



Tasmanian Council of Social Service Inc.

From Emergency Food Relief to Food Security Discussion Paper

March 2021



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About TasCOSS

TasCOSS's vision is for one Tasmania, free of poverty and inequality where everyone has the same opportunity. Our mission is two-fold: to act as the peak body for the community services industry in Tasmania; and to challenge and change the systems, attitudes and behaviours that create poverty, inequality and exclusion.

Our membership includes individuals and organisations active in the provision of community services to Tasmanians living on a low income or living in a vulnerable and disadvantaged circumstances. TasCOSS represents the interests of our members and their service users to government, regulators, the media and the public. Through our advocacy and policy development, we draw attention to the causes of poverty and disadvantage and promote the adoption of effective solutions to address these issues.

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Introduction

TasCOSS welcomes an opportunity to respond to the *From Emergency Food Relief to Food Security Discussion Paper* circulated to the Community Food Security Reference Group. Our submission draws on the knowledge and experience of Tasmania's emergency food relief providers and on research conducted in Tasmania and elsewhere on how to create food secure communities.

Food security is generally understood to mean access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.¹ It has four dimensions:

- Food availability—sufficient quantities of food are available on a consistent basis
- Food access—sufficient resources are available to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet
- Food use—appropriate use, based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water, sanitation and food preparation facilities
- Food stability—stability of availability and access over time.²

In recognition that a transition from emergency food relief (EFR) to food security cannot be achieved from within the EFR sector, our submission goes beyond the scope of the discussion paper by highlighting the connection between EFR and the broader food system. In this way it also forms an initial response to PESRAC's recommendations on food security in its final report:

The State Government should ensure that the Food Security Strategy currently being prepared:

- expands on recent trials of school lunch provision to include greater school and community provision;
- adopts a place-based approach to community food security models and not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach;
- includes strong links to local agricultural and hospitality businesses including training opportunities for program participants; and
- is scaleable in design so that any potential increase in demand for emergency food relief can be managed in a rapid and effective manner.³

In this context, this submission makes eight recommendations:

1. Using local evidence and experience to inform future action.
2. Effective monitoring and translation of evidence at a local level to inform place-based decisions.
3. Creating expert support at a state and regional level to support place-based adaptive local action.

¹ Utas, 'One in four Tasmanians experiences food shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic', Report Number 15, 15 June 2020 <https://blogs.utas.edu.au/isc/files/2020/06/15.-Food-security.pdf>

² Healthy Food Access Tasmania and Heart Foundation, *Dishing up the Facts: Going Without Healthy Food in Tasmania*, 2016 <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dishing-up-the-facts.pdf>

³ PESRAC *Final Report Recommendation List*, p.9 https://www.pesrac.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/283194/Final_Report_-_Recommendation_List.pdf

4. EFR strategies and programs that take account of the lived experience and recent service innovations.
5. Aligning policy and programs with other strategic priorities across governments.
6. Improving healthy food affordability in communities at risk of food insecurity.
7. Recognising the community service sector as an important partner in place-based food security action.
8. Long term funding for an effective response to this issue.

1. Using local evidence and experience to inform future action

Like other organisations in Tasmania, TasCOSS has long had a commitment to government and community organisations collaborating to develop effective policy and program responses to the issue of community level food security. To build a strong foundation in this work we believe we should draw on the history of robust program delivery and research within Tasmania. This experience should inform responses to the PESRAC recommendation on food security.

For example, the Healthy Food Access Tasmania project delivered by the Heart Foundation developed local government level profiles to guide policy, community partnerships and program work at a local level.⁴ The profiles described potential local determinants of food insecurity (such as pricing and availability of food and social determinants of health) and included a list of local stakeholders that could work together to build local resilience. Information at this level is invaluable for partnerships.

This work could be built upon with an expansion of our understanding of vulnerability by adopting the approach taken in Western Australia of a Food Stress Index which enables identification of communities more at risk of food insecurity.⁵ Mapping of local determinants and vulnerable groups supports improved decision making at the local level.

