

FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IN NSW

Organisation: City of Sydney Council

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THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

28 February 2022

Mr Alex Greenwich MP
Chair, Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning
By email environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Greenwich

Inquiry into food production and supply in NSW

Thank you for inviting the City of Sydney to make a submission to this inquiry into food security, supply and distribution in NSW.

Access to fresh, healthy and nutritious food is central to people's wellbeing and quality of life. However, the City of Sydney's experience in facilitating food supply and a growing evidence base show more people in our community are experiencing food insecurity.

There is overwhelming evidence of the huge demand for food relief. And this demand was rising even before the pandemic hit, largely due to poverty and inequality.

I call on the NSW Government to provide a funding and policy framework that will allow all levels of government and other services to work together to provide sustainable, ongoing solutions to this crisis, in line with the City of Sydney's key recommendations.

Our submission notes the complexities, interdependencies and vulnerabilities of our food system to shocks, including extreme weather and pandemics, and stressors, such as impacts of housing affordability and climate change. It advocates for approaches that consider all aspects of the food system – from production, supply and transport, to health, economic, social and environmental factors.

The NSW Government is in a unique position to lead a coordinated, collaborative and sustainable approach to ensuring the long-term resilience and equity of our food system – from production, processing, supply and transport, to important health, social and economic factors.

Improving food security in the city

As detailed in our submission, the City of Sydney has taken a significant role in facilitating and coordinating many aspects of food security for our community.


These range from services such as Meals on Wheels, to education and sustainability initiatives such as Sydney City Farm and our network of community gardens. We also partnered with the Sydney Environment Institute to pilot the innovative food business incubator, FoodLab Sydney, and signed up to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2021.

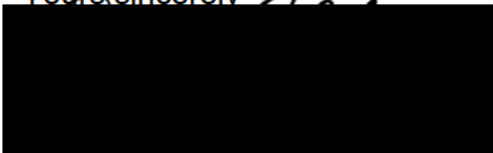
The Covid-19 pandemic and the associated financial crisis have exacerbated this issue. In 2020 and 2021, the City of Sydney collaborated with NSW Government agencies, the food relief sector, and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to coordinate an unprecedented emergency food relief effort, including more than \$3.3 million in funding. We set up a free supermarket with food and essential items up in Waterloo and launched a food relief hub at the Mary McDonald Centre in Woolloomooloo.

Our hub in Woolloomooloo builds on our long-term work with this community to address food security and social isolation, particularly those who live in social housing or are homeless. In this area, Mobile voluntary services are contributing to meeting these needs by providing free food. Our staff are working with the Mobile Voluntary Services to ensure that they receive proper training from the NSW Food Authority and are looking at alternative food distribution programs.

I hope the outcomes of this inquiry will lead to ongoing and greater collaboration with the City of Sydney to improve food security in our community and the development of an inclusive and resilient food system in NSW.

If you would like to speak to a City of Sydney officer about this submission, please contact Lauren Flaherty, Strategy Advisor – Social on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely 


Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

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The Council of the City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of our local area. We acknowledge Elders past and present and we celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to Country.

Executive Summary

Central to well-being and quality of life is people's access to fresh, healthy and nutritious food.

Unfortunately, there is significant evidence that food insecurity and systemic issues within food systems are increasing at the local, national and global scale. This can be influenced by systemic issues of poverty and inequality, and an inability to access or afford food. It is also influenced by the complexities and interdependencies of our food systems, and how they can become more resilient to shocks and stressors, such as the global Covid-19 pandemic, and the impacts of climate change.

This submission outlines the City of Sydney's experiences when working to address food insecurity through collaborative research, partnerships and programs, along with community involvement in growing food. More recently this has also involved coordinating and funding emergency food relief collaborations due to the global pandemic.

Key interventions the City of Sydney (the City) is undertaking to enhance food security and develop sustainable food systems include:

- partnering with leading institutions to undertake research to better understand and activate our local urban food system
- implementing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, a framework to guide cities' development of healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems
- facilitating the growing of food in cities through our network of community gardens and our urban agriculture education facility, Sydney City Farm
- providing more than \$3.3 million in funding and donations to support emergency food relief and collaborating with NSW Government agencies, the food relief sector, and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- providing education and programs for food waste avoidance and initiatives to reduce food waste in landfill
- participating in the Resilient Sydney network to build the resilience of 33 Councils in metropolitan Sydney.

We see a clear need for leadership from the NSW Government, to address the scale, complexity and connectivity of food systems in NSW. The NSW Government is in a unique position to lead a coordinated, collaborative and sustainable approach to ensuring the long-term resilience and equity of our food system, through a 'food systems' lens that addresses all aspects of the food system, from production, processing, supply, and transport to important health, social and economic factors.

Our key recommendations for the NSW Government in response to this Inquiry include:

- acknowledging the growing number of people experiencing food insecurity in NSW and Australia and the need for intervention and governance to address food security and food systems
- advocating to the Federal Government to raise the rate of income support payments, such as JobSeeker and Youth Allowance, to meet the rising costs of living and people's ability to afford fresh and healthy food
- leading a coordinated, collaborative process of transformation, through a 'food systems' lens that considers all aspects of the system including production and supply, as well as health, social and economic factors. This will include policy and strategy development, along with necessary legislation, governance, funding and resources.

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- collaborating with First Nations People on supporting community-led initiatives that engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge of food production and land management and facilitate equitable access to food
- leading further disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness planning, and assessing our food system's vulnerability to shocks and stressors, including climate change
- leading a coordinated, collaborative approach and funding for ongoing food relief efforts, including local government, the food relief sector and people accessing food relief, including people not eligible for government support
- ensuring there are appropriate regulatory frameworks in place to ensure food provided free through charitable services is safe for consumption by service users
- providing local governments with a mandate, resources and funding, to prioritise food security, well-being, and improving local food systems governance, as part of frameworks such as Integrated Planning and Reporting
- investing and encouraging innovation in urban agriculture and growing food in cities, drawing on successful organisations and models in Australia and overseas
- maintaining funding to local government for ongoing food waste education and behaviour change, along with investment in exploring opportunities for novel organics collection and treatment in place-based solutions.

We see great potential for continued collaboration and developing a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient food system in NSW.



Figure 1. Sydney Local Health District Aboriginal Cultural Response Team deliver FoodBank hampers.

Introduction

The City of Sydney welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Food production and supply in NSW. As a Local Government, the City of Sydney (the City) continues to be involved in influencing, facilitating and enabling many aspects of our local food systems, including:

- funding for food security research and programs
- more than \$3.3 million in funding and coordination of emergency food relief
- regulatory functions, including strategic land use planning and health inspections of food premises
- managing direct food services, such as Meals on Wheels
- providing opportunities to grow food and learn about sustainability
- providing significant funding, infrastructure and programs to address climate change
- implementing new programs and educational resources to reduce food waste.

In 2018, the City adopted its 'A City for All' Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan¹, with a vision for a socially just and resilient city, including improving our individual and collective well-being, resilience and quality of life. Actions have included contributing funding for an innovative action research project to address food security and develop sustainable food systems.

This submission points to the growing body of evidence around food insecurity in NSW. While the extent of food insecurity increased exponentially during, and because of, the global Covid-19 pandemic, we share the view of many organisations that food insecurity has been on the rise in NSW for some years, largely due to poverty and inequality.

The Covid-19 pandemic, and the associated financial crisis, have only exacerbated the challenge of putting food onto the table².

Our submission outlines the need for a 'food systems' lens, which considers all aspects of food systems, from nutrition, production and supply chains, to vulnerabilities due to shocks and stressors, such as pandemics and climate change. The involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be critical to addressing current inequalities and learning from First Nations People's Connection with Country and sustainable production of food on these lands for many thousands of years. Our recommendations, based on evidence and our experience, address the need for short-term interventions, such as the need for NSW Government funding for emergency food relief, as well as longer-term necessities, including socio-economic and housing interventions, and leading the transformation of food systems for NSW, through policy development and collaborative governance, to ensure resilient, healthy and equitable food systems.

¹ A City for All: Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategies-action-plans/social-sustainability-policy-action-plan>

² Elkharouf, O., Cox, K., Schlosberg, D., Mann, A. & Perroni, E (2021) In the land of the "fair go": global food policy lessons beyond the charity model, *Local Environment*, 26:10, 1192-1204, DOI: [10.1080/13549839.2021.1970727](https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2021.1970727)

Response to Terms of Reference

1. Improving food security and equitable access to food.

There is a significant need to improve food security for the people of NSW and Australia. There is a growing body of evidence to demonstrate the prevalence and depth of food insecurity globally, in Australia and in NSW. This indicates the unprecedented scale of food insecurity because of the global Covid-19 pandemic, as well as systemic issues and increasing trends of poverty and inequality, that need to be addressed as part of food systems transformation.

