

Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design project:

Towards improving the food sensitivity of urban design in the
Outer East

An audit of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges using the
food-sensitive planning and urban design (FSPUD)



Organisation: Outer East
Primary Care Partnership

Affiliation: Monash
University, Department of
Nutrition & Dietetics

Authors:
Fiona Jansen
Sonia Navidi
Aimee Werner
Kelsey Wood

Program Coordinator:
Deborah Cocks

Email:
FSPUDaudit@gmail.com or
Deborah.cocks@oepcp.org.au

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to all the people who provided comments, information and insights into the development of this report. In particular we would like to thank the following people for their contributions and their critical feedback:

Deborah Cocks	Nourish Network
Claire Palermo	Monash University
Lisa Cain	Heart Foundation
Beth Scholes	Heart Foundation
Liz Johnston	Planning Institute of Australia - Victoria Division
Nigel Flannigan	Melbourne University
Lukar Thornton	Deakin University
Rachel Murphy	Yarra Ranges Council
Noelene Greene	Maroondah Council



Executive Summary

The purpose of this report was to conduct an audit of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges using the Heart Foundation's 'Food-sensitive planning and urban design' framework to inform recommendations to improve the food system in the Outer East. The findings from the audit will be used to inform the direction of council and health networks.

This report has considered the strengths of the current food system in the two council areas, including council policies and plans, and current initiatives that support a healthy and sustainable food system. Gaps and barriers to the integration of healthy and sustainable practices have been identified and discussed within the body of this work, using literature to highlight strategies that have worked in other parts of the world.

The report includes 'visions for the future', which are based on findings from stakeholder consultations and policies and plans analysis, and include:

- Support for agricultural business and food tourism
- Support for urban agriculture
- Research and incorporation of edible streetscapes
- Networking local producers with local businesses, including the establishment of markets
- Developing innovative business models such as a local food cluster and a local food hub
- Greater education on growing and cooking fresh fruit and vegetables
- Alternative ways of transporting produce to people experiencing food insecurity
- Greater means of recycling organic waste

After reviewing all the findings from stakeholder engagement, literature review, and analysis of current policies and plans, recommendations are formed. All recommendations are written with suggested strategies for their implementation.

Recommendations for the Outer Eastern region are:

- Strengthen partnerships
- Strengthen integration of the food system in council policies and plans
- Support local food businesses
- Support for current food-related initiatives
- Strengthen sustainable options for waste and re-use of food
- Advocate for planning strategies which support food-sensitive activities

Recommendations specific to Maroondah are:

- Greater promotion of urban agriculture
- Incorporation of food into the Community Wellbeing Plan
- Support local business opportunities to promote local produce
- Include food in council department policies and plans
- Strengthen council approach to nutrition promotion

Recommendations specific for the Yarra Ranges:

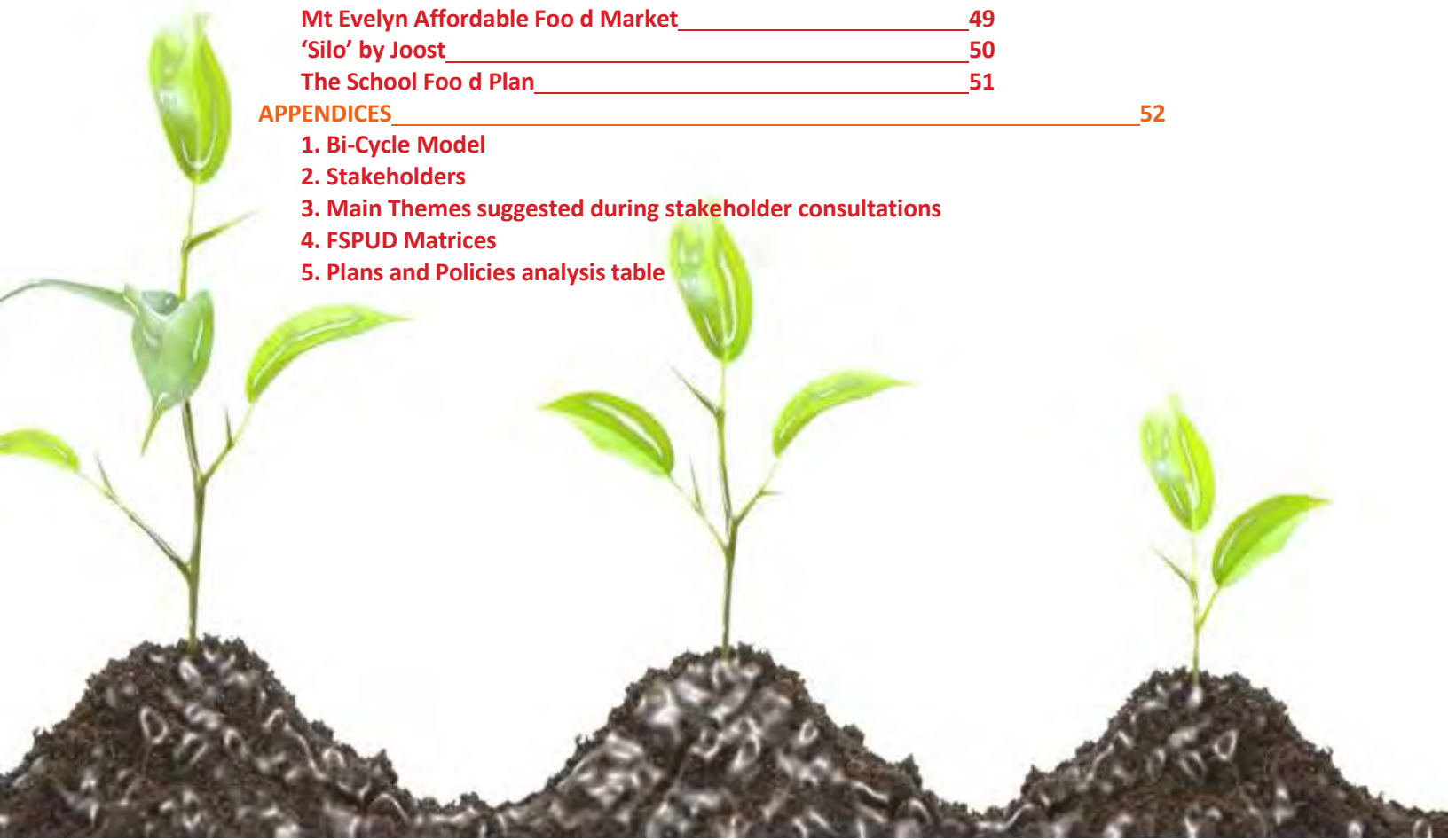
- Greater promotion of urban agriculture
- Implement and integrate more innovative business models
- Strengthen incorporation of food in the action plan for the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Support local business opportunities to promote fresh produce
- Strengthen council approach to nutrition promotion

Further research:

- Edible streetscapes
- Evaluation of interventions

Table of Contents

SECTION	Page Number
PURPOSE	1
BACKGROUND	2
METHODOLOGY	5
RESULTS	7
Literature Review	7
Food Production	7
Food Processing and Transport	11
Consumer Access and Utilisation	13
Waste and Re-use	20
DISCUSSION	22
RECOMMENDATIONS	26
Regional	26
Maroondah	29
Yarra Ranges	31
Research	33
CONCLUSION	34
CASE STUDIES	40
Edible Warburton	41
YV Fresh	42
Yarra Valley ECOSS	43
Groovy Fruit Shop	44
Todmorden	45
South East (Casey) Food Hub	46
Ainslie Park Primary School	47
Maroondah City Council Early Years Plan 2010-2014	48
Mt Evelyn Affordable Food Market	49
'Silo' by Joost	50
The School Food Plan	51
APPENDICES	52
1. Bi-Cycle Model	
2. Stakeholders	
3. Main Themes suggested during stakeholder consultations	
4. FSPUD Matrices	
5. Plans and Policies analysis table	



1. Project Vision, Goals, Objectives and Purpose

An audit of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges using the Heart Foundation's 'Food-sensitive planning and urban design' framework [1] was requested by the Nourish Network in the Outer East to inform recommendations to improve the food system. This report will endeavour to serve as a useful tool for the Network, as well as the two Councils.

NOURISH vision statement:

A healthy community where everyone has access to nutritious food.

Goal:

To increase the food-sensitivity of planning and urban design of Maroondah City and Yarra Ranges areas as part of a systems approach to promote healthy eating.

Objective 1:

To increase capacity of Maroondah City and Yarra Ranges Councils, regional health networks and community members to support a healthy and sustainable local food system.

Objective 2

To increase knowledge of existing gaps in the Maroondah and Yarra Ranges local food system guided by the FSPUD framework, by the end of October 2013.

Goal:

To reduce barriers to implementing initiatives and policies, which support the food system in Maroondah City and Yarra Ranges, by the end of October 2013.

Strategies:

This project will identify:

- Strengths in council policies & plans and current initiatives in Maroondah and Yarra Ranges that support a healthy and sustainable food system.
- Gaps in the local food system, focussing on Maroondah and Yarra Ranges, using the FSPUD framework.
- Barriers to implementing initiatives and policies, which support the food system in the outer east, with a focus on Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

These will collectively identify vision for the future, and recommendations will be developed to achieve those.

2. Background

Issues with Food Consumption in Australia

Food consumption is contributing to high levels of chronic disease in Australia.¹ Risk factors for chronic disease, such as obesity, hypertension and high cholesterol levels, are related to high intakes of energy, saturated fat and sodium, as well as low intakes of fruit and vegetables.² Obesity (BMI \diamond 30kg/m2)* is a growing public health concern in Australia.⁴ 63.5% of men, and 36.7% of women in Maroondah, and 57.5% of males, and 44% of females in Yarra Ranges are overweight or obese.^{5,6} Obesity increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers, adversely affects musculoskeletal health and is associated with poor psychological wellbeing.² At the same time, many Australians have difficulty accessing affordable nutritious food, with food insecurity being a concern across Victorian local councils.⁷ Food insecurity is a concern across Victorian local councils.⁷ In 2011 in Maroondah City, 3.3% of people ran out of food in the previous 12 months and could not afford to buy more. In the Yarra Ranges, this figure was even higher, being the case for 6.3% of people.⁶

Systems Approach to Health Promotion

While decisions at an individual level do impact food choices, the current population-wide increase in BMI indicates that 'mass influences'⁹ are likely largely responsible for affecting an entire population, rather than individual food choices.¹⁰ Correspondingly, a multifaceted, systems approach to health promotion is being increasingly adopted. The World Health Organisation describes systems thinking as 'an approach to problem solving that views "problems" as part of a wider, more complex dynamic system.'¹ They go on to say that it involves 'more than a reaction to present outcomes or events. It demands a deeper understanding of the linkages, relationships, interactions and behaviours among the elements that characterize the entire system.' Such an

* BMI: Body Mass Index: weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m)²³

† Food insecurity: the lack of 'physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences'⁸

approach to health promotion expands on the Ottawa Charter's – the blueprint for health promotion professionals-- emphasis on creating supportive environments to facilitate individual behavioural change.¹² Moreover, successful injury and infectious disease prevention and tobacco interventions have demonstrated the potential of environment-level interventions to stimulate change.¹⁰ While obesity prevention to date has largely focused on behavioural and genetic interventions,¹⁰ in Australia in the last decade, increasing attention has been given to environmental-level interventions informed by a systems approach to prevention. This shift towards an integrated systems approach in preventive health is on the background of increasing awareness that so-called 'vertical' interventions which address single health risks or problems, such as obesity are likely to have only limited long-term effects.¹³ Accordingly, one of the action areas of the 2011-2015 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is to strengthen the prevention system.¹³ At the federal level, the Federal Government's National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, which provides \$932.7 million over nine years from 2009-10 to various preventive initiatives, is one key example of the shift to a systems approach to prevention in Australia.¹⁴ The Victorian State Government has used part of that funding, along with a co-contribution, to implement the Healthy Together Victoria program, a \$100 million community-level preventive health program in 12 areas across the state.^{15,16} Locally, Knox has been designated as a Healthy Together site.¹⁶



Planning and Food

Planners play a central role in environmental-level interventions to promote access to affordable, nutritious food. An integral aim of the State Planning Policy Framework is to ensure 'net community benefit and sustainable development',¹⁷ for which food provision is vital part. In modifying the built environment, planners have the ability to either facilitate or hinder the provision of nutritious food at each stage of the food system: production, processing and transport, consumer access and waste management. This is being increasingly recognised in the planning sector. Globally, the American Planning Association has appointed a Food System Planning Working Group,¹⁸ and major cities such as London, Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago and Adelaide, around the world have incorporated food into their strategic planning frameworks.¹⁹ While Maroondah City and Yarra Ranges Councils both include promoting healthy eating in their draft 2013-17 Municipal Public Health Plans, only Yarra Ranges Council specifically mentions urban planning in this context.^{20,21}



The FSPUD Framework

The Heart Foundation publication Food-sensitive planning and urban design: A conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system (FSPUD) provides a means of systematically assessing the food-sensitivity of the urban environment according to the four main stages of the food system – food production, food transport and processing, consumer access and utilisation, and waste management and re-use. It also considers meeting other needs classified as: health and fairness, sustainability and resilience, livelihoods and opportunity, and amenity and community. See . The framework gives suggestions for making urban design more food-sensitive, with due emphasis on the importance of governmental policy. Importantly, it emphasises the role of planners in helping to create environments which support nutritious and affordable food. Using this framework to guide the examination of the Outer East regional food system will help to give a comprehensive overview of the food system in the Outer East, helping to provide direction for future interventions to take place. A similar project was recently conducted in Melbourne City, where an audit of the food-sensitivity of the municipality lead the council to develop their food policy, in response to the needs identified in the audit.²² It is anticipated that the proposed project will give rise to similar outcomes in the outer eastern region. The 2011-2015 Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan¹³ names the FSPUD framework as one of the tools by which local councils can enhance access to nutritious foods, and lists supporting its uptake as one of the opportunities of the Plan.

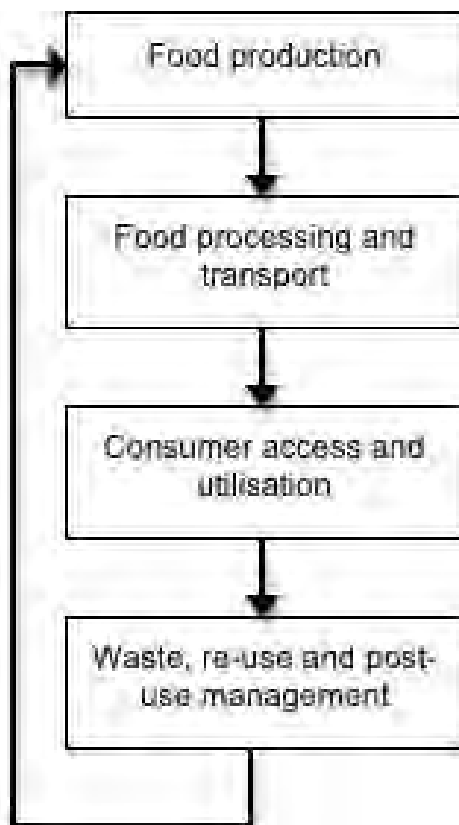


Figure 1: Diagrammatic representation of the food system (adapted from National Heart Foundation)¹

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihoods and Opportunity	 Amenity and Community
 Producing Food				
 Processing and Transporting Food				
 Consumer Access and Utilisation				
 Waste and Reuse				

Figure 2: FSPUD Matrix

Significance of Project

While a handful of local government councils in Victoria have used the FSPUD framework in some way, to the authors’ knowledge, this is one of the first times that FSPUD will be used in a region that is not receiving funding through Healthy Together Victoria. Recommendations arising from this project will help to improve access to nutritious food, the local economy and sustainability in the outer eastern region. Program evaluation of the VicHealth Food For All program²² described the existence of strong local

data as ‘vital’ for the success of food security interventions at a local council level. The importance of ‘access to and use of existing data to guide and evaluate prevention efforts’ is also emphasised in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.¹³ By examining the food system comprehensively, gaps in current practice can be systematically identified, enabling the identification of multiple entry points at which change can be implemented.²³ The project will build on previous work undertaken in the region, which included the mapping of food outlets²⁴ and a Healthy Food Basket survey to assess levels of food security.²⁵

Context

Maroondah and Yarra Ranges are both located on the outer eastern fringe of metropolitan Melbourne along with Knox. The urban growth boundary of metropolitan Melbourne runs through the Yarra

Ranges, an interface council, and is strictly enforced by the state to protect valuable agricultural land from being developed.²⁶ One of the main food-related businesses in Yarra Ranges is agribusiness.²⁷ There is opportunity for agribusiness in Yarra Ranges due to fertile soil conditions, reliable water supply, and agricultural research. Viticulture has experienced strong growth in recent years, however livestock and cropping businesses have continued to decline since the 1980s.²⁸ There is also a recognised brand (the Yarra Valley) which is stocked locally and across Victoria.²⁷ While the Yarra Ranges’ food sector occupies a niche market, contributing to the local economy both directly and indirectly by attracting tourism,²⁸ food access to local residents is an issue.²⁴

While Yarra Ranges forms part of Melbourne’s green wedge and includes rural areas, Maroondah is distinctly urban. There are three large shopping centres (including Eastland Shopping Centre in Ringwood), and a further 21 neighbourhood centres. Both Ringwood and Croydon activity centres are to be redeveloped.^{30,31} As one of 11 metropolitan activity centres in Melbourne Ringwood’s retail sector attracts customers from throughout the Outer Eastern region.³²

The third council in the outer eastern region, Knox, was not included in this audit, as a similar review of their food system had already been conducted as part of the Healthy Together program.³³

3. Methodology

Design

This project is not an intervention - the aim is to gather intelligence about the region to inform future public health interventions. The bi-cycle model (a program planning model for public health nutrition) was used as a basis for our research. Within the bi-cycle model, this project fits into the first 8 phases of the cycle (see appendix 1 for the bi-cycle model), which include community analysis and engagement, stakeholder engagement, capacity analysis, and research of interventions.³⁴

Literature Review

Research Question

The literature review aimed to answer the following research question, as part of step 7: *'Intervention research and strategy options'*.³⁴

How can strategies that are informed by a food-systems approach-- namely one that considers the stages of food production, processing and distribution, consumer access and utilisation, and waste and post-use management—be adopted to improve a population's physical health and wellbeing?

Due to the paucity of published scientific literature that is relevant to the research question, much of the literature that needed to be consulted was grey literature. The review was also not designed to be exhaustive, but rather served to capture learnings

from a range of interventions that have been implemented elsewhere. Consequently, a traditional narrative approach was adopted for the literature review, in order to adequately address the research question.

Search Strategy

Publications included in the review were restricted to those endorsed by organisations or published in scientific journals or textbooks. Only publications available for general access, in the English language and published in the year 2000 or more recently were included. Publications from both Australia and other Western countries were included in the review. However, where possible, the inclusion of publications from Victoria, followed by those from Australia was prioritised. Publications considered not relevant to an Australian context were also excluded. See Table 1 for the search strategy.

In scientific literature databases, the keyword 'Australia' was used within the search strategy above to ensure that a local perspective was being accessed. Following the Internet search using the above strategy, specific Internet searches were performed to locate material that related to key themes or case studies that were identified elsewhere. Internet searches were performed both with no filter, and with the filter "sites from Australia only".

Table 1: Search strategy*

Keywords		Databases consulted
'Food system', or 'Food environment', or 'Built environment' and 'food', or 'Planning' and 'food', or And: (see next column)	'Health', or 'Nutrition', or 'Consumption', or 'Intake', or 'Diet'	Scientific literature databases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scopus • Informit (Health collection)
		Google search
		Snowballing (using references of other documents)
		Known publications

*:

his search strategy was originally developed to address a broader research question. Due to the strategy identifying a large amount of material not immediately relevant to the focus of our research, the research question was subsequently changed in order to increase the relevance of the material located.

Stakeholder Engagement

Selection Process

Potential stakeholders were identified by systematically reviewing the four main sections of the FSPUD framework: food production, food processing and transport, consumer access and utilisation, waste and re-use. Reviewing each stage of the food system was guided by suggestions in the FSPUD framework regarding how each stage of the food system can support the promotion of healthy, sustainable and affordable food. A key contact from council and the project supervisor provided initial contacts for key stakeholders. Further stakeholders were identified through snowball sampling on consultation with existing stakeholders. Potential stakeholders were prioritised according to their level of power and interest,³⁵ and contacted via telephone or email. See appendix 2 for a summary of consulted stakeholders, and stakeholders who were identified but not consulted for various reasons.

Data Collection

Qualitative data was collected through face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, site visits and focus groups. Data was recorded where possible, with permission from the stakeholder.

Questions for stakeholders were formed before consultations. While questions were flexible, based on the stakeholders role and type of consultation, there were three main questions which guided the consultations:

1. The stakeholders' role in terms of the food system
2. What work is currently being done in the food system in their area of work
3. What they would like to see happen in the region's food system in the future

In Maroondah, there were 11 council contacts, 15 business contacts, and 9 community stakeholders engaged. In Yarra Ranges, 9 council contacts, 3 business contacts, and 9 community stakeholders were engaged. For further guidance, 5 experts in the fields of health or planning were consulted. Consultations ran for between 20 minutes and 1.5 hours. Observational data was also collected on site visits, particularly at farmer's markets, community gardens and local retailers.

Analysis

Data was analysed using the editing approach,³⁶ where themes were identified through collected data and organised accordingly under headings of key themes (see appendix 3). Data collected from stakeholder consultations and researchers' observations were organised on the FSPUD matrix under the four key areas (food production, food processing & transport, sustainability & resilience and community & amenity).¹ From the matrices and the key themes, strengths, gaps and barriers the local food system were identified. See appendix 4 for matrix analysis.

Policies and Plans

In line with step 6 of the bi-cycle model: '*Mandates for public health nutrition action*',³⁴ key policy documents from each council were identified using the FSPUD council checklist³⁷ and analysed based on the template. Thirty policies and plans from Maroondah City Council and 27 from Yarra Ranges Council were reviewed to audit the incorporation of food or aspects of the food system (See appendix 5 for analysis).³⁷ Supportive aspects, opportunities, gaps and barriers, of all plans and policies were identified.

