

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**  
**Edge 23 – Engineering Ocean Solutions**  
**Jakovich Centre**  
**Thursday, 17 August 2023**

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Thank you Nikki

Kia Wonju Hello and Welcome

Welcome to Edge 23 – ‘Engineering Ocean Solutions’.

Now in its second year, Edge is the leading forum for the latest technologies, emerging challenges, and business opportunities in ocean engineering.

Bringing together industry leaders, R&D teams, engineers, innovators, and young talents in a forum to discuss and explore marine engineering technologies and projects; including novel and innovative solutions for us to take on board as the day progresses and the opportunities unfold.

Today’s event is being jointly sponsored by the City of Cockburn, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and For Blue and we extend our thanks for their continued support and involvement.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation the traditional custodians of the land we have gathered on today 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:

- Councillor Tarun Dewan;
- City of Cockburn Administration Representatives:
  - Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer;
  - Victoria Green, Executive Corporate Affairs;
  - William Barry, Economic Development Officer; and
  - Lisa Kniebe, Business Engagement Officer;
- Our guest speakers:
  - Andrew Outhwaite, Managing Director, For Blue;
  - Jason De Silveira, Founder and CEO of Nexxis;
  - Justin Strharsky, Founder and Director of Humynai;
  - Joshua Wigley, Founder and CEO of Hyperion Systems;
  - Harry Hubbert, Greenroom Robotics; and
  - Peter Ivanac, Total Marine Technology.
- Representatives from across our business sector;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to participate in one of the site visits hosted by:

- Nexxis – world class asset integrity technology;
- Total Marine Technology – leading edge subsea robotics; and

- Matrix Engineering – world leaders in composite and advanced materials

It's a privilege to be here with you today and to have this chance to share with you why Cockburn is a place of incredible opportunity.

A place where you can have it all - whether you're looking for somewhere to do business, somewhere to invest, or somewhere to call home.

Today, Cockburn is a growing and vibrant community of 125,000 people and more than 9,200 businesses across twenty-four suburbs.

Cockburn provides around thirty-per-cent of the employment for the south-west area of Perth and generates almost twelve-billion-dollars in regional exports and;

About eighteen-thousand people work in our commercial precincts.

We're home to five of WA's most successful industrial and commercial hubs, including:

- The Australian Marine Complex, home of our shipbuilding industry
- Latitude Thirty-Two, home to construction sector leaders like Cockburn Cement
- The Bibra Lake Industrial Precinct, a hub of construction, engineering, manufacturing, transport, and warehousing
- Jandakot City, where everything from aeroplanes to glass is manufactured; and
- Cockburn Central, the vibrant mixed-use residential, retail, commercial and recreation precinct at the heart of our community

### **Growth in business and industry:**

A new port is planned for Cockburn Sound.

Called Westport, it is expected to meet future industrial growth needs for Perth for the next fifty to a hundred years.

That will unlock more potential for investment, business, industry, and jobs growth.

We believe in nurturing businesses large and small.

We help, encourage, and connect our very smallest businesses, through our Micro Business Networking Group... knowing any one of these enterprises could become the next iiNet or Canva.

We support small to medium-sized businesses with a range of services, training programs, and grant opportunities.

We believe local government also has a central role to play in driving the growth, success, and development of our major industries.

Councils are no longer just about roads, rates, and rubbish.

Cockburn is taking an active role in growing our local economy.

### **Economic Development:**

Unusually for a local government, we have built an economic development team.

It started in early 2022 with one person.

We're now up to three people (Michael, William and Lisa) with Victoria Green, Executive Corporate Affairs heading up the portfolio as one of her responsibilities.

This team is charged with delivering economic development for local businesses across all industries, but their first big task was to investigate, develop and seize the opportunities that exist for Cockburn in the Blue Economy – focusing on our defence and maritime industries

### **Blue Economy:**

Cockburn is home to the shipbuilding hub around the Australian Marine Complex at Henderson.

An estimated forty-five-billion-dollars' worth of ships will be built in Cockburn by 2040.

There's another fifteen-billion-dollar cluster of excellence in marine manufacturing and technology development... which includes many of the industry's biggest players.

And as a result of the AUKUS defence agreement, even more naval ships are heading our way for repairs and visits... creating at least nine-thousand jobs over the next decade.

We've created the Blue Economy Advisory Group, which now comprises more than thirty key industry players... including representatives from large stakeholders like BAE Systems, Cvmec, Lueresen, Austal, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and the Office of Defence and Industry Support.

And, not least, we have spearheaded the Cockburn Blue Innovation Hub - an advanced research facility that will develop and test new maritime practices and technology and build the capabilities and capacity of the local supply chain.

In closing, that's a lot of economic activity, a lot of jobs, and a lot of opportunity for Cockburn.

And, as a local government, we have a critical and practical role to play in facilitating this activity and helping meet the demand for jobs, skills, supply chains, and innovation that this activity will create over the next ten to twenty years.

In the City of Cockburn, we believe in fostering sustainable prosperity for our local community.

Taking an active role in the most significant economic opportunities we have right on our doorstep... and supporting our local businesses, large and small is the best way we can do that.

The message we want all community leaders and politicians, business leaders and captains of industry to take from this example is the same message I have for all of you here today...

Cockburn is open for business.

Thank you.