2. Effective monitoring and translation of evidence at a local level to inform place-based decisions

Research investigating the affordability, availability and access to healthy food is vital to identify the communities most vulnerable to food insecurity in Tasmania. Examples of this work include state wide research by the University of Tasmania in 2014 that was used to inform government investments and grants for local level community food programs.⁶ In recent years, a new community led methodology for community level food monitoring has been developed by University of Queensland, the Healthy Diets ASAP. Using this data collection model, they worked with the CWA to gather data in communities and

⁴ <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/community-profiles/>

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https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329997939_Protocol_for_the_Development_of_a_Food_Stress_Index_to_Identify_Households_Most_at_Risk_of_Food_Insecurity_in_Western_Australia

⁶ <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Healthy-Food-Access-Basket-study.pdf>

the platform data base rapidly produces results which can inform where effort to build food resilience can be focused.⁷

While we have no current data for Tasmania for healthy food affordability, availability, and access, a pilot will soon begin in North West Tasmania. Sandra Murray, of the University of Tasmania, will be using the *Healthy Diets ASAP* tool to gather data beginning in April of 2021. Data will be gathered in Circular Head, Burnie and Devonport local government areas. By mid-year results and reflections should be available. We recommend the Tasmanian Government consider replicating this research if the results prove valuable.

Measuring progress towards and planning responses to ongoing food security requires regular monitoring of food insecurity at a population and local level. Currently, however this doesn't occur in Tasmania apart from the Tasmanian Population Health Survey (TPHS), which is conducted every few years.⁸ The University of Tasmania research on rates of food insecurity during COVID-19 has shown that the TPHS survey does not capture fluctuations in levels of food insecurity (such as occurred during the COVID public health emergency period in Tasmania) nor does it adequately capture the source of this insecurity.⁹ The reason is that the survey asks a single question about food insecurity, whereas the international benchmark for research on food insecurity is a 6-question method that explores the source and severity of that insecurity.¹⁰

Understanding the severity (marginal, moderate and severe) is important because it reflects the potential impact on health and wellbeing outcomes and costs to the healthcare system, while understanding the source of the insecurity (access, affordability, understanding) points to where resources are needed to reduce or eliminate the insecurity. TasCOSS recommends regular monitoring of food insecurity in Tasmania using the method employed by the University of Tasmania.

3. Creating expert support at a state and regional level to support place-based adaptive local action

Social network mapping of the community food security initiatives has demonstrated the roles of various actors in supporting collaboration at a local level and good program design. Research by the

⁷ <https://nutritionj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12937-018-0396-0>

⁸

https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/398173/Tasmanian_Population_Health_Survey_2019_Key_Findings.pdf

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https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/398173/Tasmanian_Population_Health_Survey_2019_Key_Findings.pdf

¹⁰ K. Kent, S. Murray, B. Penrose, S. Auckland, D. Visentin, S. Godrich, E. Lester, 'Prevalence and Socio-Demographic Predictors of Food Insecurity in Australia during the COVID-19 Pandemic,' *Nutrient*, 12(9), 2020

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7551067/>

University of Tasmania in 2016 looked at the success factors that create community level resilience.¹¹ These included programs and initiatives that:

- build skills and knowledge about food preparation, growing, shopping, and cooking
- establish social or family norms that contribute towards a culture around healthy eating and
- support within communities for reliable physical and affordable access to healthy food through food supply models such as social enterprises.

The research found that key organisations have a role in facilitating connection and information brokerage between programs at a local, regional, and state level. This increases program capacity and skills, improves resource sharing, and allows organisations delivering successful programs to provide advice and role model local approaches. The role for facilitation and coordination needs ongoing funding to maximise outcomes at a local place-based, regional, and state level.

4. EFR strategies and programs that take account of the lived experience and recent service innovations

The experience during COVID-19 clearly demonstrated that food insecurity can impact households when their financial circumstances change quickly.¹² To be effective, policy responses need to be based on the experiences of people who are food insecure, rather than on assumptions about what those experiences are. Tasmanian research on the myths behind food insecurity uncovers a range of opinions and assumptions that highlight the importance of building in lived experience to policy design.¹³ Incorporating lived experience will also help to ensure that dignified and appropriate solutions are adopted.

