

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Cockburn Youth Services XLR8 Motocross Program Launch
at
Coastal Motorcycle Club, Lot 170 Cockburn Road, Henderson
Monday, 2 November 2020

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to be here this afternoon to launch the City of Cockburn XLR8 Motocross Program and to highlight the excellent innovative work of Cockburn Youth Services support services and the leadership and responsiveness to needs of local young at risk young people and the City's investment in its young people.

Today's event is also about recognising the collaboration of services, government departments and sports clubs that have been brought together by the City's Youth Services to engage and support these young people.

Particularly Coastal Motorcycle Club, Youth Policing, Department for Communities and Youth Justice and to acknowledge the many volunteered hours that staff and community have put in to achieve the program's success in engaging the target group and wrapping supports around individuals, improving trust between Young People and services including Police and sports clubs.

It is also about celebrating outcomes being achieved including:

- improved employment,
- school attendance,
- reduced offending,
- reduced anti-social activities,
- skill development, improved self-esteem and community building; and

For the families of young people who have in turn support of the program and trust in support staff.

What an amazing 'Welcome to Country.

A big thanks to Tim and Troy Kelly and Neil Penny.

We all continue to learn about the rich and diverse history and culture of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how they cared for Mother Nature over tens of thousands of years.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with us today.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Honourable Francis Logan MLA, Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services and the Member for Cockburn;
- Honourable Nick Goiran, MLC, Member for South Metropolitan, Shadow Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Member for the South Metropolitan Region;
- Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood;
- Councillor Philip Eva, JP;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- Councillor Phoebe Corke;
- Councillor Tom Widenbar;
- Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services, City of Cockburn and other members of staff;
- CEO's from Local Government in Michael Parker and Wayne Jack and other local government staff;
- Mr Stephen Vose, Magistrate Children's Court of Western Australia;
- Mr Andrew Beck, Deputy Commissioner, Women and Young People;
- Ms Kimberley McKay ACM, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Women and Young People;
- Ms Melaine O'Connel, Manager Youth and Women Custodial, Department of Justice;
- Mr Ross Wortham, CEO, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia;
- Representatives from WA Police;
- Principles and other staff from high schools in the district;
- Mr Dan Robinson, President, Coastal Motorcycle Club and other members of the Club;

- Mr Dale Britton, DB Motorcycle owner and Club Sponsor;
- Mr Mike Murphy, Co-ordinator Cockburn Community Men's Shed;
- Mr Mike Dixon, Whitelion;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

By way of background, the Pilot program began in term 4, 2019 with 6 young people.

The second program is half way through with 13 young people engaged.

It's important to say that the young people love the program and attend each week without fail.

Young people understand the program is a reward for goals they have committed to including;

- Increased school attendance;
- Reduced offending;
- Improved behaviour;

The City's objective is to provide an inclusive and connected community that includes youth.

The City has invested by providing its Youth Centre, Community Activities and Grant funded services with grants received from Department of Communities and Department of Justice - Youth Justice.

Collaboration between the City and other organisations is essential to the success of the program and to achieving the stated benefits this program provides to Young People, their families the wider community.

It's great to see the 'not for profit' Coastal Motorcycle Club giving back to the Community in so many ways – demonstrating the true traditions and values of the Cockburn community.

And of course safety is our number one priority.

When young people asked what sort of programs they would be interested in, they told us anything to do with motor bikes.

At the same time, the Coastal Motorcycle Club was seeking support from the City to promote the Club and encourage young people to join.

Given the City rangers, Cosafe and Police were responding to illegal motorcycling on reserves and public places not designated for riding it made common sense to look at a 'win – win' outcome.

Police were also responding to regular road incidents involving young people, often unlicensed and without safety equipment (helmets or shoes).

These issues were highlighted in the community consultation carried out by Youth Affairs Council of WA the peak body for Youth Affairs in WA and informed the City's Youth Services Strategic plan 2016 -2021.

The Youth Services Manager and Youth Outreach Officer meet with Coastal Motorcycle Club representative and Youth Police Officers who had also been looking for a way to engage young people in pro social law abiding activities.

For those interested from other local schools here today are encouraged to share this model and learnings from the pilot with others working in the youth sector to replicate in their local areas.

Together the City's youth workers, Coastal Motorcycle Club and WAPOL officers worked to put a plan in place, problem solving licensing requirements, supervision, resourcing, risk management, approvals and the like.

A comprehensive program plan was put to the City's Director for Community Development and Services which was endorsed and the first pilot program commenced.

And as they say, the rest is history.

Thank you.