

Building Food Resilient Communities

Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031



Accessibility

If you need this document in a format other than those provided, please contact:
communityservices@dpac.tas.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of Tasmania's land, seas, skies, and waterways.

We acknowledge the Elders – the holders of Aboriginal wisdom, valued and respected in their Community, and the knowledge holders of cultural practices.

With a deep understanding and respect for Country, together with sustainable food practices, Tasmanian Aboriginal people have been nourished by the food of Tasmania for generations.

Closing the Gap

As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Tasmanian Government is committed to achieving Closing the Gap outcomes through the four transformational priority reforms:

1. Formal partnerships and shared decision making.
2. Building the community-controlled sector.
3. Transforming government organisations.
4. Shared access to data and information at a regional level.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that improving life outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people can be achieved when Aboriginal people are genuine partners in the design and delivery of associated policy, programs, and services, which includes Aboriginal people eating well, and living healthy lives.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to work towards Closing the Gap through Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028.

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Appreciation

Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania’s Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031 (the strategy) was developed through the collective insight and experience of many individuals and organisations across Tasmania.

We thank the community members who generously shared their stories, including those with lived experience of food insecurity. Their voices grounded this strategy in the realities faced by Tasmanians every day and shaped its priorities and tone.

We are also grateful to the dedicated service providers, volunteers, community organisations, researchers and advocacy groups that participated in consultations, provided feedback and continue to work tirelessly to improve food access and resilience in their communities.

Finally, we acknowledge the contributions of Tasmanian Government agencies and cross-sector stakeholders who helped inform the strategy’s direction. Their support and collaboration will be critical as we move from strategy to action.

We welcome feedback on the strategy, please email: communityservices@dpac.tas.gov.au

Key terms

Action plan	Tasmania’s next food resilience action plan to be developed in 2026
Current action plan	Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025
National Strategy	Feeding Australia: Australia’s Food Security Strategy (under development)
Previous Food Security Strategy	Food Relief to Food Resilience: Tasmanian Food Security Strategy 2021-2024
Strategy	Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania’s Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031

Minister's foreword

The Tasmanian food sector is fundamental to our health, our wellbeing and our connection with communities. However, many Tasmanians are unable to access affordable and consistent food supply to meet their needs.



Every Tasmanian deserves ongoing equitable access to quality food that respects dignity, culture and choice.

As we focus on building food resilient communities, I am pleased to deliver the Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania's Food Security Strategy 2025-2031.

The strategy sets the course to ensure Tasmanians can access food relief when they require it, and supports community-led solutions that build local resilience. It will be underpinned by a new action plan that will be released in 2026.

This new strategy builds on the understandings from Tasmania's previous Food Security Strategy published in 2021 and continues the journey from short-term relief to long-term food resilience. It reflects the voices of the sector, agencies, organisations, and people with lived experience who have directly felt the life impacts of food insecurity.

We are providing \$8.9 million over four years to support the implementation of the strategy and continuation of community food relief services. Our investment will help us achieve our vision of a coordinated, inclusive, and sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have dignified access to nutritious food and builds community food capability.

This investment will enhance place-based solutions that build community resilience such as the wonderful work of community gardens and pantries, whilst maintaining support for our important food relief services.

I would like to thank all community members and organisations that contributed their stories and ideas to shape this strategy. Your insights have been integral in ensuring its relevance and direction.

I would also like to thank the people who work and volunteer to provide Tasmanians with food every day. Your time, dedication and passion are essential to building and maintaining stronger and more food resilient communities.

Together we can work to build a more equitable and resilient food system that meets the needs of our communities and reflects Tasmania's journey towards food resilience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'M. Ogilvie'.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Introduction: a whole-of-government approach

The strategy sets out the Tasmanian Government's roadmap to address food security through a coordinated, long-term approach. This strategy moves beyond crisis response and aims to build a more sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have access to nutritious, affordable, and appropriate food, both during periods of hardship and in everyday life.

What the strategy will do

The strategy provides a whole-of-government approach to support the vision of a coordinated, inclusive, and sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have dignified access to nutritious food and builds community food capability and resilience.

- Focusing on bringing together Tasmanian Government agencies, to address the whole food system inclusive of areas such as agriculture, biosecurity, schools, education, climate, and nutrition.
- Will build on significant work underway across government and the community sector.
- Establishes an environment where collaboration leads progress to ensure all Tasmanian's have a right to food.

How it will be delivered – the roadmap

Food security is shaped by many systems including health, housing, education, social policy, agriculture, hospitality, and local economies.

It is recognised that a long-term, sustainable food system will take time. To effectively consider this, the strategy will focus on defining and supporting collaboration, early consideration of governance and data mechanisms, and supporting locally driven innovation to deliver more resilient outcomes for Tasmanians.

