



MEDIA RELEASE

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Food Security a Shared Priority for all Tasmanians — Now It's Time for Immediate Action

The Food Secure Tasmania coalition welcomes the various commitments from all political parties in the lead-up to the July 19 State Election, recognising food security as a critical issue for Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Liberal Party have committed to:

- **Release the Food Resilience Strategy** within the first 100 days of government
- Deliver a detailed **Action Plan** by the end of 2025
- Maintain **\$7+ million in funding over four years**, as outlined in the 2025–26 Budget
- Support integrated, sustainable food relief in partnership with frontline organisations
- Extension of School Food Matters' School lunch program until the end of the 2026 school year
- \$6.5m Commitment over coming years to partner with Variety Tasmania to roll out a universal School Breakfast Program across all government schools – specific details to be confirmed

The Tasmanian Labor Party have committed to:

- Release the updated Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy without further delay,
- Support it with a clear, co-designed implementation plan,
- Continue funding frontline food support agencies already providing essential services,
- And invest in strategic infrastructure and programs, including \$1 million annually to Loaves and Fishes Tasmania and \$500,000 to expand its Devonport kitchen.

The Tasmanian Greens Party have committed to:

- **immediate release of the Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy** and will work to ensure there is **ongoing funding** for organisations to continue and expand important work, including implementing actions that arise from the updated Strategy

Carl Saunder, spokesperson for Food Secure Tasmania, welcomed these commitments but acknowledged further support will be required to adopt the aspirations of a whole-of-community approach to food insecurity.

“This is an encouraging step forward from the two major parties; however these commitments don’t go far enough. We need a co-operative response; focused bringing together producers, schools, health services, food relief agencies, educators, and community groups around a shared plan.”

A Cross-Sector Call for Urgency

The Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy—developed through two years of collaboration across community, industry, and government—provides a clear, ready-to-go roadmap. With over one in four Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity, its release and implementation are now urgent.

“We need government to be a true partner in a shared system,” said Mr Saunder. “This is not just about funding—it’s about philosophy and structure. The strategy is ready. What’s needed is the political will to implement it collaboratively, without delay.”

Andrew Hillier, CEO of Loaves and Fishes Tasmania, acknowledged the commitments from the two major parties and reinforced the broader need for unified, strategic action.

“This isn’t just about one program or provider—it’s about backing a network that’s working together every day to support Tasmanians doing it tough. These commitments go partway to affirming the value of that approach and the importance of continuing the momentum already underway.”

A Challenge to All Parties

Food Secure Tasmania— a coalition including Eat Well Tasmania, School Food Matters, Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, Loaves and Fishes Tasmania, calls on whoever forms government this Saturday that a truly food-secure Tasmania will only be achieved through:

- Immediate release of the strategy, prompt implementation of the action plan and an appropriate funding model established
- Formal cross-sector governance and funding to drive implementation,
- Sustained investment in community-led and local procurement programs,
- And clear shift in policy focus from short-term relief to long-term resilience.

As Tasmanians head to the polls, the need is clear. The strategy is in place. Cross-sector partnerships are ready. The time for action is now.

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