

Swan River Seaplanes launch

Mayor Sue Doherty speech notes

23 January 2017

Welcome everyone to the City of South Perth and this wonderful site of the Queen Street Jetty which at times I feel is a forgotten treasure within our City. It really is great to see you all here today as we celebrate the launch of the Swan River Sea Plane. As Mayor of the City I feel incredibly proud to be involved in this event. Thank you Troy and Kristy for the invitation.

I acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (particularly the 'Whatjuk' people of the Noongar Nation) as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters and pay tribute to their Elders past and present.

Today I thank and acknowledge the Premier, Minister for Tourism, Science Colin Barnett MLA, John McGrath MLA Member for South Perth, Alyssa Hayden, MLC Parliamentary Secretary to the Tourism Minister, Evan Hall CEO Tourism WA, Troy Thomas – Outback Floatplane and Horizontal Sea Plan Adventures, also Swan River seaplanes along with Kristy Baily from One Eighty Marketing.

The City of South Perth is excited to be able to offer support at the launch of Swan River Sea Planes. We are pleased that this currently underutilised gem of a jetty has been chosen as the spectacular departure point for these aircraft.

The South Perth foreshore is a superb location, it's one of Perth's most iconic settings and I cannot think of a better place for the seaplanes to launch from.

South Perth is a much-loved tourist destination, attracting over 1 million interstate and international visitors each year to the Foreshore annually. It's indeed a tourist attraction in itself as people come to view the wonderful vista of the City of Perth from our foreshore at all times of the day.

With Swan River Sea Planes now operating out of South Perth it offers us another opportunity to showcase our beautiful City and a unique way for visitors to enjoy and see our wonderful City, Swan River and a very first the opportunity to travel via the coast to south west of our State.

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Tourism is important for the City and the State, over ¾ million people visit the Perth Zoo annually and currently we are proactively pursuing strategic projects that will provide our residents, visitors and community with a revitalised South Perth waterfront area with enhanced facilities and amenities.

We are in unique position to capitalise on the recent changes occurring in the Perth CBD which is undergoing an incredible transformation in form and function.

The City of South Perth's proximity and accessibility to Perth ensures it is an attractive place to live and invest in. The business community of the City welcome the Swan River Seaplanes. I am confident word of mouth via the business community will bring interest in this new opportunity launched today.

With activation of the Swan River currently in place through the water taxis from the new Ku De Ta - Bali On the Swan Restaurant, the Little Ferry Company, the steamer The Decoy berthed at Mends Street Jetty, the Gondola's on the Swan, Fun Cats located at Coode Street, cruises taking tourists to the Swan Valley Winery's – our Swan River is changing and providing opportunities for tourism which in turn provides employment and economic development for our City and State.

The City of South Perth is distinctive in that we have the highest number of people in any local government that speak Mandarin – 8% and that means we have a many Chinese businesses and residents in the City. When I visited the Tourism WA website the majority of tourists who visit WA come from China and the second highest number from India.

Tourism is all about the experience it provides people with memories that remain with them throughout their lives. My most recent tourism experiences in Western Australia will stay with me forever are riding on the RAC's Intellibus along the South Perth Esplanade and experiencing a tandem sky dive from 14,000 feet last year at Jurien Bay – both memorable in different ways.

We have much to look forward to as the Swan River Sea Planes adds yet another dimension to tourist opportunities for the City and our State. Thanks again to Troy and Kristy for choosing the Queens Street Jetty in South Perth as the starting point for your new venture.