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MEDIA RELEASE

How can NSW ensure food security in the future?

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed concerns about food security in NSW, with people across the state struggling to access food. While NSW Government programs provided support and assistance to those in need, concerns about food security remain.

A new inquiry announced by the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Environment and Planning will look at the issue of food production and supply. The inquiry will examine how food security and equitable access to food can be improved in NSW, and how we can promote more productive and sustainable methods of producing and transporting food.

Food security means that everyone in NSW can reliably access enough affordable and nutritious food throughout their lives. This incorporates all aspects of supply chains, from farmers and growers, to transport and sale, consumption, and waste.

"Environmental factors and technological advancements are changing the way we produce and transport food in NSW. We need to make sure that supply chains are future-proofed, and ensure ongoing food security," said Committee Chair, Alex Greenwich MP.

The Committee will also consider how to make our food supply more productive. "NSW, like many parts of the modern world, has issues with excessive food waste. We're keen to hear ideas about how to reduce this, and make sure that food is being consumed, instead of destroyed."

More information, including the inquiry's terms of reference, and information on how to make a submission, is available on the Committee's <u>webpage</u>.

Submissions close on 31 January 2022.

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