

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Fremantle Football Club/City of Cockburn Immersion Event**  
**Victor Kailis Oval/Cockburn ARC**  
**Tuesday, 25 July 2023**

---

Kaya Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

Welcome to the Fremantle Football Club and the City of Cockburn Cultural Immersion Event – a great opportunity for us all to learn more about Aboriginal culture and how we can learn from the longest surviving civilisation on Earth.

Our thanks for Nyungar Elder Professor Len Collard for his ‘Welcome to Country’ and his sharing of the culture, heritage, story telling and language that inspires us to reach out for more information and involvement as we walk shoulder to shoulder on the path to reconciliation.

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

I acknowledge:

- My wife Patricia;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- Board Member of the Fremantle Football Club Colleen Hayward;
- CEO of the Fremantle Football Club, Simon Garlick;
- Nyungar Elder, Professor Len Collard and his wife Lisa;
- Fiona Gardener, Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors Centre Manager;
- Other members of the Fremantle Football Club and City of Cockburn staff here today;
- Players from the Fremantle Football Club Men’s and Women’s Teams;
- Teachers, students and volunteers from the participating schools here today:
  - Coolbellup Community School;
  - Hammond Park Primary School;
  - Kerry Street Community School;
  - Newton Primary School;
  - Spearwood Primary School; and
  - Yangebup Primary School.

- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Today is a very important day in many respects:

- It is the first event following the formation of the Fremantle Football Club and the City of Cockburn joint partnership agreement;
- We are very proud to be sharing Beeliar Boodja with this great Club;
- FFC great history and have been well served by a number of Aboriginal players including Roger Hayden, Des Headland, Gemma Houghton, Jeff Farmer, Stephen Hill and Sonny Walters; and
- The involvement of local schools and their teachers and students.

I am delighted to open today's cultural immersion event and know that everyone's going to love the events that have been organised today including:

- A Smoking Ceremony;
- Beeliar Boodja Story Telling;
- Traditional dance;
- Cultural history;
- Jumper art;
- Football engagement; and
- Traditional Foods and BBQ.

May you all enjoy the opportunity to connect and share the stories on Aboriginal culture on Beeliar Boodja.

Enjoy.