

# Media Release

18 July 2018

## **Cockburn ARC notches up another national award**

Cockburn ARC – the community’s favourite recreation hub – has again been recognised in a national award, winning the Overall Innovations accolade at the 2018 Australian Sport, Recreation and Play Innovation Awards.

The ARC won the award’s Facility Design and Development category and also took out the Overall Innovations Award at the National Sports Convention held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday, 17 July.

Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett said it was fitting that Cockburn ARC had won the innovation award, as it was the result of a unique partnership between local government, an elite sporting club and a university in the world’s top one percent of academic rankings.

“ARC has exceeded all expectations and is clearly our community’s favourite recreation hub because it had attracted 1.3m visitors by its first birthday, 560,000 more than predicted,” Mayor Howlett said.

“In partnership with Fremantle Football Club and Curtin University, we were able to combine our resources to consult with the community to develop an innovative, inclusive and sustainable facility that has achieved its mission of ‘more people, more active, more often’.

“This was important because the need for a high quality aquatic and recreation centre to service the growing community was first identified by the City in 2009.

“The local population was predicted to grow rapidly and existing facilities were unable to meet demand and were reaching the end of their lifespan.

“It was also vital to address an increase in negative lifestyle health behaviours and risk factors in the Cockburn community.

“According to WA Health Department statistics 71% of adults were overweight or obese, 36.3% of adults were obese (compared to a 27.4% WA average), and 41.7% of adults were completing less than 150 minutes of physical activity per week.



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“The centre has an average 3,736 daily visitors, it is used for weekly training by more than 49 community sporting clubs, more than 5,000 adults and children have participated in a stadium competition and more than 3,000 children participate in the swim school program.

“ARC’s membership base has an aggregated weight loss of 10.5t, more than 141m calories have been burnt by health club users, and cardio equipment in the health club has recorded more than 406,000km since opening, so we are on the right track.”

The \$109m facility has won multiple awards since opening in May 2017 –

- AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Award 2018
- AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre Award 2018
- Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) 2018: Best Practice in Collaboration between Government and Non-Government Organisations
- Parks Leisure Australia WA: 2018 Community Facility of the Year
- Leisure Industry Communications and Marketing Awards 2017: Local Government Communications and Marketing Award
- Master Builders WA 2017, Excellence in Construction awards: Best Public Use Building over \$20m

Cockburn ARC was also a finalist in the 2018 WA Australian Architecture Awards in the Public Architecture category announced on 29 June.

It is in the running for a State Government Sport and Recreation Industries Award due to be announced on 8 August, and is a finalist in the National Parks Leisure Australia Awards in October.

## **ENDS**

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