

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

KEY WAYS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEVEL FOOD SECURITY	DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES	LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES
<p>Regulation and fiscal powers</p>	<p>Regulation and fiscal powers can be used to promote healthy affordable food choices across a variety of community locations. The purpose of using these powers would be to create an enabling environment which contributes to community level food security.</p> <p>As examples, they could positively influence the food sold in community spaces, vending machines, or ensure there are no local laws to prohibit food growing in public spaces.</p> <p>Fiscal power can encourage investment in economic infrastructure for producing, value-adding healthy food.</p> <p>Supporting social enterprises that provide affordable healthy and culturally appropriate food by using council infrastructure/facilities can help them get started.</p> <p>Regulate and support safe and sustainable food practice.</p>	<p>There are several practical ways councils can consider using regulation and fiscal powers to create an enabling environment. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Council owned kitchens are up to registered standards so a suitable location for micro businesses to hire the facility</li> <li>• The State Government Environmental Health Department has creates a state-wide registration process for selling food via vans, market stalls and pop up markets. You can find out the details here <a href="https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/food_safety/information_for_food_businesses_and_community_organisations">https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/food_safety/information_for_food_businesses_and_community_organisations</a>. You can pass these details on to local growers and processors who might be working across a variety of local government areas.</li> <li>• Amend regulations, fee structures and bylaws to allow for farmgate sales, urban food growing, street markets, van sales and planting of edible plants on streetscapes. As new planning schemes are developed through the Tasmanian planning schemes considering these at the local levels could provide long term gain for communities.</li> <li>• 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):             <p><i>‘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’</i></p> <p>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.</p> </li> <li>• There is an informative guide for how to consider food and planning, Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design. You can find it in ‘Resources’ on the web portal <a href="http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/">http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/</a></li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councils have long had a regulatory role around food safety in local businesses and community organisations. In some cases this has very helpfully extended to providing training and also networking between local businesses to encourage local economic development. Training provided by Brighton Council demonstrates how local governments can support new enterprises. <a href="http://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/environmental-health/">http://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/environmental-health/</a></li></ul> <p>Councils can support community food security by creating a collaborative environment where community can work with council to review local regulation. This can supports local enterprises to grow and provide healthy food for local residents. Recent examples include Launceston City Council developing a partnership with Urban Farming Tasmania to map local sources of fruit which could be foraged rather than wasted. Increased awareness and understanding of local food security issues resulted in a 100 year old bylaw being abolished and the hosting of a web map of fruit trees.</p> <p>Similarly the Hobart City Council has worked with local apiarists who have developed guidelines for safe urban beekeeping. This resulted in abolishing recent restrictions and adoption of new guidelines.</p> <p><a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-28/beekeeping-restrictions-lifted-for-hobart-residents/6053016">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-28/beekeeping-restrictions-lifted-for-hobart-residents/6053016</a></p>

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<p>Regulation and fiscal powers</p>	<p>Regulation and fiscal powers can be used to promote healthy affordable food choices across a variety of community locations. The purpose of using these powers would be to create an enabling environment which contributes to community level food security.</p> <p>As examples, they could positively influence the food sold in community spaces, vending machines, or ensure there are no local laws to prohibit food growing in public spaces.</p> <p>Fiscal power can encourage investment in economic infrastructure for producing, value adding healthy food.</p> <p>Supporting social enterprises that provide affordable healthy and culturally appropriate food by using council infrastructure/facilities can help them get started.</p> <p>Regulate and support safe and sustainable food practice.</p>	<p>There are several practical ways councils can consider using regulation and fiscal powers to create an enabling environment. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Council owned kitchens are up to registered standards so a suitable location for micro businesses to hire the facility</li> <li>• The State Government Environmental Health Department has created a state-wide registration process for selling food via vans, market stalls and pop up markets. You can find out the details here <a href="https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/food_safety/information_for_food_businesses_and_community_organisations">https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/food_safety/information_for_food_businesses_and_community_organisations</a>. You can pass these details on to local growers and processors who might be working across a variety of local government areas.</li> <li>• Amend regulations, fee structures and bylaws to allow for farmgate sales, urban food growing, street markets, van sales and planting of edible plants on streetscapes. As new planning schemes are developed through the Tasmania State planning schemes considering these at the local levels could provide long term gain for communities.</li> <li>• 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):</li> <li>• <i>'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'</i></li> <li>• 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. It is planned that falling from the current draft legislation will be State Planning Policies which can refer to specific objectives such as health and wellbeing and food security. Informed by these policies, local governments will be able to develop local objectives/content within their own planning schemes, but they must be consistent with the planning policies.</li> <li>• There is an informative guide for how to consider food and planning, Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design. You can find it in 'Resources' on the web portal <a href="http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/">http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/</a></li> <li>• Councils have long had a regulatory role around food safety in local businesses and community organisations. In some cases this has very helpfully extended to providing training and also networking between local businesses to encourage local economic development. Training provided by Brighton Council demonstrates how local governments can support new enterprises. <a href="http://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/environmental-health/">http://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/environmental-health/</a></li> </ul> <p>Councils can support community food security by creating a collaborative environment where community can work with council to review local regulation. This can support local enterprises to grow and provide healthy food for local residents. Recent examples include Launceston City Council developing a partnership with Urban Farming Tasmania to map local sources of fruit which could be foraged rather than wasted. Increased awareness and understanding of local food security issues resulted in a 100 year old bylaw being abolished and the hosting of a web map of fruit trees.</p> <p>Similarly the Hobart City Council has worked with local apiarists who have developed guidelines for safe urban beekeeping. This resulted in abolishing recent restrictions and adoption of new guidelines. <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-28/beekeeping-restrictions-lifted-for-hobart-residents/6053016">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-28/beekeeping-restrictions-lifted-for-hobart-residents/6053016</a></p>