Evidence to support increased food insecurity

Food insecurity was highlighted as a complex problem in the City of Sydney well before the start of the global pandemic in 2020. Increasing gentrification and inequality has left many residents struggling to access or afford everyday essential needs such as adequate food and safe and secure housing, which was only exacerbated by the economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The City of Sydney's 2018 Wellbeing Survey³ provides an indication of the depth and breadth of food insecurity and the implications of housing costs in our local area. Of all respondents (n=6,900) in the City's 2018 Wellbeing Survey, 7.7 per cent indicated that in the past year they had run out of food and could not afford to buy more. This increased to 33.7 per cent for people who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 27.6 per cent for persons with a disability and 22 per cent for pensioner concession cards or health care card holders. As a direct result of housing costs in the past year (2018), 46.4 per cent of respondents indicated they unwillingly had to sacrifice spending on other things, of which 30.4 per cent indicated they had sacrificed their spending on food.

According to the FoodBank Hunger Report 2021⁴, one in six Australian adults (17 per cent) have not had enough to eat in the last year and can be categorised as being severely food insecure. This means they have multiple disruptions to their eating patterns and are forced to reduce their food intake. At least once a week, more than half (57 per cent) of severely food insecure adults go a whole day without eating. On top of this, 1.2 million children in Australia have gone hungry in the same period.

FoodBank provides food relief to more than one million people each month. The 2021 report highlights that the pandemic continues to deliver challenges that are exacerbating pre-existing issues in our community.

In addition to those who were already struggling before Covid-19, the pandemic has caused others to experience vulnerability for the first time. In fact, more than one in three of last year's food insecure people in NSW (39 per cent) reported they had never been in that position before.

The report highlights that food insecurity is not restricted to the 'obvious' vulnerable groups in the community, such as homeless people and the unemployed. It shows people of every age, living alone, in families and in groups are susceptible.

³ City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey 2018

⁴ FoodBank Hunger Report 2021: <https://www.foodbank.org.au/foodbank-hunger-report-2021/?state=nsw-act>

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Food insecurity is shown to affect people in cities right through to those in remote areas and surprisingly, it affects more people in some form of employment (64 per cent) than those who have none.

NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS) reported that 30 per cent of the people sampled (n=400) had been food insecure in the past 12 months – they had run out of food and could not afford to buy more⁵. The figure from the NCOSS sample was significantly higher than the NSW average of people experiencing food insecurity at the time (6.9 per cent) which more than doubled for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (18.9 per cent). The NCOSS report also showed that households with the lowest incomes had the greatest vulnerability to being priced out of fresh food. The report reiterates the links between poverty or low-income households and food security, due to the increasing cost of living and the price of healthy food.

Key recommendations from NCOSS included monitoring of food pricing, supporting the development of farmers' markets, and raising the rate of income payments such as JobSeeker and Youth Allowance. The reports recommends systemic changes that would make a significant impact on food security and affordability, including health and wellbeing playing a key role in planning decisions and processes, and developing place-based food hubs that create opportunities for people to develop skills around healthy eating and food preparation. Food insecurity for remote Aboriginal communities was also referenced in the Close the Gap report 2021, citing food shortages, and over-priced, poor quality groceries⁶.

Globally, the extent of hunger and malnutrition has risen, exacerbated by the devastating economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been limited progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture⁷.

The high cost of healthy diets coupled with persistent high levels of income inequality has put healthy diets out of reach for around three billion people, especially the poor, in every region of the world in 2019. This number will likely increase in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic⁸.

To enable consistent monitoring, we recommend data examining a range of food security indicators in NSW be collected and made available on the HealthStats NSW website, in addition to the data currently available. Data at a local government level could be used by local councils in their understanding of community and inform planning decisions.

Recommendations

We recommend the NSW Government:

- acknowledge and review the growing body of evidence documenting the scale and depth of the food insecurity crises in NSW
- develop a consistent data protocol for collecting and sharing information on key indicators for food insecurity in NSW.

⁵ Access to Healthy Food: NCOSS Cost of Living Report 2018: <https://www.ncoss.org.au/policy-advocacy/policy-research-publications/access-to-healthy-food-ncoss-cost-of-living-report-2018/>

⁶ Close the Gap report 2021: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/publications/close-gap-2021>

⁷ Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>

⁸ *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*. Rome, FAO, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

Case Study: Covid-19 Emergency Food Relief Response



Figure 2. The OzHarvest supermarket at Waterloo provides much needed fresh, free food and hampers as part of the City's emergency food relief response.

The City of Sydney has played a critical role in providing more than \$3.3 million in funding, coordination, and resources as part of an unprecedented emergency food relief effort during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key initiatives supported by this funding, or by the City directly, have included:

- convening a collective impact food relief response with 60 not for profit agencies providing food relief in the City of Sydney
- the establishment of a free supermarket in the Waterloo social housing estate
- hamper hubs for international students
- a community kitchen in Surry Hills
- hamper hubs at City libraries
- a home meal delivery service
- drop-in meal collection services
- industry training
- shared kitchens

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- ongoing food delivery for over 60 agencies, and
- a community hotline to link residents to essential services including Covid-19 testing and vaccinations, mental health, domestic and family violence services and referrals for food relief.

Between March 2020 – June 2021, the collaboration provided over 600,000 meals, 60,000 food hampers and \$40,000 worth of food vouchers to vulnerable residents. A further \$112,134 was raised through the Lord Mayor's #feedsydneyappeal for Oz Harvest.

Between July and December 2021, the City coordinated the delivery of 29,642 hampers, 29,522 meals and 16,525 kgs of individually ordered items to vulnerable residents through the Food Operations Working Group. Food and other essential items were supplied by Foodbank, OzHarvest and SecondBite, funded by the City's donations totalling \$950,000.

People experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage

Data in this submission from NCOS and the City of Sydney indicates some groups within the community are disproportionately impacted by health and income inequities linked to food security, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, people with disability, refugees and people seeking asylum and people who hold a pensioner concession card or health card.

Sydney remains Australia's least affordable city. The decline in housing affordability and the inability of everyday people to access affordable and diverse housing is having an increasingly detrimental impact on socio-economic diversity, which underpins the rich social fabric of Sydney⁹.

In line with the City of Sydney Council's resolution to support the 'Raise the Rate' campaign (2019) we call on the NSW Government to advocate to the Federal Government to increase the rate of the JobSeeker and Youth Allowance payments so everyone can cover the cost of the basics, with indexation of payments in line with wage movements at least twice per year. The NSW Government must also consider people not eligible for government support, including international students, and people on certain visas, many of whom have required extensive support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendations:

We call on the NSW Government to:

- advocate to the Federal Government to raise the rate of income support payments, including JobSeeker and Youth Allowance, to meet basic cost of living requirements
- make an increased investment in affordable and diverse housing, including dedicated, culturally-appropriate housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- consider the recommendations from the NCOS Cost of Living Report 2018
- include people not eligible for government support as part of an inclusive and equitable food system.

⁹ Housing for All: City of Sydney Local Housing Strategy, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategic-land-use-plans/local-housing-strategy>

Food access rights charter

One of the key lessons learned from the City's emergency food relief response was the importance of agency for services users, modelled by the themes of Choice, Control and Connection. The City has developed a draft Food Access Rights Charter to outline principles that could be considered when designing emergency food relief programs. Please refer to Appendix 1.

The role of food security and nutrition in Indigenous Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent the world's oldest continuous culture, rich in diversity, language and cultural practices. Yet Aboriginal peoples continue to experience immense health inequalities and a life expectancy of almost 10 years lower compared with non-Indigenous Australians¹⁰.

Nutrition Australia recommends improving nutrition and food security – along with community support, physical activity and mental health services – is essential for addressing these health disparities. Food and lifestyle make up significant risk factors for chronic diseases which are the greatest health burden among Aboriginal peoples, such as Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension. Nutrition education and food insecurity programs (including enhancing supply and access to healthy food options) need to be carefully considered and integrated within the traditional food system of the Aboriginal community.

“Traditional food systems are an integral aspect of Aboriginal heritage which have rich and enduring connections with each of these facets of life. Food is much more than nutrients – it is a vital pathway to care for and connect with Country, and is integral to many diverse cultural practices, kin relationships, social engagements and passing down of knowledge” (Nutrition Australia, 2021).

While conventional nutrition programs look at behaviour change approaches on the individual level, Closing The Gap initiatives for nutrition and food security need to consider factors which continue to affect Aboriginal people's relationship with food – such as intergenerational trauma, and traumatic food rationing.