Synthesis of Results

Results were synthesised from the literature review, stakeholder consultations, and policies and plans analysis. These were recorded under the headings: food production, food processing and distribution, consumer access and utilisation, and waste and re-use. Key opportunities for the strengthening of the food system in the future were identified based on available capacity and enthusiasm, from the stakeholder consultations, and policy and plan analysis. Themes from stakeholder consultations were collated according to the key question: "what they would like to see happen in the future."

Recommendations

The key opportunities identified from the vision for the future were used to formulate recommendations. These recommendations were grouped as: regional, Maroondah-specific, Yarra Ranges-specific, and areas for future research. General strategies and possible action points were formed, and prioritised based on the capacity for change, feasibility and need.

4. Results

Literature Review

Fifty-two relevant publications were identified. Publications retrieved ranged from background documents informing a city's food policy, to documents reviewing a number of case studies, to publications which review the evidence for approaches at the level of a food system. The literature is integrated throughout this report, as a means of highlighting opportunities for possible approaches and initiatives in the outer east.



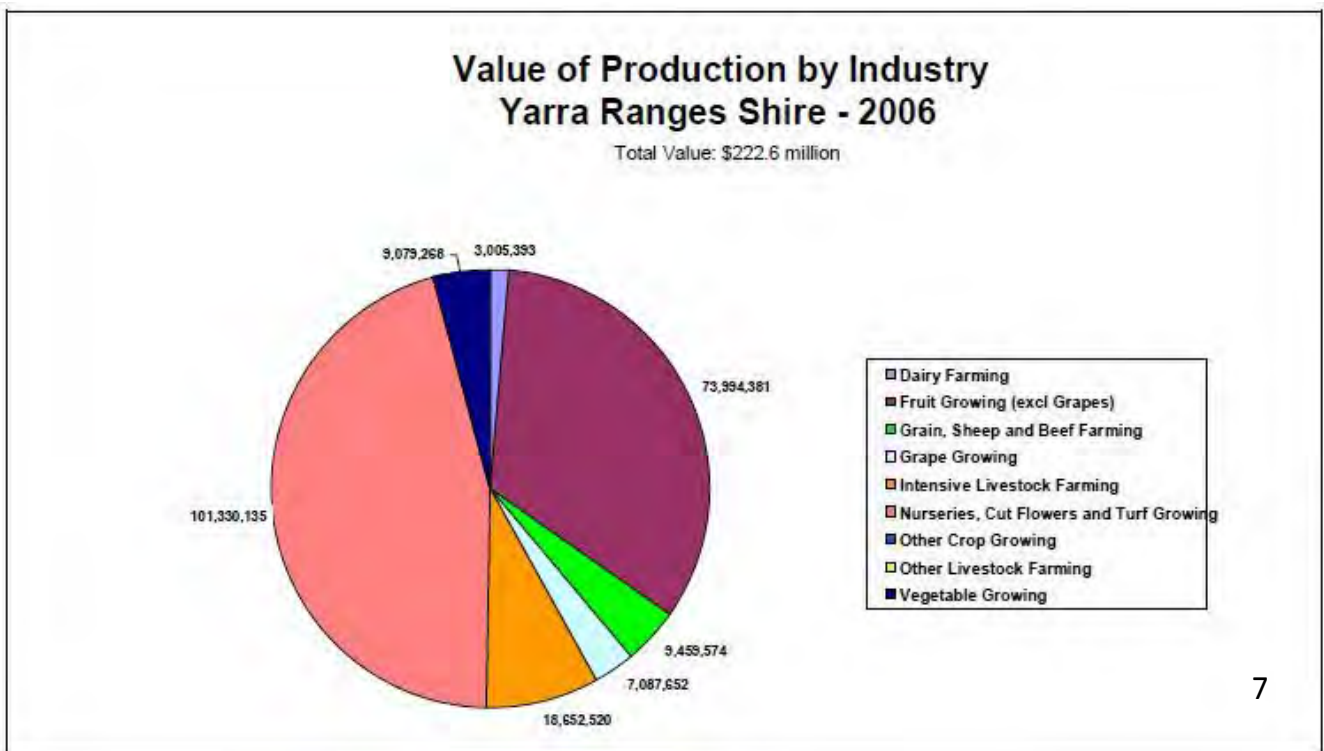
Food Production

Yarra Ranges is referred to as a 'food bowl' due to its rich productive land, while there is minimal food production in the city of Maroondah. Food production was valued at 222.6 million dollars in 2006,²⁶ for the distribution of this see Figure 3. Within the planning policies, especially the Green Wedge Management Plan,²⁶ productive land is protected through support for farmers, the urban growth boundary and restrictions for residential housing and commercial development on productive land. This is further supported by the Planning department within Yarra Ranges Council as commercial land has been provided in Monbulk and Silvan for processing, rather than 'building buildings on productive land.'

There are small, medium and larger fruit and vegetable growers within the area, with the fruit and vegetables being the second and fourth most valuable respectively. Intensive livestock and dairy are also major areas of food production. Local food production covers the livelihood and opportunity objective by providing diverse skills and jobs in the area on both small and large scales. Some food producers also opt to add value to their property by offering farmgate sales or U-pick opportunities for their seasonal produce. These opportunities also add to the tourism industry within the Yarra Ranges.

Rather than
*'building buildings on
productive land.'*

Figure 3: Value of Production by Industry - Yarra Ranges 2006



The council plan supports this with the vision for a ‘vibrant economy, agriculture and tourism.’³⁸ Furthermore, the Municipal Strategic Statement³⁹ ‘encourage(s) tourism’ as it brings people into the region, builds the ‘Yarra Valley’ brand and adds to the local economy.²⁷ Plan Melbourne also lists ‘enhancing the food production capability of Melbourne and its non-urban areas’ as one of the plan’s directions, including the protection of agricultural land in Melbourne’s outskirts.³²

Vision for a *‘vibrant economy, agriculture and tourism.’*

There are 8 current and 1 proposed community gardens within the Yarra Ranges, and 4 current and 2 proposed community gardens within Maroondah. Community gardens are the main sources of food production within Maroondah and provide local produce for the community members involved and some plots donate their produce to charity organisations. Sustainability and resilience is a strength of community gardens as many have their own rainwater tanks, worm farms and composting facilities. Community gardens address the health and fairness, community and amenity, and sustainability and resilience objectives of the FSPUD framework.



Glen Park Community Garden, Bayswater North

Currently half of the 12 community gardens within the region are classified within urban space in Maroondah and the Urban Triangle ^{*} of the Yarra Ranges. A barrier to creating further community gardens in the Yarra Ranges is residents having their own large plots of land for individual use in the rural areas, and therefore it may be unnecessary for them to use council land for food production if they have the ability and resources to do it individually. Therefore the benefits of community gardens may be greater felt if there was a greater proportion inside the urban areas of the region.

Food cultivation on nature strips has experienced a surge in popularity in recent years.⁴¹ The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network has published a list of design guidelines for when planning a nature strip garden,⁴¹ which acknowledges and considers concerns that councils may have. In the Yarra Ranges, community members are able to plant on the nature strip of their property, if it complies with regulations for public safety, which are outlined on the Yarra Ranges Council website.⁴² The council is also in the process of developing a policy to simplify the process of establishing a nature strip garden. In Maroondah, nature strip planting is permitted, provided a permit is granted from council. However, the guidelines are difficult to access, may be difficult to interpret, and do not specifically promote planting of fruits and vegetables, and so may unintentionally act as a barrier to people seeking to establish a nature strip garden. Applicants also need to arrange their own public liability insurance.

There is strength in the area around sustainability and resilience stemming from local community. Local groups such as ECOSS (See Case Study), Edible Warburton (See Case Study), Yarra Valley Permaculture, and the Transition Towns Network focus on food sovereignty, education and empowering individuals and communities to grow their own food. There is an active Transition Towns Network in Maroondah and Montrose/Mooroolbark/Kilsyth. Consumer supported agriculture involves consumers paying a farm for a share of the total farm produce, and in return, the grower gives them a weekly supply.⁴⁴

^{*}

he Urban Triangle in the Yarra Ranges is a geographical triangle between the most ‘urban’ towns of Lilydale, Chirnside Park and Mooroolbark/Kilsyth.⁴⁰

T

This idea is uncommon in Australia,⁴⁵ although the Little Feet Farm in Gladysdale is one example. Other alternative co-operative forms of agriculture, such as the Moora Moora community, are also active in the region. Community houses in the Yarra Ranges provide education and workshops on beekeeping, fruit tree pruning and other food production topics. In Maroondah, only Yarrunga and Arrabri community houses provide any courses on growing food, with Arrabri's on-site garden enabling a broad range of food growing courses. Clubs and societies also run out of community houses and there are active garden clubs within the region.



Seedlings at ECOSS, Wesburn

Eastern Regional Libraries serve the councils of Knox, Maroondah and the Yarra Ranges and provide residents with a variety of books on being able to start their own gardens, and how to manage them.

Edible Warburton and main street Community Garden Boxes in Yarra Junction are examples of food production contributing to urban amenity, otherwise this is a gap in the area. Current open space and council plans do not mention edible streetscapes as current practice or possibility for the future. In Maroondah and Yarra Ranges, the support for indigenous vegetation in streetscapes inadvertently acts as a barrier for the development of edible streetscapes. However, indigenous productive species have already been incorporated in the streetscape elsewhere in Australia,⁴¹ and their inclusion is a key opportunity in the Outer East.



Community Garden Boxes, Yarra Junction

Vision for the future

Continuing support for agricultural business and tourism was evident during consultations with stakeholders, from various departments and within Yarra Ranges policies. Concepts such as further financial support, education and mentoring about alternative business models, business opportunities and sustainability were all mentioned. There is also an aim to encourage further agricultural business with financial incentives and planning policies encouraging farming and discouraging a solely rural lifestyle on prime agricultural land. In Maroondah there is minimal land available for commercial food production, and a perceived barrier that there is insufficient open space for urban agriculture.

Community gardens are an area of significant enthusiasm and growth within the Yarra Ranges community and both councils. One stakeholder from Maroondah also expressed a desire for the development of an environmental park, similar to CERES in Brunswick East,⁴⁶ in the region. On consultation with stakeholders it was made clear that for community initiatives such as community gardens to make an impact, the desire must be expressed by the community and proposed to council. A stakeholder from the Urban Design Department stated, 'you have to fo where the energy is.'

'You have to go where the energy is.'

On the Yarra Ranges website, there are a list of considerations and key contacts, within council and the community, to consult with before forming a community garden.⁴² This has been recently developed in response to the expressed desire from the community. It has also begun to be integrated into council plans and policies. For example, the Maroondah Early Years Plan⁴⁷ includes community gardens at all Maroondah Early Childhood Services centres. Encouraging schools, kindergartens and other such facilities, to plant school gardens, is also a strategy in the Plan (See Case Study). Continuing support for communities wanting to set up a community garden, or similar endeavour, is beneficial to the food system.

Urban design can include edible streetscapes such as community garden boxes or edible fruit trees in the shopping streets for 'beautification'. There is potential to encourage these through council structure plans and open space plans. On consultation with open space departments an identified gap was a lack of knowledge of appropriate fruit trees which require minimal upkeep for council and meet requirements of streetscape trees, such as summer shade and winter sun.

Further encouragement of nature strip planting was mentioned by stakeholders. A consulted planner suggested potential initiatives, such as providing rebates on rates for residents growing or planting their own food in their area, or widening the nature strips to encourage planting. Integration of FSPUD elements was overall well received by council planners, urban designers and open space planners, and in some cases there was significant enthusiasm to consider them if they were proven viable.





Food Processing and Transport

There are a range of transport and processing methods in the region. Food processing occurs within the agricultural and commercial business, such as through wine making, breweries, abattoirs, chocolatiers and packaging of foods. Processing also occurs on a smaller scale and within homes for the production of honeys and jams. While Cadbury is the only large-scale food manufacturer within Maroondah, a number of smaller manufacturers, including home-based businesses also exist.

Transport methods within the region consist of buses, trains and roads. Train lines run through Maroondah and end within the Yarra Ranges, with terminal stations at Lilydale and Belgrave, however these are for passenger transport only. There are public transport links to all major townships within the Yarra Ranges, and rich links within the city of Maroondah. How food travels from farm to plate, and the associated transport method, is dictated by food companies and food producers. Benefiting food distribution in Maroondah is the Eastlink motorway which connects the Maroondah suburbs to neighbouring councils, Eastern and Western ports, Melbourne airport, and the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD), major freight hubs, and thus aids in the distribution, exportation and importation of food.²⁹

Small businesses, such as Heathmont Honey and businesses under The Yarra Valley Regional Food Group, sell their locally produced and processed foods at local farmers markets. Smaller growers within the Yarra Ranges have access to local markets and have partnerships with local cafes and restaurants, while most of the large growers have contracts with large chain supermarkets. This reflects findings in the United States, that the majority of farmers who sell direct to consumers are small, making less than \$50,000 in sales per year, and are located near metropolitan areas.⁴⁹ Some medium growers work as a co-operative, such as YV Fresh (See Case Study), and together access a supply chain to allow them to sell their product in a larger market. On consultation with the Economic Development and Agribusiness department of Yarra Ranges Council, there is a gap for medium growers who are not part of a cooperative to be sustainable and maintain the profitability of their business due to their production being too small for wholesale or large retail, yet too large to profit from local markets.

Within the Yarra Ranges municipal strategic statement, 'value added processing' is encouraged.³⁹ This can increase the profitability of

produce, such as offering new products like jams and chutneys from their produce, or encouraging tourism through different business structures such as U-pick opportunities and farm-gate sales. Producers also may choose to specialise their product, such as organic growers or hydroponics, as a means to a unique market and make a profit. The Yarra Valley

Regional Food Group is a collection of local food businesses, which actively encourages tourism to the region through brochures such as a regional food trail, to promote local produce and products.



Regional Food Trail Brochure

Available from:

http://www.yarravalleyfood.com.au/hidden_delights.pdf

There is no formal structure in place to support networks between local growers and local retailers. There are a variety of food retailers in the region who bring in local produce from the Yarra Ranges and surrounding areas to process and sell. Local retailers surveyed within Ringwood, Ringwood North, Heathmont, Croydon and Croydon Hills voiced that based on their personal choice, they prefer to source food locally rather than from overseas or interstate. However, local produce is predominantly transported to the wholesale markets in Footscray and many local food retailers will go there to purchase their produce. When retailers choose to stock local products, it is seasonal and somewhat limited, and often they will opt to go to wholesale markets, or purchase from large wholesalers, to buy all their products in one place.

Croydon Main Street, Croydon



Within the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme there are barriers to promoting processing within the region and therefore a localised food system.⁴⁹ There are restrictions on building on agricultural land, which includes the processing of food. Many companies therefore transport their produce off-site to package and process. The planning department at Yarra Ranges Council seeks to support local processing by providing commercial land in Monbulk and Silvan. However, for businesses the increased cost for transporting their produce off-site to a processing

site can be a barrier, and have expressed that on-site processing would be more cost-effective. Currently the State Planning Policy⁴⁹ also prohibits sales from farm gates which is not primary produce from the farmers land, and this limits sales partnerships that could aid the localisation of food.

Box schemes are an emerging method of local food distribution, whereby a company, such as Melba, Organic Empire, Little Feet Farm and the Moora Moora Community, will source locally grown seasonal produce and deliver or have a central pick-up point where customers pay for a box of assorted produce. Box schemes help to restore connections between growers and consumers, and employ a greater number of people on the farm per hectare than conventional farms.⁴⁴

Vision for the future

Several council plans have demonstrated vision to network local producers with local businesses. The Yarra Ranges Economic Development Plan addresses the need for a system to support a localised food system. The Shire of Yarra Ranges Vision 2020 Community Plan aims to 'localise' food production and consider more sustainable transport options.⁵⁰ The concept of reducing food miles is not discussed in any reviewed Maroondah council policies and plans, but is discussed in many Yarra Ranges council plans and policies, such as the Green Wedge Management Plan²⁶ and the Yarra Ranges Environment Strategy 2008.⁵¹ While experts regard food miles as oversimplifying a complex relationship,⁴⁵ having a localised food system can have other benefits, economic, nutritional and social.⁴⁸

Within the Yarra Ranges Economic Development Plan⁵² and on consultation with the economic development department the desire for a strong local food cluster, and more innovative business models such as co-operatives was expressed. Ideas such as this could provide growers and food processing businesses in the Yarra Ranges unique opportunities to sell their product. Another concept mentioned was the establishment of a regional food hub in the Outer East. The food hub concept was originally developed in the United States to help support medium-sized farmers.⁵³ Currently there is a lack of opportunities for medium sized growers due to their produce being too large for profitability in small markets, yet too small for large commercial retail. The food hub concept aims to fill the 'missing middle man'⁵⁴ and aims to improve the marketing of products and provide a viable sales opportunity.

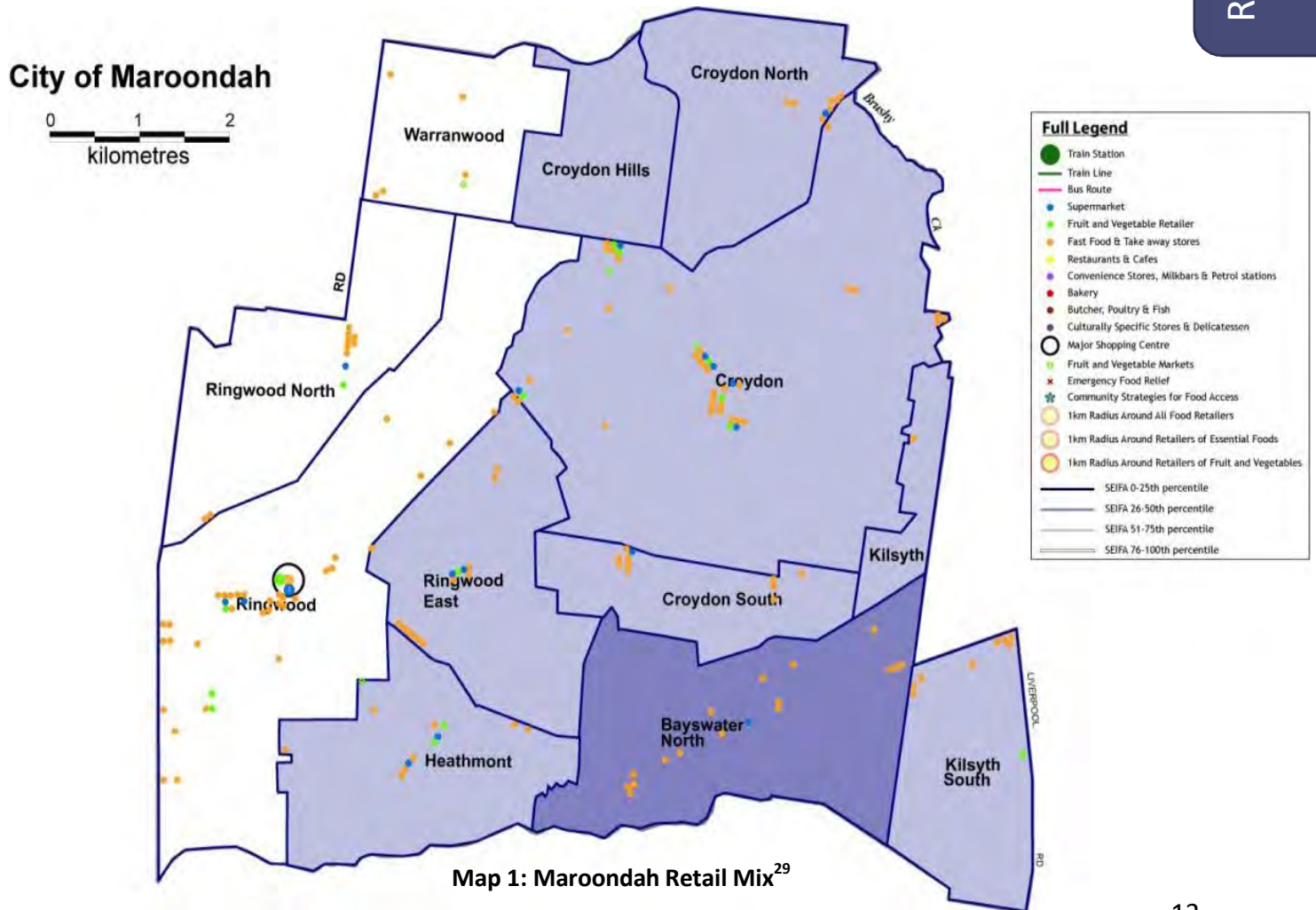


Consumer Access and Utilisation

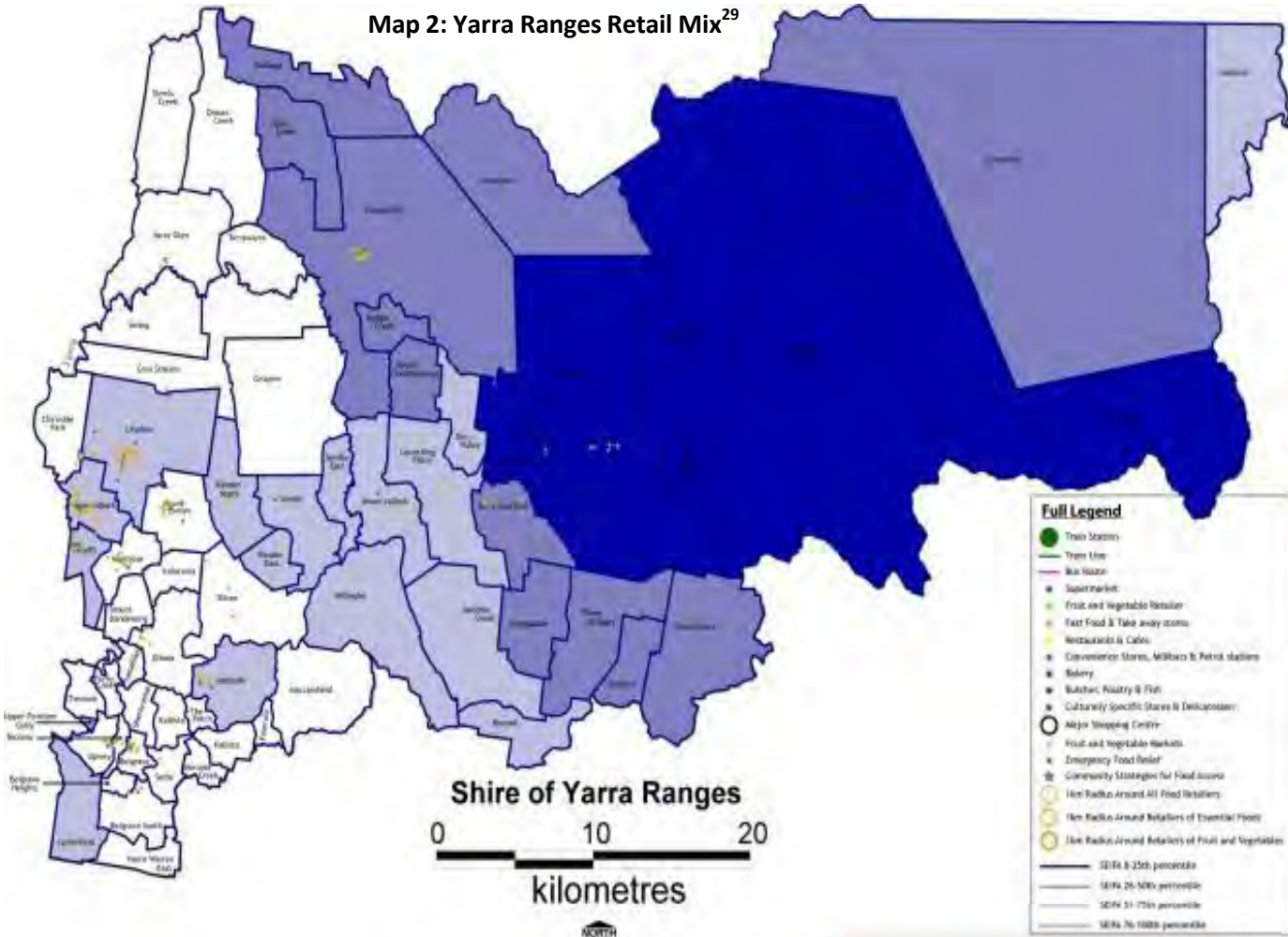
Consumer access and utilisation encompasses how people access food within their environment, how difficult it is for people to access food and what kind of food is available. This includes transport access for residents in the region and access to education for food utilisation.¹

Councils play an important role in developing the built environment in which people live, which includes the food environment.⁵⁵ Within the Yarra Ranges Community Vision 2020 an action area is to 'encourage business mix.'⁵⁰ While councils currently cannot influence business mix unless the business does not comply with the Planning Scheme, documents such as Structure Plans can be used to design a town. For example, the inclusion of a cafe precinct overlooking Ringwood Lake, and the inclusion of small, independent shops around the Town Square as part of the structure plan for Ringwood Activity Centre's redevelopment is one such example.³⁰

The current business mix varies greatly within the region. Previous research by the Nourish Network found that there were no fruit and vegetable retailers or markets identified within Bayswater North, Wesburn/Millgrove or Croydon South. Warranwood had one market identified but no fruit and vegetable retailers. The ratio of supermarkets/fresh food to fast food/take-away outlets was also found to be low in Bayswater North, Healesville, Yarra Junction, Wesburn/Millgrove, Warranwood and Warburton.²⁴ To see businesses represented on maps of the municipality see maps 1 & 2.



