

14 December 2022

# Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



Who can believe that Christmas is just 11 sleeps away!

Before we know it, the big fella in the red suit will have come and gone, and we will be welcoming in the New Year. So, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved in 2022. And what a year it has been!

It was a year that brought many challenges as we dealt with the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and continued supporting our struggling businesses and community organisations. We weathered the storm, with three significant rain events which caused havoc on our roads and disrupted our sporting organisations.

But it wasn't all gloomy skies, and I'm extremely proud of all that we have delivered for the community.

We hosted Australia's largest Citizenship Ceremony and welcomed the latest 2,600 new citizens to our City. After a two-year hiatus, we held a successful Ramadan Nights Lakemba event, which attracted over 1.2 million visitors. Along the way, we delivered an \$80million capital works program, which included upgrades to

roads and traffic improvements, parks and investment in our town centres.

It wasn't all about bricks and mortar, it was the support provided to our community organisations and not for profit groups, which goes to the heart and soul of what we do as an organisation. Supporting our meals on wheels service, our day care groups, community grants for the needy and preparing new strategies which take into account those in our city living with disabilities and the elderly.

The highlight for me was the accolade bestowed on our Council, winning the prestigious AR Bluett Memorial Award - an award which recognises the most progressive Council in the state.

On behalf of my family and the entire Council, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Khal Asfour  
**MAYOR**