Recommendation

- The NSW Government recognises the importance of truth-telling of historic policies and practices, including race-based employment and food policies in NSW and the impacts of this on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including inter-generational trauma, the over-burden of disease, and the experience of health inequalities and reduced life expectancy.
- The NSW Government work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to prioritise the role of food security and nutrition in Indigenous Health, in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap¹¹.
- Supporting Aboriginal-Community Controlled organisations to design, deliver and lead appropriate interventions and programs for community.

¹⁰ Nutrition Australia: <https://nutritionaustralia.org/division/nsw/closing-the-gap/>

¹¹ Closing the Gap: <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/>

Case study: Food relief for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Figure 3. First Nations Response mobilised to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during Covid-19

As part of the Covid-19 response, the City partnered with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to develop and implement a culturally safe and appropriate emergency food relief response for the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Working with Aboriginal-led organisations, trusted by the community, has proven to be the most effective way of providing necessary support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and has helped overcome barriers including mistrust of government for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It has also required a relationship-driven, flexible and responsive approach to meet community needs throughout the food security crisis because of the pandemic.

Initiatives have included grant funding, in-kind support and distribution of food relief to organisations supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The City also provided the Sydney Local Health District's Aboriginal Cultural Response team with food hampers, food vouchers and care packs to assist Covid-19 positive patients.

First Nations food hub at Woolloomooloo

In the wake of the global Covid-19 pandemic and initial wave in Sydney in March 2020, First Nations Covid-19 Response was established on social media to create an online space for mutual support, connection and care amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Sydney's Inner West and Eastern Suburbs. During the 2021 Covid-19 Delta strain in Sydney, NSW, this response transformed into supporting First Nations community members with immediate crisis relief in the form of groceries, gift cards, meals and essential items.

First Nations Response was established by local Aboriginal women and caters to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members whilst prioritising families in isolation at home and in hotels, and elders in the community.

First Nations Response have worked to address the immediate pressure of food insecurity for local Aboriginal families by providing healthy, nutritious and free food to community members during Covid-19.

The City of Sydney is working with First Nations Response to provide in-kind venue support and grant funding.

Viral Kindness

The City provided grant funding Viral Kindness to provide fresh food to organisations supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including:

- Aboriginal Medical Service
- First Nations Response
- Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
- Mudgin-Gal Women's Place
- Weave Youth and Community Services
- Innari First Nations Homeless Support

Community Emergency Quick Response Grants

These grants have supported Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and organisations providing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to deliver Covid-19 emergency response projects to support community:

- Breaking Silent Codes Network
- Deadly Connections
- Mudgin-Gal Women's Place
- First Nations Covid-19 Response
- Kinchela Boys Home
- Redfern Youth Connect
- Tribal Warrior
- BlaQ
- Souths Cares.

Collective impact coordination

The City's food relief program has resulted in unity of purpose with agencies coming together to ensure everyone who needs food can get it.

In March 2020, the City of Sydney established a collective impact food relief response, the Food Operations Working Group (the working group). The group comprises over 60 not-for-profit agencies and businesses providing food support in the city. The working group met fortnightly to solve problems, share resources and collaborate to meet need across the local area.

The collective impact model adopted for the crisis response by the working group enabled a significant strengthening of relationships in the sector ensuring better referral pathways and outcomes for vulnerable residents. We note that a significant proportion of food support was provided by the City to state government services including NSW Health and Department of Communities and Justice.

The City has learned significant lessons over the past two years which informed our ongoing response; this has required a flexible and responsive approach to designing initiatives in consultation with key stakeholders in the community, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, social housing residents, not for profit agencies and food relief providers.

The legacy and success of the collaboration lies in the ongoing coordination and monitoring of the working group and protocol subgroups, their motivation to fundraise and advocate to secure investments and resources needed for community-driven development, and ongoing support for food relief in the local area. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the member organisations of the Food Operations Working Group.

Local government resources

The significant effort of local governments, including the City of Sydney, in emergency food relief was not anticipated, and required the relationships, resources and funding dedicated to addressing immediate community needs.

With an ongoing need for emergency food relief and planning, there is a need for the State Government to take the lead in funding, investment and resources required to leverage local government networks, and the coordination necessary for ongoing operations.

Feedback from more than 60 agencies in the food operations working group highlighted that an economically and environmentally sustainable food relief model is necessary as the current response to food insecurity is heavily reliant on donations, grants, and goodwill.

The coordination of the working group was a key role played by the City of Sydney given, in the view of a respondent to the Food Operations Working Group survey, "nearly all the organisations are flat out organising food relief and adapting to changes" in light of the ongoing economic and social impacts of Covid-19.

We recommend the NSW Government leads a coordinated, multi-stakeholder collaborative approach and governance. Suggestions include developing a collaborative platform enabling stakeholders to log, track, and share resources and live information, coordinate communications and using food relief to connect the community with other services through the development of a comprehensive wellbeing check and support system.

Recommendations

- The NSW Government lead a coordinated, multi-stakeholder collaborative approach and governance for emergency food relief, including local government.
- Local governments, where required, be provided the funding and resources to support local programs and needs, including relationship management and shared roles of program design, coordination and collaboration.

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- Recognising and elevating the knowledge and voice of Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to achieve better outcomes with and for community and embed self-determination practices.
- Designing solutions with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Include people experiencing food insecurity in the development of a State-wide Food Access Rights Charter, which outlines best practice guidelines for food relief providers and/or minimum standards ensuring the dignity of every person accessing food relief.
- Support the development of a Community Advisory Council, including accessible approaches to including community members such as through an honorarium process or employment opportunities.

Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction planning

Through the work of Resilient Sydney and Resilience NSW, both local and state governments have recognised the importance of emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction planning for the Sydney metropolitan area and throughout NSW. Resilient Sydney is a program for metropolitan Sydney to build the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks.

The Resilient Sydney Strategy¹² outlines the lack of understanding of the risks and interdependencies of the infrastructure and essential services that we rely on to provide food to the Sydney Metropolitan Area. In addition, the Strategy highlights the importance of emergency and disaster preparedness planning. There have been significant learnings from the Covid-19 emergency food relief efforts that could inform future emergency preparedness planning and protocols.

Recommendations

- Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy to enhance the resilience of urban food systems, including those communities most affected by climate change and chronic food insecurity.
- NSW Government to lead and facilitate a disaster risk reduction network with government, industry and NGOs to deliver and report on plans and action, ensuring a whole of systems approach to planning to support those who need access to food in disaster events.
- Fund food relief providers to increase their capacity to respond appropriately to food insecurity particularly in times of crisis.
- Respond to the food relief sector's supply, transport, and delivery challenges, and establish consultation meetings with NSW's main food relief suppliers as well as local grassroots organisations, including Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations, to listen and respond to logistics and access issues.
- Ensure emergency food relief responses are undertaken in parallel with the development of informed strategic responses to improving food insecurity in NSW.

Meals on Wheels

The City has provided our much-valued Meals on Wheels service since 1957. Along with the delivery of nutritious meals, Meals on Wheels provides essential wellness checks and companionship to clients, who are people over 65 (and over 50 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) or people with National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) approval for meal funding. In 2021, the City provided 4,000 meals per month to 349 eligible clients. Meals on Wheels is currently funded by the Federal Government through the Commonwealth Home Support

¹² Resilient Sydney Strategy: <http://www.resilientsydney.com.au>

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Programme (CHSP). The City notes the funding for this essential local service is currently only confirmed until 2023. This is in part due to delays in implementing planned reforms.

Recommendation

- The Federal Government makes an ongoing commitment to and funding for Meals on Wheels.

Regulation of Mobile Voluntary Services

The City recommends the Committee consider regulation of Mobile Voluntary Services (MVS) as part of this Inquiry.

Mobile voluntary services that provide food (usually from vans or similar types of vehicles) are an important element within the range of services provided to people facing disadvantage, including people experiencing homelessness and those on living on low incomes in the City of Sydney.

They operate at times when many other services are unavailable. They also represent an opportunity for people to come together as a community, and for services to engage with disadvantaged people and link them with appropriate support that can lead to potential pathways to secure housing, improved health outcomes and provision of information.

Our experience indicates people access these free services as a means of managing low income. Food accessed through these services may be the only source of free food available to some due to residency status or inability to access government support.

The City recognises the valuable role of mobile voluntary services in supporting disadvantaged people. Up to 64 mobile voluntary services operate in our local area, with 53 services providing food, though this number has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic

Due to research conducted, the City has concerns about the capability of some mobile voluntary services to deliver safe food to vulnerable populations. These concerns are amplified given the susceptible health status of those accessing mobile voluntary services, including people experiencing homelessness. In addition, when multiple services concentrate their operations in certain public spaces, this can cause concerns for surrounding residents and generate issues in managing the public domain.

Food safety and vulnerable populations

Most mobile voluntary service users, including people experiencing homelessness and those living in social housing, have health concerns and often multiple comorbidities. These include being Indigenous, immunocompromised, elderly, and/or unwell.

