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Date: 20 VIII 2015

Mr Christopher Horner
Blanco Food & Events
PO Box 2669
Kent Town
South Australia 5071

Dear Mr Horner

Re. Letter of support for submission for South Australian Tourism Industry Council (SATIC) Tourism Restaurant Category Award

There are few better ways for tourists to experience a new destination than to feel the earth beneath their feet, and to sample its fresh local produce. At Adelaide's Botanic Gardens Restaurant, visitors can not only become immersed in the Garden's beautiful living collections, they can then taste it fresh from the ground – a true South Australian garden-to-plate experience!

Botanic Gardens Restaurant and head chef Paul Baker's daily harvesting of fresh vegetables and herbs from Adelaide Botanic Garden's Kitchen Garden is typical of their commitment to minimising food miles travelled – a lesson in sustainability that reunites with the Garden's key educational messages.

The Restaurant has been a primary outlet for sales of Botanic Ale – the beer produced from barley grown at Adelaide Botanic Garden's City Crop – and it also uses herbs from the Garden in botanical-inspired fusions on its drinks list (plus local boutique wines), further highlighting the Restaurant's emphasis on promoting SA produce to the world.

Head chef Paul Baker has been all too happy to be involved with selected guided walks from the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Garden visitors were rapt to hear from Paul about the herbs and spices he uses in his dishes during the recent "Follow the Spice Trail" guided tours, for example.

The Botanic Gardens Restaurant's recent glowing review in The Australian from eminent national food critic, John Lethlean, rams home its credentials in being a champion of South Australian fare. It adds taste to the list of senses catered to at Adelaide Botanic Garden. The Gardens are visited by more than 1.6 million people each year and, as demonstrated in a recent Deloitte Access Economics study, is of major economic and cultural importance to South Australia.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Forbes
Director