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11 September 2026

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Dear Ms Sante

COMMUNITY SAFETY PETITION – HUGH MUNTZ GARDENS, BEENLEIGH

Thank you for lodging your ePetition titled *Community Safety Petition – Hugh Muntz Park, Beenleigh* with Council on 6 May 2026, and for taking the time to meet with Cr Karen Murphy, Jackie Heal and myself on 7 May 2026 to discuss the concerns you and members of the community have raised regarding safety, anti-social behaviour and unlawful camping at Hugh Muntz Gardens.

Council acknowledges the concerns outlined within the petition, including reports of criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, substance abuse and the broader perception of reduced safety within the Hugh Muntz Gardens precinct. Council also recognises the impact that these concerns can have on residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

Throughout our discussion, Council representatives outlined the distinction between criminal matters, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), and matters relating to public amenity, unlawful camping and local law compliance, which are managed by Council. Criminal offences such as assaults, drug offences, theft and public aggression are referred to QPS for investigation and appropriate response, while Council undertakes compliance and enforcement activities in accordance with its legislated powers under relevant local laws (*Local Law No. 5 (Park, Jetties and Boat Ramps) 2011* and *Local Law No. 12 (Council Property and Other Public Places) 2003*).

Council representatives also advised during the meeting that both Council and QPS are actively and regularly attending Hugh Muntz Gardens, with Police undertaking daily patrols and Council officers maintaining a visible presence to monitor compliance and amenity concerns.

The incidents referenced in your petition, including the fatal shooting and alleged stabbing, are understandably concerning to community members and contribute to perceptions of reduced safety within the precinct. In each instance, the Queensland Police Service responded swiftly – validated by Council's CCTV coverage of the area - and exercised its legislative powers to investigate the matters, manage any immediate risks and ensure the broader community could continue to safely go about their daily activities.

Council maintains a close working relationship with QPS and regularly shares information where criminal behaviour is alleged or identified. Similarly, Council receives a significant number of reports and allegations relating to criminal behaviour that are, at times, attributed to people experiencing homelessness.

Whilst I acknowledge community sentiment about the presence of persons experiencing homelessness, Council cannot lawfully remove people from public spaces simply because they identify as being homeless, rather we manage unlawful camping within the framework of local government legislation and in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). The legislation requires Council to undertake detailed investigations, assess available support pathways, consider individual circumstances and ensure any enforcement action is lawful, reasonable and proportionate. For privacy reasons I am unable to share details of compliance and enforcement actions undertaken to date against persons experiencing homelessness.

In response to the matters raised in your petition, I can confirm that a coordinated multi-agency approach involving Council, QPS and homelessness support providers:

- Is providing a regular presence in Hugh Muntz Gardens to deter illicit and unlawful activity, and provide oversight and response to amenity, unlawful camping, waste management and maintenance issues. Collectively, a minimum of 11 patrols/attendances are conducted on a weekly basis.
- Is delivering greater support to persons experiencing homelessness through weekly scheduled co-response activities, housing pathways and outreach attendance.
- Ensures continued collaboration, including intelligence sharing, CCTV monitoring and referrals relating to criminal behaviour in the park space.
- Has resulted in a thorough Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment and safety audit being completed. The assessment identified opportunities for improving visibility, safety and surveillance within the precinct to ensure it is a safe public space. To date improved lighting and CCTV capability, tree pruning and vegetation clearing works have been completed for greater safety and visibility, and additional bins and a skip bin installed to facilitate waste removal to prevent odour and vermin concerns.

While members of the community may not always see the work occurring behind the scenes, Council and its partner agencies continue to engage with individuals residing in public spaces and facilitate access to housing, support services and other assistance where appropriate.

Since August 2024, 116 individuals have been referred by Council to Co-Response Services and supported into housing pathways, emergency accommodation, or to other supports, from the greater Beenleigh area.

Council also strongly encourages community members to report new camp sites or safety incidents through the appropriate channels. Reports relating to criminal activity should be directed to QPS, while reports relating to local law, waste, vandalism, park maintenance or other Council matters should be reported directly to Council by calling 3412 3412 or emailing council@logan.qld.gov.au. Timely and accurate reporting greatly assists agencies build an evidence base and respond appropriately to community concerns.

Council appreciates your advocacy on behalf of the community and the respectful manner in which you have engaged with Cr Murphy and Council officers throughout this process. The

concerns raised through your petition have been carefully considered and have reinforced the importance of maintaining a coordinated and evidence-based response to the complex issues associated with homelessness, public safety and community amenity.

At the same time, Council recognises that individuals experiencing homelessness may not have alternative accommodation available to them, may be unable to access housing pathways immediately, or may be reluctant to engage with support services. To address these challenges, Council has developed a Homelessness Response Framework that guides our approach to unlawful camping and homelessness in public spaces.

Further demonstrating this commitment, funding has been secured within Council's 2026/27 budget to establish a dedicated Public Space Liaison Team. This team will provide specialised case management, support service coordination and compliance functions to assist individuals experiencing homelessness while continuing to improve community safety, public amenity and the appropriate use of public spaces.

I trust that my response thoroughly responds to the concerns you raised through your ePetition.

Yours sincerely



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