People experiencing poor health are more susceptible to foodborne illness than a person experiencing good health. This risk is increased dramatically for people experiencing homelessness because of their poorer general health, limited access to health screening/preventative medicine and unstable environment for health management i.e. street sleeping, couch surfing or temporary/crisis accommodation.

In addition to food safety issues, vulnerable populations who have limited access to healthy, whole foods are at higher risk of numerous chronic health issues that can be exacerbated by poor nutrition. People experiencing homelessness are at significantly higher risk of long term, harmful health complications resulting from malnutrition and poor dietary intake. Providing unsafe food and unhealthy food can have serious long-term health implications for people experiencing homelessness.

Submission to the Inquiry into Food production and supply in NSW

Mobile voluntary services and unsafe food

The City's research into mobile voluntary food services in 2019 outlined a lack of training and poor food preparation practices among the services interviewed.

Food preparation practices varied among the services, with food being prepared by volunteers at a kitchen in a church or community centre, or sometimes at a volunteer's home. The survey response also indicated some concerns for how food was stored, cooled, and transported.

User research completed in June 2021, (n=150) indicated most people access these services were either living in social housing (45 per cent) or were sleeping rough (30 per cent) at the time of the survey, which corresponded with findings from 2019.

Most respondents reported that they regularly accessed mobile voluntary services, with 75 per cent accessing services most days. This represents an increase of seven per cent when compared with the 2019 survey. Of those surveyed, 14 per cent reported being sick with food poisoning after eating food provided by a mobile voluntary food service in the last three months. It is considered likely that service users may be under-reporting out of fear that free food services may cease with increased regulation.

It is worth noting that the City received a complaint from a person accessing a service in December 2021 of alleged food poisoning related to the distribution of free, hot meals by a mobile voluntary service provider.

Current legislative landscape

Under the *NSW Food Act 2003 No 43 Part 1 Section 6* the definition of a food business is "a business, enterprise or activity that involves:

- a) the handling of **food intended for sale**, or
- b) **the sale of food**, regardless of whether the business, enterprise or activity concerned is of a commercial, charitable or community nature or whether it involves the handling or sale of food on one occasion only".

As they do not sell food, there is **no legal obligation** for mobile voluntary services to meet the food standards under the current definitions.

Unfortunately, the current legislation means services can provide food that has been collected from waste, or food that is expired and/or hazardous, and provide this to people through their service, as long as food is not being sold.

Mobile voluntary food services policy and guidelines

The City of Sydney adopted a Mobile Voluntary Services policy and guidelines to provide services with information about their legislative obligations and best-practice approaches to meet the needs of the people they aim to support. However, this policy and guidelines is only as effective as the regulatory environment, which could be improved for mobile voluntary food services.

Food safety training

To address the concerns arising from a lack of regulation and often a lack of knowledge for mobile voluntary services providers, the City of Sydney, together with the NSW Food Authority, delivered a free, online food safety training workshop for services who provide food to vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness, in our local area. Key messages delivered included the significant health risks of improper food hygiene for vulnerable populations. It is worth noting that only one participant of the 19 who attended had previous food handling experience. The City intends to run further workshops in 2022.

Recommendations

- The NSW Food Authority continue to undertake training with organisations offering mobile voluntary food services, and provide necessary information, resources and capacity-building, to align with the recommendations and guidelines under the NSW Food Act 2003.
- The NSW Government ensure appropriate regulatory processes are in place for mobile voluntary services, to ensure the safe handling, storage, preparation, and distribution of food to ensure the health and safety of users accessing these services.
- Consider how mobile voluntary services could be mobilised and deployed as part of an ongoing, coordinated food relief response across Sydney, including in areas of high-density social housing.

Role of land use planning in addressing equitable access to food

The City's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)¹³ sets out a 20-year vision for land use, balancing the need for housing and employment opportunities, in the City of Sydney local area. As part of this vision, the City plans for growth by establishing housing, employment, service and infrastructure needs across 10 village areas. The planning vision also builds on the existing strengths of the City's village areas, where each area attracts businesses and services specialising within specific segments of the economy and concentrated across local centres and key high streets.

The LSPS sets out several actions spanning across 13 priority areas linked to infrastructure, liveability, productivity, sustainability as well as governance and implementation. Liveability actions (L2.1) call for the planning of local communities to ensure access to essential services such as fresh food, health and personal services are within walkable distance and an appropriate mix of population servicing uses are retained in local centres and mixed-use zones. This requires adequate floor space, particularly on the ground floor, is available to accommodate these uses.

This action responds to local food security outcomes by encouraging equitable access to fresh food is within proximity to residents, particularly those from vulnerable households, who might rely on walking, community or public transport for their shopping needs. It also recognises that planning for floor space to accommodate retail such as fresh food and specialised groceries, needs to accommodate diverse models spanning from local markets, specialised stores to large scale supermarkets. Whilst councils can plan for sufficient floor space to accommodate fresh food retail it remains up to the market to establish a fresh food retail business or a developer to build suitable space for a supermarket. There is no lever in the planning system to ensure supermarkets and fresh food retail is established in well serviced local centres that are accessible for the local community.

Whilst population pressures continue, it is critical that state and local planning initiatives continue to ensure there is sufficient floor space to generate employment and support retailing, including the provision of fresh, diverse and affordable food options, to local communities. Improved planning levers and guidance is needed support the provision of supermarket and fresh food retailing such as compact stores and large -scale supermarkets and their varying needs around parking, access and storage of goods, road and transport connectivity, particularly in dense urban areas such as the City of Sydney.

Recommendation

- Provide improved guidance and planning levers to support local government identify spatial inequalities around access to fresh food and ensure planning for food retailing continues to be located in centres and high streets and supported by strong public transport connections and efficient road networks.

¹³ City of Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategic-land-use-plans/city-plan-2036>

Growing food in cities

Growing food in cities and urban agriculture is emerging as a way of addressing urban heat island effects, and to demonstrate how cities can be more sustainable in the future. There is an increasing body of literature on the benefits of, and need for, urban agriculture, as well as examples globally, throughout Australia, NSW and in Sydney.

The role of cities in food security will become more critical in the future as impacts of climate disruption and related issues (e.g. pandemics, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, water scarcity) hit¹⁴.

Examples of urban agriculture programs include:

- Sustain: the Australian Food Network¹⁵ and the Urban Agriculture Forum in 2021
- Melbourne Sky Farm¹⁶, a 2,000 sqm rooftop car park that has been transformed into a rooftop farm and environmental oasis in the heart of the city
- Sole Food Street Farms¹⁷ is an urban agriculture project in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Sole Food transforms vacant urban land into street farms that grow artisan quality fruits and vegetables, available at farmer's markets, local restaurants, and retail outlets.

The findings from the National Pandemic Gardening Survey 2020¹⁸ indicated the benefits of edible gardens for well-being, mental health, and for food security, especially for people on low incomes.

The key recommendations from the Survey's Action Agenda include:

- working towards land justice for First Nations Peoples by acknowledging Indigenous land governance
- a national commitment to eradicating food insecurity
- coordinated governance between different levels of government
- prioritising urban food production as a vital part of city and town infrastructure, and
- providing significant capital investment in public health and well-being through the provision a dedicated fund, infrastructure, materials, rebates, and grant funding.

¹⁴ BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature, Insight Report, January 2022, World Economic Forum and Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute.

¹⁵ Sustain: Sustain, the Australian Food Network <https://sustain.org.au/>

¹⁶ Melbourne Sky Farm: <https://www.melbourneskyfarm.com.au/>

¹⁷ Sole Food Street Farms: <https://solefoodfarms.com/>

¹⁸ National Pandemic Gardening Survey 2021: <https://uaf.org.au/blog/national-pandemic-gardening-survey-results/>

Case Study: Sydney City Farm



Figure 4. Volunteer at Sydney City Farm, St Peters, Sydney

Sydney City Farm¹⁹ is an urban agriculture project nurtured by the City of Sydney. The half hectare farm in St Peters is a place to learn about sustainable food production through hands-on volunteering and education programs. The farm uses raised planters and pots for cropping and has a 100-tree fruit orchard. It also features demonstration agroforestry and floriculture plantings and displays of grains and legumes that are commercially grown and eaten as part of everyday diets. Fresh, seasonal fruit, vegetables and herbs are grown communally at the farm by teams of volunteers. Produce is donated to local charities including the Asylum Seekers Centre and Oz Harvest who distribute food to people in need.

Since opening in 2017, over 2,150 volunteer shifts have been worked, contributing over 5,000 volunteer hours to the farm. Education programs are regularly offered including small group horticulture and food production workshops and webinars, hands-on sessions with industry experts, and sustainability talks. To date, more than 2,050 people have attended farm education programs. School and corporate programs are being development and will further assist to build community capacity in local food production systems.