Current research by Public Health Tasmania exploring EFR agencies is looking at models used during COVID-19 and the lived experience of Tasmanians who are food insecure. This should be used to inform future action. The research will:

1. Undertake a needs assessment to explore what is working well, what communities want and need to progress this issue, and to identify possible gaps to strengthen resilience in food security.
2. Identify the innovations, strengths and unexpected positive outcomes that emerge from the COVID-19 period as well as ways to leverage and sustain these positive outcomes. This includes helping people connect more with their food and accessing and using quality local food in a way that is respectful of culture, preferences and meets nutritional needs.

¹¹ S. Murray, S. Aucklind, D. Thomson, L. Galvin, 'Tasmanian healthy eating resilience evaluation: social network analysis – final report', June 2016 <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Tas-healthy-eating-resilience-evaluation.pdf>

¹² <https://blogs.utas.edu.au/isc/files/2020/06/15.-Food-security.pdf>

¹³ Healthy Food Access Tasmania and Heart Foundation, *Dishing up the Facts: Going Without Healthy Food in Tasmania*, 2016 <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dishing-up-the-facts.pdf>

Other research led by Sandra Murray of University of Tasmania in the northern suburbs of Launceston will build on the community level momentum and opportunities for social change towards a more equitable and fairer/just food system.¹⁴

5. Aligning policy and programs with other strategic priorities across governments

For future policy implementation, it is important to understand how action on food security links to other priorities in government (and the broader community service sector). For example, any progress towards food security in Tasmania needs to align with the following:

Premiers Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council

Following on from the presentation by Holley Jones of Public Health to the *Community Food Security Reference Group* we feel that any future EFR strategy should be aligned with the overall approach to food and nutrition being progressed by the Council and across government. This will ensure a whole of food systems and whole of government approach is adopted to delivering against PESRAC Recommendation 31. Beyond the Council, expert community nutrition organisations have also adopted a framework for addressing the aims of this recommendation (see Appendix 1).

EFR is driven by the provision of nutritious food

Food that is provided via EFR to Tasmanians must meet the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating framework.¹⁵ This is consistent with the Healthy Tasmania Strategy and broader health and wellbeing aspirations of the Tasmania Statement.¹⁶ Adherence to the Framework means EFR is about providing food that is consistent with good health outcomes, not just filling bellies. It also strongly connects EFR to the definition of food security: access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.

EFR contributes towards reducing food waste and needs to consider scaled up solutions

Nationally and at a state level, governments have significant goals to reduce food waste, across the food system, and capture food and nutrients for human consumption.¹⁷ There is an opportunity to capture on-farm losses (unharvested crops for example) and waste within processing and retail/hospitality to redirect to solutions for EFR meals and distribution. This is clearly outlined in the National Food Waste Roadmap which aims to maximise societal benefits of reducing food waste and facilitating food rescue and EFR.¹⁸

Capturing food waste will also create an economic benefit to growers and producers. We note that economic sustainability of the local farming sector is currently out of scope in the framework in the

¹⁴ Personal communication from Sandra Murray via email 16.3.2021

¹⁵ <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/guidelines/australian-guide-healthy-eating>

¹⁶ <http://www.health.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/our-plans-and-strategies/a-healthy-tasmania>;
http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/477773/Tasmania_Statement.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/4683826b-5d9f-4e65-9344-a900060915b1/files/national-food-waste-strategy.pdf>; <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Draft%20Waste%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/fca42414-c4df-4821-b195-4948ad673f69/files/roadmap-reducing-food-waste.pdf>

discussion paper. This is not consistent with Recommendation 31 and could result in lower levels of participation by the Department of Primary industry and the businesses in the agriculture and horticulture industry resulting in less food rescue. The WA Food Relief Framework Report 2019, a comprehensive exploration of Food Relief, recommends an approach that creates incentives for food donation and covers costs or creates tax benefits for transport and storage.¹⁹ If bringing food into the state is also outside of scope (sea and air freight into Tasmania) then the suggested approach is about working with the Tasmanian agriculture, horticulture, processing and distribution sectors to generate greater volumes of food. We endorse the implied Tasmanian focus. The sheer quantum of food needed to meet the EFR demand and produce nutritious, affordable meals means we should consider all options that allow us to tap into the scaled volumes grown and produced by our local agriculture and horticulture sectors to create co-benefits.