Map 2: Yarra Ranges Retail Mix²⁹



There are also alternative forms of retail within the Region. The “buy local, eat seasonal” brochure, produced by Inspiro, is a social marketing tool which promotes farmgate sales and U-picks in the region. The farmer’s markets are also an opportunity for the community to access local fresh food, however one report⁵⁶ identified that few ‘primary’ products were sold and that most of the food products were processed value-add products (e.g. jams). Most food stalls at these markets are run by members of the Yarra Valley Regional Food Group, with an exception of the Healesville Organic Farmer’s Market run by the Yarra Valley permaculture group. Farmer’s markets in both the Yarra Ranges and Maroondah provide community members with access to fresh, local produce, and Business Development at Maroondah Council suggested that this could be further enhanced and advertised to encourage more residents to buy local. Consumers consulted for a 2010 case study into the Victorian food system²⁸ reported a lack of knowledge of the producers in their local area and of how to source local produce as barriers to them sourcing local foods.



Buy Local, Eat Seasonal Brochure

Available from:

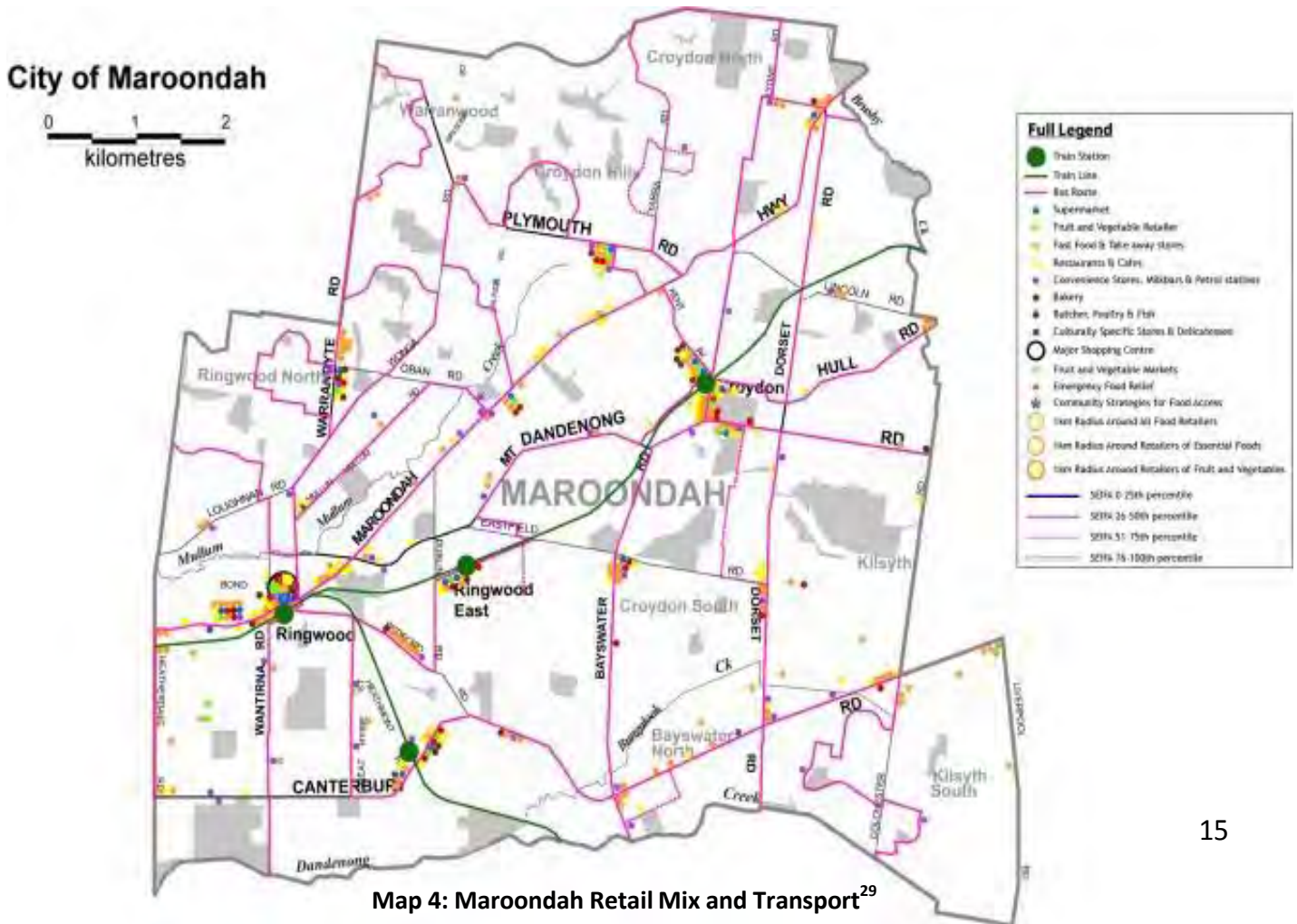
http://www.inspiro.org.au/images/uploads/documents/Buy_Local_Eat_Seasonal_Brochure.pdf

Local Farmer’s Markets and community markets were desired and set up in Maroondah through the Trader’s Association and local schools. Farmer’s Markets are an opportunity to showcase local produce (mainly from the Yarra Valley) and also mean less transport. The Trader’s Association in Maroondah are enthusiastic about selling local produce and aim to bring in fruit, vegetables and other produce from the Yarra Valley and surrounding areas rather than sourcing them from interstate or overseas. However, on consultation with the economic development and agribusiness department of the Yarra Ranges, farmers markets are not seen as a solution to a localised food system and are not always profitable for farmers in the region. A unique market set up in Mt Evelyn was the ‘Affordable Food Market’ run by Morissons and Inspiro once a month (See Case Study). Sponsorship was provided by Yarra Ranges Council and Bendigo Bank. The aim for this market was ‘Promoting Accessible and Nutritious Food’ which was mainly supplied by one local fruit & vegetable retailer. Impact evaluation results indicate the market increased physical access to food in Mt Evelyn via increasing the number of hours that fruit and vegetables were physically available for purchase and produce was consistently 34% cheaper than the local supermarket.⁵⁷

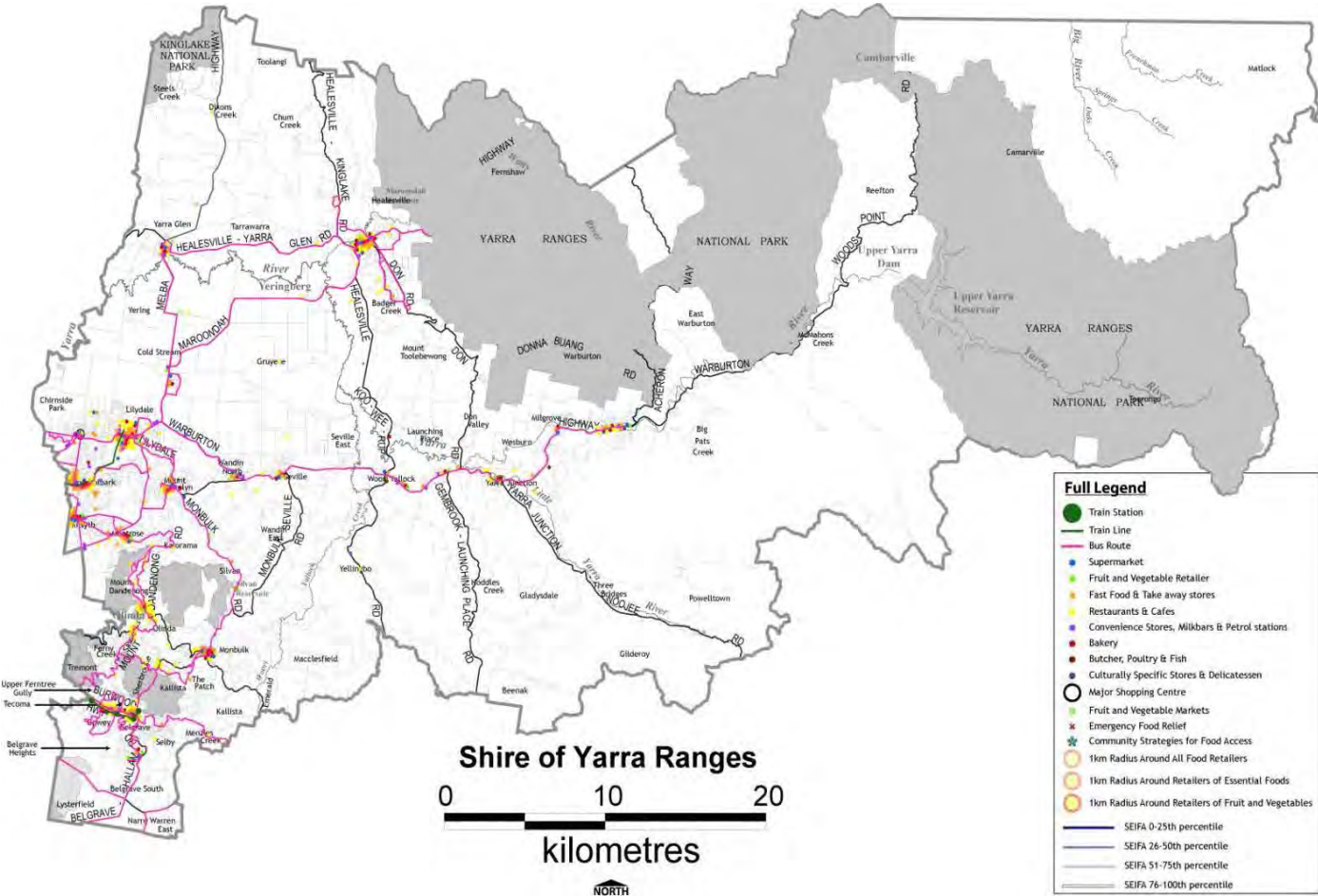
However, the market was not as successful in terms of keeping the produce supply and it being a profitable market for all the stallholders. Therefore, plans have been made to change the organisation of the market for the future to address these issues.

There are some ethnic grocery stores and restaurants, particularly in the Maroondah area, such as a Burmese supermarket in Croydon, which caters for the growing local Burmese population in Maroondah. The Migrant Information Centre also assists newly relocated migrants and refugees in learning about healthy eating and direct people to ethnic grocery stores in the local area.^{60,61}

Another aspect of consumer access is how community members travel to and from food outlets, whether that is food stores, restaurants, food relief agencies or community gardens. From previous work done in the Maroondah and Yarra Ranges, and from exploration of the area, most (if not all) shopping centres and shopping strips are accessible via public transport or on foot.²⁴ See maps 3 and 4 for transport routes within the region.



Map 4: Yarra Ranges Retail Mix and Transport²⁹



In Maroondah, there is a major emphasis on reducing motor vehicle dependency, which is reflected in a number of policies. Specifically, structure plans for Ringwood and Croydon activity centres, and Ringwood East and Heathmont neighbourhood centres, all feature measures to promote pedestrian, cyclist and public transport accessibility. As identified in previous work by the Nourish Network,²⁴ there are no major food deserts in the area, however in some of the rural areas in the Yarra Ranges there is lack of choice which is a barrier to health and fairness. Maps 5 and 6 display 1km radiuses around food retailers within the region.

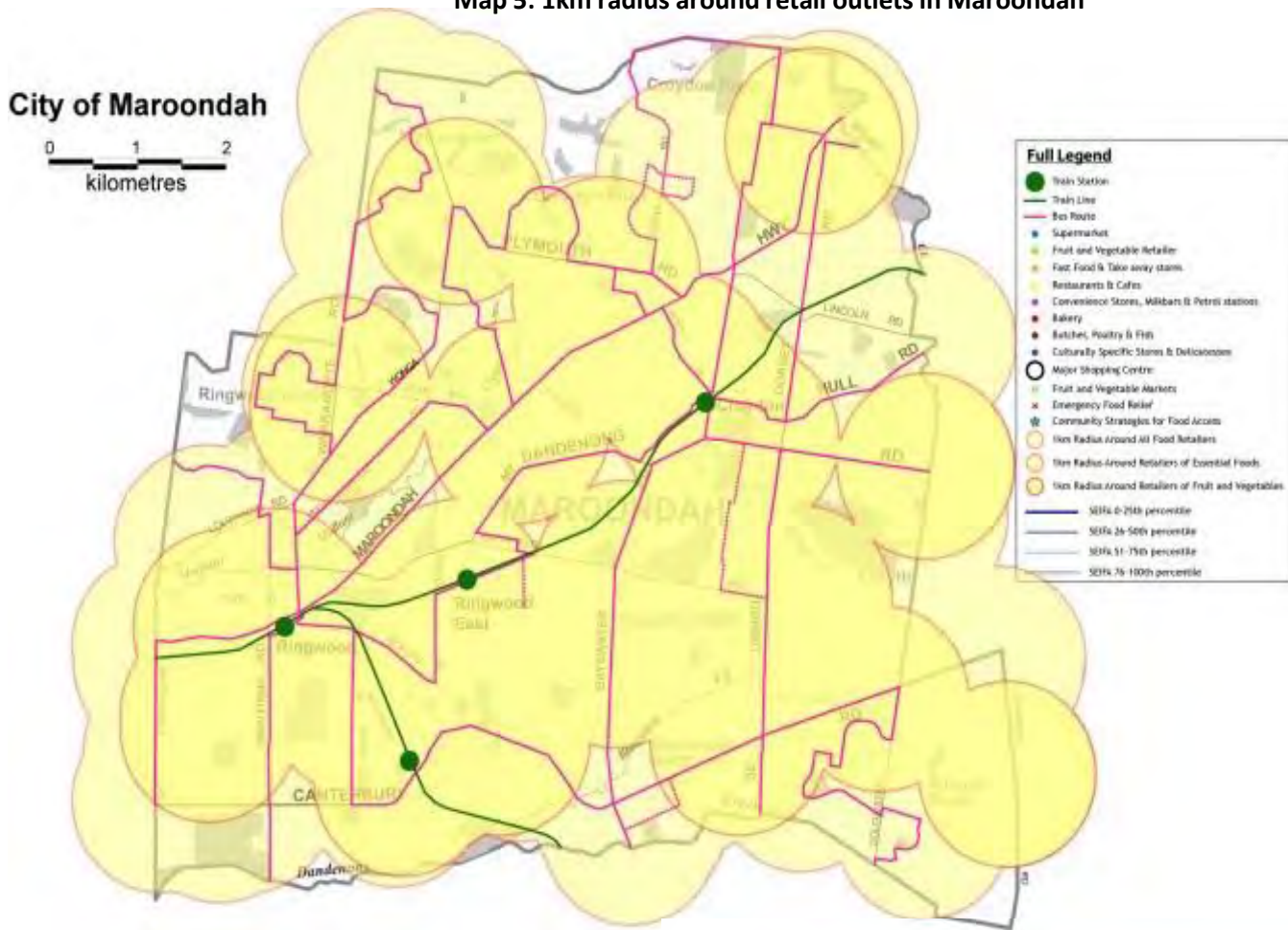
Population density within Maroondah and Yarra Ranges is lower than that encouraged according to FSPUD.¹ Higher population density supports consumer access to food, adequate access to transport, employment and supports the local economy.¹ Within the Yarra Ranges Municipal Strategic Statement a ‘higher population density’ is encouraged.³⁹ However, in Maroondah, while a higher density is encouraged around activity centres, in general across the municipality, the preference remains for low density dwellings that reflect the neighbourhood character.

The main strengths of the two municipalities based on the FSPUD matrix are health and fairness, and community and amenity. Examples in these areas include: community gardens, local farmer’s markets, Mt Evelyn affordable food market, community kitchens, library resources on cooking and growing food, cooking courses run by community houses and education facilities, and education from community health centres and schools.



Books about growing food, Croydon Library

Map 5: 1km radius around retail outlets in Maroondah²⁹

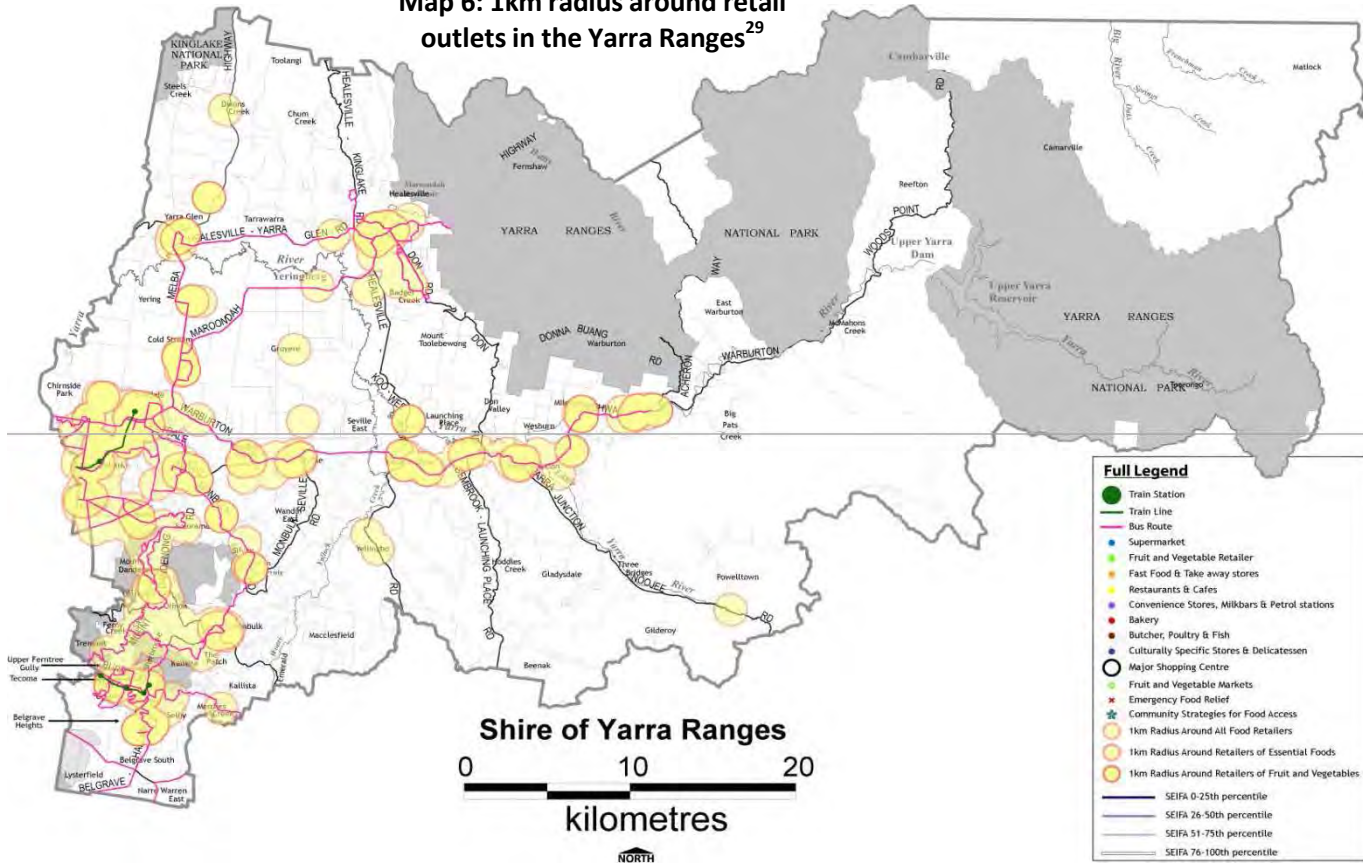


Food production within the community also requires the community to know how to utilise their produce. Education occurs on a number of platforms and the incorporation of nutrition and sustainability into school curriculums is seen in the region. Such programs, such as school gardens, educate children from a young age on the importance of food sustainability and healthy eating. Community and school gardens benefit from grants, such as from private organisations, State Government funding for school gardens, and the Glen Park community garden being a result of the Bayswater North Community Renewal program. Partnerships also exist, such as between disadvantaged schools in Maroondah and Eastern Access Community Health (EACH), and Yarra Ranges Council and the learning for sustainability program. Stakeholders suggested education on how to prepare foods is essential alongside food production initiatives. This is supported by the FSPUD framework,¹ which includes food-related education, such as cooking or nutritional education, in this stage of the food system, as it such education enables people to fully utilise their food. Education around food production can increase an individual's access to healthy food if they are engaged in food



Fruit and Vegetable Shop, Healesville

Map 6: 1km radius around retail outlets in the Yarra Ranges²⁹



Vision for the future

From consultations and the previous research done in the Outer East, there are key ideas that the community would like to see happen in the future. There is significant energy and enthusiasm behind the desire to showcase and access local produce. From stakeholder engagement it was voiced that a future idea to display and sell the great range of produce from the Yarra Ranges would be to have food and wine festivals and farmer’s markets throughout the Outer East. In line with this, Maroondah Council plan to include a market in the Ringwood Town Square, as part of the Ringwood Activity Centre redevelopment. The key stakeholders and local retailers surveyed in the audit are enthusiastic to see more local produce used in cafes and other food retail outlets. Some retailers who stock more local, healthy products, suggested that they would benefit from greater encouragement from Council to stock such foods.

