

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Annual Civic Event

Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club

19 November 2021

Kaya, Wonju, Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

On behalf of the Elected Members I welcome you all to the City's Annual Civic Function and trust that you have an enjoyable evening with the opportunity to network in this Cocktail style event held in the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Please welcome Nyungar Elder Marie Taylor to present a 'Welcome to Country'?

Thank you Marie for sharing those dreamtime stories with us and for the continuing good work you do across Cockburn and further afield.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us tonight.

I acknowledge those who have joined us tonight:

- The Honourable Brad Pettitt MLC and his wife Emma;
- Mr David Scaife, MLA Member for Cockburn representing the Hon. John Carey, MLA Minister for Housing; Local Government;
- Consul Zoran Sangut & Ivor Condic, Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia in Perth
- Superintendent David Dench, Fremantle District Office (WA Police);
- Elected Members and Senior Staff from the City of Cockburn and other local governments in our region and their respective partners;
- Representatives from community & service organisations;
- State Government Department representatives;

- Representatives from Industry, small business, the education sector and legal fraternity;
- One and all.

It is pleasing to have the opportunity to come together as we head towards the festive season and another exciting year in local government.

You will recall that at this time last year the majority of festive events were cancelled as we continued to grapple with the COVID pandemic.

While the pandemic is still with us, the increasing vaccination rates and on-going research findings provide some solace to an ever wondering community.

2022 will be a year of further learning and understanding as borders come down, the reaction to local COVID outbreaks are managed without lock downs occurring; and perhaps it may be safe to travel interstate or overseas without the risk of being unable to return.

The local government reform package recently announced by the Minister for Local Government will ensure that there will be on-going discussions for the foreseeable future – no doubt we'll agree with some and not with other aspects of the reform package.

The City continues to perform well with a range of new community and road projects coming to a conclusion and others planned to get off the drawing board in 2022. Examples include:

- The recent opening of the redevelopment of the Cockburn Wetlands precinct in Bibra Lake;
- The soon to be completed Treeby community and sports facility and the Frankland Park Recreation Centre;
- The Port Coogee marina expansion; and
- The Jandakot, Solomon and Hammond Road projects.

I am very proud that Council continues to deliver the policy oversight and sound financial considerations that ensure the strategic community plan,

financial management plan and other strategic considerations are progressed in a timely and accountable manner.

I acknowledge the contributions and strategic focus of Mr Tony Brun, Chief Executive Officer, the executive team and other members of staff who work tirelessly to deliver for Cockburn.

In addition, our amazing volunteer base continues to pursue their passion and commitment to make our City a great place to live, work, recreate and invest.

Their efforts will be acknowledged at the City's volunteer awards evening this coming Sunday evening. Of course many of those very volunteers are here tonight as guests of our elected members.

The City was able to provide a range of financial and other support for many of our small business sector throughout 2020 and continuing in some cases, into 2021 as a result of COVID.

Our thanks to Vanda Bacich, Civic Services Co-ordinator and Sandra Galati for their efforts in preparing the venue and managing the complexities of such an event – This is the 14th time Vanda has organised this annual event.

Please join with me in thanking Vanda and Sandra.

I take this opportunity to thank my wife Patricia for her never ending support as we carry out the mayoral duties and responsibilities day in and day out – for sitting in the public gallery at all council meetings, listening, observing and providing feedback; and for attending the many business, community and social events with me throughout the year – it can be somewhat demanding.

In Patricia, one could not hope for a more passionate and committed person for all things Cockburn.

As we lead up to celebrating our 49th wedding anniversary in a few weeks – always my Radiant Princess. Thank you Patricia.

As the festive season approaches I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

I now take the opportunity to present former councillor Lee-Anne Smith OAM with her leaving gift having served as an East Ward Councillor

since 5 March 2009 to September 2021 thus becoming one of the longest serving members of Council.

Lee-Anne and I were both elected at an extraordinary election following first the resignation of a former councillor in November 2008 and then the then mayor in January 2009.

Lee-Anne represented the Council on various internal committees and several external committees and was deputy mayor from 2017 to 2019.

Lee-Anne was also the chief executive of several award winning not-for-profit organisations, a Telstra Business Woman of the Year finalist and the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal.

Lee-Anne now resides in the Pilbara just a stone's throw from Perth – 1627.3 kms by road or a little less if you have wings.

Lee-Anne on behalf of the Cockburn community I thank you for your service in what continues to be a very interesting and demanding role as an elected member of local government.

Our best wishes for your continuing journey through life and the opportunities that unfold for you.

I invite you to say a few words Lee-Anne.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Please be aware of the drink drive laws and continue to enjoy the evening.

I now hand over to our Chief Executive Officer Tony Brun, CEO to say a few words.

Thank you Tony.

Ladies and gentlemen the time being 7.55pm I invite you to observe a spectacular light show – a part of the Biennale for this year.

Where the river meets the sky - Moombaki

An epic spectacle of light, movement and sound will transform the night sky in the Fremantle Biennale's presentation of Moombaki.

The Nyoongar word for 'where the river meets the sky', Moombaki is a choreographed drone light show re-creating the first stories of Whadjuk Nyungar Country for all to experience.

With artworks created by Ilona McGuire and a narrative guided by story and knowledge held by Whadjuk Nyoongar Traditional Owners:

- Doris Getta,
- Marion Kickett,
- Karen Jacobs,
- Glenys Yarren,
- Neville Collard,
- Stan Headland,
- Farley Garlett,
- Walter McGuire and
- Brendan Moore, and project contributors Rohin Kickett and Grant Revell,

Across three locations in Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn, Moombaki will see over 160 drones take flight over the stage of the bilya (river) and wardan (ocean), to reveal a series of connected stories.

Derbarl Nara (Coogee Beach), Coogee (Saturday) 20 November from 8pm will provide a great opportunity to view the show.

Feel free to come down early to get a spot, set up a picnic and enjoy the show.

Let's step out onto the balcony.