A staged delivery approach, commencing with foundational governance, transitioning into capacity strengthening and integration, is underpinned by collaboration and innovation throughout the sector.

The strategy will be supported by a new action plan that will outline how the Tasmanian Government will enhance the approach to governance, regulation, partnerships with the sector, and facilitation of programs and services. Together, the strategy and action plan will provide a coordinated framework to strengthen food systems and build food resilience in Tasmania.

A photograph of a blackberry bush with vibrant red flowers and green leaves. A wooden post is positioned next to the bush, and a white sign with the word "BLACKBERRY" in bold black letters is attached to it. The background is a blurred landscape with green hills under a blue sky. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic of brown leaves and branches.

BLACKBERRY



A resilient, community-led food system

The strategy sets the groundwork to support the Tasmanian Government and sector to enable action that allows community-led solutions to thrive.

This strategy does not seek to replace or overshadow the work of community organisations. Rather, it aims to create the structures, contribute to the evidence base and support the work underway to become more sustainable, better connected and more impactful over time.

Tasmania's community sector is already central to the state's food response.

- delivering relief
- growing food
- sharing meals and
- designing place-based solutions driven by lived experience.

The sector's diversity is its strength, spanning community organisations, large scale statewide initiatives, schools and service providers, food procurement, distribution, mobile food vans, advocacy groups, school garden and kitchen programs, food rescue initiatives and many other programs and services. The knowledge, relationships and trust held by these organisations are irreplaceable.

While this strategy outlines the Tasmanian Government's strategic priorities, its success will depend on deep and sustained collaboration with the community sector.

The strategy lays the groundwork:

- investing in shared data systems
- establishing regional coordination networks
- supporting flexible grant programs, and embedding community voices
- evidence and best practice in planning and decision making.

At its heart, this strategy aims to ensure that every person, in every region, can access nutritious food in a way that respects their dignity, culture and choice. Achieving this will require ongoing partnership, shared learning and a clear commitment for the Tasmanian Government to walk alongside the community and community sector.

The work ahead is not just about food. It's about strengthening the social fabric of Tasmania. We must continue to build connected communities that can be resilient in times of social, economic or environmental hardship, and that support each other through change. That is only possible when government and community work side by side.

Why this strategy matters

Community impact



More than one in five households (20 per cent) were regularly skipping meals or going hungryⁱ.



Over one in eight (13.2 per cent or 1.3 million) Australian households experienced food insecurity in 2023ⁱⁱ.



Growing strain on families and communities, and reliance on food relief and community organisations.

Access to food



Barriers for Tasmanian's to seek food relief support options include location, stigma, and limited availability.



Gaps in food access need to be identified and addressed through a more resilient food system that can adapt and evolve to the changing need.

Opportunities for growth



The 2021-2024 Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy helped strengthen the food relief sector and sparked community innovations.



Key challenges and opportunities for improvement include governance, resourcing, workforce, integration and community education about food resilience, nutrition and health.

Laying the foundations



Strong appetite across the sector to collaboratively improve Tasmania's approach to food security, through improved governance and coordination, to deliver a more resilient food system.



This strategy responds to a changing food security landscape, recognising the need to continue to provide food relief, while providing a framework towards achieving long-term sustainable goals. Building community capacity supports dignity, choice and equity.

How this strategy was developed

The Tasmanian Government committed to a new food resilience strategy that takes a stronger whole-of-government approach to food security.

The development of the new strategy was informed by a phased process, ensuring that policy shifts are grounded in lived experience, sector expertise and available research.



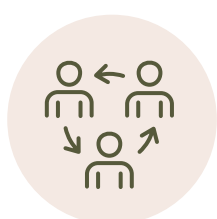
Phase 1: Strategic review and literature scan

A review was undertaken of:

- the 2021-2024 Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy
- the 2023-2025 Food Relief Action Plan
- food security research and approaches in Tasmania
- best practice policy, programs and frameworks

The environmental scan and stakeholder consultation highlighted key opportunities for Tasmania to strengthen its approach, including the need to:

- strengthen governance, long-term investment and multi-sector collaboration
- move beyond food availability to address affordability, agency, and sustainability
- embed nutrition, dignity and culturally appropriate responses into food relief
- shift towards place-based, community-led models of food resilience



Phase 2: Cross-government and sector consultation

Stakeholders were invited to contribute to the development of the new strategy including:

- emergency relief and food relief providers
- community based and social enterprise food providers
- peak bodies and advocacy groups
- Tasmanian Government agencies

A coordinated consultation process ensured that diverse voices and on-the-ground expertise informed strategic priorities.