‘There is more demand for convenience food.’

Community health and community development departments would like to see more education for children at schools, disadvantaged or food insecure individuals, as well as the general public around growing and cooking food. While there are some cooking classes in the two municipalities there is little education in regards to how to cook nutritious meals. This was also recommended by residents at high risk for food insecurity in a previous Nourish Network research project.²⁴ The Social Planning & Development Department at Yarra Ranges expressed that *‘there is more demand for convenience food’* and therefore, there should be greater access to healthy take-away. There are barriers within the State Planning Policy Framework for this idea as it does not allow for individual councils to dictate the nature of businesses, such as healthy or unhealthy food providers, within an area.³⁹ However, urban planners and statutory planners within council expressed the ability to advocate to State Government for changes to the planning scheme where appropriate. Recent changes to the State Planning Policy that enable the establishment of supermarkets and associated shops in industrial zones received mixed reviews from various stakeholders.⁶² One planner suggested this change may encourage competition from small chain supermarkets due to supermarkets needing to be less than 1800 square meters, which will not appeal to large chain supermarkets. However, others

viewed it as a potential barrier to main street traders, as this may draw potential customers from town centres.

Another barrier is the inability, due to lack of resources, for public health members of council to influence or encourage healthier food provision from food outlets. Councils could consider encouraging retailers to stock nutritious foods. For example, the City of Melbourne has introduced the first traffic light system for rating the nutritional value of takeaway food in Australia,⁶¹ and Glen Eira have a long-standing award scheme for food businesses, based on the nutritional value of menu items.⁶² An award scheme

could be developed to recognise businesses who stock locally sourced food. This could be well received in the local area as some retailers already voiced that they prefer to have local produce in their stores. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan lists healthy food outlet award and accreditation schemes¹³ as an opportunity to promote healthy food.

Stakeholders also mentioned future opportunities to transport food to areas in need of fresh produce. One example is mobile grocers distributing fresh produce to purchase in food deserts (e.g. Inspiro's pop-up mobile market concept).





Waste and Re-use

Food is wasted at all stages within the supply chain, and methods to manage this waste exist at many stages.¹ Within the region these include: food rescue, shared abundance, and personal and community efforts around composting and rainwater tanks. The main strengths for both municipalities lie within the health and fairness, and sustainability and resilience areas of the FSPUD matrix.

In the Yarra Ranges, community gardens and ECOSS use composting, worm farms and rainwater tanks to maintain their land. Often produce from plots used in the community gardens will be donated to charity organisations or community kitchens, such as 'Dinner at Darren's.' Similarly, in Maroondah, composting is done in all school and community gardens in an attempt to sustainably use food waste. Council play a role in encouraging all residents to recycle organic wastes, including food scraps to go back into gardens as compost.

In terms of education around waste and recycling there are plenty of resources at Eastern Regional Libraries, including books on composting, worm farms and organic wastes. Council also play a role in educating the community by offering free workshops on composting and worm farming,⁶³ as well as providing a brochure outlining similar information. During International Composting Awareness Week Maroondah Council hosts free organic waste recycling workshops to educate people in this area, and encourage residents to set up their own worm farms and use Bokashi buckets. As part of the workshops participants are given a free kitchen collector to put their food waste in. Community houses within the Yarra Valley also provide education on worm farming. Based on the latest audit results from Maroondah, community members within the city send more than 49 per cent of organic waste (food scraps and garden waste) to landfill which could be recycled at home through composting or worm farming.⁶⁴ In terms of food waste alone, 16 per cent of all household waste collected through Council's waste collection services is from food waste, as stated by the Waste department. These figures highlight the need and validation for having such workshops and information available to Maroondah residents.



Composting, Healesville Community Garden

From consultation with local retailers in Maroondah it was found that small business owners would like more opportunities for recycling, including different bins for organic waste as well as more frequent bin collections. However there is currently no place for organic food waste to be processed within the region. Within the Yarra Ranges Council Plan³⁸ and Budget⁶⁵ a solution for organic waste is being explored. Similarly, within the Yarra Ranges Environment Strategy 2008,⁵¹ there is an action area to follow the Victorian 'Towards Zero Waste Strategy 2005' to improve the sustainability of the waste practices within the region. However, food waste is not mentioned in Maroondah plans or policies. Some examples of recycling already occurring are: collection of meat excess and bone for blood and bone fertiliser or meat fat for soap, re-use of cardboard boxes at fruit and vegetable outlets, coffee grounds to use in gardens, and leftover bread collected by charities.

Within the region, the Yarra Valley Emergency Relief Network, Eastern Food Alliance and local churches and community groups access food from community and business donations, Secondbite and excess from food businesses for food relief purposes.

The concept of shared abundance is also being explored by Yarra Ranges Community Health in terms of community members being encouraged, through a new project, to donate excess produce if they produce food on their own property. Some local businesses also accept excess produce from community members in exchange for other produce or money (See Case Study).



Free fruit offered by Opportunity Shop, Lilydale

Education around sustainability occurs within the local schools, an example being the Learning for Sustainability program in the Yarra Ranges. A local school in Maroondah has recently been awarded five stars through the Resource Smart AuSSi Vic program for their waste, water and energy wise measures, having incorporated sustainability into every aspect of school life (see Ainslie Parklands Primary School case study). Local community houses in the Yarra

Ranges also offer workshops in areas such as composting for the general public, and a community house in Maroondah has a permaculture group.

Vision for the future

Retailers, council members and community groups would like to see more ways of recycling organic waste. Some suggested visions were compost bins for food retailers, compost bins at all schools, and using the existing compost pile in local community gardens (shared composting). Further sustainable practices at all levels of the food system are already being used by some local retailers (e.g. receiving goods in boxes that are then recycled to customers or re-used by the retailer), and could be adopted by other businesses with encouragement from Council. Construction of a facility for the recycling and re-use of organic food waste, alongside domestic and commercial bins collected by council, is being actively explored by The Metropolitan Waste Management Group and is being integrated within Yarra Ranges plans for the future. The aim for the future is to have a more sustainable way for organic waste to be collected and re-used as compost within the region.

From consultation with EACH, food sustainability practices involving waste and re-use at schools with support from local and state government funding, as well as volunteer work and partnerships are highly effective at educating children and the surrounding community. Other local schools within the municipalities would benefit from such school programs and support.

5. Discussion

Food Policy

Food policies provide a long term, systematic and proactive approach to addressing food security.⁶⁶ Currently there are no food policies in the region, and food is poorly integrated in council policies and plans. Previous research by Nourish and Monash University provided evidence for the development of a local food policy.⁶⁷ This could be a stand-alone policy for each municipality or a regional food policy, and would be highly supportive of local work in this region. Creating a cohesive food vision has been identified as a challenge when different food related strategies fall in the domain of different council departments. This could be resolved by appointing steering committees, which consist of representatives from various council departments to develop a regional food vision.⁶⁸

Planning and the Food System

The planning system has significant barriers in terms of influencing the food environment based on potential impacts on health.⁵⁵ The UK planning system allows planners to have a greater impact with 21 local planning authorities having acting or draft policies to restrict the density of hot food take-away outlets, limiting the number of new outlets or limiting the radius of their existence around schools, parks and youth facilities.⁵⁵ Similarly, business mix cannot be directly controlled by council, and is controlled by the market. The built food environment plays an undeniable role in food choices,⁵⁵ and therefore consideration of including business mix ideals within town structure plans may benefit the food environment. Advocating for changes such as this may yield changes in the State Planning Policy to positively impact the health of the region.

Strengthening the Local Food System

While the literature review revealed that evidence relating to the health impact of modifications to the food system is lacking, much of this reflects a lack of evaluations of interventions. However, available evidence does support the economic benefits of localised food systems, and nutritional, environmental and social benefits do seem likely.^{44,48,69,70} While available evidence cannot be used to inform future decisions from a nutritional perspective, wisdom gained from such projects can act as a guide to be tailored for the Outer East.²³ With Yarra Ranges considered the 'food bowl' of the outer east, there is much potential in the region to make the food system much more localised. However, localisation also needs to be balanced as a completely localised food systems can create vulnerability to weather events, and sourcing

from a broader area can therefore increase the resilience.⁴⁵ A system which focuses on independent municipalities is likely to result in a fragmented perspective rather than a holistic 'paddock to plate' view of the region, whereas a regional approach, considering Knox, Maroondah and the Yarra Ranges as a food system, would be suitable.

Stakeholders raised ideas to localise the food system and improve access, through models such as food hubs and local food clusters. As of October 2013, a food hub for south-eastern Melbourne is currently being trialled in the City of Casey.⁵⁴ While such a concept is new in Australia,⁵⁴ a regional food hub would enable smaller and medium growers to have an entry-point to the market, and also be a place for local food retailers and the community to access local produce. Local food clusters address challenges experienced by small farmers, including a lack of marketing training, insufficient capital for supply chain infrastructure and lack of capacity to develop trace back mechanisms.⁴⁸ The local food cluster is a model currently used in East Gippsland, where partnerships between small local growers and business increase opportunities for sustainability, jobs, marketing of produce and advocacy for change in local policies and plans.⁷¹

Food cooperatives, community supported agriculture, mobile grocers, community kitchens and farmers markets are other local strategies that have the potential to improve access to nutritious food.^{23,44,72-74} Local markets are another method to localise the food supply. Reported barriers to participation in local markets include having multiple competitors selling the same product, low sales volume, inability to meet demand and buyers backing out of contracts.⁴⁸ While a study by VicHealth found that Victorian growers mentioned similar barriers, they also reported that farmers markets were important for the viability of their businesses. The same study also noted the importance of markets being accessible to the whole population, and not simply becoming a gourmet offering to a select few. Offering more local markets in the region could assist in localising the food system.

Urban Agriculture

As detailed in 'food production' section of the results, urban agriculture is a key opportunity in the Outer East. While progress of urban agriculture in the region is encouraging, there is still great potential for further developments in this field. Lack of space was identified as one perceived barrier. Other more densely populated cities around the world have, however, used a variety of innovative means to include urban agriculture. Examples include: urban beekeeping on rooftops^{75,76} and rooftop urban agriculture^{23,77} or vertical gardens, which are growing in popularity.⁷⁸



Bottle Tower Garden*

Council's support can have a significant impact on the success of urban agriculture. Internationally, government support played a crucial role in the long-term success of urban agriculture in Havana, Cuba, where it developed in response to petroleum supply shortages in the 1990s.⁷⁹ Its success has been attributed to the integration of strong policy direction, council support and individual and community initiatives. Other ways that governments can support community gardens include: training courses for establishing vegetable gardens in schools, registration of idle urban plots for interested unemployed people to use to garden for a certain time, and reducing property tax rates on such plots.⁸⁰ The City of Yarra was the first known council in

* Available from: Australian Community Garden and Urban Farm Network website
[http://communitygarden.org.au/2010/04/09/verge-gardens/Farmers of the urban footpath – design guidelines for street verge gardens](http://communitygarden.org.au/2010/04/09/verge-gardens/Farmers%20of%20the%20urban%20footpath%20-%20design%20guidelines%20for%20street%20verge%20gardens)

Australia to develop urban agriculture guidelines, which cover community gardens, nature strip and garden beds, productive trees, and planter boxes. They also appointed an urban agriculture facilitator and urban agriculture advisory committee to facilitate the uptake of these initiatives.^{43,81} Creation of an urban agriculture policy, or inclusion of it within a broader food policy, would provide councils in the Outer East with a clearer direction in this area. There could be budget allocated from both councils to food-related activities, as is done in other cities.⁶⁸



Images Above: Edible Streetscapes⁴¹

The FSPUD framework recommends edible streetscapes as a means of enhancing the productive capability of cities.¹ Although such initiatives lack evidence regarding improving nutrition or food access, further research can be done in this area. Local examples include Yarra Ranges Council's current support to include fruit trees in residential development in Chirnside Park, and trees already planted in Lysterfield in Knox City (See Image Below). Within both councils there is a preference for indigenous vegetation within open spaces. Inclusion of productive indigenous species, complete with signage to indicate species and uses, could be a consideration for the future. Other Australian councils have done this, such as planting of macadamia nut trees and lillypillies in Brisbane, and Illawarra plums in Sydney.⁴¹ However, with nature strip gardening several barriers do exist, such as cultivars attracting fruit fly, acting as a tripping hazard, or blocking sight of oncoming motor vehicles.⁴¹



Fruit Trees on streets around Primary School, Lysterfield

Partnerships with community groups and members is commonly reported as essential to the success of urban agriculture,^{23,68} and are a key component of health promotion activities in general.¹³ To forge these partnerships, the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network suggest: forming a community gardens working group and policy, assisting community groups to apply for grant funding, providing grants, and providing training.⁴¹

Capacity Building

Increasing the capacity of local council and health services to promote health and wellbeing is a strategic direction of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.¹³ There are four main approaches to building capacity:⁸²

1. A top-down organisational approach, which might begin with changing agency policies or practices
2. A bottom-up organisational approach, which may be provision of skills to staff
3. A partnerships approach, which involves strengthening the relationships between organisations
4. A community organising approach in which individual community members are drawn into forming new organisations or joining existing ones to improve the health of community members.

A top-down approach to food in the region is lacking, as mentioned previously, but could be achieved by developing a food policy or integrating food-related activities into other council policies and plans. Ainslie Parklands P.S. is an example of a bottom-up approach to developing a sustainable food system (see case study). Such inclusion of food and sustainability in school curriculums is one way of raising awareness of the importance of a sustainable food system (see The School Food Plan case study). While partnerships to promote a sustainable food system exist between groups and certain schools in the region, this is limited to those which experience disadvantage, or those where staff are highly motivated. In the future, such partnerships could be extended to other schools and in the region. In Victoria, Primary Care Partnerships, such as the Outer East PCP, combine efforts with councils to promote local health and wellbeing.¹³ Likewise, the Nourish network is a regional partnership to promote access to nutritious food. Local community groups, such as gardening clubs and Transition Towns groups, form the fourth approach to capacity building. All of these approaches to building the capacity of the region to support the local food system will be

integral to the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Limitations

The researchers acknowledge the limitations of the findings for a number of reasons. One such limitation lies in the fact that the researchers come from a dietetics background, with the majority of their experience centred on clinical dietetics, and having limited previous exposure to urban planning and urban design. As a result, significant time was spent meeting with stakeholders and reading policies in this area before data collection and interpretation could begin. Further limitations lie in the use of the

FSPUD framework as a guide for auditing the two municipalities as there are no specific indicators for what to look for in terms of each stage of the food system, and there was not sufficient time to evaluate indicators. Due to this limitation, the FSPUD framework was used as a tool to guide the research rather than relying heavily on the limited criteria. Time constraints were also evident with the project period being 8 weeks long. It was also beyond the scope of the project to measure the amount of residential food production and other individual initiatives mentioned in our research, meaning our findings were on more of a council and community level rather than individual.



6. Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed based on the audit of the region, vision for the future, and literature review. All recommendations were developed taking into account available capacity, and in line with a systems approach, provide multiple entry points to commence implementation. Of note, many of the strategies recommended here have also been recommended previously elsewhere. See the Knox Healthy Connect report,³³ The People’s Food Plan,⁴³ and previous work by the Nourish Network,^{24,67,83} for their recommendations.

Regional Recommendations

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Strengthen partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise departments to partner to develop a cohesive food vision. Departments include: sustainability, economic/business development, public health, early childhood, open space etc. Review corporate structure and ensure departments have enough opportunities for interdepartmental collaboration Investigate opportunities for further development of partnerships between council and community groups, food producers and retailers Support networking between food retailers. Foster partnerships between businesses and food producers to increase the amount of local produce available. 	The whole food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council takes a four-county approach to food⁶⁸ North American cities with food policy directors have two scheduled conference calls per year to promote exchange of ideas⁶⁸ Public-private partnerships can provide valuable funding stream for initiatives⁶⁸ Opportunities for partnerships between growers and retailers can include: community food co-ops, community supported agriculture, government support of local food⁶⁸ In councils that are leading the way on food policies, community engagement has been found to be essential⁶⁸ Having a community member ‘champion’ health promotion initiatives is effective²³ Most effective strategy to increase fruit & vegetables in one African-American community was for the local church to provide them at events²³ Partnership with academic institutions can be helpful^{68,84}
Strengthen integration of the food system in council policies and plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a food policy Create a position for a food policy director to implement food policy, and coordinate regional food approaches and initiatives Integrate food within Council policies and plans, allowing for a multi-strategy approach to addressing issues such as food insecurity and allow for greater opportunities for consultation between relevant council departments. 	The whole food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food policies help to stimulate collaboration between council departments and with external stakeholders to develop food-⁶⁸ Food policy directors help councils to take a more ‘process-²³ Baltimore: Appointment of a food policy director following an analysis of the food system showing divergent approaches from different city departments very quickly resulted in two major, successful initiatives: virtual supermarkets and zoning for urban farming²³

Regional Recommendations Continued.

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Support Local Food Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of local food retailers by providing training to local food businesses how to increase the healthy food options they offer (e.g. changing oils used, adding healthy options to the menu) • More advertising in newsletters, on the council website or within community publications, could also be offered as an incentive for businesses who sell local produce within the entire Outer East region. • Develop an awards scheme for businesses to market if they have local ingredients in their products. • Develop a healthy food awards scheme for local food retailers and foodservice. 	Consumer Access & Utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York City: The Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) Program rewards retail outlets in underserved areas who allocate at least 30% of floorspace to perishable products. Stores receive increased floor-space allowances, fewer parking spaces required, real-estate tax reductions, and sales tax exemptions on building materials.²³ • Brazil: retailers who stock produce from local farming families are granted a tax deduction.⁸⁰ • The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan lists healthy food outlet award and accreditation schemes as an opportunity to promote healthy food.¹³
Support for current food-related initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for ECOSS could greatly support their current work in education and permaculture. Establish a similar model in a more central location for the Outer East. • Link with work currently being done with INSPIRO around bush tucker (edible indigenous plants). On completion of this project, the findings could inform plants appropriate to integrate into open spaces as both food and low maintenance native vegetation for edible landscapes. • Promote sustainable schools initiatives, such as those at Ainslie Parklands, for all schools (see case study). 	Food Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous productive species planted elsewhere in Australia include macadamia trees in Brisbane and Illawarra plums in ⁴¹ • Non-indigenous trees include mango trees in Far North Queensland, and citrus trees in Adelaide.⁴¹ • Schools are highlighted as a setting that has potential in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.¹³

Regional Recommendations Continued.

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Strengthen sustainable options for waste & re-use of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate work being done by the Metropolitan Waste Management Group in providing a sustainable re-use option for organic food waste by incorporating into plans and policies as a direction for the future. Considering rebates for sustainable businesses, i.e. those that require their bins to be collected less often and those including composting initiatives. 	Waste and Re-use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the development of a food policy, the City of Melbourne, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Waste Group and local businesses, created a small demonstration recycling ⁸⁵ An organic waste recycling facility is being constructed at Bulla, north of Melbourne, and will serve the city's northern and Western suburbs.⁸⁶ A cafe in Melbourne's CBD⁸⁷ is an example of how waste can be reduced by recycling food packaging, having products delivered in reusable containers, seasonal menus and an eco-friendly focus (See Silo case study). These measures are used based on the idea of having a 'zero-waste' cafe.
Advocate for planning strategies which support food-sensitive activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for food-sensitive planning and urban design (see 'initiatives' column for examples) Inclusion of urban agriculture and encouraging business mix through structure plans Advocate for exclusion zones for fast food outlets around schools and youth facilities, to decrease accessibility of unhealthy foods. 	The whole food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FSPUD document lists a number of ways in which planning can impact the food system¹ and many others have been mentioned in this report. Chicago: Amended zoning ordinance to allow community gardens in residential areas without a permit and "urban farms" in non-²³ Cleveland: Created an urban garden overlay district for community gardens, livestock maintenance, and beekeeping.²³ Portland: Developments where more than half the rooftop is garden are awarded extra floor space.²³

Maroondah Recommendations

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Greater promotion of urban agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater promotion of nature strip landscaping- consider developing guidelines similar to Yarra Ranges and have them easily accessible such as on the council website Support interested community groups to promote urban agriculture Award to recognise food gardeners Integrate productive landscapes into town centres eg fruit and vegetable boxes with explanatory signs Review the Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines, with a view to simplifying the process of applying to create verge gardens, and increasing the accessibility of the published resource Provide a resource, similar to the page on the Yarra Ranges website, which guides the development of a community garden Increase volunteer participation within school gardens from links with community groups who may be able to assist with maintenance of the gardens. 	Food Production Consumer Access and Utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LandShare is a initiative that was founded in the UK, that links people with large gardens with people without gardens, but want to garden.⁸⁸ Simplifying the permit application process can be achieved by identifying and mapping available public open space, publicising urban agriculture, and appointing a single contact person for urban agriculture.²³ Several cities in Australia have developed urban agriculture guidelines, to focus their approach. These include Yarra,⁸¹ Bayside,⁸⁹ Whittlesea,⁹⁰ City of Sydney,⁹¹ Randwick⁹² and Sunshine Coast.⁹³ Seattle: Comprehensive Plan (high-level city plan) requires at least one community garden for every 2500 households.²³ Austin: Simplified application process for creating community gardens and urban farms²³ City of Yarra: Developed urban agriculture guidelines, The City of Yarra has simplified its application process. The simply in the guidelines, and their urban agriculture facilitator process. Public liability insurance is also covered by council.⁸¹
Incorporate food into the Community Wellbeing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include strategies to promote urban agriculture in the Plan Include a food-sensitive approach to planning in the action plan List development of a food policy as a strategy List developing of partnerships with various organisations to promote healthful eating, whether directly or indirectly 	The whole food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with a systems approach to promote healthy eating, as recommended in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing¹³

* City of Yarra Urban Agriculture Guidelines are available from their website: <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment/community-gardens/>

Maroondah Recommendations Continued.