¹⁹ Sydney City Farm: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community-gardens/sydney-city-farm>

Case Study: City of Sydney community gardens



Figure 5. Charlie's Garden, Darlington, Sydney

The City of Sydney has a growing network of 23 community gardens, with approximately 800 community members involved in a community garden. Community garden groups provide knowledge sharing and skills development for their members and the broader City of Sydney community.

Many of the City's community gardens actively contribute to reducing food waste through community composting and worm farming. The gardens support and trial technologies for food growing in the City such as: growing food in small spaces; widespread uptake of wicking beds for water efficiency and savings; community composting and worm farming; and hosting native beehives for increased biodiversity and pollination.

Community gardens play a role in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration in soil; composting/ worm farming to prevent food waste; local provisioning of food; and increasing green cover²⁰. Community gardens have a potential role in regenerating soils in the City and providing for the productive use of public land for growing food.

Community gardens capture rainwater for reuse, employ water efficient technologies (such as wicking beds), and potentially mitigate flooding by reducing hard surfaces.

²⁰ City of Sydney Greening Sydney Strategy 2021: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategies-action-plans/greening-sydney-strategy>

The importance healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems

Food security is impacted by many drivers, including climate variability, as well as other shocks and stressors, including economic shocks, such as those caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

These major drivers are negatively affecting food security and nutrition by creating multiple, compounding impacts throughout our food systems – as well as through the interaction between these and other systems – a food systems lens is therefore essential to better understand these interactions and identify entry points for interventions to address them.

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

As part of its commitment to improving food security and developing healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems, in March 2021 the City of Sydney joined more than 200 other global cities to become a signatory to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.²¹

While more than 50 per cent of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, that proportion is projected to increase to almost 70 per cent by 2050. The Milan Pact provides cities such as Sydney with a practical framework, as well as opportunities for international cooperation and sharing around best-practice sustainable and resilient food systems.

The Pact includes 37 recommended actions in six categories, including governance, social and economic equity, food waste, sustainable diets and nutrition, food production and food supply and distribution. The recommendation actions also include a detailed set of indicators.

Recommendations

We recommend the Inquiry reviews the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, especially in relation to:

- facilitating collaboration and policy alignment across different agencies, departments, and levels of government
- stakeholder participation, and
- developing multi-sectorial information systems for policy development that improves the collection, quality and exchange of data related to urban food systems.

Mapping Urban-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems

The City of Sydney has funded an innovative project with Charles Sturt University to map innovations for Sustainable Food Systems. The City is at the forefront of supporting food systems innovations, and there are many food-focused projects in or connected to the City of Sydney Local Government Area. This project will use social science research and community engagement activities to map the Food Systems Impact Pathways. It will provide clear evidence on the impact pathways of food systems innovations, which refers to the nested, linked, and relational aspects for a healthy, just, and equitable food system.

²¹ Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: <https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/the-milan-pact/>

Strengthening local food systems governance

Recent research has highlighted the role local governments can play in local food systems when supported by appropriate state government legislation and resources.

The City of Sydney participated in an Australian Research Council discovery project, 'Strengthening Local Food Systems Governance'²², which aims to investigate the role of law, policy, and regulation in enabling local governments and communities to contribute to healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, the research analysed policies and initiatives developed by local governments and communities in New South Wales and Victoria that aim to contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system.

The policy mapping research found that local governments in Victoria were more likely than those in NSW to be undertaking actions to develop a healthy and sustainable food system.

The research found that 11 local governments in Victoria have dedicated food system policies, compared with only two in NSW. For example, public health Acts in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, empower local governments to adopt public health plans, which some local governments have used to address food security and diet-related health.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 and Climate Change Act 2017 highlight the need to recognise climate change as a threat to health, creating an opportunity for Victorian local governments to address issues such as agriculture- and food transport-related greenhouse gas emissions. Traditional areas of local government responsibility, such as land use planning, transport, and community services, also present opportunities for local governments to include food system components in their core policies and strategies they produce under local government planning and legislation.

Although there are still legislative, practical and financial constraints on local government's ability to address food system issues, legislative change on key priorities in all state government jurisdictions could support increased local government action to address food system sustainability, resilience, and equity, as well as nutrition and diet-related health.

Recommendations

We urge the Committee to consider the key recommendations from the Strengthening Local Food Systems governance research, including:

- Local governments to be funded to develop food policies at the local level, joining up work already being done across different departments. (This mandate could be facilitated by ensuring food systems are considered as part of Integrated Planning & Reporting.)
- Integrated, comprehensive food system policy frameworks at the state government level (in all states) to provide equal direction and support to Local Government in creating a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system.
- Legislative change by state governments that enables local governments to address priority food system issues (e.g. tackling the 'food swamp' phenomenon in growth-area suburbs) combined with substantial financial resourcing for local governments and communities to act on these priority issues.

²² Strengthening local food systems governance: <https://law-food-systems.sydney.edu.au/>

Food systems transformation

There is a clear need for the NSW Government to lead a collaborative food systems transformation process to ensure an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food system.

There are six pathways to follow towards food systems transformation²³:

1. scaling up climate resilience across food systems
2. strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity
3. intervening along the food supply chains to lower the cost of nutritious foods
4. tackling poverty and structural inequalities
5. ensuring interventions are pro-poor and inclusive and
6. strengthening food environments and changing consumer behaviour to promote dietary patterns with positive impacts on human health and the environment.

Given that most food systems are affected by more than one driver, and impact food security and nutrition outcomes in multiple ways, the formulation of comprehensive portfolios of policies, investments and legislation may be elaborated along several pathways simultaneously. This will allow for maximising their combined effects on food systems transformation, exploiting win-win solutions, and mitigating undesirable trade-offs.

Recommendations

- NSW Government to establish effective and inclusive governance mechanisms across all levels of government, agencies and institutions aimed at transforming food systems. This includes leading a coordinated and collaborative approach to policy and legislative development, food systems mapping, stakeholder engagement, and enabling access to technology, data, and innovation.
- The development and implementation of policies for food security must also consider health, social protection, and environmental systems to build on synergies towards more efficient and effective food systems solutions to deliver affordable healthy diets, sustainably and inclusively.

²³ *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.* Rome, FAO, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

2. Reducing food waste and destruction.

Residential Food Waste Collections

Food waste is the largest single material stream in our residential red lid rubbish bin, typically making up between 34 per cent and 42 per cent of bin contents. When food waste is sent to landfill and decomposes it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

An average of 2.5kgs of food waste is generated per household per week.

While the City recognises that food waste reduction represents the best environmental and social outcomes, a source separated food organics collection and processing scheme is an opportunity to deliver high value outcomes for the food waste stream. Depending on the processing technology employed, such a scheme can deliver multiple benefits. These include landfill space savings, reduced greenhouse emissions, and beneficial outputs such as compost or fertiliser and green energy.

In October 2018 the City approved implementation of Phase I of a food scraps collection and recycling trial to be run over 12 months, starting July 2019 with approximately 300 houses and 100 apartment buildings. By end November 2021, the City had on-boarded 1,010 houses and 202 apartment buildings into the trial, comprised of more 15,200 households. After nearly 2.5 years of operation, the City had collected and recycled more than 790 tonnes of food scraps from participating properties. Future expansion of the trial is planned to test the scalability of operating systems.

The City takes the collected food scraps to the EarthPower anaerobic digestion facility in Camellia in Western Sydney for recovery. At EarthPower the food scraps are pulped and then placed into a chamber without oxygen called a digester. In the digester the food is broken down by microorganisms and this process produces biogas and a nutrient-rich sludge. The gas is converted to green electricity and the sludge is dried and granulated to produce fertiliser.

Residential Food Waste Avoidance



Figure 6. Food waste avoidance education at the City of Sydney

Food waste avoidance education can assist in the reduction of food waste but also help to extend the life of fresh food with leftover recipes and reduce food bills by creating meal plans.

The City runs community engagement programs specifically targeting waste avoidance behaviour, including:

- ‘Ask a Waste Expert’ online service: the ‘Ask A Waste Expert’ online service is available on the City’s website so residents can ask questions directly to our staff about how to avoid, reduce and recycle more. The top third most common question is related to recycling and avoiding food waste (15 per cent of all queries)
- school engagements: in 2021 the City engaged with more than 15 schools providing advice on reducing single use plastics, food waste avoidance and recycling tips
- digital communications: The City regularly provides hints and tips on reducing food waste in the home through our news channels and on social media.