“A multi-sectoral governance model is needed to improve coordination. Many agencies influence food security, but structured cross-sector collaboration is lacking.” Government roundtable participant



Phase 3: Lived experience – survey and storytelling

Central to the strategy’s development was the inclusion of Tasmanians with lived experience of food insecurity. A series of in-depth interviews, short surveys and story-sharing opportunities were conducted across the state.

This process gathered powerful and often confronting insights from individuals and families navigating food hardship including:

- people experiencing homelessness, single parents, older Tasmanians, students, people with disability, and regional and remote community members.

These stories also revealed the resilience and resourcefulness within affected communities. Many participants shared their views on what respectful, effective support looks like:

- calling for solutions that preserve dignity, foster independence, and build longer-term opportunity, not just short-term relief.

The lived experience engagement has been central to shaping both the tone and substance of this strategy. It has grounded the policy in real-world experience and challenged assumptions about how food support is delivered and by whom.

“We can’t just keep handing out food boxes and hope things get better. We need to shift the system—relief is essential, but it’s not enough.”

Community member with lived experience



Phase 4: National strategy development

In August 2025, the Australian Government released a discussion paper for the development of the National Food Security Strategy. While not yet developed, the Australian Government strategy aims to enhance the security and resilience of Australia’s agriculture and food production systems, addressing global supply and demand pressures, climate change, and other risks.

Tasmanian Government agencies that intersect with Tasmania’s food system responded with a joint submission and will continue to provide feedback into the strategy in the continued consultation in 2026. This work highlighted the need to consider a whole-of-system approach, identifying potential synergies across government agencies that will underpin in the development of the next Food Resilience Action Plan.

Where possible, Tasmania will work with state and federal agencies to align with the national strategy and champion local opportunities that stem from the national strategy, ensuring they are relevant to Tasmanians and supports our island’s food systems.



What is the Tasmanian Government's role?

The Tasmanian Government engages with the food sector in multiple roles – as a regulator, facilitator, partner and funder.

The role of the Tasmanian Government is to establish the enabling conditions that allow community-led solutions to thrive, including through governance, investment, data infrastructure, whole-of-government responses and regional coordination.

As a **regulator**, the Tasmanian Government oversees a variety of systems and regulations that support and interact with the food system. This includes legislation such as the *Biosecurity Act 2019*, through to licensing of marine farming, land use, and food safety.

As a **facilitator**, the Tasmanian Government provides opportunities for the sector to collaborate and support food-based initiatives, programs and services that work towards building community resilience, whilst supporting research, development and education across all aspects of the food system. This includes through Tasmanian Government acts such as the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.

As a **partner**, the Tasmanian Government works alongside community organisations, and broader sector partners, to represent the interests of all Tasmanians involved in improving food relief support options and life outcomes for Tasmanians.

As a **funder**, the Tasmanian Government funds organisations that provide food relief and resilience to deliver essential services to our communities. This includes direct investment in service delivery, as well as education, training and development opportunities, and infrastructure and equipment, including facility upgrades and capital works.

This strategy outlines how the Tasmanian Government will create a more connected, sustainable and impactful approach to food relief and resilience across the state considering the entire food system from agriculture and the supply chain, through to education and service delivery.



The Tasmanian food resilience action plan

The strategy will be underpinned by an action plan that describes the programs, projects and initiatives that the Tasmanian Government will deliver to achieve the vision.

Together, the strategy and action plan provide a coordinated and responsive framework to strengthen food resilience in Tasmania's food system.

Strategy overview

Our focus areas, principles and strategic objectives have been informed by what we heard from Tasmanians and key stakeholders, outlining the need to recognise Tasmania’s food insecurity is influenced by a complex interplay of social, economic and environmental factors.

Our vision

A coordinated, inclusive and sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have dignified access to nutritious food and builds community food capability and resilience.

Our focus areas

Collaboration	A right to food	Locally informed and community-driven solutions	Planning for long-term resilience
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Our outcomes

Strengthen partnerships and governance to support a more connected food system	Improve access to, and coordination of, food relief in Tasmania, while working towards building resilience	Enable communities to lead local responses that work in their context, strengthening sustainable community food security	Track what matters, share insights, and use data to drive continuous improvement in food system resilience
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Our strategic objectives

Strengthen relationships, governance and shared understanding	Access to food is safe, appropriate and supports wellbeing	Enable flexible community responsiveness to food security challenges	Strategic alignment with policy and planning priorities
Improve food security through coordination and shared responsibility	Support is respectful and delivered without stigma	Community-led solutions that reflect local strengths and adapt to future challenges	Increase focus on data, evidence and system-user insights to measure and evaluate impact
Build structures and relationships to support shared governance	Responsive to the needs of all Tasmanians	Empowerment of local organisations and leaders	Facilitate opportunities for data infrastructure development and creating shared measurement tools



Enablers: to help us achieve our vision

There are enablers that will help us deliver our actions and achieve outcomes across all focus areas.