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Support local business opportunities to promote local produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the development of a market in Ringwood Town Square, and investigate opportunities to include local food. • Continue to support existing farmers markets • Provide networking opportunities for Yarra Valley agriculture and Maroondah retailers 	Consumer Access and Utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complements state-wide Healthy Eating advisory service, which advises food businesses on healthy foods.¹³
Include food in council department policies and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include food, where possible, in all relevant policies and plans, especially those of the sustainability, open space and business departments. (See Appendix 5 for detailed policy and plans analysis) 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a more localised food system offers benefits both economic, environmental, social and nutritional,^{23,48} food should be included in plans of departments that are relevant to each of these factors.
Strengthen council approach to nutrition promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally assign responsibility for nutrition promotion to one designated council staff member, including specific goals and strategies from the Community Wellbeing Plan in their terms of reference. • Review existing responsibilities of other council members to ensure that all nutrition promotion activities are coordinated by this staff member • Consider allocating this portfolio to food policy director, if such a position is established. 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, coordinated direction from council is important for the success of food-related approaches.^{23,68,84} • New York City and Vancouver instituted steering committees which consist of representatives from various council departments, which they report have helped to streamline their city-wide food vision.⁶⁸

Yarra Ranges Recommendations

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Greater promotion of urban agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify council processes to establish a community garden by reducing the number of key contacts. Promote the webpage and/or provide brochures to community houses and community links to disseminate guidelines for community gardens. Continuing support of community gardens and edible landscapes such as Edible Warburton, through financial support, and development of a suitable model for each community. 	Food Production Consumer Access and Utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LandShare is a initiative that was founded in the UK, that links people with large gardens with people without gardens, but want to garden.⁸⁸ Simplifying the permit application process can be achieved by identifying and mapping available public open space, publicising urban agriculture, and appointing a single contact person for urban agriculture.²³ Several cities in Australia have developed urban agriculture guidelines, to focus their approach. These include Yarra,⁸¹ Bayside,⁸⁹ Whittlesea,⁹⁰ City of Sydney,⁹¹ Randwick⁹² and Sunshine Coast.⁹³ Seattle: Comprehensive Plan (high-level city plan) requires at least one community garden for every 2500 households.²³ Austin: Simplified application process for creating community gardens and urban farms²³ City of Yarra: <u>*Developed</u> urban agriculture guidelines, appointed a dedicated urban agriculture facilitator.⁸¹ The City of Yarra has simplified its application process. The application process for forms of urban agriculture is laid out simply in the guidelines, and their urban agriculture facilitator meets with prospective applicants to assist them with the process. Public liability insurance is also covered by council.⁸¹
Implement and integrate more innovative business models continued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Local Food Cluster is a model for partnerships between small local growers and business to increase opportunities for sustainability, jobs, marketing of Yarra Valley produce and advocacy for change in local policies and plans. 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South East Food Hub (See body of report and Case Study) Gippsland Food Cluster (See body of report)

* City of Yarra Urban Agriculture Guidelines are available from their website: <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment/community-gardens/>

Yarra Ranges Recommendations Continued.

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Strengthen Incorporation of food in the action plan for the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under goal 2: emphasising the importance of a local food system and incorporate support for access to local healthy food. Include support for the development of indicators or evaluation processes for future initiatives as a strategy within the action plan. 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with a systems approach to promote healthy eating, as recommended in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
Support local business opportunities to promote fresh produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for a business mix to include more fruit and vegetable retailers, particularly in the rural area of the Yarra Ranges. Advocate for the proposed mobile market concept. Support local markets and farmers markets that sell fresh and local food. 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile vendors are less expensive to establish²³ New York City's Green Carts program gives 1000 permits to mobile greengrocers to service underserved areas²³ Councils can support mobile vendors meet the needs of disadvantaged communities through nutrition regulations on the food sold, subsidies on permits and fees for vendors offering healthy food, and location regulation to encourage them to operate in underserved neighbourhoods.⁹⁴
Strengthen council approach to nutrition promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally assign responsibility for nutrition promotion to one designated council staff member, including specific goals and strategies from the Community Wellbeing Plan in their terms of reference. Review existing responsibilities of other council members to ensure that all nutrition promotion activities are coordinated by this staff member Consider allocating this portfolio to food policy director, if such a position is established. Strengthen partnerships between departments that have interfaces with the community to implement food-sensitive activities. This would include food businesses/growers (through agribusiness and economic development, and public health), community groups (open space), environment groups (sustainability) and health networks (social planning and development). 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong, coordinated direction from council is important for the success of food-related approaches.^{23,68,84} New York City and Vancouver instituted steering committees which consist of representatives from various council departments, which they report have helped to streamline their city-wide food vision.⁶⁸

Research Recommendations

Recommendation	Strategies	Stage of the Food System	Relevant Literature/Initiatives
Edible Streetscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic, social and environmental benefit of fruit trees and streetscapes requires further research. An area of concern for council is the increased maintenance these would provide. Further research may be able to identify fruit tree varieties which require less maintenance. Research may also uncover the potential impact they may have on the value of the streetscapes and on a community's access to, and consumption of, fresh fruit. Possibility of incorporating indigenous productive species 	Community and Amenity Consumer Access and Utilisation Food Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous productive species planted elsewhere in Australia include macadamia trees in Brisbane and Illawarra plums in Sydney.⁴¹ Non-indigenous trees include mango trees in Far North Queensland, and citrus trees in Adelaide.⁴¹
Evaluation of Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include planning of evaluation strategies for interventions when planning interventions Develop indicators or evaluation processes for current initiatives. This could be provided by universities or community health centres. 	The whole Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation is essential to determine the impact of an intervention.³⁴ The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan highlights the importance of intervention evaluations, to strengthen the evidence base for preventative health

Recommendations for Knox

For recommendations for the City of Knox, refer to Healthy Food Connect: Accessing healthy food in the City of Knox.³³

7. Conclusion

The goal of this project was to increase the food-sensitivity of planning and urban design of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges as part of a systems approach to promote healthy eating. While recognising strengths in existing practice in the region, this report identified gaps and barriers to a healthy, local food system in the area. By examining the food system comprehensively, gaps in current practice can be systematically identified, enabling the identification of multiple entry points at which change can be implemented.²³ Key opportunities for the future include support for business partnerships, urban agriculture and agribusiness. Both councils are eager to include food in their localities. Maroondah expressed that they intend to include food in the revision of their most influential council documents, the Municipal Strategic Statement, and the long-term Vision. Since the commencement of this project, they have also included a systems approach to food in their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans, which outlines local councils' four-year approach to health. Similarly, Yarra Ranges continues to be highly supportive of commercial agriculture, and there is much energy in the community for urban agriculture and local food systems. Their draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan also includes considering food from a planning perspective. Recommendations arising from this project will help to cultivate a culture in which fresh local produce is celebrated and enjoyed, and where healthy choices are the easy choices.¹³

8. References

1. Donovan J, Larsen K, McWhinnie J. Food-sensitive planning and urban design: A conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system. Melbourne: Report commissioned by the National Heart Foundation of Australia (Victorian Division); 2011.
2. Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases. Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases: report of a joint WHO/FAO expert consultation. Geneva: WHO; 2002.
3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australia's food & nutrition 2012. Cat. no. PHE 163. Canberra: AIHW; 2012.
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. National health priority areas [Internet]. Canberra: AIHW; 2013 [cited 2013 Sep 11]. Available from: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/national-health-priority-areas/>
5. Bell D. Maroondah Social Profile: An audit of community wellbeing. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2011.
6. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Health & Wellbeing Profile: Indicators of health and wellbeing in Yarra Ranges. Melbourne: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
7. Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Food for All – how local government is improving access to nutritious food [Internet]. Melbourne: VicHealth. 2008 [cited 2013 Sep 11]. Available from http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/~media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/healthy%20-eating/Food%20for%20all/food_for_all_web_singlepages.ashx
8. Delegates at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations World Summit on Food Security. Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security. Rome: FAO; 2009.
9. Rose G. Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol*. 2001;30:427-32.
10. Swinburn B, Egger G, Raza F. Dissecting obesogenic environments: the development and application of a framework for identifying and prioritizing environmental interventions for obesity. *Prev Med*; 1999;29(6):563-70.
11. De Savigny, Adam T. Systems thinking for health systems strengthening. Geneva: WHO; 2009.
12. World Health Organisation WHO 1986. Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. Health and Welfare Canada and Canadian Public Health Association.
13. Department of Health. Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015. Melbourne: State of Victoria; 2011.
14. Department of Health and Ageing Population Division. National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health [Internet]. Canberra: Department of Health and Ageing; 2012 [last updated 20 Nov 2012; cited 2013 Sep 11]. Available from: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-prevention-np>
15. The Hon David Davis MLC. More than a million Victorians to take up the fight against chronic disease and obesity [media release on the Internet]. Melbourne: Victorian Government; 2011 Dec 16 [cited 2013 Sep 11]. Available from: [http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/95A752F8E47B20C8CA25796C0000E5F5/\\$FILE/Media%20Release%20-%20Prevention%20Community%20Model.pdf](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/95A752F8E47B20C8CA25796C0000E5F5/$FILE/Media%20Release%20-%20Prevention%20Community%20Model.pdf)
16. Department of Health. Healthy Together Victoria [Internet]. Melbourne: Victorian Government; 2013 [last updated: 2013 July 16; cited 2013 Sep 11]. Available from: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/prevention/healthytogether.htm>
17. State of Victoria. Maroondah Planning Scheme. Melbourne: State of Victoria; 2013 Jul 15.
18. American Planning Association. Food system planning — Why is it a planning issue? [Internet] Chicago: American Planning Association; 2013 [cited 2013 Sep 10]. Available from: <https://www.planning.org/resources/ontheradar/food/whyplanningissue.htm?print=true>
19. Cain L. Heart Foundation (Victoria) Active Living Update – January 2013 [Internet]. Melbourne: National Heart Foundation of Australia (Victorian Division); 2013 [cited 2013 Sep 12]. Available from: <http://www.planning.org.au/documents/item/4655>
20. Maroondah City Council. Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017 [Draft]. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013.
21. Yarra Ranges Council. Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017 [Draft]. Melbourne: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.

22. City of Melbourne. Food City [Internet]. Melbourne: City of Melbourne; 2012. Available from: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityservices/health/foodpolicy/Pages/FoodPolicy.aspx>
23. Broad Leib EM. All (food) politics is local: Increasing food access through local government action. *Harvard Law & Policy Review*. 2013;7: 321-42.
24. Johnson C, Lewis E, McDonald G, Sampimon E. Outer East Community Food Access Research Project: Food security assessment and plans for a way forward. Melbourne: Outer East Health & Community Support Alliance; 2008.
25. Clugston S, Rossimel E. Reassessing food insecurity in Melbourne's outer east. Melbourne: Outer East Health and Community Support Alliance; 2013.
26. Yarra Ranges Council. Green Wedge Management Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; July 2010.
27. Yarra Ranges Council. Submission to Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Local Economic Development Initiatives in Victoria. Yarra Ranges Council; September 2012
28. La Trobe University Community Planning and Development Program. The Impacts of a Localised Food Supply: What is the Evidence? Bendigo: VicHealth; 2010 Oct.
29. Maroondah City Council. A perspective on business: Maroondah. City of Maroondah; 2008
30. Maroondah City Council. Ringwood Central Activities District Commercial Precinct Plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2010 Jul.
31. Maroondah City Council. Croydon Town Centre structure plan. Volume 1: Main report. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Jul.
32. State of Victoria Department of Transport, Planning & Local Infrastructure. Plan Melbourne: Metropolitan planning strategy. Melbourne: Victorian Government; 2013.
33. Healthy Together Knox. Healthy Food Connect: Accessing healthy food in the City of Knox. Melbourne: Knox City Council in Partnership with Knox Community Health Service, 2013 Sep.
34. Hughes R, Margetts BM. Practical public health nutrition. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell; 2011.
35. Capacity building needs assessment (CBNA) in the regions (version 2.0) module B: methods and instruments for the capacity building cycle [monograph on the Internet]. Jakarta: Deutsche Gesellschaft fur TechnischeZusammenarbeit (GTZ); 2005 [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://cap-net.org/sites/cap-net.org/files/CB_Guidelines_GTZ_Module_B.pdf
36. Robson C. Real world research. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers; 2002. p. 458.
37. Donovan J, Larsen K, McWhinnie J. Food-sensitive planning and urban design: Council plans/policies checklist. Canberra: National Heart Foundation of Australia; 2013.
38. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Council Plan 2013-2017 – A place of possibilities. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
39. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy Framework, Municipal Strategic Statement. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; July 2013.
40. Yarra Ranges Council. The Urban Triangle Project [Internet]. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2011 [last updated 2011 Nov 21;cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Business/Strategy_Projects/The_Urban_Triangle_Project
41. Grayson R. Farmers of the urban footpath- design guidelines for street verge gardens [Internet]. Sydney: Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network; 2010 Apr 9 [last updated 2010 Apr 9; cited 2013 Oct 24]. Available from: <http://communitygarden.org.au/2010/04/09/verge-gardens/>
42. Yarra Ranges Council. Gardening for community spaces, shop fronts and nature strips [Internet]. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013 [last updated 2013 Sep 9; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Greener_Living/Gardening_for_Community_Spaces_Shop_Fronts_and_Nature_Strips
43. Parfitt C, Rose N, Green C, Alden J, Beilby A. The People's Food Plan: A common-sense approach to a fair, sustainable and resilient food system. Canberra: Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance; 2013.
44. Pretty J. Some benefits and drawbacks of local food systems [Internet]. London: AgriFood Network; 2001 Nov 21 [cited 2013 Oct 24; last updated 2001 Nov 21]. Available from: www.sustainweb.org/pdf/afn_m1_p2.pdf
45. Larsen K, Ryan C, Abraham AB. Sustainable and secure food systems for Victoria: What do we know? What do we need to know? Melbourne: Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab (VEIL); 2008 Apr.
46. CERES Community environment park [Internet]. Melbourne: CERES; 2012 [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.ceres.org.au/>

47. Maroondah City Council. Early years plan 2010-2014. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2010.
48. Martinez S, Hand M, Da Pra M, Pollack S, Ralston K, Smith T et al. Local food systems: Concepts, impacts, and issues, ERR 97. Washington, D.C., United States: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service; 2010 May.
49. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy Framework. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013 Jul.
50. Yarra Ranges Council. Shire of Yarra Ranges Vision 2020 Community Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
51. Yarra Ranges Council. Shire of Yarra Ranges Environment Strategy-Towards a sustainable future and better stewardship of our natural environment. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
52. Yarra Ranges Council. Economic Development Strategy (2012-2022). Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2012.
53. Fischer M, Hamm M, Pirog R, Fisk J, Farbman J, Kiraly S. Findings of the 2013 National Food Hub Survey [Internet]. Lansing: Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems & The Wallace Center at Winrock International; 2013 Sep [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/activities/food-hub-survey>
54. Eaterprises with the Australian Food Hubs Network. Scoping, design and recommendations for development of a food hub' in the City of Casey. Melbourne: VicHealth & City of Casey; 2012 Mar 19.
55. Rosen B, Thornton L, Macpherson G. Childhood obesity and density of fast food outlets - the need for a planning response. *Planning News*. 2013 Oct: 39(9); 6-7.
56. Swinburne University of Technology. Review of regional farmers markets: an assessment of the current situation of week-end markets selling fresh and processed farm products in the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Lilydale: Swinburne University of Technology; 2010.
57. De Rose K. Mount Evelyn Affordable Food Market Case Study. Lilydale: Inspiro; 2013
58. Kinross H. Healthy living in Australia [Internet]. Melbourne: Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne); 2009 Jan [cited 2013 Oct 30].
59. Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) [Internet]. Melbourne: Migrant Information Centre; 2013 [last updated 2013 Oct 16; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.miceastmelb.com.au/>
60. Department of Planning and Community Development. Reformed industrial zones [Internet]. Melbourne: State Government of Victoria; 2013 [last updated Oct 15; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/theplanningsystem/improving-the-system/new-zones-for-victoria/improved-industrial-zones>
61. City of Melbourne. Green light, eat right [Internet]. Melbourne: City of Melbourne; 2013 [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/COMMUNITYSERVICES/HEALTH/Pages/EatRight.aspx>
62. Glen Eira City Council. Health promotion [Internet]. Melbourne: Glen Eira City Council; [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Community/Health_and_safety/Food_Safety/Health_Promotion
63. Maroondah City Council. Composting & Worm Farms [information pamphlet]. Neighbourhood & Environment. Maroondah City Council; publication year unknown
64. Maroondah City Council. Waste Management [information pamphlet]. Neighbourhood & Environment. Maroondah City Council; publication year unknown
65. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Shire Council Budget Report – Year Ending June 30 2014. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
66. Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Policy and plans: incorporate food security into council policy and plans [pamphlet]. Carlton: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation; 2010.
67. Adams K, Ashcroft K, Hurst B, Martin S, McPherson A, Thom T. Food for thought: A strategic approach underpinning action on food security in the Yarra Ranges. Melbourne: Outer East Health and Community Support Alliance; 2012.
68. Hatfield MM. City food policy and programs: Lessons harvested from an emerging field [Internet]. City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; 2012 Oct [cited 2013 Oct 22]. Available from: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/416389>

69. Cantrell P, Conner D, Erickcek G, Hamm MW. Eat fresh and grow jobs, Michigan. Lansing: The Michigan Land Use Group & The C.S. Mott Group; 2006 Sep.
70. Swenson D. The economic impacts of increased fruit and vegetable production and consumption in Iowa: Phase II. Ames: Iowa State University; 2006 May.
71. East Gippsland Food Cluster. [Internet]. [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.eastgippslandfoodcluster.com.au/>
72. VicHealth. Food for All? Food insecurity community demonstration projects. Melbourne: Maribyrnong City Council & North Yarra Community Health; 2003 Nov.
73. Department of Health. Community kitchens [Internet]. Melbourne: State Government of Victoria; 2013 [cited 2013 Oct 30; last updated 2013 Aug 19]. Available from: [http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/52B54F7C83AC8224CA25788B001B05FA/\\$FILE/CommunityKitchens.pdf](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/52B54F7C83AC8224CA25788B001B05FA/$FILE/CommunityKitchens.pdf)
74. Friends of the Earth Brisbane. Towards a community supported agriculture [Internet]. Brisbane: Friends of the Earth Brisbane; 2010 Mar 12 [cited 25 October 2013]. Available from: http://www.brisbane.foe.org.au/uploads/1/4/1/7/14174316/foe_agriculture_land_protection_submission_to_queensland_government_2010.pdf
75. Melbourne City Rooftop Honey [Internet]. Melbourne: Melbourne City Rooftop Honey; 2013 [cited 2013 Oct 24]. Available from: <http://rooftop-honey.myshopify.com/>
76. The Urban Beehive [Internet]. Sydney: The Urban Beehive; [cited 2013 Oct 24]. Available from: <http://theurbanbeehive.com.au/index.cfm>
77. Brannen S. FoodWorks: A vision to improve NYC's food system. New York City: The New York City Council; [date unknown].
78. Vertical gardens [Internet]. Melbourne: By Joost; [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://byjoost.com/vertical-gardens>
79. Koont S. The urban agriculture of Havana. *Mon Rev.* 2009 Jan; 60(8): 44-63.
80. da Silva JG, Del Grossi ME, de França CG. The Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) Program: The Brazilian experience. Brasilia: Ministry of Agrarian Development; 2011.
81. Huff P. Community gardens [Internet]. Melbourne: City of Yarra; 2013 [last updated 2013 Oct 30; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment/community-gardens/>
82. Crisp B, Swerissen H, Duckett S. Four approaches to capacity building in health: consequences for measurement and accountability. *Health Promot Int.* 2000; 15(2): 99-107.
83. Clugston S, Rossimel E. Reassessing food security in Melbourne's Outer East. Melbourne: Outer East Health & Community Support Alliance; 2013.
84. Hodgson K. Planning for food access and community-based food systems. Washington, D.C: American Planning Association; 2012 Nov.
85. City of Melbourne. Degraeves Street Recycling Facility [Internet]. Melbourne: City of Melbourne; [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/enterprisemelbourne/waste/Pages/DegraevesRecyclingFacility.aspx>
86. Smith R. \$3.8 million to recycle Melbourne's vegetable scraps into garden gold [Internet]. Melbourne: State Government of Victoria; 2012 Apr 26. Available from: http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/mediareleases/2012/120426_R_Smith_-_3.8m_to_recycle_Melbournes_vegetable_scraps_into_garden_gold.pdf
87. Hoffman K. Media release 28 June 2012 [Internet]. Melbourne: Silo by Joost; 2012 [cited 2012 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://byjoost.com/silo/media-release/>
88. Landshare. Landshare [Internet]. Sydney: Landshare; [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.landshareaustralia.com.au>
89. Director City Strategy. Community garden policy [Internet]. Melbourne: City of Bayside; 2013 Sep 2 [last updated 2013 Sep 2; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://bayside.vic.gov.au/Bayside_Community_Garden_Policy_adopted_2_September_2013.PDF
90. Community gardens policy [Internet]. South Morang: City of Whittlesea; 2013 [last updated 2013 Aug 21; cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: <http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/your-council/plans-strategies-and-policies/community-gardens-policy>

91. Community gardens & volunteering co-ordinator. Community gardens policy [Internet]. Sydney: City of Sydney; 2010 Oct [cited 2013 Oct 30]. Available from: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/100286/community-gardens-policy.pdf
92. City of Randwick. Community garden policy [Internet]. Sydney: City of Randwick; 2010 [cited 2013 Oct 24; last updated 2010 Oct 10]. Available from: http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/150/25.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=2011-08-08_Community%20Garden%20Policy.pdf
93. Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Community gardens policy [Internet]. Sunshine Coast: Sunshine Coast Regional Council; 2012 [cited 2013 Oct 24]. Available from: http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/addfiles/documents/community/comm_gardens_policy.pdf
94. BC Ministry of Health, Population Health and Wellness. Evidence review: Food security. Ministry of Health; 2011 May.

