

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

KEY WAYS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEVEL FOOD SECURITY	DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES	LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES
Allocate Responsibility/ Leadership	<p>Identify who carries the food security agenda within the local government environment. For the staff and councillors taking carriage of food security good support by senior management, especially in the early stages, is critical. Key people or 'champions' can be tasked with building awareness and understanding of the dimensions of food security. Advancing an agenda around food security requires collaboration across many Council departments and actions can ultimately sit in a variety of Council strategies, plans and policies. It is key that there is strong leadership and that the responsibility is shared.</p> <p>Sharing responsibility with community including local institutions by forming a network or coalition including external stakeholders to drive change, will likely improve outcomes and sustainability.</p>	<p>The Mersey Leven Food Hub project is a partnership between four local governments (Central Coast, Devonport, Latrobe and Kentish) and other key partners (organisations and individuals). It aims to create a 'hub' model that strengthens the connection between local growers/producers and retail opportunities to increase access to affordable locally grown fruit and vegetables. The project includes developing and strengthening strategic relationships and then exploring an e-market to connect local growers with community organisations. This work is aligned with several other key economic projects planned or underway across the region. This project is led by the Strategic projects area of Central Coast Council. The project governance includes an advisory group of industry, research and community experts. Read about it here http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=782</p> <p>Devonport City Council has recent and current experience in food security intervention through the Food For All State Government funded projects. Led by Community Development and engaged with other council departments, the new Devonport Food Connections work in partnership with a range of community stakeholders, including the local Devonport and East Devonport Community Houses. The project facilitates a network of local organisations who have developed the project plan and are now working collectively to deliver against the project objectives. Read about this project here http://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/Live/Health-Wellbeing/Food-Security</p> <p>Clarence City Council has several working groups that are supporting the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Plan. This shares responsibility across a variety of departments and with external stakeholders. View the plan here http://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1716</p>

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

Build the local picture—Understand the challenges and opportunities that influence resident's access to healthy food.

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Food security has 3 domains. They are utilisation, access (physical and financial) and supply of healthy food.

In each local government area the factors that influence food security may be unique. Community level food security is contextual and often complex. To assist in understanding the local reasons why people have poor access to healthy food, local governments are recommended to support collecting local information and consulting with the people and organisations who support those who may be working with residents who are impacted.

This local information helps to inform future decisions about priority action and approaches which local governments can support and lead.

LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

The Healthy Food Access Tasmania has done preliminary work in developing Local Government Community Food Access Profiles hosted on the web portal and more recently has developed Regional Food Access, Affordability and Availability profiles. These documents provide a starting point for councils. Take a look here <http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/under> **Tools and Resources**

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) developed a Food Security Municipal Scanning Tool which has been used by many local governments for collecting information relevant to local food security determinants. Refer to our Healthy Local Food Connection Guide for a Tasmania adapted version <http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/getting-started-guide/>

The Devonport Food Connections Project has used the VLGA tool to investigate local level issues impacting food security for residents. They are mapping indicators of health and wellbeing, the economic environment, the natural environment, the social environment and the built environment, that enable or create a barrier to food security for local residents. See the progress of this initiative here <http://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/Live/Health-Wellbeing/Food-Security>

Clarence City Council conducted a partnership project with the Heart Foundation to spatially map built environment factors which impact access to healthy food. Factors include public transport links to the shops, locations of shops and markets, walkability around shopping precincts, and connectivity of walking and cycling tracks to shopping precincts. The project report includes information about how the mapping was undertaken and the resulting recommendations. Read the report here <http://healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/category/tasmanian-publications/>

Data to help build the local picture can come from a variety of sources, so scanning existing resources is a good way to get started. The Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment conducted for Northern Midlands Council by UTas in 2013 provides some insights into issues that would be likely to impact local level food security. For example, factors such as transport and mobility impacting access to all services also align to accessing healthy food.

http://www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/files/Economic_and_Community_Development/Health_Assessment_Report.pdf

Excellent local government level data from the Census and other population wide surveys has been compiled at the Public Health Indicators Development Unit at the University of Adelaide <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/phidu/>

Engagement with local organisations and residents helps build on the initial picture created by the data from a variety of sources. This engagement can also assist councils to prioritise future actions by identifying partners and champions.

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

Include Food Security as a specific function in all key strategic and operational plans.

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Tasmania has a state level strategy, Tasmanian Food For All Food Security Strategy for addressing Food Security at a community, regional and state level. You can view this important strategy here

<http://healthyfoodaccess.tasmania.org.au/category/tasmanian-publications/>

This important document founded on extensive research and consultation identifies 4 key strategies. Local governments can provide leadership and support to deliver against these objectives which include:

1. Increase community food access and affordability
2. Build community solutions
3. Support Food Social Enterprises
4. Planning for Local Food Systems

Integrating food security into existing policies and plans across a broad range of departments can ensure that acting is shared and embedded into everyday business for local government. This includes food

LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

Several councils across Tasmania have plans that demonstrate how they will be working towards supporting community level food security. Several are provided here as examples.

Glenorchy City Council—Healthy Communities Plan Goal 1: A healthy natural and built environment that encourages healthy lifestyles and eating. Goal 3: Improved personal health knowledge, practices, and lifestyles http://www.gcc.tas.gov.au/content/Healthy_Communities_Plan.GCC?ActiveID=1403 Within the action plan there are several suggested strategies such as the use of council buildings for education workshops, promotion of affordable healthy food access, open space policy that supports community horticulture and food growing within other community settings such as schools.

