

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Business News Breakfast Event**  
**Crown Perth**  
**12 December 2023**

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Good morning Premier Cook, distinguished guests and colleagues.

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

On behalf of all guests today, I want to acknowledge and welcome the Honourable Roger Cook, Premier of Western Australia. We are keenly anticipating hearing you outline your vision for Western Australia and opportunities for business in this great state.

The Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance of local governments is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as an Alliance member the City of Cockburn has a strong focus on economic diversification and is looking to foster a number of business sectors that are of state and national importance including defence, shipbuilding, health, education, digital innovation, and the blue economy.

We are also supportive of your commitment to expanding the reach of this great state beyond our shores, to places such as Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam, and believe in the many opportunities this will create for sectors across the state.

Investment commitments and practical initiatives from the Federal Government around diversification, together with strong support from the State Government and the work of local governments we believe will help Western Australia to further cement its position as Australia's economic powerhouse.

As one of our local members of Parliament and an avid supporter of our region, we look forward to hearing you speak today of your vision for the state and how we can all play a part. The role of local government has traditionally been one of regulator, facilities operator, and service provider. But many local governments with their grassroots contacts and local knowledge do much more than that to help grow their local economy.

And as a major contributor to economic activity and employment in the State, we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with your government and industry.

Thank you