CASE STUDIES



Edible Warburton

Edible Landscape within Town Design

Description

Edible Warburton was designed based on the UK town of Todmorden (see case study). The vision for the group is for everyone to have access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

- Currently there are two main sites of food production with the fruit and vegetable boxes behind the Bendigo Bank and the community garden on main street.
- Seeds and supplies for establishing the boxes and community garden were purchased with a council grant and donations from businesses and the community.
- Businesses around the garden donate water and the community donate their time to upkeep the boxes and community garden.
- Future work will be around producing an 'edible trail' through Warburton with more planter boxes and edible trees planted along the main bike trail and main street.



Warburton Community Garden



Fruit & Vegetable boxes behind Bendigo Bank, Warburton.



Sign on the fruit & vegetable boxes behind Bendigo Bank, Warburton.

Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

	Health and Fairness	Sustainability and Resilience	Livelihood and Opportunity	Community and Amenity
Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information



bleWarburton

YV Fresh

Supply Chain Business Model

Description

YV Fresh provides a unique opportunity for berry growers within the Yarra Valley. Small to medium growers generally don't produce enough produce to support large commercial supermarkets, due to their need for a high volume of produce and high standard of product. This business model allows small and medium growers to come together under one name to market their product. This increases the amount of product they have to sell and reduces costs as they are able to buy packaging in bulk and employ experts, such as scientists and agricultural experts to ensure productivity of the land and a high quality product.

- Currently 43% of Australia's raspberries and blackberries are produced by Y.V.Fresh growers.
- Originally there were 7 growers and now there are 14.
- This model could apply to other businesses if there is enough small growers of a particular product in the region.
- YV fresh will be looking at online sales and opportunities to provide the supermarkets with all-year-round produce in the future.



Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

	Health and Fairness	Sustainability and Resilience	Livelihood and Opportunity	Community and Amenity
Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

www.yvfresh.com.au

Yarra Valley ECOSS

Sustainable innovation in Food Production & provision of education opportunities

Description

Yarra Valley ECOSS is a non-for profit community organisation dedicated to *ecological and social sustainability* located in Wesburn.

Their vision is for a vibrant, resilient and sustainable Yarra Valley community. Their mission is to create an inspiring educational and recreational facility that will demonstrate sustainable living solutions for the community of the Yarra Valley and beyond.

- ECOSS includes 2 working hot houses and extensive land for production of food plants and fruit trees. These are sold on site in Wesburn and supplied to local nurseries.
- ECOSS is currently supported by council grants, however aims to be sustainable and has great visions for their land in the future.
- Education and training includes bee keeping, edible weeds, seed saving and worm farming.



Food plants in hot houses



Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

<http://www.ecoss.org.au>



, arravalleyecoss

The Groovy Fruit Shop

Fruit & Vegetable Retailer Stocking Local & Shared Produce

Description

The Groovy Fruit Shop is a local fruit and vegetable retailer in Belgrave South.

- Produce is sourced locally where possible and there are partnerships with farmers throughout the year for produce such as berries, zucchini and squash.
- Other produce is sourced from Footscray Market to increase the variety of produce available.
- Produce is affordable, fresh and varied.
- It is also located next to a butcher and bakery providing the community with a strip of shops, instead of requiring a supermarket.
- Community members are also able to bring in excess produce in exchange for other produce or money. Foods provided by the community include grapefruits, lemons, limes, rosemary and parsley and other foods in season.



Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

Todmorden

Edible Landscape Integrated into a Township

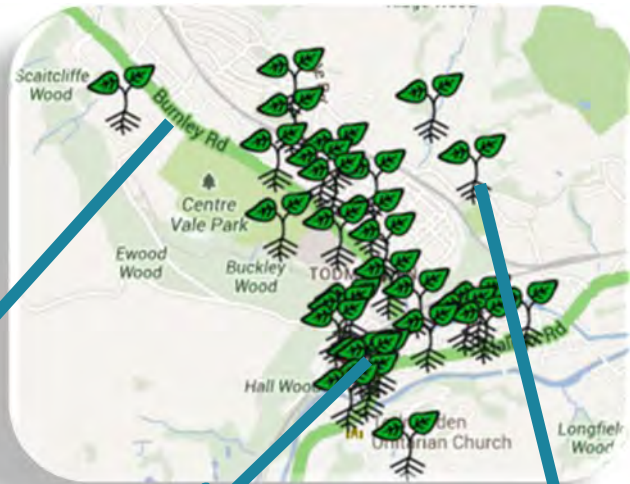
Description

Todmorden is a town in The United Kingdom dedicated to providing access to good local food for all through working together, supporting local businesses and education.

- Edible aspects of the town include;
 - Community Gardens and boxes along streets
 - Community herb gardens – in boxes at train stations and parks
 - Orchards
 - Schools
- All community members are encouraged to enjoy the produce, even if they don't volunteer.
- Management of all gardens is done by volunteers and community groups often 'adopt' parts of the town and particular garden beds.

- Education occurs within schools, colleges, adult learning facilities and housing estates.
- Education aims to foster a reconnection with where food comes from; how it's grown; how it's transformed by processing and cooking.

Map of Town Initiatives



Edible Streetscape 'Dream' designs



Herb Boxes at Todmorden Station



Woodlands Community Orchards

Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk



/Incredible-Edible-Todmorden-Page

South East (Casey) Food Hub

Alternative Business model for the Provision of Fresh Local Produce

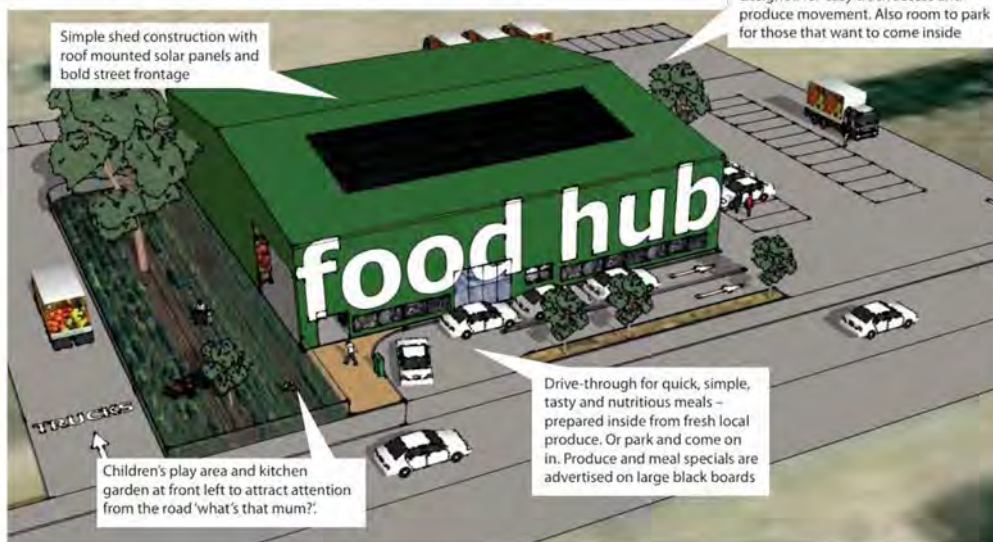
Description

The City of Casey is in the South-Eastern suburbs of Melbourne and includes many areas of prime agricultural land. The aim for the food hub was to link the large and expanding population with the vast food production of the area. A food hub is a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating storage, distribution and marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.

- The food hub concept aims to make it easier to buy and sell local produce. They work with farmers to assist in the marketing and distribution of produce and assist local businesses and communities source their food locally. It provides a central place for produce to be sold, without the 'middle man.'
- In 2012 extensive stakeholder engagement, research and mapping of the local food system was completed.
- In October 2013 the food hub was trialled and this phase is currently under evaluation.

A Food Hub for Casey - concept sketches

These computer modeled architectural sketches have been created to illustrate how a Food Hub at Casey could be simply designed to provide a mix of services for farmers and the general community. These designs are intended as 'conversation starters'. A final Casey Food Hub design could end up being many times larger or much smaller depending upon the needs and desires for the local community.



Source: <http://www.eaterprises.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/110923-Casey-Food-Hub-Concepts.pdf>

Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

	Health and Fairness	Sustainability and Resilience	Livelihood and Opportunity	Community and Amenity
Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

www.foodhubs.org.au/resource/casey-cardinia-joint-submission-2008/



/ efoodhub

Ainslie Parklands Primary School

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative

Description

Ainslie Parklands Primary School has integrated the Resource Smart AuSSI framework into their school curriculum

- This framework is an initiative of the Victorian Government aimed to minimise waste and water usage, save energy, improve biodiversity in school grounds, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This framework involves using a 'whole school approach' to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of school life.
- Ainslie Parklands have a Mandala garden at their school which was developed after talking to the students about what they wanted, a grant from Landcare, help from Conservation Volunteers Australia (set up the land), and a great driving force from the school's Art teacher.
- The Mandala garden has many garden plots that are taken care of by different classes. Some examples are: a Pizza Garden, a Dessert Garden, and an Asian Garden.
- Examples of lessons involved with the garden are:
 - Growing food
 - Composting
 - Cooking classes using produce from the gardens (e.g. pumpkin soup, beetroot dip) with the help of volunteer parents and grandparents.
- Sustainable Futures lessons where the students are able to explore and record how the vegetables are growing, as well as anything they find interesting.
- Some examples of how sustainability is embedded in their school are:
 - Fresh food scraps go into the compost, worm farm or chickens
 - Recycling bins are available for paper, metal, glass
 - Litter free school yard and rubbish free lunches initiatives
 - Collecting water from the roof into 5 water tanks
 - Ride to school and walk to school days



Mandala Garden

Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

<http://sustainability.ceres.org.au/program/rsav/>

Blog: [http://croydonwestprimaryschool.blogspot.com.au/ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic](http://croydonwestprimaryschool.blogspot.com.au/ResourceSmart%20AuSSI%20Vic)

Maroondah City Council Early Years Plan 2010-2014

How food can be integrated into Council Plans

Description

The Maroondah Early Years Plan 2010-2014 is an example of how food can be integrated into Council planning. The plan highlights Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of children in the local area, and recognises the limitations of Council working on such a plan alone (limited capacity).

- The plan was implemented with the help of partnerships, including those with other governmental departments and agencies, local organisations and the community.
- Food fits into two main priorities in the plan: Health and Leisure and Outdoor Spaces
- Examples of some strategies under Health priorities are:
 - "Implementation of the National Breastfeeding Strategy through Maternal and Child Health services"
 - "Implementation of the Healthy Eating and Physical Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings to improve child health and reduce obesity"
 - "Promote key health promotion messages"
- Examples of strategies under Leisure and Outdoor Spaces priorities are:
 - "Ensure children's gardens are a part of all Maroondah Early Childhood Services"
 - "Encourage families to join community gardens"
 - "Encourage schools to participate in planning of parks and reserves"
 - "Encourage kindergartens, child care centres, schools and community groups to plant children's gardens"



Matrix

	Health and Fairness	Sustainability and Resilience	Livelihood and Opportunity	Community and Amenity
Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

Document: Maroondah City Council Early Years Plan 2010-2014 (available from <http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/EarlyYearsPlan.aspx>)
 Maroondah City Council: telephone 1300 88 22 33 or website www.maroondah.vic.gov

Mt Evelyn Affordable Food Market

Fresh and affordable local produce market

Description

- Market set up to provide affordable local fresh produce to the Yarra Ranges.
- Fruit and Vegetable retailer provided the majority of the fresh produce, one stall holder sold berries and fruit from the region, a local church sold produce grown in their members' gardens and others sold homemade foods and crafts.
- Set up by INSPIRO and Morrisons (Mt Evelyn)
- A range of evaluation methods were used. Results included;
 - Produce consistently sold for 1/3 less of the price of local supermarkets over the year trial period.
 - The additional amount of time fresh produce was available in the Yarra Ranges increased by 3 hours and 20 minutes a month due to market vending.
 - Partnerships build and maintained
- Areas for improvement include more fruit and vegetable stall holders, changing the day and time of the week to increase convenience and greater community attendance and involvement.



Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information



, ffordableFoodMarket

'Silo' by Joost

Eco-friendly Café in Melbourne

Description

Silo by Joost is a 'zero-waste' café in Melbourne's CBD launched by Joost Bakker in partnership with Danny Colls (hospitality). The main premise behind the eco-friendly café is that it is good for the health of the community as well as the planet.

- The waste-free, seasonal menu was created by Douglas McMaster, winner of Britain's Most Irreverent Chef award.
- Breads and pastries are made from flour that is milled fresh on site; salads are made fresh daily, as well as soups and grain-based dishes. Fresh produce is sourced from local organic suppliers, and sustainable practices are incorporated at every available opportunity.
- All milk, mineral water and fresh produce is delivered to the café in recyclable, reusable or returnable containers.

- No rubbish bins due to reduced waste production (no need for bins).
- 15 seat communal dining bar to promote group dining. The dining room goes through/connects to the kitchen so that diners are able to see the sustainable cooking and waste-reduction practices in action. Other chairs are made from irrigation pipes and leather off-cuts.
- The café has its own food waste dehydrator and steriliser for all organic waste situated in the laneway outside. As of June 2012 this was an Australian first for a café in Melbourne's CBD. 10 litres of dry fertiliser is produced from every 100 litres of waste. This nutrient-rich fertiliser is given to the farmers who deliver the café's fresh produce, thus going back into the food system.



Source: <http://byjoost.com/silo/food-drink/>

Matrix

Health and Fairness

Sustainability and Resilience

Livelihood and Opportunity

Community and Amenity

Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

<http://byjoost.com/silo/>

Media Release (28th June, 2012): <http://byjoost.com/silo/media-release/>

The School Food Plan

Putting Food at the Heart of School Life

Description

- A secondary school in the United Kingdom has integrated 'The School Food Plan' with the main goals of increasing the number of students having school meals, improving the nutritional quality of food served to staff and students, tackling food insecurity, as well as using an upstream approach to health by looking at the early causes of nutritional problems.
 - The plan, released in July 2013, contains a series of actions recommended to improve food and nutritional education in schools. Some examples of actions include having cooking classes as part of the school curriculum, getting funding to serve students breakfast, as well as improving staff and students attitudes towards healthy and sustainable eating.
 - The authors of The School Food Plan explored over sixty schools in England and found three common themes for having a successful food system in schools:
 1. Concentrate on the things children care about: good food, attractive environment, social life, price and brands
 2. Adopt a whole school approach (treating the dining hall as an integral part of the school – teachers and students eat there, cooks seen as important staff members).
 3. Head teacher who leads the change (driving force), or small schools in partnerships with each other to gain the same driving force
- Treat food as a vital element of school life (food as a pillar of the school's philosophy); incorporate food and sustainability into all subjects where possible (food goes in to English, maths, history, etc.)
- The plan encourages schools to use produce from local suppliers. Food is seen as a way of sharing, and dining halls can be seen as 'restaurants' where staff and students all come together to have a nutritious meal.
 - Free 'green' breakfast to all staff and students reduces the need for packaging, and does not discriminate against those who cannot otherwise afford to buy it. Free school lunch meals for those disadvantaged. Students who can afford to pay do so, and this contributes to funding to pay for the fresh food.
 - Schools that cannot afford to have such 'green' meals are encouraged to work with other schools and organisations such as Food For Life (gain partnerships)

Matrix

	Health and Fairness	Sustainability and Resilience	Livelihood and Opportunity	Community and Amenity
Producing Food				
Processing and moving Food				
Consumer access and utilisation				
Waste and re-use				

For more information

<http://www.dyca.org.uk/>

Podcast: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03bpxxs>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Bi-Cycle Model

Appendix 2: Stakeholders

Appendix 3: Main Themes suggested during Stakeholder consultations

Appendix 4: FSPUD Matrices

Appendix 5: Plans and Policies Analysis Tables



Appendix 1: Bi-Cycle Model

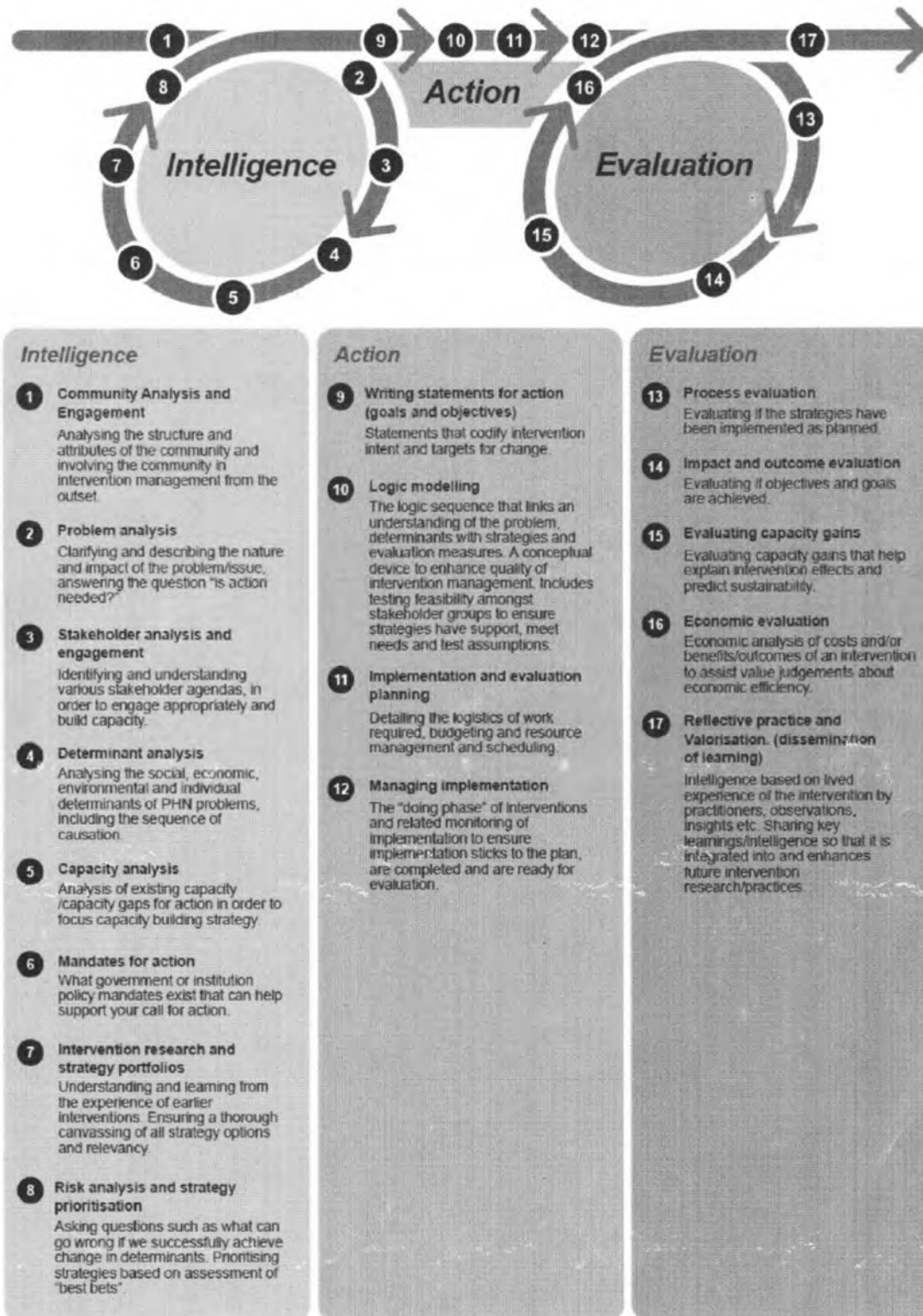


Figure directly from: Hughes R, Margetts BM. Practical public health nutrition. United Kingdom: Wiley-Blackwell; 2011.

