

Fay Miller, Mayor, Katherine Town Council

**Letter of Support for Food Ladder – Katherine**

It is with pleasure I provide this letter of support.

Katherine Town Council approved the construction of a Food Ladder Hydroponic system within the town of Katherine after lengthy consultation.

A prime piece of council land within the Katherine CBD was made available for this important training and food production centre at a peppercorn rent.

The initial request for partnership and development of this project came from a local Indigenous leader the Chairwomen of Katherine Indigenous Women's Association (KIWA) Taryn Kruger. Taryn wanted the opportunity and ability to grow fresh produce efficiently and to learn the skills to do this through introducing Hydroponic technologies by bringing skilled trainers to Katherine to train a local workforce.

Commercial Hydroponic technologies had not before been introduced to Katherine and there were no specialists in the town with the knowledge and skillset to develop the high specification infrastructure, operate and train local job seekers in professional commercial production.

After much research, Taryn sought out Food Ladder, an award winning Australian company operating in three countries who are committed to ending food insecurity and poverty through social enterprise and job creation. Their proven track record of successes bringing industry, jobs and improved nutrition to the harshest most arid climates on the planet, meant they were a viable option for Katherine.

The introduction of the Food Ladder system has created local jobs, with Lina Challita providing vital mentorship, training and support to our local work teams who are learning how to operate this independently.

The council value the work that Lina is doing imparting her specialist knowledge and skills to local community members and workers. In particular Lina has already selected a local Indigenous woman as her successor and is training her specifically to manage the site independently of Lina.

Katherine Town Council is very pleased with the introduction and progress of Food Ladder and fully support the ongoing specialised training of locals to become independent providers of healthy produce for our community.

Yours faithfully

Fay Miller
Mayor