



Media Release

10 May 2017

Embargoed until:

The content of this Media Release is embargoed until Tuesday, 16 May, 2017 for in-paper use in the Cockburn Gazette ONLY. It has been released on an exclusive basis.

Use of images taken by the Cockburn Gazette at ARC on Monday, 8 May specifically relating to waterslides is embargoed for on-line digital/electronic use until 11am Thursday, 18 May.

Cockburn ARC will meet community demand for fitness and fun

AFTER more than a decade of careful planning and preparation, Cockburn ARC is days away from opening its doors, waterslides, pools, stadium and gyms to an excited general public.

The \$109 million Cockburn Central West facility is one of the largest developments of its kind in Australia and will open with ticketed Community 'Discover' Opening Days this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 May.

An official opening, attended by local, state and federal politicians, plus representative from project partners Fremantle Football Club and Curtin University, will be held on Friday night and the centre will be open to the general public from Monday, 22 May onwards.

The centre replaces South Lake Leisure Centre which is now closed after 25 years of operation and dedicated service to the community.

Mayor Logan Howlett said the ARC demonstrated the capacity of a partnership between local, state and federal government, a professional national sporting body, and an Australian public research university to deliver an integrated environmentally sustainable community facility for people of all abilities.

"It represents a new benchmark for contemporary recreation, community, elite sporting and educational facilities, which is also home to the AFL's Fremantle Football Club team, the Fremantle Dockers, and its AFL Women's equivalent," Mayor Howlett said.



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There is already significant interest in the centre from members of the community. As well as casual visits, patrons can become a member of the centre with full access to the gym, group fitness classes and aquatics.

Memberships are also available for the centre's customised learn to swim program, Swim ARcademy, which caters for babies, school age and adult learners. This membership also entitles students access to the pools on any day, outside of their class time.

Apart from the health and social benefits of this facility, it will provide employment and training opportunities, with 1,470 applications received for 20 fulltime positions, and 1,632 applications received for 250 casual positions.

It will also create economic benefits with expenditure in Cockburn Central by facility user groups estimated to achieve an economic impact of \$12M per annum.

Mayor Howlett said the centre's world class sustainability features included passive solar design, LED lighting, high efficiency pool water filtration to significantly reduce total water consumption and a Building Management System with digital air-conditioning and ventilation control.

A \$3 million investment in geothermal energy infrastructure will have a payback period of between 7-10 years and heats the centre's eight pools ranging from 24 degrees in the outdoor pool to 37 degrees in the community warm water therapy pool.

The centre is home to a massive 1MW Solargain rooftop solar installation – one of WA's largest. It will generate 1550MWh per year, providing about a third of the facility's annual load, saving about \$300,000 annually and a carbon dioxide offset of 1170 tonnes a year.



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The ARC features:

- Three recreation pools - hydrotherapy and aquatic recovery pools (50m outdoor, 25m indoor pool, and learn to swim),
- Three 18m high waterslides that run up to 125m in length,
- A six-court multi-purpose stadium,
- Gym and group fitness areas,
- An allied health centre, crèche and café,
- Community function space,
- Dedicated AFL and community ovals,
- Fremantle Football Club's administration and elite-athlete training facilities,
- Programs for elite swimmers under the Western Australian Institute of Sport, and
- Curtin University's education and research lecture theatres, classrooms, shared laboratories, and training and testing facilities.



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Waterslide information:

- The 69.54m blue looping Rocket starts with a mind-blowing drop in a glass-enclosed rocket launcher and plunges through a laid over loop and down a 17.83m runout at the end of the slide. To date, this is the only looping rocket in Western Australia.
- The yellow Pipeline is a fully enclosed body slide that runs for 125.16m with a 20.82m runout. The slide includes multi-coloured strobe-like lighting effects to the inside of the tunnel.
- The highest throughput ride is the Tumbler which caters for up to two people on rubber rafts. The slide includes a large bowl, multiple loops and a cavern.

The slides are made using the highest isophthalic resins and designed and manufactured to the strictest standards in the world; EN1069-1.

ENDS

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