

**Official Opening**  
**Cockburn Ice Arena**  
**401 Progress Drive, Bibra Lake**  
  
**by**  
**Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
  
**on**  
**Saturday 24 October 2015**  
  
**at 10.30am**

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I am delighted to be here today on the occasion of the official opening of the Cockburn Ice Arena – a long held dream of the Barrett family.

I acknowledge the Nyungar people and pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australian's who are with us today.

I acknowledge:

Mr Tom and Mrs Joy Barrett.;  
Ms Calandra Barrett, General Manager, Cockburn Ice Arena;  
Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;  
Councillor Bart Houwen and his wife Willemien;  
Councillor Philip Eva JP and his wife Michelle;  
Councillor Stephen Pratt and his wife Elena;  
Councillor Steve Portelli and his partner Sharon;  
Councillor Lyndsey Wetton;  
My wife Patricia;  
One and all.

401 Progress Drive seems to have a certain ring about it - I can just hear youngster saying I'll see you at 401 on Saturday morning at 10.00am.

They say in the real estate industry that it is always about location, location, location.

Well the Cockburn Ice Arena is certainly about location.

Many of us will have seen it emerge out of a somewhat degraded land area over the last two years or so and evolve into the world class facility that we see before us today.

I know that I've been asked on more than one occasion what was happening on that site - what was that building going up.

Going back in time the Nyungar people used the area around Bibra Lake and North Lake as an important source of food and water as they moved between the coast and the Darling Range scarp, the Swan River and the South west of our State.

It was a place of birthing for them and a place where they laid to rest their loved ones - it was a place of story-telling, initiation, of learning through story-telling and the application of practical life skills - skills that would take them along the journey of life.

As European settlement occurred land would be given and in some cases sold to those who chose to come to the far distant land - we know it today as the Land Down Under.

Von Bibra was one such person to take up the challenge and over time the Tapper family came to acquire the land in this locality where they established a dairy, the first post office, telephone exchange and fuel supply for the area.

Progress Drive or as it was previously known, Forrest Road was a main connection for travellers between Fremantle and Rockingham and further south. Changes in road configurations in recent years make that a distant memory.

The Tapper Family had their land resumed for university endowment purposes - associated with the now Murdoch University. This changed again when the land that includes Adventure World was re zoned for recreation and public purposes.

So it was the Barrett family who identified this locality for the realisation of their dream; the Cockburn Ice Arena.

Located on a 6 acres or 2.5 hectares site across from the shoreline of Bibra Lake it certainly is about location, location, location.

Importantly the Barrett Family are conservationist at heart and in practical terms. The planning for the facility has provided for the retention of the significant trees on the site and the rehabilitation of the site with extensive plantings of local native species. In fact, the entire recreation and public purpose precinct has experienced a major clean up and re-vegetation program.

The City thanks the Barrett Family for their commitment to the environment - in today's world of wholesale land clearing, it is a rare commodity. The benefits of retaining those majestic trees and the attention to detail in the new plantings around the facility have assisted in maintaining a green corridor and upholding the values of the Beeliar Regional Park.

The Barrett Family have created a complex that is functional, sustainable and that compliments the surrounding environment.

More than that, the Barrett Family have provided the opportunity for the birth of a new generation of ice skaters who have taken up the opportunity to enjoy ice skating as a social activity or in some cases acquiring higher level skills, engaging in competitive sporting or artistic endeavours - going on to represent Western Australia or Australia, gracing ice arenas around the world in pursuit of their dreams.

Their stories will be passed down through the generations - the opportunities they were afforded by the Barrett Family - their days at the Barrington Street Arena, soaking up the knowledge and knowhow from committed coaches, the support of family and all important, the support of those at the arena who have come to nurture and develop the confidence and life skills of those in our community who have a passion for ice skating.

Twenty years after opening their first ice rink in Bibra Lake, the Barrett Family have taken all they have learnt from the Barrington Street Ice Arena and development in the Industry over that time to create a truly world class facility.

It will be Perth's first twin surface Ice Sports Arena Complex boasting two full Olympic sized ice rinks. The General skating rink is designed for public ice skating and ice sports such as figure skating, and synchronised skating.

We can see the large murals of mountain scenes surrounding the rink adding to the ice skating experience that will be enhanced by an elaborate sound and lighting system.

The Hockey rink has been built with quality products imported from Becker Arena Products in the United States.

It has a glass & netting system that ensures the puck stays in play for longer and affords a much better viewing experience for spectators.

Comfort has been a major consideration in the design of the arena, with large de-humidification systems installed in each of the rinks, providing a warm dry environment for patrons while they are in the skating areas.

The Frostbite Café adjacent to the general skating rink offers fantastic views of the skaters from a fully climate controlled room where you can sip on a hot coffee or grab a quick bite to eat from the extensive menu.

There are also 3 separate themed party rooms for parents hosting children's birthday parties. A snow themed room, a graffiti room and a princess room.

There will be a licenced restaurant adjacent to the Hockey rink, **Cabin 401**.

I knew that 401 theme would emerge again. I'll see you at Cabin 401.

The restaurant has a warm feel with comfortable seating, timber walls and feature lighting, reminiscent of a European ski lodge.

You will be able to sit back and relax, and have a fantastic meal while watching all the action of a live hockey game, or watch one of 4 big-screen TVs that will be showing NHL hockey and other sports in the near future.

With complimentary sports in mind, a 150 square metre ballet studio has been added upstairs with views of the lake and green areas.

Dance classes will be offered for children aged 2 and up through to adults.

In term 4 Cockburn Ice will be offering Classical Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Tiny tots ballet.

Aside from the landscaping, the facility has also been designed with environmental factors in mind.

There is a unique system in place to recycle the ice from the ice surfaces back into the cooling systems, which reclaim some of the energy used to make the ice and provides a more energy efficient cooling system.

Natural light floods the complex with large skylights and cost saving light sensors to prevent power wastage.

100 KW of Solar panels are also being installed, and there is a rainwater harvesting system capable of collecting over 100,000L of water.

Quoting Calandra Barrett, General Manager, Cockburn Ice Arena:

“With 20 years’ experience in running the Barrington Street Arena, we wanted to make sure we used everything we learned in the past and we improved functionality in the new building to make it a better experience for our Patrons.”

The new Cockburn Ice Arena Sporting Complex will be one of the best facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

With all of this on offer, it’s expected that ice-skating in Perth is set to take off in a big way.

Today's Official Opening of:

- Rink 1;
- Frostbite café; and the
- Retail store the Pro Shop. Is

indeed a milestone occasion.

To follow we will see the opening of:

- Rink 2; and the
- Restaurant.

Ladies and gentlemen

Once again I congratulate the Barrett Family on this world class ice arena and officially declare open:

- Rink 1,
- The Frostbite café,
- Retail store the Pro Shop

Thank you