

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

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

Getting food and residents together;

Encourage and support growing food and production in the local area, support direct sales such as markets, farmgate, and buying group.

Be a role model to others in the community by normalising healthy eating, building skills and supporting emergency relief provision for people in crisis.

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

One of the key findings from the UTas research into the cost, availability and affordability of healthy food in Tasmania is that in many neighbourhoods and towns there are few, if any, shops (Find the details here <http://healthyfoodaccess.tasmania.org.au/healthy-food-access-basket-regional-data/>)

Often when the shops are present the cost of healthier food is greater and the variety is limited compared with elsewhere in Tasmania. This is particularly so in areas with the lowest household income. This means these residents need to travel to shops outside their area.

The data from the ABS Census shows that many Tasmanian households do not have a car so getting to shops may be challenging. Good solutions are required to support these households—consider how to get the food into the town or neighbourhood or how to get people to where the shops are. (Refer to your community profile for how many Tasmanian are impacted by this <http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/community-profiles/>)

Acknowledging these challenges means councils can consider what could change to have a positive impact. This is potentially a significant area in which local government can provide leadership and help support local level food security.

LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

Raising awareness of options for bringing food into communities and neighbourhoods can be very helpful.

Local Governments can promote local businesses that sell healthy food and home deliver. Local Produce and Farmers markets provide a strong local connection between growers/producers and local residents. Markets that are centrally located or with good public transport links help locals access the market for shopping and this is also good for the local economy because the money stays in the area. Host the location of your local markets on the council website, just as the Huon Valley Council has. <http://www.huonvalleydirectory.com.au/community-directory/category/arts-culture-and-heritage-growers-markets>

Promotion by councils might include local retailers or direct from local growers. For example in the North West of Tasmania there are growers who have different options for delivering directly into local communities. One grower delivers 'grab and go' boxes across the region and attends local markets weekly. <https://www.facebook.com/moorevillegardens.com.au/>

Once councils have a good idea of local delivery services, partnerships with LINC through their computer skills and literacy course can build knowledge, skills and confidence for local residents to use online ordering for home delivery.

Clarence City Council provides a community bus service for older residents that live in outlying areas for regular trips to the main shopping precinct. This partnership between community organisations and council ensures residents are able to do their shopping and be dropped back home with assistance to carry their shopping. Mobility and levels of disability can make accessing healthy food very challenging.

Councils can actively encourage community support for healthy local breakfast programs. This is a practical way to influence local level food security in children, enhancing their attendance and participation in school activities.

Refer to the **Red Zone Case studies** for more relevant ideas for setting a good example.