



# Media Release

17 May 2017

**Embargoed:** Until 8pm Friday, 19 May, 2017

## Cockburn ARC opens with a bang

AFTER more than a decade of careful planning and preparation, Cockburn ARC officially opened with a bang at a gala ceremony tonight, Friday, 19 May.

City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, flanked by WA Senator Mathias Cormann, Deputy Premier Roger Cook and Fremantle Football Club President Dale Alcock, unveiled the plaque to the sounds and sights of festive confetti and congratulatory applause.

Mayor Howlett said it was an immensely proud occasion for the City and its community which had patiently anticipated the aquatic and recreation centre's opening since before the first sod was turned at the 9ha Cockburn Central West site in July 2015.

And because it's the largest facility of its kind in Australia, thousands are expected through the doors this weekend for ticketed Discovery days where three 18m-high waterslides that run up to 125m in length, will be among the star attractions.

The \$109 million facility spans more than 3200sqm and will comfortably accommodate the Cockburn community during the Discovery days, and tickets are still available via the ARC website at <https://www.cockburnarc.com.au/Discover>

During the Centre's soft opening over the past week, an average of 1700 people per day have experienced the health club, group fitness classes, swimming pools and café for the first time, meeting staff and providing vital feedback.

Members have begun to enjoy the Centre's TechnoGym equipment which includes the cloud-based MyWellness app and log-in platform that tracks workouts and fitness improvement, plus in-centre WiFi which enables sign-in to Netflix, Pandora and social media platforms for an even more enjoyable workout.

The Centre, which opens to the general public on Monday, 22 May, replaces South Lake Leisure Centre which is now closed after 25 years fun-filled use by the community.



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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.

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.



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ARC 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.

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,
- Community oval.

ARC 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.



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

Fremantle Football Club features:

- Dedicated AFL oval,
- Fremantle Football Club's administration and elite-athlete training facilities,

Curtin University features:

- Education and research lecture theatres, classrooms, shared laboratories, and training and testing facilities.

WA Institute of Sport features:

- Programs for elite swimmers under the Western Australian Institute of Sport.

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