6. Improving healthy food affordability in communities at risk of food insecurity

While we commend the department for looking to improve the EFR sector, improving it alone will not build food resilience or food security in Tasmania's communities. Neither will it achieve what we see as the aims of PESRAC Recommendation 31, to transition away from EFR dependence.

Evidence for successfully addressing community food security from the USA, Canada and Europe suggests:

while efforts at the community level, in the form of food banks and community food programmes, attempt to alleviate this problem, there is lack of evidence showing that these programmes effectively reduce food insecurity. Importantly, even if they can have positive effects, they may not reach many people who experience food insecurity. Conversely, public policy interventions have been shown to reduce food insecurity and reach large numbers in the population. *Governmental efforts to expand investment in social protection in high-income countries would likely further reduce food insecurity and may have long-term benefits for reduced spending on healthcare and other expenditures resulting from the harms of food insecurity.*²⁰

The social protections that are proven to be effective are those that relatively reduce the price of healthy food – either by increasing income or subsidising the cost of food in communities where people are food insecure. Unfortunately, community food security program success is limited because of the low number of people they reach compared with the true number of people who need support. In the move from a reliance on EFR to community food resilience, approaches that improve affordability should be a key resourcing focus.

¹⁹ <https://wacoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Food-Relief-Framework-report-sml.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/proceedings-of-the-nutrition-society/article/interventions-to-address-household-food-insecurity-in-highincome-countries/F2D7D0B429C175D9098237B8F7CDDCDF> (emphasis added)

We recommend innovations in programs that support expanding the quantity and quality of affordable healthy food in communities that achieve the scale required to reach the greatest number of Tasmanians who are food insecure. Examples include:

- Double Up Bucks: for every dollar spent on fresh produce with local partner businesses (markets and retail) a consumer can spend another dollar for free. This improves affordability and supports local businesses, including social enterprises.²¹
- Market (not community) gardens because the scale of production in communities needs to be larger to match the scale of the issue to change the food available within communities.
- Social enterprises which create local employment or training opportunities, pathways out of poverty and have a social purpose improving access to healthy food.²² Local examples include the programs delivered in Neighbourhood Houses such as Waterbridge Food Co-op (shop and meals via home delivery), Scrubby Hill Farm and Hub (market garden, pop up market and weekly veggie box), plus fresh rescued food distribution and frozen meals made by the social enterprise Loaves and Fishes.²³ From Victoria, the Community Grocer (pop up market model) a social enterprise that promotes food security in a localised area through low-cost, convenient, dignified, and nutritious offerings.²⁴ These types of enterprises are high impact, connect with the local agricultural sector and require ongoing and long term funding to allow for sustainability and planning.
- The School Lunch program piloted by the Tasmanian School Canteen Association offers an opportunity to reach into every community that has a public funded primary school across Tasmania. Their 2021 budget submission to government looks to expand this program state-wide over the next three years and importantly links with the Tasmanian agricultural sector to source fresh local food within the state to make the meals, creating a co-benefit for industry and is consistent with Recommendation 31.
- Outreach models that use a variety of community settings and deliver to reach more people and provide support in a dignified manner.
- The University of Tasmania research previously cited found that Tasmanian consumers prefer to eat Tasmanian food (particularly fruit and vegetables) and during COVID-19 turned to locally owned businesses and producers to source food from trusted places and protect our economy. The local agricultural, horticulture, processing and hospitality sector should be embedded in food security/resilience program responses. This is consistent with Recommendation 31 and the broader promotion of community-led recovery proposals in the PESRAC report.
- A whole of state model (providing support, networks, knowledge facilitation) to build a systems response, incorporating state-wide cross sectoral governance, regional coordinators and local government as food resilience facilitators with their communities.²⁵

²¹ <https://doubleupfoodbucks.org/about-us/#why-double-up>

²² Lindberg et al, 2019 'The impact of social enterprise on food insecurity – An Australian case stud,' *Health Social Care Community*. 2019;1–12. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/hsc.12737>

²³ <https://loavesandfishestasmania.org.au/who-we-help>

²⁴ <https://www.thecommunitygrocer.com.au/>

²⁵ <https://www.healthyfoodaccesstasmania.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Healthy-Tasmania-discussion-paper-1.pdf>;
<https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/programs-and-projects/food-for-all>