These enablers form the foundations for creating an inclusive and sustainable food system supporting a staged delivery underpinned by evidence-based research, collaboration, and innovation throughout the sector.

Enabler	What this means in practice
Governance, partnerships and collaboration	Establishing governance mechanisms supported by government and community involvement to monitor the implementation of the strategy whilst working to increase collaboration and partnerships, maximising the value of investments.
Effective food relief and resilience approaches	Embedding opportunities to build capacity and capability of community organisations and volunteers through the sharing of resources and knowledge. Building trusted partnerships, centering community needs, and strengthening local food systems to encourage timely access to nutritious food while fostering long-term resilience.
Sustainable, community-led solutions	Enabling sustainable, community-led solutions by fostering inclusive partnerships and empowering local voices, knowledge and capacity. This may include through initiatives such as education programs, local growing or community garden programs, shared meals, or circular economy initiatives.
Data and measurement	Creating shared definitions and indicators of food security, enabling a consistent measurement and reporting framework, whilst expanding data capabilities to support planning and resource allocation.

“Food relief should transition from a charity model to a community-driven approach. Empowering individuals through initiatives like community gardens and cooperative food programs promotes long-term resilience.” Government roundtable



Governance, partnerships and collaboration

Why is this important?

To make meaningful and lasting progress, greater coordination between all levels of government, community and industry is essential. A whole-of-system approach to food will require greater governance and collaboration across state government agencies helping to lay the building blocks required to begin transition to food resilience.

Previous work in Tasmania and nationally shows that strong partnerships, when supported by clear roles and sustained effort, can significantly improve food system outcomes. While there are examples of effective collaboration already underway, these are often reliant on goodwill, short-term funding or informal relationships.

Strengthening governance arrangements over time will help reduce duplication, improve planning and enable more consistent and connected responses across the state.

This strategy recognises the need to lay solid foundations. By defining roles, improving communication, and fostering local and regional partnerships, Tasmania can build toward more formalised and shared governance models in the future.

What did we hear?

Stakeholders consistently emphasised the importance of stronger, more structured governance. Many people involved in the consultations highlighted the need for more visible leadership from government and clearer expectations across partners to ensure collective effort.

There was clear support for an advisory body such as a 'Tasmanian Food Security Advisory Council' to guide implementation and foster collaboration across sectors.

Local government was seen as a key partner in place-based food planning, while food retailers, producers and businesses were identified as underutilised allies.

Concerns were also raised about the limitations of short-term, competitive funding which can inhibit trust and long-term planning.

"Housing. Housing. Housing. Food insecurity is the symptom of the housing crisis." Tasmanian with lived experience of food insecurity





“We acknowledge the importance of maintaining and enhancing the social licence around our whole food system. Social licence underpins the Tasmanian Brand and is critical for the sustainability of our food production.” Regional development organisation

Where we want to be by 2031

By 2031, Tasmania will have stronger governance mechanisms in place to guide food security planning and implementation. This includes:

- embedded structures and relationships that support shared governance.
- a cross-sector governance group providing ongoing strategic input and improved coordination across sectors.
- clearer roles and responsibilities across all levels of government, sector organisations, community groups, key stakeholders, and other non-government partners.
- improved collaboration between state and local government.
- formalised partnerships that support place-based planning and delivery.

Progress will be gradual and foundational, focused on building trust, demonstrating value and enabling future investment in more integrated and resilient food systems.

Effective food relief and resilience approaches

Why is this important?

Tasmania's food relief system provides a vital safety net during times of crisis. However, growing demand and reliance on short-term, charity-based responses is placing increasing pressure on services and volunteers. Over time, this model alone cannot address the complex and persistent nature of food insecurity.

Food insecurity disproportionately affects people in at-risk cohorts; however, it is increasingly impacting working households, older Tasmanians, and those in rural and remote areas.

There is strong evidence that food access improves when support is integrated with other services such as housing, health and education, and further improves when people have access to food that is nutritious, culturally relevant and offered with dignity and choice.

To embed sustained change, this should be further supported by innovative models such as social enterprises offering an alternative way for people to access affordable food, bridging the gap between emergency food relief and general food retailers, as well as supply-side solutions designed to offer reliable access to fresh, low-cost food.

“People think food relief is just for the homeless or unemployed, but now we’re seeing double-income families needing help.” Food relief provider

What did we hear?

