Council meeting.

#### **The City will be:**

- Actively engaging with our community;
- Informing them of how they can respond to the proposal;
- Advising of proposed public meetings;
- sending a submission itself to the LGAB;
- presenting to the LGAB; and
- advertising as required, and updating the City's website.

#### **The City's position is supported by:**

- Resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting in February 2016;

- Council decision adopting the resolution of the Annual Electors Meeting in March 2016;
- A recent ReachTEL poll of 711 residents in Hamilton Hill and North Coogee that indicated little support for the boundary change proposal currently before the Local Government Advisory Board;
- The polling showed 64.2% of the residents surveyed support Hamilton Hill and North Coogee remaining within the City of Cockburn; and
- A referendum taken in 2009 resulted in 65% of ratepayers rejecting an amalgamation with the City of Fremantle.

### **What you can do as a member of the Hamilton Hill community**

- Keep in touch with the City and its Elected Members;
- Keep informed by continuing to seek information;
- Attend the proposed LGAB Public Meeting(s);
- Speak to family, neighbours, friends, work colleagues who may live in Hamilton Hill; and
- Send a submission to the LGAB.

### **What the City currently offers:**

- **A clear plan for the future that includes:**
  - Strategic Community Plan;
  - Long Term Financial Plan;
  - Corporate Business Plan;
  - Annual Business Plan;
  - Sustainability Action Plan;
  - Disability Access & Inclusion Plan;
  - Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan; and
  - more than 20 other strategic plans.
- The financial capacity to:
  - deliver new community facilities, upgrade existing facilities and provide a comprehensive maintenance program for our assets;
  - excel in service delivery; and
  - support for our community.
- A comprehensive re-vitalisation plan for Hamilton Hill;

- A contribution scheme for community infrastructure projects (one of a few local governments to have such a scheme);
- Professional & passionate members of staff who excel in their areas of work;
- A strong & committed volunteer base;
- Support for community groups, residents groups, sporting clubs, cultural and service organisations and the like;
- Networking opportunities across the district;
- A grants & donations scheme exceeding \$1M per year;
- Active seniors centres that draw accolades from adjoining local government residents & visitors;
- CoSafe security patrols;
- Free community events;
- Well maintained parks and ovals; and
- A funding commitment to the revitalisation of Hamilton Hill.

The Hamilton Hill Flyer recently delivered to all homes details the City's investment in the community see attached).

### **Community Associations/Clubs on the Move Into Cockburn**

- Southern Lions Rugby Union Club – based at the Success Regional Sport & Community Facility
- Fremantle Hockey Club – planned to be based in South Lake; and
- others are interested.

### **Feedback received to date**

I, along with Councillors have been inundated by residents strongly objecting to the Greater Fremantle proposal.

### **The process going forward**

- The Local Government Advisory Board has formally advised that it will be conducting an enquiry into the Greater Fremantle proposal;
- The LGAB will be holding a public meeting(s) in the locality. Date to be advised;
- The LGAB will be calling for submissions;
- Local governments, the proponent (Greater Fremantle) and others may be invited to present to the LGAB;
- The LGAB to determine recommendation(s) to the Minister for Local Government and Communities; and

- The Minister for Local Government and Communities will make a decision and advise all parties – expected by December 2016 or before.

In closing, the City's mission is:

“To be the most attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in the Perth metropolitan area.”

As the City continues to grow I can assure you that the elected members and staff will work closely with our community, groups, residents groups, sporting clubs, cultural and service organisations, our volunteers, Industry and the SME's to ensure Cockburn retains its status as one of the most efficient and effective local government in Western Australia.

**We have:**

- pro-active policies;
- strength of leadership;
- effective partnerships across various disciplines;
- the ability to strongly advocate our position;
- the drive and enthusiasm to make informed decisions; and
- the capacity to continue to deliver award winning services for our community.

Thank you.

I am happy to take questions?