

To the Mayor, Councillors, Staff and the Community of Cockburn

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AS A CITY – YEAR 2029

I extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Cockburn community on the occasion of its 50th anniversary celebrations as a City. You have just witnessed the opening of the inaugural City of Cockburn time capsule unveiled by Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn and myself on 26 October 2009 and then filled with various records and memorabilia showcasing life in Cockburn as it was at that time.

You should find many of the items of interest and as you view each one I hope you take the opportunity to reflect on Cockburn's past and your own contribution that has made our City such a great place in which to live, raise a family, recreate, work and invest. Perhaps some of you will have been at the unveiling ceremony on 26 October 2009 – now that would be very special?

I would ask that you also reflect on and acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which you have gathered and for you to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Noongar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present amongst you. The Noongar people have journeyed through this locality for over 40,000 years using the resources of the land, lakes and the sea and creating customs, traditions and a way of life that we as a nation are only just beginning to truly understand and value.

As you are aware, European settlement commenced in this locality from the earliest days of the Swan River Colony in 1829 and I again ask that you reflect on and remember those that have gone before you as members of this rich and diverse community. We owe them so much.

The former elected members of this local government from the Fremantle Districts Roads Board, the Cockburn District Roads Board, Shire of Cockburn, Town of Cockburn through to its status as a City and beyond have driven the development of Cockburn – the sacrifices they made are hard to put in context save to say that they worked for the betterment of our community in mostly difficult and challenging times.

Only four Freeman of the City have been appointed at this time: Joe Cooper, JP Freeman (deceased), Alan Thomas JP Freeman (deceased), Don Miguel OAM JP Freeman and Ray Lees JP Freeman. All held councillor and mayoral positions and served the district with distinction.

A debt is also owed to all those members of staff who fulfilled various roles in the administration and outdoor works areas – each role contributed to and ensured the growth of Cockburn and its overall standing in the local government community of Western Australia.

No City can grow unless there are planned projects. The following list provides a flavour of how Cockburn's future will be shaped. It will be interesting to see when they are completed how they have met community needs and expectations and their impact on employment, education and the social fabric of Cockburn:

- Port Coogee and the coastal strip through to South Beach including the redevelopment of the now derelict South Fremantle Power Station;
- the realisation of the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving and Community facility;
- a new aquatic and recreation centre
- further development of the Australian Marine Complex;
- the intermodal facility at Latitude 32;
- the Phoenix and Hamilton Hill revitalisation projects;
- Cockburn Central
- Extensions to the Cockburn Gateway Shopping City
- Continuing residential development;
- increased number of business parks, commercial and retail outlets;
- passive and active recreational facilities; and the
- associated infrastructure needs.

It can be seen from the project list above that there is that same desire that our forefathers had in terms of commitment to making Cockburn a place of importance and destination. Our population is now 85,000 and by the year 2029 I expect it to be 140,000 – only you will know the answer to this and to be able to report on the outcomes of the aforementioned projects taking place across Cockburn at this very moment. Maybe we'll also have a sports stadium at Cockburn Central.

In closing, on behalf of the elected members whose names appear below I wish you well in your future endeavours to ensure the continuation of Cockburn as a place of destination, importance and vibrancy.

I have enclosed a copy of my speech delivered on 26 October 2009 in the Seniors Centre (the former Civic Centre Hall) for the public record.

Logan K Howlett, JP FCHSE
MAYOR

for and on behalf of the elected members of your City - 26 October 2009

Cr Helen Attrill, Cr Sue Limbert, JP, Cr Val Oliver, Cr Carol Reeve–Fowkes,
Cr Lee-Anne Smith, Cr Robyn O'Brien, Cr Kevin Allen (Deputy Mayor), Cr Ian
Whitfield and Cr Tony Romano