

Speech by Mayor Logan Howlett

Mosaic Festival 2025

Treeby Reserve, 1 Torwood Avenue, Treeby

Saturday 22 March 2025

Thank you Oompah for that performance.

Kaya Wanju everyone, Hello and Welcome to the Mosaic Festival 2025.

Thank you to Cyril Yarran for his 'Welcome to Country', his story telling and the sharing of the Nyungar culture and language as we continue our shared journey of reconciliation.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to First Nation peoples here today.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Mosaic Festival, a celebration of the incredible cultural diversity that makes the City of Cockburn such a vibrant and inclusive community.

I'd also like to acknowledge and welcome our special guests:

- Consul Mr Wang Shewel and Consul Zhao Hongtao from the Peoples Republic of China;
- My wife Patricia;
- My fellow elected members;
- The Members of the City's Multicultural Reference Group;
- Our wonderful local community groups and performers; and
- The many families from across our community here today.

Cockburn is home to 130,000 people across 24 suburbs, making it the most culturally diverse local government in the southern metropolitan region.

One in every two residents comes from a culturally diverse background, and one in five speaks a language other than English at home.

Walk through our streets, parks, and markets, and you'll hear voices in Mandarin, Italian, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Croatian – alongside English and more and more these days our local Nyungar language is starting to permeate across our community.

This diversity is our strength, shaping a community that is open, welcoming, and connected.

The Mosaic Festival is more than just an event – it's a reflection of who we are.

It's an opportunity to share traditions, enjoy global cuisines, and experience the music, dance, and artistry that define cultures from around the world.

Tonight, we have a fantastic lineup of performances, from the Cockburn Pipe Band to the energy of Brazilian dancers, the power of Japanese Taiko drummers, and the vibrant spectacle of Chinese Lion Dancers.

Our food vendors offer an incredible selection of global cuisine – from Italian arancini to Malaysian satay and Māori fusion.

So, I encourage you to explore, try something new, and connect with the people behind these incredible cultures.

As a City, we are committed to creating spaces where all cultures feel seen, valued, and celebrated – not just at events like this but throughout the year.

We are also committed to minimising our environmental impact.

The Mosaic Festival is a Wastewise event, with compostable food packaging, water refill stations, and waste sorting to reduce landfill.

Small changes like these help us build a more sustainable future for our community.

This festival is the result of hundreds of hours of planning, cooking, rehearsing, and performing.

A heartfelt thank you to the artists, performers, food vendors, community groups, and City of Cockburn staff who have made tonight possible.

A special thanks to the Multicultural Reference Group for their ongoing support in making Cockburn a more inclusive and connected city.

This year's Cockburn Live season is drawing close to its end, but we still have Easter Fair coming up and I encourage you to stay engaged with our community's cultural events.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming programs in the Cockburn Soundings newsletter and online.

Thank you for being here tonight. Enjoy the festival!