Stakeholders supported a shift away from ad hoc food relief to a more coordinated and rights-informed approach. There was widespread agreement that food programs should embed dignity, empowerment and nutritional quality. Stakeholders endorsed models such as food tokens, co-payment schemes and social enterprises that offer choice and reduce stigma.

Concerns were also raised about resourcing constraints, inconsistent food quality and the capacity of community organisations to deliver services without further support. Many emphasised the need to maintain a safety net while building systems that also reduce



demand over time.

Food insecurity is no longer limited to traditional at-risk groups. Working families, older people, students and renters were frequently cited as increasingly at risk. Stigma was a consistent barrier, especially in smaller communities, alongside limited culturally appropriate options and limited access in rural and remote areas.

Stakeholders called for flexible and culturally responsive programs, integration with health and housing services, and better outreach to people not connected to formal services. Existing services and programs are highly valued by Tasmanians, as are efforts to link food access to broader wellbeing and education goals.

“Some people are too ashamed to ask for help—offering choice and dignity, like tokens or vouchers, makes a huge difference.”

Community volunteer

Where we want to be by 2031

The Tasmanian Government will focus on strengthening the coordination, quality and dignity of food relief, while laying the groundwork for longer-term food resilience.

Mapping food systems and having a holistic view of the food resilience environment will allow a better understanding of community needs, and for resources to be directed where most appropriately to address this need.

By 2031, Tasmania aims to have a more connected food relief system that introduces people to longer-term, resilient system solutions. This includes:

- minimum food quality standards in government-supported programs.
- expanded use of dignity-based food access models that provide food relief respectfully and without stigma.
- integrated food literacy within government-supported programs.
- strengthened cultural relevance and wraparound support for at-risk groups especially in rural and remote areas.

Efforts will focus on reducing access inequities and building local food capacity through initiatives in communities with multiple disadvantageous factors, while maintaining a safety net for those in immediate need.



Sustainable community-led solutions

Why is this important?

Place-based, community-driven models are often the most responsive, trusted and effective in addressing food insecurity. They allow people closest to the challenge to shape and lead the solutions, whether through food relief, local growing, shared meals or circular economy initiatives.

Tasmania's food system must also be prepared for cost-of-living pressures, the ongoing and increasing effects of climate change and supply disruptions outlined in Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024. While the state has strong food production capacity, many communities, particularly in regional and remote areas, face challenges accessing nutritious, affordable food.

Tasmania's climate differs from many growing areas across mainland Australia, bringing unique challenges while highlighting the state's ability to produce high quality, nutritious food. Recognising the importance of regional growing areas and the continued need for accessible and affordable logistics services and infrastructure will play an important role in addressing Tasmania's food security.

This can be further supported by ensuring focus on community education programs addressing agriculture, cookery, gardening, nutrition, and sustainable practices. This builds future capacity for students and the wider community within the food system, linking to sustainable production, healthy food choices, and the principle of growing what we eat.

Supporting local organisations to adapt and innovate is essential to long-term resilience. When backed by concepts that embrace practical infrastructure and planning support, community-led models can scale their impact and build stronger, more sustainable food systems across the state.

“Community Gardens and Education: These initiatives provide valuable education about food systems, food waste reduction, and self-sufficiency.” Food relief provider

What did we hear?

Community organisations are already running a wide range of grassroots food initiatives, often with limited resources. These include social supermarkets, cooking programs, garden projects, mobile food markets and food rescue efforts. They are valued, agile, and deeply connected to responding to local needs.

However, stakeholders noted that many of these initiatives are held back by short-term funding, volunteer fatigue and fragmented coordination. There were strong calls for more core funding, local infrastructure, and leadership development.

Flexibility was a recurring theme; programs must be community-designed, not one-size-fits-all. Stakeholders also saw value in local procurement policies, climate-aware planning and embedding food literacy into education and wellbeing initiatives.

“Food brings people together. Cooking, growing, sharing—it’s not just about eating, it’s about connecting.”

Tasmanian community member with lived experience

“Community-led programs offer more than just food. They offer connection, dignity, and a sense of control over your life.”

Tasmanian community member with lived experience



Where we want to be by 2031

By 2031, Tasmania will aim to scale a more sustainable and diverse range of community-led food resilience models across the state. Local leaders will be recognised, trusted and resourced to guide local food responses.

This includes:

- place-based organisations supported as key food support option connectors.
- local infrastructure (such as storage, transport, gardens) in place to enable growing, sharing and redistribution.
- development of an approach to support community-designed solutions.
- public institutions advocating local procurement and food waste reduction.
- regional planning efforts linked to community intelligence and leadership that is adaptive to current and future challenges including increasing effects of climate change, cost-of-living, and supply pressures.

