

3 May 2019

Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Mayor
City of Greater Bendigo
PO Box 733
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Dear Mayor O'Rourke

Letter of Support for the City of Greater Bendigo's Application to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the Gastronomy Category

As the Member of Parliament for the State electorate of Bendigo East, 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 Gastronomy category.

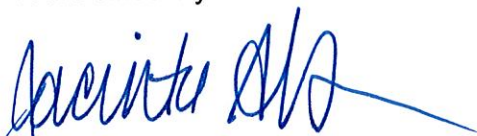
Bendigo and the wider central Victorian region has a long tradition of creativity and excellence in food and beverage production. The contemporary scene in gastronomy is vibrant and a key driver of the economy. The Victorian Government has invested heavily in its future through projects such as the Bendigo Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence, and Bendigo Kangan Institute Food and Hospitality Training Centre. These two projects represent an investment of nearly \$70 million in the gastronomic future of this region.

One of the application's strengths is that it relates to a diverse region and acknowledges the vital role that Traditional Owner knowledge has in the development of sustainable food systems. This is particularly important in the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and the City of Greater Bendigo's focus on collaborating with the Dja Dja Wurrung on gastronomy projects will strengthen the culture and creativity of Bendigo into the future.

Becoming Australia's only City of Gastronomy would raise awareness of what Bendigo and the region has to offer, strengthening international relationships, and opening up opportunities for shared learning and exchange. I am pleased to see that the application documents Bendigo's and the region's many achievements and sets out a plan to further develop a sustainable, healthy and creative gastronomic culture for residents and visitors alike.

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 sincerely



Jacinta Allan MP
Member for Bendigo East
Minister for Transport Infrastructure
Leader of the House

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