Recommendations

- NSW Government to maintain the provision of discretionary funding to local governments so they can continue to provide the local community with resources and programs focused on how to get the most from fresh produce and reducing food waste.
- The City would like to see the NSW Government invest in exploring opportunities for novel organics collection and treatment in a place-based solution. In 2017 the City provided grant funding under its Innovation Grants Program to the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to investigate the feasibility of a vacuum and anaerobic digestion system to transport and process food waste and other organic waste materials (sewage, fats, oils and grease) on-site to generate biogas as a renewable energy for use on-site and nutrient rich digestate for beneficial reuse as a soil conditioner. Larger precinct scale developments have greater opportunities to deliver a more circular solution for food waste.

Commercial food waste data

In 2016, the City undertook some work to estimate the total waste generation from businesses in our local government area. The study identified that approximately 30 per cent of the total waste generated by businesses comes from restaurants, cafes, and pubs. This sector is likely to produce a significant proportion of the overall food waste produced.

Reducing commercial food waste from restaurants, cafes, and pubs

The Sustainable Destination Partnership, run by the City of Sydney, is aiming to halve food waste by 2026. Food waste makes up 30 per cent of waste for the accommodation and entertainment sector and the sector is responsible for 40 per cent of the City's commercial waste.

Overproduction, spoilage, food preparation and consumer habits all contribute to the amount of food that is wasted by businesses each week. Love Food Sydney, a program run between 2019 and 2021 and supported NSW EPA Love Food Hate Waste, provided online training and free consultant support to business to address their waste. The program guided business through a waste audit followed by an action plan to address spoilage, preparation, and plate waste. The strategies suggested were aligned with the waste hierarchy with avoidance taking priority. For instance, one small restaurant found the average annual food waste was 6 tonnes and estimated \$42,744 in losses. Solutions included ongoing waste audits to identify trends, staff and consumer education and menu simplification. It is recommended waste avoidance forms part of the strategy to support business reduce their food waste, reduce their environmental impact, and improve profit margins.

The City is also aware of the need to reduce food waste at the commercial scale where traditional food rescue organisations may struggle with large quantities of fresh food. Organisations such as Yume Food²⁴ operate a business-to-business online marketplace for the sale and donation of surplus food. The Yume platform is marketed to the hospitality sector and food rescue organisations.

Recommendations

- Improve access for the hospitality sector to local producers and food rescue platforms to supply in-season produce and shorten supply chains.
- Integrate local sourcing of food into accredited hospitality certifications.
- Educate and build business and their employees' capabilities for the avoidance of food waste and roll out the program alongside the mandate for organics collection from business. i.e. highlight the business case for 'reduce' before 'recycle'.
- Integrate food waste avoidance training into accredited hospitality certifications and/or disperse via peak bodies and industry associations. i.e. build on basic food waste training and incorporate the links to sustainability and climate change.
- Improve networks between business and food donation organisations and charities, especially at a localised neighbourhood level.

Other strategies for reducing food waste could be to:

- Use legislation to prevent supermarkets and other sectors from sending edible or useable food waste to landfill as was introduced in France in 2016.
- Support charities (such as FoodBank, OzHarvest and Second Bite) to expand their capacity to redistribute food for social benefit outcomes.
- Encourage supermarkets and grocers to relax rules on specifications for fruit and vegetables.

²⁴ Yume Food: <https://yumefood.com.au/>

3. Developing technologies to bring food production into cities.

Encouraging innovative solutions and supporting development of new technologies could drive intensive food production in urban areas. Systems that support growing food locally in cities have potential to assist with food security issues, reduce food transport distances, lower packaging needs and waste generation, and decrease overall environmental impacts. Fresh food produced closer to point of consumption also has a longer shelf life.

Controlled environmental agriculture systems that utilise modular indoor vertical farming technology have the potential to produce large volumes of food using much less land than traditional farming. Technological development to reduce set up infrastructure and ongoing operational costs could increase accessibility of these systems.

Vacant rooftop and vertical spaces can also be utilised for food production, while greening the city and reducing the urban heat island effect. Cost effective technology solutions to manage structural loads and waterproofing is needed to encourage more retrofitting of city rooftops to grow food.

The City's community gardens also support and enable the trialling of technologies for food growing in the City such as: growing food in small spaces; widespread uptake of wicking beds for water efficiency and savings; community composting and worm farming; and hosting native beehives for increased biodiversity and pollination.

Recommendations:

- The NSW Government prioritises the use and implementation of existing technologies and incentivises the research and development of new technologies and innovation to bring food production into cities, in collaboration with industry, academic institutions, and local governments.

4. Preserving productive land and water resources.

The proportion of food sourced from NSW has declined for the past decade largely due to changing formerly agricultural land into greenfield sites that are rezoned for development. Agricultural and Greenfield sites must be preserved to protect our food production system.

Metropolitan Sydney is surrounded by the Sydney Basin that is a highly productive foodbowl which supplies 20% of Sydney's fresh food supplies however it faces many challenges:

As Sydney's population grows it will need more food produced.

If agricultural and greenfield land is developed into housing, Sydney will be forced to rely on food produced further afar and this increase in food miles will result in increased carbon emissions.

The development of greenfield land and loss of trees and plantings will increase the impact on the urban heat island effect around and across Sydney

The development of greenfield land will also result in lost unemployment in Western Sydney.

The loss of production in the foodbowl will also contribute to higher food prices as we will rely on areas like Queensland for our food. As of February 2022, Queensland is subject to flooding and their ability to produce and transport food is impacted, and consequently the price of fruit and vegetables in NSW is noticeably higher.

Sydney's food supply faces future challenges from the impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and extreme weather events

We must protect Sydney's foodbowl because it is critical in providing a resilient and sustainable food future for the city.

Recommendations

- The NSW Government must ensure a resilient food supply for Sydney that requires a precautionary planning approach that retains – or strengthens – the capacity of the Sydney’s foodbowl where agricultural and greenfield land is protected from development.
- A ‘joined up’ policy framework is required to plan for a resilient foodbowl. Policy is needed to protect agricultural and greenfield land, increase water access, reduce and reuse food waste, strengthen the regional food economy and attract food producers to farm to Sydney’s foodbowl.
- The loss of Sydney’s foodbowl is not inevitable as the city grows. If development on the city fringe can be limited to existing growth corridors and strong targets are set for urban infill and increased urban density, the impact on the city’s foodbowl can be reduced.
- The NSW Government must plan for a resilient city foodbowl that provides healthy food for a growing population, promotes a vibrant regional food economy and acts as a buffer against future food system shocks. For example, there is an opportunity for the Government to retain some land earmarked for Bradfield Airport, and use it for agricultural production.
- The NSW Government must also increase investment in the delivery of recycled water from water treatment plants could create ‘drought-proof’ areas of food production.

5. Managing the impact of climate change.

Food production is both a major driver of climate change and is one of the urban systems most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

C40 research²⁵ shows that when cities account for the goods and services consumed by the people who live and work there, food is responsible for around 13 per cent of cities' total greenhouse gas emissions – mainly from animal-sourced products (C40).

Climate change has the potential to seriously threaten our food systems. Climate change can cause events such as extreme heat, bushfire, drought, and flooding, which can lead to reduced agricultural productivity, reduced nutritional quality, crop damage, the spread of disease, disrupted supply chains and food price spikes.

Food systems are also vulnerable to failures in electrical power, fuel distribution, telecommunication networks, transportation networks and water supply, as these systems are highly interdependent. These systems are increasingly at risk from climate hazards.

Climate change might also affect our ability to store and transport food from distant sources. As the costs of transport fuels rise, both due to global carbon markets and increasing oil scarcity, transporting our food long distances from rural regions to cities will become more expensive. The costs of refrigerated storage will also rise, and this, too, will affect the price of fresh food.

These natural and urban hazards will threaten to exacerbate existing food insecurity issues. Interventions to strengthen urban food systems offer potential co-benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation. For example:

- Urban agriculture helps to reduce the urban heat island effect by decreasing solar radiation and lowering temperatures through evaporative cooling and shading
- Shifting consumption towards plant-based diets offers health outcomes and reduces emissions and water-intensity of food production
- Using locally sourced renewable energy in agriculture reduces the food systems reliance of the electricity grid and reduces emissions
- The City of Toronto provides an example of mapping food systems' vulnerability to climate change²⁶.

Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate

The Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate²⁷ was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) as a commitment by local and regional governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act. Along with the actions of C40 Cities and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Declaration outlines the need to place food and local action at the heart of the climate emergency.

Recommendation

- The NSW Government undertake an assessment of the vulnerability of the state's food system to climate change.

²⁵ https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Why-cities-should-pursue-a-Planetary-Health-Diet-for-all-citizens-by-2030?language=en_US

²⁶ City of Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-118076.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

6. Limiting the impact food production has on the environment, including overfishing.

No response.

7. Addressing complex challenges to food production including declining pollinating species and productive fertilisers.



Figure 7. Pollinator habitat at Sydney City Farm.

