

## **Felixstow Reserve opening**

### **Running order**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10.00am | EVENT TO BEGIN                              |
| 10.30am | SPEECH Mayor Bria                           |
| 10.35am | SMOKING CEREMONY                            |
| 10.40am | SPEECH Mayor Bria                           |
| 10.45am | SPEECH Christopher Pyne                     |
| 10.50am | SPEECH Steven Marshall                      |
| 10.55am | SPEECH Mayor Bria                           |
| 11.00am | ENTERTAINMENT Cool 4 Kids: Sustainable Show |
- Midday ENTERTAINMENT to finish

## **Felixstow Reserve opening**

### **SPEECH – Mayor Bria**

**Date:** Sunday 10 February 2019

**Time:** 10:30am

**Location:** Felixstow Reserve, Felixstow 5070

### **INTRODUCTION**

Good morning. My name is Robert Bria. I am the Mayor of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the newly redeveloped Felixstow Reserve today.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pay respect to elders past and present.

We recognise and respect Kurna cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.

We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.

We are grateful for the members of the Kurna community that have contributed to the redevelopment of Felixstow Reserve and recognise all those who are present with us today.

Naa marni

*(Note: use of language is Kurna language here is appropriate and would be considered a compliment. These words are used as a greeting and literally mean 'How are you (plural)?' Naa marni is pronounced nah mar-nee).*

We also extend our same respect to other Aboriginal language groups and First Nations.

I would now like to invite Kurna Elder, Uncle Lewis Yerloburka O'Brien to give us an official 'Welcome to Country', while his son and senior Kurna man, Mike Kumatpi O'Brien who will share a smoking ceremony with us.

*[WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND SMOKING CEREMONY CONDUCTED]*

Thank you Uncle Lewis for welcoming us to Country, and thank you Mike for doing the smoking ceremony.

It's a good and meaningful way start to our celebration of the redevelopment of Felixstow Reserve.

I am delighted to welcome our distinguished guests:

- The Honourable Steven Marshal MP, Premier of South Australia and Member for Dunstan

- The Honourable Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Defence, Leader of the House and Federal Member for Sturt

And also welcome Mayor Jill Whittaker from neighbouring Campbelltown City Council who also joins us today.

I'd like to acknowledge my fellow Elected Members who are here today:

- John Callisto
- Christel Mex
- Connie Granozio
- Scott Sims
- Mike Stock
- Carlo Dottore
- Kevin Duke
- Kester Moorhouse
- Evonne Moore
- Garry Knoblauch
- John Minney
- Sue Whittington
- Fay Patterson and partners

And give a warm welcome to the members of the Eastern Region Alliance Water Board, state government and council staff, all those who have worked on the planning and

implementation of this project, and an especially warm welcome to the community, which so patiently waited for this development.

The wait is finally over!

It is a proud and exciting moment for me to stand here today and open up this magnificent reserve and, as I'm sure you'll agree, a valuable new asset for the community.

Having been a past resident of Felixstow for 39 years, I have seen the transformation of the precinct for a number of uses over the past four decades.

The redevelopment of the reserve was done in two stages. Firstly, the construction of the wetlands, which is an initiative of the Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Burnside and Walkerville councils, followed by the redevelopment of the remainder of the reserve.

The redevelopment of Felixstow Reserve has not just been about creating this beautiful new space for leisure and recreation, it has also been about delivering environmental initiatives that will benefit the broader community.

Felixstow Reserve is a truly innovative space.

This wetland area you can see not only provides a home for countless birds and animals, it is also an amenity that collects, treats and stores stormwater, which then gets used for irrigation purposes across the eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

The decision to locate a wetland at Felixstow Reserve presented an opportunity to create this amenity and turn the reserve into a fantastic place for residents and visitors to enjoy and explore.

The reserve is now a great place to enjoy with family and friends – whether that’s a picnic on the green lawns, or making use of the brand new BBQ areas.

It’s also an exciting place to bring children.

The new nature play space in the lower park area, north of the River Torrens Linear Park trail, includes boulders, logs and other natural elements.

When you explore the space, you’ll perhaps notice that the sculptural steel cubby houses have been created to represent ‘wardli’ – the houses that the Kaurna people created on the banks of the River Torrens.

In addition to the natural and recreational features, Felixstow Reserve is also a great place to come to keep fit –

the reserve now has five fitness stations, basketball, netball and bocce courts and a one kilometre running loop, that circles the reserve and connects to the River Torrens Linear Park trail, for those who want to go a bit further!

And, importantly, you can explore the cultural and environmental history of the area through the reserve's cultural interpretative trail.

The trail includes a series of magnificent sculptural markers, created by Kurna/Ngarrindjeri artist and designer, Paul Herzich, as well as a canoe scar tree.

These elements provide insight into Kurna culture, and help recognise the significance of this site to the Kurna people.

The innovative redevelopment of the reserve is the result of collaboration and partnership between local, state and federal government and the Kurna people.

I want to take a moment to extend my thanks to those who have worked alongside the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters on the project.

It would not have been possible without financial support from:

- the Australian Government's National Urban Water and Desalination Plan and the National Landcare Program,
- the Environment Protection Authority of South Australia as part of the Catchment to Coast Project,
- the South Australian Government through the Planning and Development Fund
- the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural resources Ranges Management Board.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Oxigen Landscape Architects, for their vision and work on the Felixstow Reserve Masterplan, Aspect Studios and their sub-consultants who prepared the detailed plans for construction, and of course, Landscape Construction Services and their subcontractors who constructed this magnificent reserve.

We also thank Wallbridge Gillbert Aztec, Design Flow, SEM Civil, Guidera O'Connor, SADB and all others involved in the project management, design and construction of the wetlands and stormwater storage and recovery system.

And again, I want to thank you, the community, for your patience these past few years while the reserve has been under construction.



I hope that you agree that it was well worth the wait.

The name 'Felixstow' derives from the Latin word 'felix' meaning happy, and the Anglo-Saxon 'stow', which means place.

We hope that this reserve will indeed be a happy place to be enjoyed by all.

Now, please welcome the Hon Christopher Pyne, followed by Premier Stephen Marshall.

*[Hon Chris Pyne and Premier Stephen Marshall to speak]*

Thank you both for your words, it really is great to have such an amazing development in our council area, and important that the state and federal governments have been involved in the project.

Thank you all again for coming out and celebrating the opening of Felixstow Reserve.

I would now like to invite the Kaurna Elders, the Premier Stephen Marshall and the Hon Christopher Pyne to join me in the unveiling of the plaque at the entry to the reserve.

That concludes the formalities, I would like to leave you with a performance from Cool 4 Kids and encourage you to go and explore the reserve. Enjoy the free gelati and BBQ from

Payneham Swimming School as well as Boost Juice and  
People Vs Coffee