

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Rehabilitating Roe 8 Community Open Day

Horse Paddock Swamp

Sunday, 14 April, 2019

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I am delighted to be here this morning celebrating the rehabilitation of Roe 8 thus far and sharing what each community group and/or individuals have achieved to date in their quest to re-store the scar left by those bulldozers. It is the forerunner of future rehabilitating Roe 8 community Open days.

I thank Marie Taylor for her inspiring 'Welcome to Country' and thank her for sharing the dreamtime stories that help us better understand the Nyungar culture that has existed for over 60,000 years and how the Aboriginal people looked after Mother country.

It is always good to go 'back to country' and immerse yourself in the natural environment. We have the magnificent banksia woodlands and wetlands that form the heart of the Beeliar Regional Park that runs from the City of Melville through Cockburn to the City of Kwinana.

I acknowledge the presence of:

Marie Taylor, Nyungar Elder;
My wife Patricia;
Councillor Philip Eva JP and his wife Michele;
Linda Metz, Roe 8 Rehabilitation Project Manager;
Volunteers here today representing the diversity of groups that share a passion for the environment;
The Friends of the Community;
St John Ambulance Service;
One and all.

The City signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the State Government that has seen the rehabilitation of Roe 8 commence in an organised and functional manner. Linda Metz has brought together a volunteer base engaged in the revegetation of the corridor, co-ordinated clean-up days, weeding days and general

information exchange that has produced outstanding results.

The City has been working with the Wetlands Education Centre, Native ARC and the Bibra lake Scout Group to upgrade their precinct to meet the growing needs of each group. This has resulted in agreement on the way forward and the City providing funds in the coming financial years to complete the project.

We've seen the identification of the Australian Women's Army Camp in this locality. We have also seen the destruction of the two pine trees planted in 1901 by John Dixon and his wife on the occasion of their wedding. They have remained a symbol of the early pioneering families in the district, the hard work that they endured to eke out a living and the love of community that the Dixon family have displayed for well over a hundred years.

Around us is North Lake, Bibra Lake, Roe Swamp and Frog Swamp and within a hundred metres from where we stand; Horse Paddock Swamp.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for being here today to continue the strength of 'people power' and all it means in a dynamic and evolving community.

Enjoy the forthcoming Easter period and school holidays and take care in your journey home today.

Thank you.