

MAYOR TROY PICKARD SPEECH NOTES

JINAN

SPEECH AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF SPRINGS CONSERVATION

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to be here today at the second International Alliance of Cities with Spring Cultural Landscapes.

There is no better place in the world to discuss the conservation, management and protection of springs than in Jinan, the City of Springs.

An ancient poet once sang the praises of the lake in these words: "Lotus flowers on four sides and willow trees on three-surrounded by mountains, a lake in a city." Beautiful words indeed for a beautiful City of Springs.

Jinan and Joondalup share a desire to protect our natural environments and ecosystems and to develop beautiful Cities that protect our natural spring and lake assets that are so much a part of our history as well as our future.

Of course, Joondalup can in no way rival the numerous beautiful springs of Jinan, however we are very proud and protective of what I like to refer to as our own 'Jewel in the Crown' - Yellagonga Regional Park, which consists of a chain of important wetlands. The health of the park and its wetlands is of high importance to the City of Joondalup and to our community.

The park has been identified as having significant value in terms of providing a habitat for flora and fauna, improving ecological function such as air quality, carbon capture and soil health, as well as providing wonderful recreational and cultural experiences for community members.

In order to maintain and enhance amenity, recreational, scientific, educational and conservation values of the Park and the chain of wetlands for present and future generations, an integrated catchment approach has been undertaken to provide a comprehensive and integrated method to managing the park.

The International Alliance for Spring Water presents a unique opportunity for Cities around the world to join together to protect our aquatic ecosystems, to share scientific work we are all conducting on the quality of the water in our springs and catchments, and ways of reducing pollution from different sources.

The City of Joondalup has worked closely with a range of stakeholders including a group of committed community volunteers, who have formed a group called the Friends of Yellagonga, as well Edith Cowan University, to protect and manage Yellagonga Regional Park and the chain of wetlands.

Indeed, we have developed a Yellagonga Integrated Catchment Management Plan which includes a number of projects designed to protect and conserve the health of the wetlands, such as (rather than second 'include') scientific research on the water quality conducted by the University.

The alliance will provide the City with an opportunity to share our approach and research and, importantly, to learn from other Cities in relation to best practice in the conservation, management and sustainable development of springs and water catchments.

Restoring and keeping our springs and lakes healthy is one of the most important challenges facing us all given the role they play in sustaining native fish populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife – as well as providing important recreational opportunities and, of course, the valuable and irreplaceable cultural and spiritual significance they hold for us all.

Thank you.