Appendix 2: Stakeholders

Maroondah Stakeholders

Table 1: Consulted Stakeholders in Maroondah

Stakeholder	Type of consultation
Council	
Business and Development	2 interviews (phone and via email)
Community Development	2 interviews (phone and in person)
Community Health	Interview
Community Planning and Development	Interview
Environment Planner	Email interview
Integrated Planning	2 interviews (in person)
Local Laws	Email interview
Operations Administration Co-ordinator	Email interview
Statutory Planning	Email interview
Strategic Planning and Sustainability	Email interview
Waste Management	Email interview
Community	
Arrabri Community Centre	Phone interview
Central Ringwood Community Centre	Phone interview
Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) – Health Promotion Officer	Interview
Glen Park Community Centre	2 interviews (phone and in person)
Migrant Information Centre	Email interview
North Ringwood Uniting Church	Interview and site visit
Ringwood North Community House	Phone interview
Transition Towns Network (Maroondah)	Email correspondence and online research
Yarrunga Community Centre	Phone interview
Team Leader Community Renewal	Interview and site visit
Business	
Bakery in Croydon	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Bakery in Heathmont	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Bakery in Ringwood North	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Butcher in Croydon Hills	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Butcher in Heathmont	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Butcher in Ringwood	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Butcher in Ringwood North	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Café in Croydon	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Community Café in Bayswater North	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Fruit and Vegetable Store in Heathmont	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Fruit and Vegetable Store in Ringwood	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Fruit and Vegetable Store in Ringwood North	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Greengrocer in Ringwood	Interview (using Retailer Survey)
Heathmont Honey	Email correspondence (questions and online research)
The Cadbury Factory	Email correspondence (questions and online research)

Stakeholders identified but not consulted for various reasons:

- Open Space (Council department)
- Supermarket in Croydon Hills which stocks local products
- Bakery in Heathmont
- Butcher in Ringwood
- Café in Ringwood
- Café in Ringwood East
- Fruit and vegetable store in Croydon
- Fruit and vegetable store in Croydon Hills
- Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club
- Dibble and Hoe Garden Club
- Ringwood Garden Club

Yarra Ranges Stakeholders

Table 2: Consulted Stakeholders in the Yarra Ranges

Stakeholder	Type of consultation
Council	
Sustainability	Interview
Health Operations (Public Health)	Interview
Economic Developments and Agribusiness	Interview
Social Planning	Focus Group
Statutory Planning	Phone Interview
Strategic Planning	Two Interviews
Open Space	Interview
Waste Management	Interview
Urban Design	Interview
Community	
Transition Towns Network (facilitated by council)	Focus Group
TT MOOKY (Transition Town Mooroolbark/Montrose/Kilsyth)	Phone Interview
Inspiro Community Health Service – Health Promotion	Interview
Yarra Valley Community Health Service – Health Promotion	Phone Interview
ECOSS (community garden)	Site Visit
Edible Warburton (including Warburton community garden)	Site Visit and Interview
Yarra Valley Permaculture Group (Healesville Organic Farmer’s Market and Healesville Community Garden)	Site Visit and Interview
Community Kitchen (Olinda Community House)	Phone Interview
Morrison’s Community Development (Mount Evelyn Affordable Food Market and Morrison Community Garden)	Interview
Business	
YV Fresh	Phone Interview
Groovy Fruit Shop (Belgrave South)	Site Visit and Phone Interview
Fruit and Vegetable Retailer in Launching Place	Site Visit and Interview

Stakeholders identified but not consulted for various reasons:

- Eastern Food Alliance
- Yarra Valley Regional Food Group
- Fruit and Vegetable Retailers
- Large scale growers
- Farmer’s Markets selling food:
 - Yarra Valley Regional Farmers Market
 - Lilydale Farmers Produce Market
- Community Gardens:
 - Morrison’s Community Garden
 - Chirnside Park Community Kitchen Garden
 - Upwey Link Community Kitchen Garden
 - The Bridge Community Garden Centre
 - Birdsland Community Garden
 - Tecoma Community Garden

Expert Opinion

Table 3: Consulter expert during research period

Stakeholder	Type of consultation
Heart Foundation	Interview
Planning Institute of Australia Victoria Committee	Phone interview
Town Planning	Interview
Lukar Thornton (Deakin University)	Interview

Appendix 3: Main Themes Suggested during stakeholder consultations

Maroondah

Main Theme	Strategies
Supporting a local food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local retailers selling produce from Yarra Ranges (e.g. fruit and vegetable stores, cafes) - Farmers Markets in Heathmont, Croydon and Whitehorse (on Maroondah Highway) - Traders Association and schools wanted more Farmers Markets to sell local produce
Increase access of local fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase fruit and vegetable retailers in the area - There is an issue that people can access the fresh produce, but do not want to use it or do not know how to use it - There needs to be an increase in education, starting with children at schools is the best way. If you encourage children to want to go to the local fruit and vegetable shop then their parents are more than likely going to take them there.
Partnerships in council/ Council interfaces with community and business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of health promotion done by Community Health team (initiatives are mainly around preventing food-borne illness/food safety) - Business mentoring sessions and meetings for all businesses in Maroondah run by the Economic Development department – could be an opportunity to teach businesses about healthy foods/local produce - Transition Towns Network - Traders Association - Discussions with Council departmental staff about departments working together more, speaking with people involved with successful interventions about how to get them started (e.g. Glen Park community garden)
Urban Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes: community gardens, nature strip gardening - Need to be wary of vandalism and public liability - Community gardens are a positive initiative and a good way to bring people together and have them learn about food. - Bayswater Community Renewal Project included aspects around amenity and bringing people together in their open spaces - Maroondah City Council Early years plan 2010-14 strongly encourages community gardens - Glen Park Community Garden and Community Centre (Bayswater North) – there is a gardening club available through the centre, and you have to be a member to plant in the garden - Gardening clubs available e.g. Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club, Ringwood Garden Club, Dibble and Hoe Garden Club - Croydon and Ringwood libraries have resources on gardening, growing food, composting, etc.
School gardens/sustainability programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships with EACH help to get funding/grants - Volunteer gardeners through EACH - Parent and family volunteers - Driven teachers and principals really make a difference in terms of getting things set up and running smoothly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability Victoria and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development funding and involvement with the Resource Smart AuSSI framework (See Case Study) - School gardens are a great way to teach children about growing and cooking food, and also teaches them about sustainable living
Community to carry vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of community gardens, you can't force interest by making a garden if the community doesn't want one i.e. there needs to be an identified need and desire for things to happen for them to work when implemented by Council - Community members and Traders Association got more markets selling fresh and local produce because it was desired by the community - Interested retailers want to stock local produce to support local farmers
Recycling Organic Wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council workshops on composting and worm farming - Brochures and Council advertising for composting and workshops - Composting in school and community gardens - Sustainability and Waste departments (Council) involvement - Resources on recycling organic wastes and composting at the Ringwood and Croydon libraries - Permaculture group (6 month course) at Yarrunga Community Centre - Deep involvement from Yarrunga Programs Manager - Retailers want more ways of recycling. Some retailers already have their own compost piles and use coffee grounds in gardens

Yarra Ranges

Main Theme	Strategies
Supporting a local food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Buy local, eat seasonal' project by Inspiro aimed to increase consumer access of farm gates and u-picks in the region. (Increases physical access and increases awareness of local produce.) Social marketing tool to encourage supporting local economy and environment, and from a health perspective. - Barrier to growers selling local produce at markets is that they won't make enough money and hard to have people available to manage stand because they are too busy.
Support the development of a local food cluster or cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Middle players need to work together to create the scale to supply to supermarkets - YV Fresh is an example of medium growers working together as a co-operative to have buying power (See Case Study) - There needs to be enough produce to supply a larger body. - Working as co-operative means that there are finances to employ experts in marketing and business. - Land is expensive in the region, which can act as a barrier to having one place for a cooperative or cluster to do their processing.
Increase access of local fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fruit and Vegetable Box Schemes - Increase fruit and vegetable retailers in the area - In the Yarra Ranges often need to use a car to access fresh fruit and vegetables. Can become a barrier if someone is poor. - There is an issue that people can access the fresh produce, but do not want to use it or do not know how to use it. - There needs to be an increase in education, starting with kids is the best way.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vision to start a mobile market concept: truck with fresh produce can go to areas in the Yarra Ranges where access is limited.
Increase food production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentives for farmers (Lou) - state government rebates that local government could advocate for - Added value business on site to make business more successful (can't sustain itself just on produce often).
Partnerships in council/ Council interfaces with community and business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of health promotion done by Public Health team (have influence in food businesses) - Where does council have an interface with the food system and how are they using that interface? - Interfaces in place: agribusiness with growers, public health with food businesses, open space with community and sporting groups, and sustainability with transition towns network. - Social planning has networks with other health promotion agencies, but do not have an interface with the community.
Urban Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes: community gardens, nature strip gardening, shop front gardens and edible landscapes (e.g. Warburton). - Identified barrier around community gardens: how can they remain interesting during the winter season - Community gardens are a positive initiative and a good way to bring people together and have them learn about food. - Specific community that engages in this. Still need a shift in culture. In Warburton many people don't feel comfortable taking fruit and vegetables from gardens if they haven't helped growing them. - Developers asking for urban orchard, because it makes a 'beautiful boulevard'. - Barrier is that many people already have their own land in the rural areas of the region. - Council does not have the resources to maintain edible streetscapes. - Barrier in urban design is lack of resources and therefore designs can't become a maintenance burden. - There is research needed to quantify the economic, social and environmental benefits of urban agriculture, and especially edible streetscapes, for it to take off. - Street trees need to provide winter sun and summer shade. Research is required to determine whether there are fruit trees that can meet these objectives. - There is vision to facilitate community garden within each community. Community would need to be engaged to find a suitable model.
Healthy Take-away Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is more demand for convenience food - Places to buy healthy food are far outnumbered by take away outlets.
Community to carry vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is better for council to support initiatives that the community have shown interest in, than council to implement strategies. - The community will keep initiatives sustainable.





Appendix 4: FSPUD Matrices

Foreword: The following tables have been produced based on the opportunities and characteristics found in the Heart Foundation’s FSPUD document.¹ The authors of this report acknowledge the limitations of only using the criteria recommended in the FSPUD matrix,¹ and as such the tables have been placed in the appendix as a means of further explanation rather than thorough analysis. The analysis and discussion used in the report are based on the opportunities and characteristics found in the Heart Foundation’s FSPUD document¹ as well as the judgement of the authors of this project. The in-depth analysis and discussion look at the food system as a whole rather than relying on the FSPUD framework alone.

Maroondah







Food production

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The costs and benefits of land lost to Food production are understood and shared across the community. Space and resources are available for Food production (e.g. in private and/or community gardens with access to sunlight, soil, water, nutrients). Underutilised space is made available for Food production (e.g. vacant public land, roof-top gardens, nature strips, and railway buffers). Relevant Food production knowledge and support is easily available (e.g. soil testing, advice on water resources, compost and access to other relevant tools). Processes for assessing the safety of urban/potentially contaminated land for Food production purposes are streamlined and improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse Food production systems (e.g. large and small, urban and rural, commercial and community) build resilience to economic and environmental pressures Fundamental ecosystem services are recognised and supported by urban development (e.g. oxygen production by plants, water purification by streams and waterways, open-pollination by bees and insects) Urban and peri-urban Food production takes advantage of available water and nutrients, reduces transport and storage requirements, and contributes to other environmental objectives (e.g. storm-water management, enhanced habitat and aesthetic values) The building blocks of Food production are planned and integrated within urban design (e.g. infrastructure for water and nutrients, access to sunlight and soil, open pollinating fruit trees). Public space is designed to support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The jobs and economic opportunities of Food production are recognised and supported by infrastructure and the planning system, providing certainty, stability and confidence to invest in Food production. Urban areas contribute to the viability of surrounding Food producers through appropriate management of storm-water and cycling of organic wastes. Diverse skills and jobs are available in Food production, at both large and small scales (e.g. from Food manufacturing to bee-keeping). Space within urban areas is available for both community and commercial Food production. Maintenance of street and open-space plantings provide opportunities for entrepreneurial individuals, communities and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for community interaction and social activities are enhanced through localised Food production (e.g. community gardens and common orchards). Public spaces incorporate Food (e.g. street fruit and nut trees, herbs and productive shrubs and perennials), to increase easy access to Food; provide amenity through shade and cooling; demonstrate seasonal variation in the landscape; and create opportunities for social interaction and inclusion. Safety and pest issues related to Food production are proactively managed. Positive attitudes to Food production and Food producers are fostered through the community. Educational facilities enable people to learn how to produce, prepare and enjoy Food.

		<p>Food production (e.g. street plantings that can be naturally irrigated by urban run-off).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled organic materials (e.g. compost) are used to improve soil quality. 		
<p>Current situation in Maroondah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members allowed to plant on nature strips as long as it doesn't interfere with drains and wiring, can be pulled up easily by council if required, does not obstruct vision for the road and is not a hazard to pedestrians. Community gardens (4 actual, 2 planned) Local schools with edible gardens/vegetable gardens Vegetable garden at church in Ringwood North 2 local libraries provide resources (e.g. books, DVDs) on composting, general gardening, organic waste, and recycling Food producers audited by Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents using coffee grounds on gardens Community gardens using rain water tanks and composting Transition Towns Network Local honey manufacturer Cadbury manufacturer in Ringwood Community café that uses the food grown in the community garden Church vegetable garden School gardens (edible, vegetable and peace gardens). Also use compost in their gardens Heritage-listed trees remain untouched (protected) Local retailers keen to stock local produce (from Yarra Valley, etc. rather than from interstate or overseas) Organic seed plants used in Glen Park Community Garden (from Diggers store; self-sustaining seeds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council support all local businesses (provide mentoring, support) Local retailers recycling produce or send it off to be recycled (eg. fat and excess meat for blood & bone fertiliser) Volunteers in school/community/church gardens to help with planting and managing the gardens Honey manufacturing (local hives) Community café run by volunteers/provide training Council encourages home businesses that involve cooking/food production as long as they adhere to health and safety policies Community/church/school gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community houses workshops e.g. permaculture group at Yarunga Community Centre Community garden in Bayswater North Edible gardens/vegetable gardens in schools and at a local church Council policy around food safety and the prevention of foodborne illness/food poisoning 2 local libraries provide residents with a variety of books on being able to start their own gardens, how to compost, etc. Farmer's markets (3), community markets Council would like to see local produce sold at more local retailers Traders associations support local produce/produce from the Yarra Valley Home economics classes as part of secondary school curriculum Happy Healthy Humans curriculum at local primary school Garden clubs/societies (e.g. garden club at Glen Park Community Centre, Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club, Ringwood Garden Club, and Dibble and Hoe Garden Club)







Processing and Transporting Food

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong market demand for Food processors to deliver Food products – healthy and sustainable options are sought after. • Diverse processors have equitable access to resources, processing facilities and retail outlets. • More effective Food transport systems reduce urban transport pressure (e.g. rail that is better set up for Food transportation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing facilities are located to maximise resource exchange and opportunities for renewable energy generation, waste and water recycling (e.g. outputs from Food production facility are fed into other processes, or composted and used for Food production). • Processors are located for secure and convenient access to Food product and/or have developed resilient sourcing strategies. • Packaging materials consider waste minimisation and are sourced from renewable resources. • Need for, and impacts of, transport and storage are minimised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs in Food processing and distribution are locally accessible. • Smaller scale/ micro processing and distribution provide opportunities for local and home employment. • Enterprise and diversity are supported through planning and design, creating options and niches for innovation. • Opportunities for developing skills in Food processing and distribution are readily available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Food processing is kept to an appropriate scale for the urban environment, and wastes are minimised and cycled. • Community facilities for Food storage and preservation are available. • Positive attitudes to local Food processing and distribution are fostered through the community.
Current situation in Maroondah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major activity centre have access to public transport • Local markets available on alternating weeks for people to sell home-made goods • 3 Farmers Markets • Vouchers given to underprivileged people to buy fruit and vegetables • Vegetable garden set up at a Church that provides emergency food relief • Heathmont Honey (honey sourced, processed and sold locally) • All businesses have equal encouragement from Council • Croydon Food Swap at Ainslie Parklands P.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee grounds and vegetable scraps from community café go into the community garden nearby • Fat and excess meat for blood & bone fertiliser (from butchers) • Rain water tanks used at schools and community gardens • Most shopping centres and shopping strips are accessible by public transport (e.g. Eastland is located near the train station) • Local fruit and vegetable stores give their customers the boxes that the food produce comes in instead of plastic bags • Cadbury factory is right next to Eastlink (good for distribution) • Community members making their own jams, biscuits, etc. to sell (home businesses) • Produce not sold at retail outlets is sold off cheap/given to charities • Croydon Food Swap at Ainslie Parklands P.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food processing (honey, chocolate, etc.) • Public transport connects the major suburbs • Local businesses from home who manufacture jam, sell fruit and vegetables from their gardens, home-made biscuits • Local businesses supported by Council (Economic Development) • Community gardens • School gardens • Volunteers from EACH help in gardens (mainly at school gardens) • Volunteers work at community cafes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling bins • Compost bins • Community gardens (4 actual, 2 planned) • Council encourages home businesses and community kitchens to produce food as long as they are registered and abide by food safety laws • 3 Local Farmers Markets, weekly markets in the Maroondah area. Advertisements for local food businesses at the markets • EACH partnership with local schools • Garden clubs/societies (e.g. garden club at Glen Park Community Centre, Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club, Ringwood Garden Club, and Dibble and Hoe Garden Club) • Croydon Food Swap at Ainslie Parklands P.S.






Consumer Access and Utilisation

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail planning supports competitive and accessible positioning for a diverse and balanced range of Food outlets, including fresh food shopping (e.g. municipally owned and managed fresh Food markets in key shopping locations). Existing and new Food outlets increase access to Food, making diverse Food choices available to all residents. Appropriate Food is readily available, regardless of socioeconomic status or cultural background. Facilities for storage and preparation of Food are available, at a public or community level if required. Promotion and incentives encourage the consumption of a wide variety of Food. Transport planning supports active transport access to fresh Food outlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers have access to a variety of Food sources, including from small and large-scale systems that are resilient to different threats (e.g. extreme weather events, drought). Food affordability is underpinned by low emissions/water footprints and use of readily available inputs. Food outlets are widely distributed, enabling access by walking, cycling or public transport. Food outlets are co-located with other key destinations to facilitate multipurpose trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities for local jobs in Food service, retail, preparation and delivery through re-localisation and dispersion of Food outlets. Increased opportunities for innovative Food retail and distribution initiatives (e.g. bicycle grocery delivery). Food affordability is achieved through smart systems, reduction of waste and effective use of available resources, enabling fair living wages to be paid to those involved in the Food system. Encourage social enterprises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food outlets serve as meeting places and focal points for the community (e.g. cafes and delis that have community notice boards). Outlets providing Food are designed as attractive places to be and encourage community interaction. Urban design incorporates Food education into the way streets and places are designed and improved (e.g. interpretive signage beside urban orchard trees noting fruit seasons, harvesting details, nutrition and culinary uses). Water fountains are readily accessible.
Current situation in Maroondah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (4 actual, 2 planned) Local farmers markets Community Kitchens Local small businesses and chain stores available within all shopping areas (e.g. local bakehouse vs. baker's delight) Local ethnic grocery stores/restaurants available Emergency food relief (e.g. Second Bite, Eastern Food Alliance) Churches provide food rescue (receive donated food from emergency food relief organisations and local retailers) Migrant Information Centre Chamber of Commerce (Ringwood and Croydon) Maternal and Early Childhood Services provide programs on healthy eating Local retailers donate food (or give it at cost price) to sporting clubs, school fetes, fundraisers, etc. and in return they get free advertising Nutrition education in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bakery, fruit & vegetable store, butcher and cafes usually within the same shopping centre or along the same shopping strip Vegetable/school gardens Community gardens (4 actual, 2 planned) Residents able to reach food outlets on foot or by public transport Organic seed plants used in Glen Park Community Garden (from Diggers store; self-sustaining seeds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Food Retail Outlets Chamber of Commerce (Ringwood and Croydon) Small, home-businesses (make jams, biscuits, etc.) Local farmers markets Council worked with Costco to get locals work (30% employees from Maroondah area) All businesses registered through Council, and provided with mentoring and support Migrant Information Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (4 actual, 2 planned) Local farmers markets Community Kitchens Food preparation and sharing facilities in open spaces Water fountains Community houses workshops e.g. cheese making classes, cooking classes for ESL and disabilities Cafés have advertisements for local markets in their windows/on noticeboards Community garden with a BBQ and play area Water fountains at local parks and community gardens Garden clubs/societies (e.g. garden club at Glen Park Community Centre, Croydon Horticultural Society and Garden Club, Ringwood Garden Club, and Dibble and Hoe Garden Club) School canteens



Waste and Re-use

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have the storage facilities, skills and knowledge to reduce Food waste, packaging waste and energy waste. • Unused/unsold Food is redistributed to those in need where appropriate (e.g. excess produce from markets or restaurants is given to charities providing Food relief). • The processing of organic waste and water is distributed through the urban environment and not concentrated in lower socioeconomic areas. • Re-use of organic waste and water is safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure to process Food waste and waste/stormwater and to redistribute these resources back to Food production is planned for and invested in early in new developments. Established urban areas are redesigned to meet these objectives. • Local facilities to process Food waste, such as composting and worm farming, are available at a household, business, community or municipal level, depending on the appropriate scale. • Renewable energy sources from organic wastes are integrated with urban energy requirements (e.g. Food and green waste providing for local gas needs through bio-digesters). • Improvement in soil condition through readily available organic fertilisers. • Packaging waste is minimised through innovative distribution systems, and compostable or recyclable options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of urban organic wastes provides an affordable and reliable fertiliser source, reducing Food producers' exposure to fluctuating synthetic fertiliser cost and availability. • Enterprises managing community and commercial composting systems make sure that they are well run and make efficient use of available resources. • Opportunities are created to process and sell surplus local Food and locally produced organic fertiliser. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The processing of organic waste and water does not cause localised odour, insect or pollution issues and is safe for large or smallscale agricultural re-use. • Improvement in soil health contributes to increased range and quality of urban plantings for shade and comfort, Food production, visual amenity and community spirit (e.g. soil improvements and micro climates enable new plants to be grown in temperate areas). • Positive attitudes to local waste processing are fostered through the community.
Current situation in Maroondah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens • Secondbite • Eastern Food Alliance • Composting in community/school gardens • Council provides a 'waste management' brochure about recycling and garden organics in regards to what is accepted and what is not accepted • Council bins for waste and recycling • Free organic waste recycling workshops during International Composting Awareness Week • Council run advertising and media to increase awareness of the workshops • Council provide participants in the workshops with free kitchen collectors for food waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Composting • Community garden composting and rain water tanks • Sustainability incorporated into school curriculum (e.g. Ainslie Parklands) (See Case Study) • Council provide free organic waste recycling workshops during International Composting Awareness Week and run advertising and media to increase awareness of the workshops. They provide participants in the workshops with free kitchen collectors for food waste • Composting at local schools/community gardens/church vegetable garden • Some retailers have compost bins for organic waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning for sustainability and healthy eating within schools (e.g. Ainslie Parklands Primary School) (See Case Study) • Farmer's markets/community markets • Fruit and vegetable stores sell produce in bags for 'quick sale' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community houses workshops e.g. permaculture • 2 local libraries in the Maroondah area provide books on organic waste recycling, composting, etc. • Composting in school and community gardens • Waste plants not in close contact with homes/businesses • Council encourage the use of Bokashi buckets for organic wastes. Also provide workshops on composting and organic waste

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council encourage worm farming and Bokashi buckets • Local fruit and vegetable stores donate to local community sporting days for a snack for the kids, school fetes (give at cost price) • Other fruit and vegetable stores help the local church, those in need of food rescue (Inner Church food vouchers), and schools (give food for fundraisers) • Fruit and vegetable retailer in Heathmont gives food/food vouchers for the store to those less fortunate, pack cheap packets of fruit and veg for quick sale, leave fruit outside for animals to eat • Local bakeries donate leftover bread/rolls to those less fortunate • Leftover food from school edible gardens is placed in a food tub for those less fortunate to take home (disadvantaged areas) • Recycling and waste centres for Maroondah (run independently from council): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Eastern Recycling & Waste Transfer Station • - Whitehorse Transfer Station • - Coldstream Recovery & Waste Transfer Station • - Knox Transfer Station & Recycling Facility • - Eco Waste Tip & Recycle Centre • -Montrose Waste Disposal & Recycling Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit & vegetable shops give customers their produce in the boxes the produce comes in • Unsold meat at the end of the day at the butchers shop is made into sausages the next day 		
--	--	---	--	--





Reference:

1. Donovan J, Larsen K, McWhinnie J. Food-sensitive planning and urban design: A conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system. Melbourne: Report commissioned by the National Heart Foundation of Australia (Victorian Division); 2011.

