

## City of Cockburn, RECONCILIATION WEEK 2016

### Flag Raising

#### Speech notes: Mayor Logan Howlett

Good morning. Thank you to Marie Taylor for her welcoming and meaningful Welcome to Country. I would also like to warmly welcome everyone to this year's Reconciliation Week Flag Raising ceremony.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land, and I pay my respects to the Elders, past, present and future.

**National Reconciliation Week** is held annually between **May 27 and June 3**. The theme for this year is **'Our History; Our Story; Our Future'**

***Our History:** As holders of some of the oldest continuous cultures in human history, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have inhabited these lands for many thousands of years. Complex and diverse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and cultures have proved resilient in the face of great adversity.*

***Our Story:** As part of the story shared by all of us in Australia, it is very important that we all understand and accept the difficult truths of our past. However, in addition to these stories of trauma, there are many accounts of triumph and innovation on the part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—which must also be given due attention.*

***Our Future:** Now, at this critical time in Australia—as we consider who we are, and who we want to be—reconciliation must be at the heart of our vision for our nation. Reconciliation must inspire us to transform Australian society into one which all people can enjoy equally—an aspiration in the best interests of all Australians.*

*All Australians have a critical role to play in advancing reconciliation in ways that honour our history, while moving forward with a focus on what unites us.*

Here at the City of Cockburn, we have achieved a lot through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which has helped guide us through a process of change. We will soon be developing the City's 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconciliation Action Plan and continuing our journey of learning, understanding, and implementing actions.

You are all welcome to come to Bibra Lake this Saturday morning for 2 events – the Run for Reconciliation at 8am and the Cultural Walk and Picnic at 9.30am.

Thank you all for coming along today and enjoy your morning!