To: The Mayor and Councillors
City of Gold Coast

Re: Letter of Support – Ediblescapes Garden, Country Paradise Parklands, Nerang

I am writing in my personal capacity to express my support for the continuation of Ediblescapes Garden at Country Paradise Parklands.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Ediblescapes on numerous occasions including as part of the South East Queensland Urban Agriculture Network and during the Community Gardens Australia National Gathering. These visits gave me an opportunity to appreciate the garden and the broader purpose it serves.

What struck me about Ediblescapes is that it is much more than a community garden. It is a practical demonstration of environmental sustainability and an outdoor classroom where people can see, experience and learn about the relationships between healthy soils, biodiversity, food production and the natural environment. I have learnt much there.

There is enormous educational value in having a place where these principles are demonstrated in a tangible and accessible way. People can learn about regenerative gardening, soil improvement, sustainable food production and ecological processes simply by walking through the garden, observing and talking with those involved. It makes environmental education real and relevant, and provides inspiration and practical knowledge that people can take back to their own homes, gardens and communities.

I also believe the community wellbeing aspect is particularly important. Places such as Ediblescapes bring people together around something positive and worthwhile. They create opportunities for people to get outdoors, be physically active, learn new skills, share knowledge and develop friendships.

Having spent considerable time involved with community environmental and Landcare groups, I have seen first-hand how these sorts of activities can make a difference to people's lives as well as the environment. Participation in community-led projects can build confidence, reduce social isolation, connect people across generations and give individuals a genuine sense of ownership and responsibility for their local environment.

Ediblescapes brings these benefits together in one place. It demonstrates that environmental restoration, sustainable food production, education and community wellbeing are not separate objectives but complementary outcomes that can reinforce one another.

I believe Ediblescapes is a valuable community asset and an excellent example of how public open space can be used to deliver meaningful environmental, educational and social outcomes.

I encourage the City of Gold Coast to recognise this broader value when considering the garden's future and to work constructively with Ediblescapes to find a way for it to continue and grow.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed.

Michael Bond

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