

## What are the roles of local government in supporting regional and community food security in Tasmania? (Brown zone)

### KEY WAYS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEVEL FOOD SECURITY

Advocate for supportive planning frameworks. Protect productive agricultural farmland and support community food growing. Advocate for transport modes that connect residents to shopping precincts.

### DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Influencing zoning decisions to protect land for farming and food growing/production contributes to supporting local businesses and strengthening local food access and supply. Ensure within townships, land use is mixed-use to support growing food together within open spaces and neighbourhoods.

Ensure zoning in the planning scheme to ensure development of accessible local activity centres in new and existing neighbourhoods also supports good access to the shops.

### LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

In November 2015 the new legislation for the single Tasmanian Planning Scheme was introduced and passed through the Tasmanian parliament. Very positively, one of the 6 objectives of the scheme addresses health and wellbeing. The Legislative Council agreed to an amendment to *Schedule 1 Part 2 - Objectives of the Act* which now states at clause (f):

*‘to promote the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians and visitors to Tasmania by ensuring a pleasant, efficient and safe environment for working, living and recreation; and’*

This amendment made to *Part 2 of Schedule 1 Objectives of the Act* will provide the necessary focus on health and wellbeing to enable the promotion of health as central to changes in the built environment. Subsequent to the amendments being made to the legislation for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Draft State Planning Provisions have been released for consultation. It is anticipated that the final State Planning Provisions will refer to specific objectives such as health and wellbeing and food security. Informed by these policies, local governments will be able to develop local planning provisions, but they will need to be consistent with the State Planning Provisions. This new objective offers a significant lever for councils to create environments in towns and neighbourhoods that support healthy food access.

Councils across Tasmania have the opportunity when reviewing their Planning Schemes to consider how the scheme can enable development and activity that supports community level food security. For example, currently in the 2014 Draft Interim Planning Scheme of Hobart City Council there are several examples that consider access to the shops:

- *17.5 development Standard for Subdivision performance Criteria—convenient access to local shops, community facilities, public open space and public transport routes is provided;*
- *20.1.3 Desired Future Character Statements Mount Nelson Local centre—the area should develop as a small centre for local shopping and community services. Activities such as local shops, medical and education related service should locate her.*

<http://www.hobartcity.com.au/go/assets/Hobart%20Draft%20Interim%20Planning%20Scheme%202014%20-%202017%20Feb%202014.pdf>

Other schemes include content to protect agricultural land. In mixed use and open space zoning there is an opportunity for councils to consider food growing in public spaces and edible plant scapes. The Heart Foundation Food Sensitive Planning & Urban Design Framework Tool can be used to engage with local planners and other council departments support them to consider how zoning can support rather than prohibit activities that improve healthy food access. The link to the framework is here.

Policies for particular land use can be considered as a way to embed practice that creates environments that support health and wellbeing including access to healthy food. The Kingborough Council uses their Open Space policy to ensuring walking links to shops is considered in developing and managing Open Spaces [http://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Policy\\_6\\_3\\_Public\\_Open\\_Space\\_Contribution.pdf](http://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Policy_6_3_Public_Open_Space_Contribution.pdf)

## What are the roles of local government in supporting regional and community food security in Tasmania? (Brown zone) cont...

KEY WAYS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEVEL FOOD SECURITY	DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES	LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES
	<p>Councils are often not responsible for many of the local factors that make food security for local residents challenging. Factors such as public transport, housing, cost of food, education, health care and the adequacy of government benefits and pensions are examples. All of these 'social determinants of health' impact food security at a household level.</p> <p>However, Councils can have a strong role in advocating for change at other levels of government and allow the voice of local residents to be heard through Council's advocacy. This advocacy can help to raise understanding of the domains of food security and also local determinants which are impacting community food security. When the issues are well understood locally, councils are able speak out and make submissions to drive change.</p>	<p>Regional Development Australia Tasmania (RDAT) Regional Plan is reviewed annually providing an opportunity for local government to advocate around the plan priorities. It is encouraging that these priorities are relevant to improving the local level food security and influencing across the 3 domains of utilisation, access and supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand and grow economic activity in Tasmania</li><li>• Increase collaboration and efficiencies between federal, state and local government</li><li>• Support investment in enabling infrastructure that improves economic productivity</li><li>• Improve literacy, numeracy and education levels within the Tasmanian community</li><li>• Facilitate place-based solutions for local communities</li><li>• Address the needs of Tasmania's changing demographics and health profile</li></ul> <p>Advocacy is easier when our argument or case is supported by good data from reliable sources. Using the community food access profiles can help to add to the narrative about who you may be advocating for to improve access to healthy food. You can find your local government profile here. <a href="http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/community-profiles/">http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/community-profiles/</a> The regional data for price, affordability and availability can help compare with other locations. <a href="http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/healthy-food-access-basket-regional-data/">http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/healthy-food-access-basket-regional-data/</a></p>