- Gleaning, using teams of trained people to harvest crops that have been left in the paddock by farmers, to reduce on farm losses and increase volumes of food captured for EFR (fresh or meals) should be explored.²⁶

7. Recognising the community service sector as an important partner in place-based food security

The community service system is an important partner in achieving place-based food security partly because Tasmanians experiencing mental health, domestic violence and/or homelessness are at a high risk of being food insecure. We recommend building workforce skills and approaches to support food insecure users of a range of community services (though this risks stretching an already overburdened system²⁷). For example, people who are food insecure frequently have mental health impacts such as anxiety and depression, so working with the mental health support workforce to build knowledge and practical support skills around the importance of eating well for recovery from anxiety and depression could be extremely valuable. Food insecurity has a strong association with poor mental health outcomes and a poor diet (particularly low fruit and veg and wholegrain consumption).²⁸ Improving the quality of the diet should be a key outcome through EFR and any program referral pathways connected to it.

We caution against tying EFR to participation in other services however, particularly financial counselling. As a submission from the financial counselling sector to a recent Senate inquiry into JobSeeker payments, states, the levels of Centrelink payments such as Jobseeker are inadequate as a living wage.²⁹

Every week I would talk to someone who had to choose between electricity and food, or medications and food, or rent and food. People regularly chose which days they couldn't afford to eat.³⁰

Good budgeting skills cannot compensate for an inadequate income.

8. Long term funding for an effective response to this issue

The preceding discussion illustrates the complex and interconnected nature of achieving food security in Tasmanian households and communities. It will only be achieved with a considerable investment of leadership, collaboration and resources, including financial. In September of 2020, 10 community organisations, including TasCOSS, met to develop a shared vision for a *Tasmanian Community Led Food*

²⁶ <https://vermontgleaningcollective.org/> <https://vermontgleaningcollective.org/>

²⁷ For example see *COVID-19 Impacts and Emerging Themes within the Mental Health Sector* - Monthly Report, October/November 2020, Report 6; <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/54e24285-a7cf-43b3-958b-3ede6b9faaa7/aihw-hou-322-Tas-infographic.pdf.aspx>

²⁸ <https://foodandmoodcentre.com.au/2016/07/diet-and-mental-health/>

²⁹ <https://www.financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au/docs/social-services-legislation-amendment-strengthening-income-support-bill-2021-march-2021/>

³⁰ Financial counsellor, March 2021, about the adequacy of JobSeeker.

<https://www.financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au/docs/social-services-legislation-amendment-strengthening-income-support-bill-2021-march-2021/>

Recovery in response to PESRAC's *Interim Report* Recommendation 62. Top of the list of recommendations was a need for leadership, adequate funding and a 10-year commitment to create systems responses to feeding Tasmanians.³¹ We reiterate that call in this submission.

Conclusion

Emergency food relief needs to be seen as part of the broader food system. In some ways, the need for EFR in communities is a sign of failures in that system. Transitioning away from EFR in Tasmania requires attention to and resourcing of building a food system that ensures all Tasmanians 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.

Recommendations

1. Using local evidence and experience to inform future action.
2. Effective monitoring and translation of evidence at a local level to inform place-based decisions.
3. Creating expert support at a state and regional level to support place-based adaptive local action.
4. EFR strategies and programs that take account of the lived experience and recent service innovations.
5. Aligning policy and programs with other strategic priorities across governments.
6. Improving healthy food affordability in communities at risk of food insecurity.
7. Recognising the community service sector as an important partner in place-based food security action.
8. Long term funding for an effective response to this issue.

³¹ This timeline for action is consistent with the past Food and Nutrition Strategy in Tasmania.
https://health.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/54373/TFNP_final.pdf

Appendix

TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOOD LED RECOVERY



On September 1 2020, ten community organisations came together to discuss and plan how the State Government could respond to the Premiers Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council **Recommendation 62 : The State Government should plan and transition from increased emergency food relief to provision towards community-based and school-based food security model.** Food security is defined as when all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and health life. This document summarises the discussions and a proposed way forward. Readers are encouraged to contact any of the organisations to discuss this summary.

How are we doing?