The Tasmanian Government's role will be to enable these efforts by providing tools, relationships, and platforms that amplify the local and place-based support option within communities.

Data and measurement

Why is this important?

Reliable data and evidence are essential to understanding food insecurity across Tasmania and responding effectively. Consistent, outcomes-based measurement helps identify gaps, target funding, and evaluate what is working, especially as the food security landscape continues to evolve.

While Tasmania has benefited from research partnerships and mapping projects in recent years, data collection and reporting remain varied. Most reporting focuses on outputs, including the number of meals or hampers rather than outcomes, such as improved nutrition, choice or resilience. There is now a clear opportunity to strengthen the measurement systems and create a collective understanding of success.

What did we hear?

Stakeholders want to move beyond measuring inputs to tracking meaningful outcomes. Feedback included the foreseeable benefits of a statewide data framework that could be used across programs, organisations and regions, supported by shared definitions, lived experience insights and ethical data governance.

Organisations highlighted the need for tools and guidance to support data collection, and expressed interest in partnering with government and research bodies to build capability and ensure data reflects the realities of Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity.

“We don’t just need to count meals—we need to understand if people are healthier, more secure, more empowered.” Government stakeholder

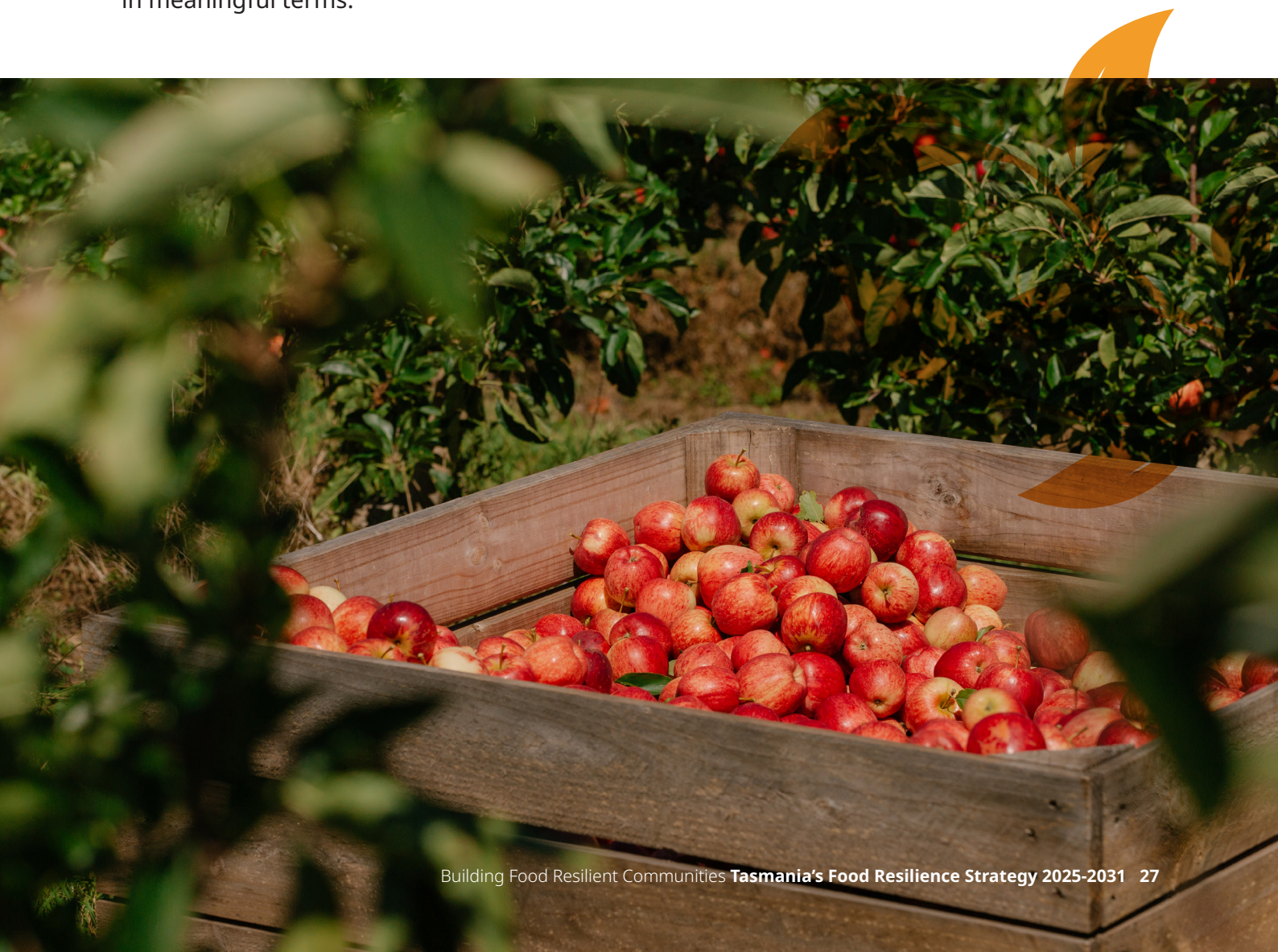
Where we want to be by 2031

By 2031, Tasmania will have a shared outcomes-focused data framework to inform food security planning, investment and evaluation at both state and regional levels.

This will include:

- shared definitions and indicators of food security that reflect lived experience and sector knowledge.
- alignment of Tasmania's food security challenges with other priority areas including climate, housing, health, income and transport systems.
- a consistent measurement and reporting framework for funded programs.
- regional and statewide data infrastructure to support planning and resource allocation.
- stronger partnerships with research institutions to support continuous improvement.
- ethical data sharing practices that safeguard privacy and community trust.

These improvements will support a more responsive and evidence-based food system, ensuring resources are directed where they are needed most, and that success is measured in meaningful terms.



Strategic alignment



Globally

The strategy aligns with international frameworks that recognise food as a basic human right and a foundational determinant of health, equity and wellbeing. Key global instruments and goals include:

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right to adequate food and the obligation of governments to respect, protect, and fulfil this right ⁱⁱⁱ.
- the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ^{iv}, particularly:
 - o SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
 - o SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing
 - o SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
 - o SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
- the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Right to Food Voluntary Guidelines call for transparent governance, inclusive policymaking, and system-wide coordination to address hunger and promote food justice. ^v

Nationally and in Tasmania

The strategy supports and complements a range of Australian and Tasmanian frameworks that target the structural drivers of food insecurity, including cost-of-living, health inequities, access to nutritious food and climate change impacts. Alignment includes:

- Food Relief to Food Resilience: Tasmanian Food Security Strategy 2021-2024
- Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025
- Feeding Australia: A National Food Security Strategy (under development).



