

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Cockburn Community Trek
Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club
Friday, 13 November 2020**

Kaya, wongu, Beeliar Boodgar (hello and welcome to the land of the Beeliar people.

I welcome to the 2020 Cockburn Community Trek on this Spring day, also known in the Nyungar calendar as Kambarang, or the season of birth.

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

It is always good to be out in the open air and importantly near water – in today's case overlooking the ocean from the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Most of you will have participated in the 3 km walk or the 6 km bike ride arriving back here refreshed and ready to enjoy the remainder of today's event.

I trust that each and every one of you has remained healthy throughout the COVID – 19 pandemic and that you continue to follow the guidelines that has assisted Western Australia to avoid the severe health and economic impacts that have occurred in other parts of Australia and around the world.

I acknowledge:

- My wife, Patricia;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- Councillor Tom Widenbar;
- Gloria Askander, Health Promotion Officer and other members of the Healthy Cockburn Team;
- Jillian Woolmer, Travel Smart Officer;
- Our walk leaders and those in the various walking groups;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

The purpose of today's community trek is to:

- Promote Heart Foundation Walking groups in the City of Cockburn;
- Recognise the contribution of the volunteer Heart Foundation Walk Leaders;
and
- Provide a physically active and an enjoyable event for all who attend.

The City signed a partnership agreement with the Heart Foundation.

The walking event has been run as the Cockburn Community Trek since 2016. The number of attendees has increased steadily from 38 at the first one to over 100 in later years.

Approximately half the attendees belong to Heart Foundation Walking groups and we thank them for their continued support.

The last 3 years we have been promoting 'Share the Space' since we have so many more people walking and riding now, we have to get people to share the space.

The City is building more and more shared paths to better connect people walking and riding to various destinations throughout the city and this is encouraging more people to walk and ride.

The Share the Space concept involves encouraging predictable and courteous behaviour and discourages distractions whilst walking, cycling and driving on our roads, shared paths, trails and footpaths.

Things you can discover and map out a route to visit:

- Murals, sculptures, statues and public artwork;
- Parks, playgrounds and drinking fountains;
- Dog exercise parks;
- Free WiFi locations;
- City owned facilities - libraries, the Azelia Ley Museum etc;
- Glow in the dark Moon Path (to help you see while riding at night);
- Eco shark barrier and Coogee Maritime Trail;
- Cafes, restaurants and bars

In closing, I thank each and every person involved in organising the Cockburn Community Trek 2020, for your active participation throughout the year in the walking groups and promoting other physical activity, for the creation of friendships across the community and for setting a great example of what it means to be out and about enjoying yourself.

Stay Safe.

Thank you.