Clarence City Council—Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013–2018 makes a commitment to better understand and address the determinants of access to healthy food such as to: Identify and assess patches of land for local food production in high-medium density housing areas; Increase the use of tracks and trails for recreation and transport purposes; Support locally driven development of community gardens and food patches, and; Support initiatives to promote food access, affordability, availability and awareness of healthy food as recommended by the Tasmanian Food Access Research Coalition (TFARC) project. <http://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1716>. The CCC also names several objectives around health and wellbeing in their Strategic Plan http://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Strategic_Plan_2010_final.pdf

Councils can also include a broad range of strategies activities that would support community level food security. Addressing local barriers to residents accessing healthy food may link with other important health and wellbeing outcomes. For example, access to regular transport whether it is private or public transport impacts access to a variety of services including shopping precincts. Embedding such key issues in strategic plans may be helpful. For example:

Waratah-Wynyard Strategic Plan identifies the need to cater for the resident's future needs as the population changes. While it might not specify getting to the shops as a key outcomes the investigation would naturally explore common destinations and hence have the potential to impact on people accessing healthy food.

Outcome 2.3 Facilities and services cater for the changing population

- Operational Aim 2.3.3 Investigate demand for additional public transport services

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	<p>security in important overarching documents such as the Strategic Plan of council which will see the work undertaken in a systematic and proactive manner. When the local issues/ determinants are well understood it becomes clear where action may be taken to support and provide leadership around contributing to community level food security.</p>	
<p>Set a good example —use healthy local catering, run healthy sporting recreation and cultural events and provide healthy choices in council-run venues.</p>	<p>Councils as a leader and driver of important change in their communities are able to model ‘good behaviour’ and set an example for the community. This can effectively show residents and organisations how healthy food access can be achieved and influenced through many seemingly small and consistent decisions.</p> <p>Councils are able to take advantage of many different opportunities to promote healthy food access and raise the profile of the issue so there is an improved understanding in the community.</p>	<p>Across Tasmania several local governments along with the Regional Authorities are strongly promoting local food experiences to tourists and local residents. This includes the Cradle Coast Food Trail http://www.cradletocoasttastingtrail.com.au/</p> <p>Similarly Northern Midlands promotes the local markets where produce is sold regularly on their web site http://www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=252</p> <p>Commitments made in key strategic documents can demonstrate the importance of action. An example of council commitment to strengthening community level food security might include the following content highlighted in the Waratah-Wynyard Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Outcome 1.5 Primary producers make significant contribution to regional food bowl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Aim 1.5.1 Strongly promote and encourage implementation of Tasmania’s Cradle Coast Food and Beverage Strategy—From Source to Sensation (Cradle Coast Authority initiative) <p>Within the council workplace, it is also possible to set an example to community and residents of good food access. Several councils (n=9) across Tasmania, including Sorrell, Meander Valley & Launceston, are participating in the Healthy Workplaces Program delivered by Worksafe Tasmania, which includes promoting healthy eating to their workforces. A simple guide including lots of practical suggestions plus hands on support is available for councils. This is an excellent example of how council can model good practice to the community and residents.</p> <p>http://worksafe.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/252390/Your_Simple_Guide_to_Workplace_Health_and_Wellbeing.pdf?_sm_au_=iVVVJZM5ps44W7T5</p>

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

DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

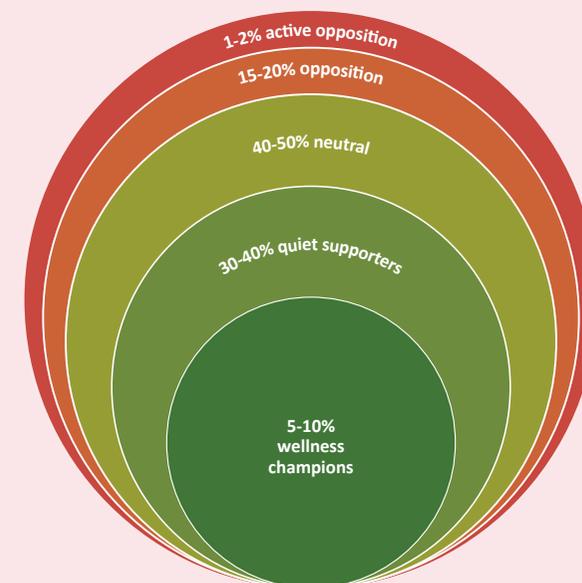
LOCAL EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

Councils can aim to model healthy food access in council -run activities, facilities and programs.

The Healthy Workplaces program and Guide highlights that with any change there are people that lead, some that follow and others that oppose the change. The program proposes following a process for change which is so useful as it acknowledges that this will build stronger buy-in from staff over time.

There are also other low cost or no cost ways for Council to set a good example. They include:

- Ask caterers to source and highlight local produce at council functions
- Use council communications and events to promote healthy eating and local food producers
- Remove unhealthy vending machines and fundraising activities from council buildings. Healthy vending machines are available and have been successfully trialled across Tasmania
- In council run facilities add healthy food provision to relevant Council contracts, for example at the swimming pool shop
- Adopt a Healthy Events Catering or Procurement Policy to encourage healthy options and local food being included



Adapted from Allen, J 2008. Achieving a culture of health: The business case, Health Enhancement Systems, United States