Intersectional alignment

Food insecurity intersects with other forms of disadvantage, such as housing stress, disability, age, gender inequality, and experiences of trauma. This strategy aligns with the Tasmanian Government's broader planning and policy priorities by addressing the interconnected drivers of food insecurity across health, housing, education, climate resilience, and community wellbeing. It complements other statewide strategies that recognise access to nutritious, affordable food as essential to health and social outcomes:

- **Aboriginal people:** National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.
- **Community:** Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031, Equal means Equal: Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027, A Respectful, Age-Friendly Island: Older Tasmanians Action Plan 2025-2029, Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-2029, Valuing Our Volunteers Tasmania's Volunteering Strategy 2025-2030, National Strategy for Volunteering 2023-2033, Tasmania's Disability Strategy 2025-2027, and Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.
- **Health and wellbeing:** 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy | Tasmanian Department of Health (under development), 2022 Tasmanian Population Health Survey, National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030, Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan 2022-2026, Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and beyond, National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032, and Eat for Health, Australian Dietary Guidelines 2013.
- **Children and youth:** Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: It Takes a Tasmanian Village, Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework, and Tasmanian Agricultural Education Framework.
- **Housing and cost of living:** Tasmanian Housing Strategy 2023-2043.
- **Agriculture:** AgriVision 2050, Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2023-2027, Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB), Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2026, Agriculture and Waste Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans and National Food Waste Strategy, Tasmanian Red Meat Industry Strategic Plan 2025-2030.
- **Climate:** Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008, Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025, Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024, and National Climate Risk Assessment.
- **Trade:** Tasmanian Trade Strategy 2019-2025.

Glossary

This strategy uses shared language to ensure clarity and a common understanding across sectors and communities when describing Tasmania's food security:

Term	Meaning
Affordable food	Affordable food is not the same as being 'low-cost' or 'cost-effective'. It includes both the ability to pay without suffering hardship and being able to purchase an adequate level to meet individual or household needs on a sustainable basis. An item is affordable if, once bought, people can afford to meet all their other basic living costs.
Appropriate food	Appropriate food refers to food that is safe, reliable, culturally acceptable, and that it is acquired through socially acceptable means.
Climate change	Climate change means a change of climate over a period of time which: • is attributable directly or indirectly to human activity; and • alters the composition of the global atmosphere; and • is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable periods of time.
Collaboration	Collaboration is the act of working with another or other organisations on a joint project, with varying degrees of involvement in decision making and activity.
Community sector	Community-based organisations, programs or initiatives that intersect with providing food relief for Tasmanians.
Cultural safety	The term cultural safety originated to protect Indigenous people from experiences of structural racism. Cultural safety includes the delivery of culturally appropriate and safe services. What cultural safety looks like in a particular setting should be defined by those impacted.

