

A Garden Worth Tending

(A citizen's reflection for Pillar I: Dynamic & Resilient Economy)

A seed, once unseen,
breaks the earth to greet the sun —
a quiet triumph.

Unexpected wings,
a flourish where none was planned —
the soil hums with change.

Roots grip through the storm,
old leaves fall, yet buds return —
the garden endures.

Resilience and adaptability are often spoken of in the language of markets and reforms. Yet might they be better understood in the language of gardens? A garden survives not by force but by care; it adapts through seasons, drawing strength from variety, renewing itself in cycles.

Is this not what we seek in our economy? To endure shocks, to adapt to change, to flourish again after winter? If so, what lessons might we borrow from nature?

In a garden, diversity is not wasteful; it is the key to survival. Should our economy lean too heavily on one crop, one pathway, one measure, it becomes brittle. But when many contribute—the seasoned worker, the newcomer, the young whose curiosity outruns their credentials—resilience deepens.

And what of adaptability? Plants do not complain of the shifting sun; they turn toward it. Do our systems turn with such ease? Or do we build rules so rigid they snap at the first gale? A resilient economy would offer people the same freedom a gardener offers her plants: to grow in more than one direction, to be pruned and yet return stronger, to rest and then bear fruit again.

We often speak of “labour shortages.” But is the shortage real, or is it blindness to what already grows untended? Human potential—across the arc of life—is the soil of productivity. Security

and belonging are its roots. Skills and creativity are its flowering. Do we tend this soil, or strip it bare?

To build a dynamic and resilient economy is not only to chase growth, but to guard the conditions that allow life—and labour—to regenerate. To ask: how do we nurture adaptability without waste, diversity without fragility, cycles without collapse?

Perhaps resilience is not a grand design but a humble act: to keep tending the garden.

— Submitted as a personal reflection