Photo by Renee Nowytarger

The City of Sydney has created pollinator habitat features on the Glebe Foreshore and at Sydney City Farm to encourage native bees, butterflies, wasps, flies, beetles and other pollinating insects to the area. Bricks, pipes, twigs and logs provide suitable urban habitat providing shelter, hiding and breeding places. Native stingless beehives have been installed at Sydney City Farm and in some community gardens. These bees play an important role in pollinating fruit and vegetables being grown locally, as well as native plant species. Several city schools also have native stingless beehives for education and local pollination benefits. The City holds regular education programs about urban ecology including pollinating insects and Sydney City Farm volunteers are involved in citizen science monitoring activities such as seasonal pollinating insect counts.

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The City is involved in an onsite food waste processing project where onsite dehydrators have been installed in four buildings. Locally produced food waste will be used to generate a high-quality soil conditioner / soil food that can be utilised as a fertiliser in City parks.

Recommendations:

- The NSW Government investigate further opportunities for creating pollinator habitat through NSW Government owned land and properties, including schools, and supports local governments with the resources, incentives or funding for these projects.

8. Consideration of workforce challenges and skills development.

Case Study: FoodLab Sydney



Figure 8. Participants armed with the skills and networks to launch a food business with FoodLab Sydney.

The pilot program for food business incubator FoodLab Sydney²⁸ provided participants with the skills, training, networking and mentoring needed to launch a food business and become an actor in Sydney's food system. Based on the model of FoodLab Detroit, the pilot for FoodLab Sydney was a partnership between the Sydney Environment Institute at the University of Sydney, TAFE NSW and City of Sydney. This action research project continues to generate research on food systems and the outcomes for its participants. Chief Investigators, Professor David Schlosberg, Associate Professor Alana Mann, along with key researchers Dr Kate Johnston and Omar Elkharaouf have an article based on their research²⁹. FoodLab Sydney is in its next phase of planning to continue running these important programs in metropolitan and regional areas.

²⁸ FoodLabSydney: <http://www.foodlabsydney.org.au>

²⁹ Elkharaouf, O., Cox, K., Schlosberg, D., Mann, A., & Perroni, E., (2021) In the land of the "fair go": global food policy lessons beyond the charity model, *Local Environment*, 26:10, 1192-1204, DOI: [10.1080/13549839.2021.1970727](https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2021.1970727)

Global Destination Sustainability Index

The City of Sydney, together with Business Events Sydney, participates in the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDSI). The City's global ranking in 2021 fell to number 15 from number 8 in 2018. The largest area for improvement is with suppliers. A recommendation from the global body is to create or develop a programme to promote sustainable food for hotels, restaurants, and caterers. Skills development forms an important role in building capacity across the hospitality sector to support sustainable food systems. Further recommendations for the workforce include, incentivising third party sustainability certification for restaurants and caterers and sharing food donation materials with suppliers at major conferences, events, and festivals.

Recommendations:

- The NSW Government supports, encourages and funds programs such as FoodLab Sydney which provide practical, supportive environments for training, skills development and networking which can result in systems change, including for people from diverse cultural backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people on low incomes.
- Develop a programme to promote sustainable food for hotels, restaurants, and caterers, incentivising third party sustainability certification for restaurants and caterers and sharing food donation materials with suppliers at major conferences, events, and festivals.

9. Development and growth of the food industry (raw or processed) as an export.

Role of strategic planning in supporting food industries geared for export market

The City of Sydney local area continues to be the most economically productive areas not only in Greater Sydney region but also nationally. Whilst being a major player in attracting employment and investment in the finance and financial services and professional and business services sectors, the area's strategic proximity to Sydney Airport and Port Botany also means the southern part of the local government area serving as an important gateway to international markets. The Green-Square and Mascot Strategic centres which also incorporates the Southern Enterprise Area is positioned to accommodate 11,400 additional jobs by 2036 to meet the District Plan's jobs target

³⁰.

Recognising the strategic importance of this area, the City has outlined the protection of industrial and urban services in the Southern Enterprise Area as a key priority in the LSPS. Under Productivity, the LSPS calls for the continued retention of the Southern Enterprise Area for industrial and urban service uses. The area should continue to evolve by leveraging its strategic locational advantage, supporting the activities of businesses operating in food manufacturing, processors, equipment and packaging wholesalers, logistics and warehousing hub capable of servicing local and international food supply networks. The maintenance of efficient road networks capable of servicing freight and delivery vehicles also pose a key challenge for a growing, global city. Actions under Infrastructure calls for the investigation of opportunities such as open-access loading docks, shared servicing facilities and small scale distribution hubs geared towards more efficient, "last mile" or final leg of the delivery to consumers which utilises lightweight and active transport options.

³⁰ City of Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement City Plan 2036 (page 168)

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This action also broadly recognises a coordinated effort between state and local governments to explore innovative approaches when planning for freight, logistics and vehicle movements without compromising liveability outcomes for people living near major road corridors and networks.

Recommendation

- Ensure the State Government recognises the importance and role of the City's Southern Enterprise Area and other industrial and urban services lands to support the efficient distribution of food, equipment and services supporting the industry to both local and international markets.

10. Implications for quality control and labelling of processed/manufactured food.

No response.

11. Consideration of Indigenous food and land management practices.

The City of Sydney strongly supports the consideration of Indigenous food and land management practices as part of a sustainable food system, recognising the connections of First Nations Peoples with Country, and their successful, sustainable production of food on these lands for thousands of years. We recognise that the disruption and destruction caused by colonisation and invasion has had profound impacts on the food production and land management practises of First Nations peoples.

Indigenous land management includes a wide range of environmental, natural resource, commercial, economic and cultural resource management activities undertaken by individuals, groups and organisations across Australia. These activities have their origins in the holistic relationships between traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies and their customary land and sea estates that have evolved over at least 50,000 years (CSIRO, 2013)³¹.

The positive outcomes of Indigenous involvement in natural resource management are not only environmental. A variety of benefits come from these activities and investments, including improved health and wellbeing, cultural and social outcomes, and economic opportunities (CSIRO, 2013) which will be a critical component of food systems transformation.

Supporting the self-determination and autonomy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in food and land management practices is vital to the health, cultural and socio-economic rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, while also playing an important role in this nation's reconciliation journey.

This is also consistent with the Outcome 15 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters*³².

Recently, the City of Sydney partnered with the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation³³ to purchase ethically sourced carbon offsets from carbon farmers, also known as fire stick farmers, in northern Australia. This initiative is just one example of supporting traditional land management practices, such as Cool burning of country.

During 2020, the City of Sydney conducted community engagement with representatives of First Nations communities to discuss principles for managing Crown Lands in the City of Sydney³⁴. The outcomes of this engagement included some key themes relevant for this Inquiry, subject to further consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and representatives:

- The importance of the understanding of Country in the worldview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This understanding of Country includes the landscape – land, water and sky, the plants and animals, and the relationship between these. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' responsibility for care of Country and the continuation of these relationships.
- Acknowledging the responsibility that First Nations Peoples have in the carriage of their living cultures including access to land for practising culture.
- Implementing 'Caring for Country' Principles (including maintenance, planting, holistic understanding of Country etc) and Designing with Country principles (Government Architect NSW).

³¹ CSIRO 2013: <https://doi.org/10.4225/08/584ee74971137>

³² Closing the Gap: <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/targets>

³³ Aboriginal Carbon Foundation: <https://www.abcfoundation.org.au/>

³⁴ City of Sydney Crown Lands Plans of Management consultation: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/your-say-proposed-plans-of-management-crown-lands>

- The importance of economic and cultural ownership and management and intellectual property rights, ongoing employment and business opportunities at all levels, including: Making, markets, food, trading, learning etc should be able to be practiced somewhere permanently (not a one-off event).

Community interest in learning from and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture

Through community engagement activities, community members have expressed their interest and support for activities that celebrate and share the knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about growing and using native Australian species.

The community engagement outcomes for Sydney City Farm business plan indicated support for showcasing the agricultural practices of Australia's First Nations Peoples, as well as celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture at Sydney City Farm.

Community consultation conducted as part of the review of the City's Community Gardens Policy (2016) and Guidelines identified there was a lot of interest among all respondents (both community garden members and non-members) in learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture in relation to native flora. Sharing the knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples was a well-regarded role for community gardens and a high priority future opportunity³⁵.

Through different programs, the City of Sydney has worked with organisations such as The Royal Botanic Gardens' 'Community Greening' program³⁶, Yerrabingin³⁷, IndigiGrow³⁸, Kallico Catering³⁹, Goanna Hut⁴⁰ and Wildflower⁴¹, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators and experts employ traditional methods of food production, nurseries, land care and land management.