Disability	People with disability include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, neurological or sensory impairments, which, in interacting with various barriers created by society, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Food access	Access refers to the resources and ability that communities, households and individuals have (or do not have) in order to acquire and consume a healthy diet within proximity.
Food insecurity	Food insecurity occurs when one or more dimensions of food security break down. This may be: • chronic – where people consistently lack enough nutritious food. • transitory – caused by short-term disruptions like rising prices or lost income. • hidden – where people eat but lack sufficient nutrition, variety or cultural suitability.
Food loss and waste	Food loss and waste includes any food removed from the supply chain, whether edible or inedible. It can occur during growing, processing, transport, retail or at the consumer level.
Food relief	Food relief refers to the direct provision of food to people in need. It may be delivered through things like hampers, community meals, food vans, low-cost food outlets or pantries or vouchers. Food relief in Tasmania is provided by: • food relief providers – charitable community organisations that deliver food directly to people. Food relief may be their primary service, or part of broader services. • food relief distributors – larger organisations that collect, sort, and distribute donated or surplus food to providers across the state.
Food rescue	Food rescue involves collecting edible surplus food that would otherwise go to waste. This food is sourced from producers, wholesalers, supermarkets and other businesses, then redistributed through the food relief system.
Food resilience	Food resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities and systems to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions to food access. A resilient food system ensures that everyone can continue to access safe and adequate food, even during times of stress – whether caused by climate events, economic hardship or logistical disruptions.

Food security	Food security 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.
Modern definitions of food security now include six key dimensions	1. availability – there is enough food supplied through production, distribution, and exchange. 2. access – people can afford and physically reach the food they want and need. 3. utilisation – people can safely use food to meet their nutritional needs, considering health, food safety and cultural practices. 4. stability – people have reliable access to food over time, including during difficult times such as natural disasters, income changes or supply disruptions. 5. agency – people have the power and freedom to make decisions about what food they eat, grow, or share, respecting culture, dignity and individual or collective choice. 6. sustainability – food systems support present and future food security, without compromising environmental, social or economic viability.
Inclusion	This refers to policies, practices and systems that diverse people, including those in minority populations, are included on an equal basis within society, and its institutions and cultures.
Lived experience	The unique knowledge, skills and perspectives gained through personal experiences, especially those involving challenges or adversity, that shape an individual's understanding. In this strategy, lived experience includes the experiences of any person who is experiencing, or has experienced, food insecurity in Tasmania.
Nutritious foods	Nutritious foods refer to foods that make a substantial contribution towards providing a range of nutrients and have an appropriate nutrient density.
Older Tasmanians	Older Tasmanians include people living in Tasmania aged 65 years and over. In recognition of historical factors and social determinants of health, Aboriginal Tasmanians 50 years and over are considered older.
Place-based	Place-based refers to a collaborative way of working that focuses on local needs, local solutions, and the unique attributes of a place.

Quality	A local food supply needs to meet acceptable standards of quality and freshness. The quality of food will often determine its nutritional value, as well as its flavour and acceptability.
Regional and remote	Regional and remote refer to areas outside of city centres, with classifications based on the distance of a location from a major population centre and the availability of services.
Right to food	The right to food refers to access to adequate food being a human right. Under international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, governments are obligated to: • respect: not interfere with people's access to food. • protect: prevent third parties from limiting or denying access to food. • fulfil: actively ensure food is available when self-provision is not possible and create conditions where people can access food sustainably with dignity.
Stigma	Viewing or treating people who access food support or relief with a mark or sign of shame, disgrace, disrepute or dishonour.
Strategy	When referring to the strategy, this means the Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031.
Volunteers	People who give their time willingly for the common good and without financial gain.

Endnotes

- i Kent, Katherine; Murray, Sandra; Kocar, Sebastian; Seivwright, Ami; Visentin, Denis (2022). "Quality food is too expensive to afford": 1 in 2 Tasmanians are food insecure in 2022 due to the rising cost of living. University of Tasmania – <https://doi.org/10.25959/2WD6-EJ72>
- ii Australian Bureau of Statistics – Food insecurity, 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics
- iii United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights – <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- iv United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Sustainable Development – <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- v Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Right to food – <https://www.fao.org/right-to-food/en/>
- vi Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, National Health and Medical Research Council, Eat for Health, Australian Dietary Guidelines 2013 – <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australian-dietary-guidelines-2013.pdf>.



