



3rd May, 2019

Cr Margaret O'Rourke - Mayor
City of Greater Bendigo
PO Box 7233
Bendigo VIC 3550

Dear Mayor O'Rourke,

Re: Letter of Support - City of Greater Bendigo's application to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the Gastronomy category

As the Member for Bendigo West in the Victorian Parliament I am very pleased to write this letter of support for the City of Greater Bendigo's application to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the category of Gastronomy.

Bendigo is a vibrant creative city at the heart of a diverse and productive region. The city and region is home to growers, producers and innovators who are striving for healthy, sustainable growth for our region, and fostering international cooperation is a vital part of this.

Joining with other cities around the world to exchange knowledge, enhance initiatives and broaden opportunities is an exciting prospect for Bendigo, and would have positive impacts for the whole State of Victoria as it embraces our Creative State.

The application highlights the culture and heritage of the Dja Dja Wurrung and recognises the importance of Traditional Owner knowledge in developing more sustainable food systems. I am very pleased to see this reflected in future plans and I am also delighted with the focus on education and sustainable, local and healthy food.

Joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network is an exciting opportunity for Bendigo and the region to further develop our focus on creativity, sustainability and inclusive growth – and share learnings and exchanges with cities internationally who face similar challenges.

I am pleased to offer my full support for the application and look forward to working with the City of Greater Bendigo as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Yours faithfully,

Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West
Deputy Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly

