

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Iftar Fasting Dinner**  
**Nasir Mosque, 239 Barrington St, Bibra Lake**  
**5.00pm, 16 March 2025**

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Good evening, everyone,

I am pleased to be here tonight with my wife Patricia representing the City of Cockburn together with Councillor Philip Eva JP and Councillor Corke to share this Iftar fasting dinner with you.

We are deeply honoured to be invited here tonight knowing the importance of this occasion.

I also acknowledge the Imman and the other members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community;

The Leaders of the other faith groups;

The Honourable Josh Wilson, MP, the Member for Fremantle;

Ms Sook Yee Lai, Member Elect, State Seat of Bibra Lake;

Councillor Fedele Camarda, City of Fremantle;

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to First Nations people here.

It is always pleasing to see families here joining in the celebrations. Of particular importance is the girls and boys, our future as we move forward.

We need to ensure that we love and protect them as they grow and provide the best possible education pathway for them while allowing them to grow in their own special way into today's complex and demanding world.

As always, it is truly a pleasure to come together with friends and community for an evening of connection, reflection, and of course, wonderful food.

Your hospitality here at Nasir Mosque in the heart of Cockburn is a testament to the warmth and generosity of the Muslim community.

The City of Cockburn is home to people from over 150 cultural backgrounds, including nearly two thousand Muslim residents.

This rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and it is something we will continue to celebrate at every opportunity.

Next week marks Harmony Week, a time dedicated to embracing our diversity and ensuring inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all.

Tonight's gathering beautifully reflects these values.

The wonderful thing about a diverse community is that we can all learn from each other.

Patricia and I attend many cultural events throughout the year. Just yesterday we were at the Japan Day celebrations, and just a couple of weeks ago we were celebrating at the African Jambo festival and attending several Bangladeshi events.

Reflecting on today's event; as someone who has not often experienced fasting, I took some time to learn more about its significance.

I was struck by the discipline it requires, the gratitude it fosters, and the empathy it cultivates for those who face hardship.

These are values that resonate across all cultures and faiths, and we are enriched by immersing ourselves in them.

I also understand that Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection and self-improvement.

The idea of pausing to reflect on how we can be better – as individuals and as a community – is something we can all embrace in today's complex and demanding world.

In closing, in the spirit of peace, unity, and shared understanding, I wish you all a blessed evening.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome and for bringing our community together on this auspicious occasion.

Thank you.