

Official Delegation
from Xinghua City
The People's Republic of China
to
The Municipal Government of Cockburn,
Western Australia
Welcome Speech
by
Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Dining Room – Administration Building,
City of Cockburn
10.30am Monday, 30 March 2015

Good morning.

I extend a very special welcome to you on the occasion of your official visit to the City of Cockburn.

I acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we have gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders, both past and present.

I acknowledge the members of the delegation from the City of Xinghua, The People's Republic of China to the City of Cockburn being:

- Mr Liu Hongzhao, Mayor of Lincheng Town, Xinghua City;
- Mr Wu Haiying, Office Director, Xinghua; City;

- Mr. Feng Cheng Pu, General Chairman of Xingye Industrial Shipping Company;
- Mr. Feng Rong Fu, Consultant of XingYe Industrial Shipping Company;
- Mr Hang Dong Lin, General Manager of Xingye Industrial Shipping Company; and
- Mr Wu Di, Engineer, Xingye Industrial Shipping Company.

and delegates representing the City of Cockburn:

Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve – Fowkes;

Clr Lee-Anne Smith OAM;

Clr Kevin Allen;

Clr Phil Eva;

Clr Yaz Mubarakai

Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services;

Mr Charles Sullivan, Director Engineering and Works;

Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning and Development;

Mr Stuart Downing, Director Administration and Finance;

Ms Eliel Yu – interpreter;

The City of Cockburn has an area of 165 square kilometres and we are 20 kilometres south of Perth, the capital city of Western Australia.

The population of our City is approaching 110,000 people.

The average age of our population is 33 years.

45% of our population have both parents who were born overseas.

From an historical perspective the First people of our Nation are the Aboriginal people and the local tribe are known as the Nyungar People.

The Nyungar people first inhabited this location more than 40,000 years ago and have a culture and heritage that is mainly handed down from one generation to another.

The City of Cockburn has a sister city agreement with Yueyang City in the Hunan Province.

The agreement was established in November 1998.

Since that time there have been delegations from Yueyang City and from our City to Yueyang City.

You will have seen the gifts received from our sister city during this time on display as we came into the building.

Our joint sister city mission is to enhance friendship between our people, promote mutual understanding and advance an in-depth cooperation between our two cities in all fields.

In recognition of our sister city relationships with Yueyang, The People's Republic of China; Mobile, Alabama, United States of America and Split, Croatia a 'Friendship Way' has been created along one of the City's main roads.

Various pieces of art work and trees from our sister cities are on display.

Your journey to Austal Ships can include a drive along this road.

You have briefly been able to see the type of climate we enjoy in Australia however we are very cognisant of the need to plan for the future and ensure that our agricultural and livestock industries, mining and oil and gas exploration are supported as well as future business and residential growth planned and maintained in a proper and orderly manner.

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth and water is a very valued resource. While dams are used to capture water more and more reliance has been placed on ground water aquifers and desalination plants to ensure a reliable and consistent supply of water to meet our needs.

All countries across the world are being challenged in terms of climate change, dwindling resources and population growth.

How we manage our finite resources and the decisions we make will impact on future generations.

As you will be aware, China is a major consumer of raw materials from Australia and a main exporter of goods to Australia and this business can only increase in future years.

Austal Ships is an important business within our City and is located in what is known as the Australian Marine Complex.

The Australian Marine Complex is world-class centre for excellence for manufacturing, fabrication, assembly, maintenance and technology servicing the marine, defence, oil and gas, and resource industry.

Located in Western Australia, 23 kilometres south of Perth, the Australian Marine Complex has been developed to enhance the opportunities created by the clustering of industries and is home to the largest marine industry in Australia.

The Australian Marine Complex has established international credentials for the repair, maintenance and construction of naval and commercial vessels, as well as infrastructure for the fabrication and assembly of offshore oil and gas modules.

In closing, I thank you for your visit to the City of Cockburn and to Australia.

We hope you have a productive visit to Austal Ships and that you will return home with fond memories of your visit to Australia?