

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Launch of the Omeo Property Group
Coogee Community Hall
19 Arlington Loop, Coogee
Saturday, 8 July 2023**

Kia (Hello)

I am delighted to be here today with my wife Patricia to share in the celebrations on the occasion of the launch of the Omeo Property Group.

As we celebrate NAIDOC Week and the theme 'For Our Elders' it is fitting to witness a 'Welcome to Country' presentation which allows us to share in the richness of the Nyungar Nations heritage, culture and language as we continue to walk on a shared journey towards reconciliation?

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we have gathered today, and I pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and I extend that respect to First Nation people who are with us.

I also acknowledge:

- Mr David Bombara, Director Omeo Property Group;
- Mrs Kaj Aroura; Director – Sales Executive;
- Mr Joss Egerton, Principal;
- Thekila Findikakis, Administration Account Manager;
- Ladies and gentlemen and the many children here today.

As you will be aware this launch was to be held in Omeo Park, North Coogee, however due to the uncertainty of the weather we are here today under shelter.

We are currently in the Nyungar season of Makuru (June to July) known as the season that brings the first rains – for being cold and wet – however we know that we need the rain and should never complain about it as we live in one of the driest parts of the world.

Reflecting on the name 'Omeo', one's attention is drawn to the Omeo shipwreck.

The Omeo was first launched on 11 August 1858 as a passenger cargo ship and had an interesting journey through its lifetime.

A collision with a lighthouse, being blown ashore more than once, converted to a cargo ship, a coal carrier, and finally back to a cargo ship; its history is rich and reflective of the times.

The Omeo wreck is nestled in the corner of Coogee Beach having been on a voyage to Australia with materials and equipment for laying the Bass Strait submarine cable.

It was driven ashore and wrecked on 9 September, 1905 suffering the same fate as other ships who plied the coast – in fact over 1600 shipwrecks are recorded of the Western Australia coast.

Today the Omeo wreck is a major tourist attraction forming part of the City of Cockburn's Coogee Maritime Trail.

The trail includes an underwater dive and snorkel trail and a land-based trail.

It is now an award-winning feature on our coastline and helps inform the community of our rich, and at times, treacherous maritime history.

Today we are here to witness the official launch of the Omeo Property Group and one can't help but to reflect on the powerful name 'Omeo'.

It stands out; it stands out.

Given the known passion, commitment, and drive of David, who I have known for some time together with the Omeo Team they will deliver the customer focus and service that customers demand in today's competitive environment.

I'm pleased to acknowledge the Omeo Property Group – may they have smooth sailing, stand out to their customers just as a lighthouse would, and reflect on the outcome of future sales and what it means to their customers.

Thank you.

