



## STATEMENT

# Use of temporary seasonal café and garden amenities.

The Blue Lotus Water Garden is a private seasonal tourist attraction based around a 14 acre display garden that is open for 3.5 months each summer and autumn.

An entry fee is required (ticket) to access the gardens including all the facilities and amenities that are located inside the grounds, which are provided exclusively for visitors with a valid ticket. This includes the seasonal café.

### **Why we don't have free access to our seasonal café and other amenities**

In 2015 the garden applied to the Yarra Ranges Council to amend our planning permit to include a permanent café. This was rejected by council due to the stringent planning controls covering our property. However, council did allow us to provide food & beverage services exclusively for garden visitors in the form of independent food vendors that could operate on a seasonal basis (temporary). This is a legal requirement of our Outdoor Recreation Facility permit.

The garden operates similar to other major tourist attractions like Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, Gumbya World, Luna Park, the Victoria Snow Resorts and many other major events, festivals and attractions around Australia where hospitality services are provided as part of the paid attraction.

Each season the Blue Lotus Water Garden contracts independent food vendors to operate and provide temporary hospitality services to garden visitors. The food vendors are charged a site fee to cover the costs of building & equipment maintenance and use of services such as power, water, rubbish and gas. This is done on a not-for-profit basis to help keep the costs of food & beverage services affordable for garden visitors.

We thank you for your understanding.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoff Cochrane", with a horizontal line underneath.

GEOFF COCHRANE - Owner