- One in four Tasmanian households is currently experiencing some aspect of food insecurity.
- Resources are very stretched, funding is adhoc and fragmented, not supported by policy and is only allocated for the short term
- Continuing to do more of the same will not be enough for future need or allow for planning for the longer term.
- On the positive, we have seen significant innovation, rapid adaption to challenges and novel collaborations
- The crisis of food insecurity has increased community connection and action
- We are building a stronger picture of the sector via mapping.
- As consumers Tasmanians prefer to eat Tasmanian food (particularly fruit and veg) and have turned to locally owned businesses and producers to source food from trusted places and protect our economy.

What is the story behind food insecurity in Tasmania?

Some households have become more food secure during COVID19 due to increases in Jobseeker and other households have become less secure, such as households relying on Jobkeeper – income is a key determinant food security, as is what food is available and its price in neighbourhoods and towns across Tasmania. Changes to these COVID19 payments will make many more households vulnerable.

The sentiment about Tasmanians on low incomes not having enough food is still 'normalised' when we know that families across all socio-economic categories have been impacted during the Pandemic.

Tasmanians have a deeper understanding of the issue and the big increases in food growing and other self-reliance strategies show we are unsure about how the security of the current food system to provide for us in the future.

Our focus on exporting what we produce needs to be coupled with a commitment to feed ourselves too.

The pandemic and climate change both lay bare the vulnerabilities of our food supply.

The good news, Tasmanians are cooking and growing more of their own food and there is a strong authorising environment for change.

Tasmanians have rallied as volunteers in communities across the state to support their fellow Tasmanians. They are committed to serving their community.

Who will be our partners so we can work together to change the curve?

- Everyday Tasmanians
- School Communities and the Department of Education
- Community Organisations, Not for Profits and Faith based organisations, Peak Bodies
- Other community settings –sports clubs, child and maternity health etc
- University of Tasmania
- Aligned sectors – employment and training
- All parts of the Tasmanian food system – from paddock to plate – growers, wholesaler, retailers, hospitality, consumers, distributors, processors
- Social and Economic Recovery committees and programs
- All levels of government, notably local government who are closest to community
- All political parties

As partners what are our shared values?

- ✓ Equity, we will focus effort where it is most needed.
- ✓ A commitment to quality, nutrient dense and locally produced seasonal food.
- ✓ We consider all the social determinants of health and how they influence what Tasmanians eat.
- ✓ We adopt the Sustainable Development Goals as a guiding framework for the community food led recovery.
- ✓ Solutions must engage at a community level so responses 'fit' the unique context in towns and neighbourhoods across Tasmania.
- ✓ We will strengthen and protect the livelihoods of people and businesses working in the Tasmanian food system.
- ✓ Our Tasmanian food culture and preference to eat locally produced food is a significant strength.

What works to change the curve?

- ✓ **Leadership and commitment** for at least 10 years. The issue is complex and requires system changes over a period of time including shifting the focus from export only to export AND feeding Tasmanians.

- ✓ **Action at all levels – Government Policy/Strategies** that deliver a whole of government response – no single department is solely responsible for the response
- ✓ **Mapping** and understanding roadblocks, opportunities and what innovations are working well. Share this with local decisions makers.
- ✓ **Food Policy Coalitions** – at state and regional levels providing cross sectoral governance, expertise and support for community action, providing information into Government and creating useful networks.
- ✓ Partnerships supported through **good governance**
- ✓ Having **measurable indicators to monitor progress** and embed in a variety of strategies so the responsibility is shared by all levels of government and a variety of organisations.
- ✓ Deliver **scaled up solutions**, such as institutional food procurement, that create increased economic activity and jobs with producers, distributors and processors.
- ✓ Invest in **securing the Emergency Relief sector and social enterprises** that provide well priced food in communities for their significant social and health value
- ✓ Funding community-based solution that **'get food to people and people to food'** addressing local barriers.
- ✓ **Workforce development and training** and using underutilised workforces such as hospitality.
- ✓ Improving **food and food system literacy for Tasmanians through schools and community settings.**
- ✓ Programs that use incentives to **encourage Tasmanians to buy more local seasonal produce and protect producers** getting a fair price.
- ✓ **Communicate clearly the challenges and solutions** for how we can have a community food led recovery.

Next steps.

Share this proposed approach with Government via submissions and briefings and discussions with potential partners. We will develop a phased budget.