Other entities such as Black Duck Foods (Victoria)⁴², and locally, NCIE Catering⁴³, The Tin Humpy⁴⁴, Muru Mittigar⁴⁵, The Lillipad Café⁴⁶, and Bush to Bowl⁴⁷, are a few of the many successful examples of Indigenous nurseries, food production, catering and land management practices. Organisations such as these not only provide employment and businesses opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, they also promote sustainable maintaining of cultural practises and sharing of cultural knowledge for future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These two interlinked points are in line with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous peoples⁴⁸, particularly Article 31:

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also

³⁵ Survey Analysis to support the Community Gardens Policy Review, Astrolabe Group, December 2020

³⁶ Community Greening Program: <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Learn/Community-Greening>

³⁷ Yerrabingin: <https://www.yerrabingin.com.au/>

³⁸ IndigiGrow <https://www.indigigrow.com.au/>

³⁹ Kallico Catering: <https://www.kallicocatering.com/>

⁴⁰ Goanna Hut: <https://goannahut.com.au/>

⁴¹ Wildflower Gardens for Good: <https://www.wildflower.org.au/about>

⁴² Black Duck Foods: <https://blackduckfoods.org/>

⁴³ NCIE Catering: <https://ncie.org.au/catering/>

⁴⁴ The Tin Humpy Café: <https://www.facebook.com/TinHumpy/>

⁴⁵ Muru Mittigar: <https://www.murumittigar.com.au/>

⁴⁶ The Lillipad Café: <https://www.lillipadcafesydney.com/>

⁴⁷ Bush to Bowl: <https://www.bushtobowl.com/>

⁴⁸ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

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have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

Another example is the University of Sydney's research project, 'Indigenous grasslands for grain'⁴⁹. This project aims to bring together cross-disciplinary experts to re-create the native grain production system, which sustainably produced food for people for thousands of years in Australia's variable climate and soils.

Recommendation:

- The NSW Government draws on successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned or led organisations, programs and projects in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food and land management practices and undertakes further consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts, leaders, land councils, organisations and communities, to understand how these models could be expanded and/or inform successful Indigenous food and land management practices as part of a sustainable food system for NSW.

⁴⁹ University of Sydney: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/our-research/research-areas/life-and-environmental-sciences/indigenous-grasslands-grain.html>

Conclusion

The City of Sydney thanks the Chair and Committee Members for the Inquiry into food production and supply in NSW for their consideration of this submission.

The evidence referred to in this submission highlights the critical need for NSW Government leadership and intervention to identify and address the growing problem of food insecurity in NSW, and indeed, Australia, especially in relation to people's economic access to food.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted significant vulnerabilities of our food system, including, the exponential increase in demand for emergency food relief, supply chain issues, the need for coordination, and further emergency preparedness and disaster planning.

However, it is well-documented that food security was a concern, especially for people from low-income households, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, well before the pandemic.

Our key recommendations in this submission call on the NSW Government to provide the leadership, funding and resources necessary for food systems transformation.

As outlined, this approach must be inclusive, collaborative and consider all aspects of planning, resources and funding for food security and food systems, including:

- food policy and strategy development, along with necessary legislation, funding and resources
- establishing effective and inclusive governance mechanisms across levels of government, agencies and institutions aimed at transforming food systems, and enabling access to technology, data and innovation
- socio-economic initiatives to address poverty and disadvantage
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's knowledge, participation and practices
- emergency food relief and disaster and emergency planning
- appropriate regulatory frameworks for charitable food services
- providing a mandate and resources for local government to include food security and sustainable food systems as part of integrated planning
- growing food in cities and urban agriculture
- links between food and climate
- food waste behaviour change programs and alternatives to landfill.

We look forward to the Committee's response to the Inquiry into Food production and supply in NSW and continuing our work at the City of Sydney to improve food security and develop healthy, inclusive and sustainable food systems.

Definitions

The following definitions are sourced from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (2021)⁵⁰ and inform this submission.

Food security

A situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Based on this definition, four food security dimensions can be identified: food availability, economic and physical access to food, food utilisation and stability over time. The concept of food security is evolving to recognise the centrality of agency and sustainability.

Food security dimensions

Food security dimensions refer to the four traditional dimensions of food security:

- a. Availability** – This dimension addresses whether or not food is actually or potentially physically present, including aspects of production, food reserves, markets and transportation, and wild foods.
- b. Access** – If food is actually or potentially physically present, the next question is whether or not households and individuals have sufficient physical and economic access to that food.
- c. Utilisation** – If food is available and households have adequate access to it, the next question is whether or not households are maximising the consumption of adequate nutrition and energy. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals is the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, dietary diversity and intra-household distribution of food, clean water, sanitation and healthcare. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.
- d. Stability** – If the dimensions of availability, access and utilisation are sufficiently met, stability is the condition in which the whole system is stable, thus ensuring that households are food secure at all times. Stability issues can refer to short-term instability (which can lead to acute food insecurity) or medium- to long-term instability (which can lead to chronic food insecurity). Climatic, economic, social and political factors can all be a source of instability.

These two additional dimensions of food security are reinforced in conceptual and legal understandings of the right to food, and are currently referred to and defined as follows:

- e. Agency** refers to the capacity of individuals or groups to make their own decisions about what foods they eat; what foods they produce; how food is produced, processed and distributed; and their ability to engage in processes that shape food system policies and governance.
- f. Sustainability** refers to the long-term ability of food systems to provide food security and nutrition in a way that does not compromise the economic, social and environmental bases that generate food security and nutrition for future generations.

Food systems

Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products. They comprise all food products that originate from crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which these diverse production systems are embedded.

⁵⁰ *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*. Rome, FAO, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

Appendix 1: Draft City of Sydney Food Access Rights Charter

Choice

- Provide access to a variety of food relief options
- Share knowledge of other food relief providers
- Ensure healthy, fresh, and nutritional food
- Provide services unconditional of religion, political opinion, membership of a particular social group, and other affiliations
- Respect everyone's privacy to eat alone or eat with others

Control

- Establish anonymous feedback channels
- Open employment and volunteering opportunities for people accessing food relief to inform services
- Regularly monitor the quality, safety, and nutritional aspects of services
- Provide clear and readily available communication across different platforms
- Strive for consistency in service delivery
- Uphold hygiene standards and provide access to hand sanitiser
- Ensure safe access to food provision

Connection

- Link people to other support services as needed
- Set-up programs to contribute to a reduction in isolation
- Train staff and volunteers to respond to complex needs including cultural needs
- Reduce hierarchal nature of food distribution and show solidarity with people experiencing food insecurity
- Communicate clearly and inform people of changes
- Always show respect to people accessing food relief.

Appendix 2: Food Operations Working Group

The City of Sydney acknowledges the members of the Food Operations Working Group who have made possible the emergency food relief response in the City of Sydney.

1. FoodBank NSW & ACT Limited
2. OzHarvest Limited
3. SecondBite
4. Counterpoint Community Services Incorporated
5. Aboriginal Children's Service
6. Australian Red Cross
7. FoodLab Sydney
8. Kids Giving Back
9. University of Sydney Union
10. Project Kindness
11. Beehive Industries Co-operative Limited
12. Mission Australia
13. Rough Edges - St Johns Community Services Limited
14. St Canice's Kitchen
15. Baptist Care Hope Street
16. Lentil as Anything Limited
17. Asylum Seekers Centre
18. First Nations Response
19. Youth Off the Streets Limited
20. Glebe Youth Services Inc.
21. Jesuit Refugee Service Australia Incorporated
22. Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated
23. Newtown Mission
24. Newtown Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated
25. The Wayside Chapel
26. Rev Bill Crews Foundation Ltd
27. The Salvation Army
28. Parliament on King Pty Ltd
29. Sydney Local Health District
30. NSW Health
31. Living Hope Church Camperdown
32. Uniting Harris Community Centre
33. Addison Road Community Centre for Arts, Culture, Community and Environment Ltd
34. Our Place Redfern Incorporated
35. Plate It Forward Ltd
36. Settlement Services International Limited
37. Pocket City Farms

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38. Weave Youth and Community Services Inc
39. Good360 Australia Ltd
40. Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
41. Deadly Connections Community and Justice Services Limited
42. Souths Cares PBI Ltd
43. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation
44. Redfern Youth Connect
45. Mudgin-gal Aboriginal Corporation
46. The NSW Department of Communities and Justice
47. The Pure Foundation
48. Viral Kindness
49. RedLink
50. SDN Children's Services
51. National Centre for Indigenous Excellence
52. Aboriginal Medical Services
53. The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre
54. Kirketon Road Centre
55. L'amour Catering
56. The St Vincent de Paul Society
57. St Johns Anglican Church Glebe
58. University of Sydney
59. C3 Central Church
60. Street Smart Australia
61. Bright Sparqe Limited
62. Wesley Community Services Limited

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