**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

**Spearwood Mural Dedication**

**Cnr Spearwood Avenue and Rockingham**

**Road, Spearwood**

**Thursday 27 June 2019**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to today’s dedication ceremony; a project that has captured the heart of those involved in its creation and one that will leave a lasting impression on all who pass or stop to admire the great artwork depicting days of yesteryear in Cockburn for years to come.

The murals reflect Spearwood’s disappearing colonial and horticultural history; one that has revived in brilliant colour with artwork for two 20m long murals painted by celebrated West Australian artist Irene Osborne.
I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered on today and I pay respect to their Elders both past, present, and emerging.

I acknowledge the presence of:

* Councillor Kevin Allen;
* Ms Irene Osborne, Artist – it is pleasing to see your family at this event;
* Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer;
* Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services, City of Cockburn
* Mr Stuart Downing, Director Finance & Corporate Services;
* Ms Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Co-ordinator;
* Ms Linda Seymour, Manager Library Services, assisted artist in sourcing images;
* Mr Anton Lees, Manager Parks, involved in the project from replacing the fences along Spearwood Avenue to installing the walls for the mural;
* Mr Len Galmizina & Mr John Cunai who initiated the mural wall project;
* Mr Tony Ravlich & Mrs Jeanette Paulik who assisted the artist and informed her images;
* Mrs Diane Stewart, President of Historical Society of Cockburn, who assisted artist in sourcing images, and other members of the Society here today;
* Mrs Liz Davey & Mr Martin Davey representing the Spearwood Progress Association;
* Members of the Spearwood Fence Committee;
* Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

In the year that Cockburn celebrates its 40th anniversary as a City it is fitting that we turn our minds back to a time when market gardens, flower gardens, orchards, vineyards, dairy farms, piggeries, abattoirs, lime kilns and the like dominated the landscape.

It is a time that long term residents have lived through as Cockburn transitioned to the place it is today.

As we know, the shaping of the history of any location is often reflected in the recollections of its people, the changing landscapes that reflected activities of the day, in books written by historians, photographs held by a few, video footage, the print media, the archives of our museums and libraries, or on websites and from time to time by artists with a particular passion for bringing times past alive.

Irene Osborne, a well-respected and multi-award winning visual artist with artworks in private and corporate collections worldwide was commissioned by the City to create and capture the essence of Cockburn in times past.

22 panels are the result of Irene’s commission – and we congratulate Irene on a magnificent reflection that will forever inform our community and visitors.

 The artworks are a tribute to the area’s early settlers who worked hard over many decades to build the foundations for today’s contemporary community.

With the help of a band of enthusiastic long time Spearwood residents, including Tony Ravlich, Jeannette Paulik and Len Glamuzina, Irene made public appeals for copies of precious historic and family photos and received about 100 to help inform the acrylic artworks we see depicted on the heritage walls.

Some of the panels depict:

* the early wine and table grape vineyards whose fruit was exported to England as exotic Christmas fare during the 1920s,
* the lime kiln industry,
* fruit and vegetable growing, packing and transportation,
* the steam train and Spearwood rail siding,
* livestock, local businesses,
churches,
* community life, and
* the iconic South Fremantle Power Station.

In closing, I thank you for attending on such a wintery day and for sharing in this historic occasion.

The Spearwood Heritage Walls form an integral part of Friendship Way that runs from Beeliar Drive to Cockburn Road.

Friendship Way reflects on our Aboriginal history, our sister city relationships, the message of peace through our relationship with Japan and the commemoration of Hiroshima each year, the war memorial within RSL Peace Park, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate plaques displayed along the footpaths and the freedom we enjoy as a nation.

I hereby dedicate the Spearwood Heritage Walls to the Cockburn community and to those members of the community; in particular Len Glamazena, and John Cunai , who initiated the project and who had the dream and who were supported by other long-time residents including Tony Ravlich, Jeannette Paulik and Steve Shroy who saw the opportunity to honour those who had in many ways, made Spearwood the community that it is today.

Thank you.