

## **Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

The Children's Environment and Health Local  
Government Policy Awards 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony

### **Burswood on the Swan**

**Wednesday, 4 November 2020**

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Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys

I am delighted to be here this morning to share in the fun and excitement of the 2020 Local Government Policy Awards – Children – Health – Environment; and importantly to see and hear about the great projects that continue to be delivered across local government in Western Australia.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and future and I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who with us today.

Spring is such an amazing time of the year, the Kambarang season in the Nyungar calendar – represented by the colour yellow symbolising the return of the hot weather – a time when the wildflowers explode in colour transforming our landscape – young birds set to fly from their nests adding to the distinct sounds we hear and of course it's a time of the year when the Koolbardies (magpies) swoop anyone coming near their nests.

So it is that local governments create policies and strategic plans that result in great projects that are increasingly influenced by their communities.

The outcomes shape the learning, understanding and the values of children of all ages.

The City of Cockburn has contributed to the local government policy awards since their inception and I am pleased to say that I am accompanied by an amazing team that is fortunate to be engaged in bringing fun, laughter and excitement to the children and teenagers of our district. They are:

- Joan de Castro (Children's Development Officer);

- Bronwen Miller (Grants & Research Support Officer);
- Gloria Askander (Health Promotion Officer); and The City's invited guest – Jenny Atkins from Live Lighter.

Each member brings the passion and commitment to their role and importantly they work in a collaborative manner with our community to add value to projects and that deliver ownership to the grass roots of our district.

As mayor I have had the privilege of attending these awards for the past ten years and today I acknowledge the work of all local governments who have entered projects in the various categories, won category awards and taken out the overall award in either the metropolitan or country regions.

I have personally taken great satisfaction in absorbing the projects and learnt so much about other communities and what drives them.

In closing I thank:

- The Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia;
- Curtin University;
- WALGA;
- Healthway;
- Colin Pettit, Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- Cancer Council of Western Australia;
- Minister David Templeman MLA; Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts; and
- Master of Ceremonies Griffin Longley, CEO of Nature Play WA

Thank you.

## **Who are we?**

- The City of Cockburn is a large metropolitan council with a population around 120 000. It is a part of the south west metropolitan group of councils.

## **Our focus on children and youth**

The City has been prioritising children and youth for 40 years with a diverse and extensive range of strategies and initiatives.

- This includes a specific strategy for Children and Families and a separate Youth Strategy; and a large array of dedicated full-time children, youth and parenting staff positions
- To hear the voices of children and youth first-hand we have supported a Youth Advisory Collective since 1993 and a Children's Reference Group since 2012.

## **This year's submission**

- The City has been involved in these Local Government Policy awards since they started in 2011.
- This year we entered 10 of the 11 award categories and as you will see Covid-19 didn't stop us!

## **Highlights from a few categories:**

### **Aboriginal Child Health**

We are planning an Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors centre which is an action in our latest Reconciliation Action Plan. It's sure to become tourist attraction and when viewed from the air resembles the area's native south western snake-necked turtle.

This will include a children's space and educational interactive displays for school groups.

### **Children's Consultation**

Consultation with youth showed that more could be done in terms of social media, so last year we welcomed a dedicated Youth Digital Engagement Officer.

## **Child Health and Development**

The highlight in this category was the completion of a 37 page Play Space Plan, informed by children and parents views. This will shape future play policies and planning.

## **Climate Change**

This has been a large focus in the City this year as we compiled a new Climate Change Strategy, with an extensive community engagement, including a Zoom consultation for children and youth.

## **Healthy Food**

The City partnered with Live Lighter and the WA Cancer Council using City billboards to co-brand Live Lighter media messages encouraging healthier eating reaching an estimated 120,000 vehicles passing a day.

## **Shade in Public Places**

The City has a well-established system of shade sail implementation according to a Shade Sail Policy.

In the past year we also adopted 2 tree management related policies and did a UV meter trial at our Teddy Bears Picnic event.

## **Smoke-Free Environments**

We expanded our positive Proud to be Smoke Free campaign and installed signs at all of the City's 16 other sporting clubs, 8 community centres, 4 skate parks, the new bowling club and the new hockey stadium.

2,000 new stickers were installed, including in lockdown, on playground equipment

## **Young People making a difference in the community**

Highlights include a project where local children worked with a Cockburn artist to paint artworks on quarter basketball courts in 2 parks, using their designs.