Yarra Ranges







Food production

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The costs and benefits of land lost to Food production are understood and shared across the community. Space and resources are available for Food production (e.g. in private and/or community gardens with access to sunlight, soil, water, nutrients). Underutilised space is made available for Food production (e.g. vacant public land, roof-top gardens, nature strips, and railway buffers). Relevant Food production knowledge and support is easily available (e.g. soil testing, advice on water resources, compost and access to other relevant tools). Processes for assessing the safety of urban/potentially contaminated land for Food production purposes are streamlined and improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse Food production systems (e.g. large and small, urban and rural, commercial and community) build resilience to economic and environmental pressures Fundamental ecosystem services are recognised and supported by urban development (e.g. oxygen production by plants, water purification by streams and waterways, open-pollination by bees and insects) Urban and peri-urban Food production takes advantage of available water and nutrients, reduces transport and storage requirements, and contributes to other environmental objectives (e.g. storm-water management, enhanced habitat and aesthetic values) The building blocks of Food production are planned and integrated within urban design (e.g. infrastructure for water and nutrients, access to sunlight and soil, open pollinating fruit trees). Public space is designed to support Food production (e.g. street plantings that can be naturally irrigated by urban run-off). Recycled organic materials (e.g. compost) are used to improve soil quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The jobs and economic opportunities of Food production are recognised and supported by infrastructure and the planning system, providing certainty, stability and confidence to invest in Food production. Urban areas contribute to the viability of surrounding Food producers through appropriate management of storm-water and cycling of organic wastes. Diverse skills and jobs are available in Food production, at both large and small scales (e.g. from Food manufacturing to bee-keeping). Space within urban areas is available for both community and commercial Food production. Maintenance of street and open-space plantings provide opportunities for entrepreneurial individuals, communities and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for community interaction and social activities are enhanced through localised Food production (e.g. community gardens and common orchards). Public spaces incorporate Food (e.g. street fruit and nut trees, herbs and productive shrubs and perennials), to increase easy access to Food; provide amenity through shade and cooling; demonstrate seasonal variation in the landscape; and create opportunities for social interaction and inclusion. Safety and pest issues related to Food production are proactively managed. Positive attitudes to Food production and Food producers are fostered through the community. Educational facilities enable people to learn how to produce, prepare and enjoy Food.
Current situation in the Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (See appendix 2) Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Yarra Junction ECOSS community garden boxes on main street ECOSS Community members allowed to plant on nature strips as long as it doesn't interfere with drains and wiring, can be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Yarra Valley Permaculture group Learning for sustainability program within schools (particularly kitchen gardens) Local residents using coffee grounds on gardens Community gardens using rain water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local food production in the Yarra Valley and Dandenongs (small, medium and large growers) Local wineries Farm gates and U-picks YV fresh (See Case Study) Learning for sustainability program within schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (See appendix 2) Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Yarra Junction ECOSS community garden boxes on main street ECOSS Community houses workshops eg. Beekeeping, bread making, cooking classes, gardening and herb growing,

	<p>pulled up easily by council if required, does not obstruct vision for the road and is not a hazard to pedestrians.</p>	<p>tanks and composting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOSS • Transition Towns Network (TTMOOKY) • Belgrave Sustainable Gardens on Main Street (native plants, herbs and veggies) • Community supported agriculture – little feet farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Valley regional food group • ECOSS • Community supported agriculture – little feet farm 	<p>fruit tree pruning and composting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community houses and/or education facilities running food-related courses, eg. Food Safety, Horticulture, General Education for Adults (cooking component). • Community supported agriculture – little feet farm
--	---	---	---	---







Processing and Transporting Food

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong market demand for Food processors to deliver Food products – healthy and sustainable options are sought after. • Diverse processors have equitable access to resources, processing facilities and retail outlets. • More effective Food transport systems reduce urban transport pressure (e.g. rail that is better set up for Food transportation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing facilities are located to maximise resource exchange and opportunities for renewable energy generation, waste and water recycling (e.g. outputs from Food production facility are fed into other processes, or composted and used for Food production). • Processors are located for secure and convenient access to Food product and/or have developed resilient sourcing strategies. • Packaging materials consider waste minimisation and are sourced from renewable resources. • Need for, and impacts of, transport and storage are minimised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs in Food processing and distribution are locally accessible. • Smaller scale/ micro processing and distribution provide opportunities for local and home employment. • Enterprise and diversity are supported through planning and design, creating options and niches for innovation. • Opportunities for developing skills in Food processing and distribution are readily available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Food processing is kept to an appropriate scale for the urban environment, and wastes are minimised and cycled. • Community facilities for Food storage and preservation are available. • Positive attitudes to local Food processing and distribution are fostered through the community.
Current situation in the Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit and Vegetable Box Scheme's (e.g. Melba in Mt Evelyn, Organic Empire, and Moora Moora) • Major activity centres have access to public transport (train stations in Lilydale and Belgrave, all other activity centres accessible by bus.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses processing on-site (eg. Wild About Fruit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food processing (bakeries, abattoirs, chocolatiers etc) • Local wineries and breweries • YV fresh (local processing) • Fruit and Vegetable Box Scheme's (e.g. Melba in Mt Evelyn, Organic Empire, and Moora Moora) • Businesses processing on-site (eg. Wild About Fruit) 	







Consumer Access and Utilisation

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail planning supports competitive and accessible positioning for a diverse and balanced range of Food outlets, including fresh food shopping (e.g. municipally owned and managed fresh Food markets in key shopping locations). Existing and new Food outlets increase access to Food, making diverse Food choices available to all residents. Appropriate Food is readily available, regardless of socioeconomic status or cultural background. Facilities for storage and preparation of Food are available, at a public or community level if required. Promotion and incentives encourage the consumption of a wide variety of Food. Transport planning supports active transport access to fresh Food outlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers have access to a variety of Food sources, including from small and large-scale systems that are resilient to different threats (e.g. extreme weather events, drought). Food affordability is underpinned by low emissions/water footprints and use of readily available inputs. Food outlets are widely distributed, enabling access by walking, cycling or public transport. Food outlets are co-located with other key destinations to facilitate multipurpose trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities for local jobs in Food service, retail, preparation and delivery through re-localisation and dispersion of Food outlets. Increased opportunities for innovative Food retail and distribution initiatives (e.g. bicycle grocery delivery). Food affordability is achieved through smart systems, reduction of waste and effective use of available resources, enabling fair living wages to be paid to those involved in the Food system. Encourage social enterprises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food outlets serve as meeting places and focal points for the community (e.g. cafes and delis that have community notice boards). Outlets providing Food are designed as attractive places to be and encourage community interaction. Urban design incorporates Food education into the way streets and places are designed and improved (e.g. interpretive signage beside urban orchard trees noting fruit seasons, harvesting details, nutrition and culinary uses). Water fountains are readily accessible.
Current situation in the Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (See appendix 2) Local farmers markets (See appendix 2) Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Mt Evelyn Affordable Food Market Farmgates & U-picks Community Kitchens (eg. Olinda) KOHA community cafe ECOSS Yarra Valley Emergency Relief Network Community Health Centres (Inspiro and Yarra Valley Community Health), eg. group education, shopping tours, schools programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Buy local, eat seasonal” brochure by Inspiro Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Learning for sustainability program with schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Food Retail Outlets (e.g. green grocers, butchers, bakeries) Yarra Valley Regional Food Group Local farmers markets (See appendix 2) Mt Evelyn Affordable Food Market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Gardens (See appendix 2) Local farmers markets (See appendix 2) Edible Warburton (See Case Study) Mt Evelyn affordable food Community Kitchens (eg. Olinda) KOHA community cafe ECOSS Food preparation and sharing facilities in open spaces Water fountains and re-fill stations Community houses workshops eg. Beekeeping, bread making, cooking classes, gardening and herb growing, fruit tree pruning and composting. Community houses and/or education facilities running food-related courses, eg. Food Safety, Horticulture, General Education for Adults (cooking component). Community Health Centres (Inspiro and Yarra Valley Community Health), eg. group education, shopping tours, schools programs



Waste and Re-use

	 Health and Fairness	 Sustainability and Resilience	 Livelihood and Opportunity	 Community and Amenity
Opportunities and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have the storage facilities, skills and knowledge to reduce Food waste, packaging waste and energy waste. • Unused/unsold Food is redistributed to those in need where appropriate (e.g. excess produce from markets or restaurants is given to charities providing Food relief). • The processing of organic waste and water is distributed through the urban environment and not concentrated in lower socioeconomic areas. • Re-use of organic waste and water is safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure to process Food waste and waste/stormwater and to redistribute these resources back to Food production is planned for and invested in early in new developments. Established urban areas are redesigned to meet these objectives. • Local facilities to process Food waste, such as composting and worm farming, are available at a household, business, community or municipal level, depending on the appropriate scale. • Renewable energy sources from organic wastes are integrated with urban energy requirements (e.g. Food and green waste providing for local gas needs through bio-digesters). • Improvement in soil condition through readily available organic fertilisers. • Packaging waste is minimised through innovative distribution systems, and compostable or recyclable options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of urban organic wastes provides an affordable and reliable fertiliser source, reducing Food producers' exposure to fluctuating synthetic fertiliser cost and availability. • Enterprises managing community and commercial composting systems make sure that they are well run and make efficient use of available resources. • Opportunities are created to process and sell surplus local Food and locally produced organic fertiliser. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The processing of organic waste and water does not cause localised odour, insect or pollution issues and is safe for large or smallscale agricultural re-use. • Improvement in soil health contributes to increased range and quality of urban plantings for shade and comfort, Food production, visual amenity and community spirit (e.g. soil improvements and micro climates enable new plants to be grown in temperate areas). • Positive attitudes to local waste processing are fostered through the community.
Current situation in the Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens (Healesville plots excess being donated to 'Dinner at Darren's') • Secondbite • Eastern Food Alliance • Yarra Valley Emergency Relief Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Composting • Community garden composting and rain water tanks • Learning for sustainability program within schools • ECOSS (worm farm & composting) • Local businesses accepting excess produce from community (See Case Study) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity at Healesville Organic Farmer's Market for community members to sell excess home grown food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community houses workshops eg. composting.

Appendix 5: Plans and Policies Analysis Tables

Maroondah

The Food-Sensitive Planning and Urban Design audit process reviewed 30 Maroondah City Council policies and plans to identify the incorporation of food or aspects of the food system. Suggested indicators from the Food-Sensitive Planning and Urban Design framework Checklist for Council Plans/Policies were used to assess the documents. (1) See table 1 below for detailed analysis.

Key corporate documents

The Maroondah 2025 Vision Plan, the Municipal Strategic Statement, the Council Plan and the Budget are the council documents that have the greatest impact. On review, none of these were found to include food or the food system in a

However, it is important to note that at the time of this report, the Maroondah Vision plan is currently under review, and Maroondah 2040 is currently in the initial community consultation phase. Similarly, in line with the current review of the State Planning Policy Framework, (<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/7370-reforming-victoria-s-planning-framework.html>) Maroondah will be undertaking a review of its Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policy Framework in 2013-14. These reviews provide an important opportunity for the inclusion of food in these key strategic council documents, which impact the content of other council documents. The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan identifies food as a key direction in two of their focus areas, balancing community and individual-level interventions, with population-wide approaches, to influence the food system as a whole. Its action plan is currently being developed, and provides an opportunity for actions informed by a food-systems approach to be included.

Specific policies and plans

While aspects of specific policies and plans were supportive of food, for the most part, the food system was only considered in few strategic council documents. Policies and plans most supportive of food include the

- Early years plan 2010-14
- Ringwood Activities Area Commercial Precinct Plan
- Heathmont and Ringwood East Structure Plans (both are currently in draft stage), and
- Local laws, especially relating to keeping of animals

However, opportunities to include food have been identified across a number of council policies and plans, which are reported in the table below. Of note, the Sustainability Plan and the Business Development Strategy are both to be revised shortly. As outlined in the body of this document, sustainability and business departments within Council have a particularly important role to play in supporting the food system locally, and so the revision of their strategies provides an ideal opportunity to incorporate food. The inclusion of food in the Maroondah vision plan and Municipal Strategic Statement would similarly provide a key strategic direction for the inclusion of food in other council policies and strategies.

Table 1: Analysis of food-sensitivity of Maroondah council policies using FSPUD framework. Table adapted from table in FSPUD: Council plans/policies checklist document. (1)

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
Maroondah 2025 vision ² (2)	NA	Long-term vision statement of the City of Maroondah, developed after extensive consultation with the community. Arguably the most influential council document, the vision informs the Council Plan, the Municipal Strategic Statement and other corporate documents.	Incorporating FSPUD principles into vision and key objectives.	Gap	Food and the food system are not mentioned. Closest mention is the broad “community and amenity”
Council Plan 2013-2017: Year 1: 2013-14 (3)	2013	Outlines the strategic objectives and strategies to be implemented during the term of an elected Council and must include a strategic resource plan and budget for the four year term of Council. The Council Plan is required by legislation	FSPUD could be a key strategic activity. Incorporating FSPUD principles into vision and key objectives. Specific FSPUD projects in the plan – potential to use FSPUD principles in planning decisions.	Gap	The eight themes in the council plan relate to those in the Maroondah 2025 vision. Of these, ‘community’ and ‘natural environment’ come closest to food-sensitive principles. However food is not mentioned, and these themes are very broad. No projects related to the food system are in the plan.

¹ Indicators for most policies are from the FSPUD Council Plans/Policies Checklist.

² Public consultation for new Maroondah 2040 vision is currently underway. The Integrated Planning department plans to include FSPUD principles in this new vision.

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
		and must be developed by 30 June in the year following Council elections and reviewed annually.			
Budget 2013-14 (4)	2013	<p>Outlines Council income and expenditure including funding for specific departments and projects/ programs. Reviewed annually.</p> <p>Budget planning varies but can begin as early as June (one year prior to budget adoption) though more commonly begins in October or November. This is when budget bids are developed for new projects. Budget must be adopted by June each year and begin in July.</p>	<p>Opportunity for specific FSPUD projects to be funded.</p>	Gap	No activities related to the food system are listed in the budget.
			<p>Opportunity to request funding for FSPUD training.</p> <p>In addition it might be possible for FSPUD activities to be included in the council's long-term financial plan.</p>	Opportunity	Certain funded activities in the budget provide an opportunity for food to be considered. e.g. Ringwood Activities Area open space development provides an opportunity for productive vegetation to be introduced.
Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) (in the Local Planning	2006	The MSS provides the broad outline and vision for existing and future land use within a municipality. It provides the rationale for the zone	<p>Excellent opportunity to influence land use planning. FSPUD principles can be included in the MSS.</p> <p>Specific mention of health and</p>	Supportive	Clause 21.08-3 promotes medium- and high-density housing development near major activity centres. The FSPUD framework promotes medium-density housing to reduce urban sprawl and

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
Policy Framework) ³ (5)		and overlay requirements and particular provisions in that council's planning scheme. The MSS is reviewed every 4 years within a year of the adoption of the Council Plan and is a legislative requirement.	wellbeing within the MSS. Opportunity to link the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with the MSS.		promote appropriate infrastructure Clause 21.10-3 ensures that industrial areas are serviced by <i>'efficient and convenient public transport and have access to an extensive intra and intermunicipality road network'</i> . Also includes strategies to address environmental considerations in industrial businesses.
				Gap	Very little food-related content included, and the two clauses that are satisfactory were likely to have been developed with other objectives in mind. The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is not integrated into the MSS. Health and wellbeing is not mentioned in the MSS.
					Opportunity

³ The municipal strategic statement and local planning scheme are currently being reviewed, in line with the concomitant review of the State Planning Policy Framework. Integrated Planning plans to include FSPUD principles in this new Municipal Strategic Statement.

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					Neighbourhood ambience is a major theme of the MSS. Measures such as supporting markets and various forms of urban agriculture, including community gardens and fruit and vegetable boxes on nature strips, could help to contribute to neighbourhood ambience.
Local Planning Scheme (5)	2006	Guides decisions about the use and development of land, and expresses state, regional, local and community expectations for areas and land uses. (5)	FSPUD principles included.	Supportive	<p>22.14 Residential accommodation policy requires that communal residential facilities are located within 400m of shops and a public transport stop that operates during daylight hours on weekdays. Clause 22.14-3 directs the responsible authority to consider the Municipal Public Health plan.</p> <p>Clause 22.03-3 Residential neighbourhood character policy provides for the planting/retention of at least one canopy tree in the private open space of each dwelling. It also notes that lot sizes should enable gardens and canopy vegetation to exist.</p> <p>Clause 22.07-5 Ringwood Activity Centre Western Gateway policy provides for a safe pedestrian access route along Maroondah Highway, between Heatherdale Station, parking and the Ringwood Activity Centre</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>Clause 22.12 Ringwood Activity Centre Residential Development Policy notes that multi-level apartment style buildings are the preferred form of development in the Ringwood Activity Centre. It also notes that these should retain the existing garden setting.</p> <p>Clause 22.13 Croydon Town Centre Residential Development Policy encourages medium density housing development in the Croydon Town Centre and describes the preferred neighbourhood character as “low level apartment style residential buildings, up to four storeys, that retain elements of the existing garden setting.” This is a shift from the existing neighbourhood character of Croydon.</p> <p>Clause 52.34 legislates mandatory bicycle rail/s at food retail.</p> <p>54.05 On-site amenity and facilities states that houses must have private open space of specified minimum dimensions either as a yard, or a balcony, or a rooftop space. It also requires that sun be able to get into the private open spaces of new houses,</p>
				Opportunity	Clause 22.07-3 provides for a “spacious, green town square” in

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					Ringwood Activity Centre. This is an opportunity to incorporate productive trees, fruit and vegetable boxes, market stalls, and other aspects of the food system into the Town Centre.
				Barrier	In various instances throughout the framework, medium-density housing is actively discouraged. In fact, it is only promoted in the Ringwood and Croydon Activity Centres.
Community Wellbeing Plan 2013-17 (Draft) (6) (Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP))	2013	<p>The MPHWP is a four year strategic plan aligned with the Council Plan timing outlining health and wellbeing initiatives with a strong emphasis on the social determinants of health.</p> <p>Some councils now integrate these with their Council Plan.</p> <p>The MPHWP needs to be developed by the November of the year following Council elections unless it is integrated into the Council Plan. In this case it needs to be completed in line with Council Plan timing</p>	<p>Include specific mention of food in the plan; this would be particularly useful in the strategic goals of the plan to support the importance of considering food in all council planning.</p> <p>Specific programs to support access to food for all residents could also be included.</p>	Gap	Although food is specifically mentioned in the plan, only “downstream” aspects of food are treated; the food system, ie food at environmental level is not mentioned. Planning is not mentioned in relation to food. As such, strategies that arise from the plan are likely to be mainly downstream, rather than modifying the food system at an environmental level.

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
		(except some bushfire effected councils who have been given an extension).			
Sustainability strategy (7)	2009	Looks at the broad area of 'environment' in relation to sustainability. It may include an action plan and targets to reduce the environmental impacts of council and the	<p>Include food in the plan, access to food, importance of local food production, mitigating impact of organisations through considered food purchasing and reducing waste.</p> <p>The environmental impacts of production (eg developments on farm land, food-miles).</p> <p>FSPUD principles can be included as they articulate the natural intersect between healthy food and sustainability.</p> <p>Included access to food in the plan – availability of food during extreme weather events, contingency planning to ensure adequate food, impact of food scarcity or increased prices on vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The climatic impacts of current food systems (in relation to transport, loss of agricultural land, etc) can be included in</p>	<p>Gap</p> <hr/> <p>Opportunity</p>	<p>While the report mentions food in the context of the importance of conserving the natural environment, this is the only mention of food in the strategy. The concepts of peak oil and global warming are discussed, but the importance of food-related activities in relation to this is not mentioned.</p> <p>Also, 'identifying and minimising waste at the source' is listed as an objective, however strategies to manage waste from commercial organisations (such as food retail & foodservice) are not mentioned.</p> <p>This is a strategy that has enormous potential to incorporate FSPUD, as much of FSPUD directly relates to sustainability. There is great potential to incorporate specific FSPUD-related goals, objectives and strategies in the document.</p> <p>One objective is 'to foster and facilitate the local stewardship of environmental issues'. Food-related activities that relate to sustainability, such as the food</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
			discussion.		swap and other activities, which are organised by Transition Towns Maroondah provide an avenue for food activities to be initiated by community groups, and supported by the Sustainability Department.
Open space strategy (8)	2005	Access to open space, and the types of open space (eg ovals and parks); guidelines for what levels of open space should be provided and what activities can occur in open space.	<p>May include access to places to grow food, ensure a balance between structured open space (eg ovals) and more flexible spaces (parks and reserves).</p> <p>Could include fruit trees in parks and nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, encouraging communities to grow their own food.</p>	Gap	While the plan supports diversifying the types of open space within the municipality, it classes this as low priority. Opportunities for urban food production are not included in the plan, although Croydon community gardens are listed on the list of open spaces.
Leisure services strategic plan 2009-13 (9,10)	2009	Can include access to specific sporting facilities, use of space etc. The plan may designate leisure policies or priorities in terms of access to facilities and services	<p>Include food in the plan, access to space for growing food, ensure there is no impediment to growing food at recreation spaces. Nutritional guidelines created for food provided or available for purchase at centres and sports grounds.</p> <p>Recognise growing food as a leisure activity particularly for vulnerable members of the community – opportunities to work with social support team.</p>	Gap	<p>Neither food nor growing food is mentioned in the plan or action plan.</p> <p>Nutritional guidelines for food available at recreational centres and sporting grounds are absent from action plan.</p>
Youth Plan 2012-2016	2012	Defines projects and activities available for	Include food in the plan, access to food, nutritional	Gap	Neither food nor nutrition is

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
(11)		<p>young people (10/12–25years).</p> <p>The plan may include program delivery and projects to support young people.</p>	<p>guidelines created for food provided or available at events.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage with young people in programs to increase food skills and to address food insecurity.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage vulnerable youth in excess food redistribution.</p>		mentioned in the plan.
Early years plan 2010-2014 (12)	2010	<p>Planning for services for 0-6/8 years – may include infrastructure planning, services and support.</p>	<p>Include food in the plan, can include education on food and nutrition, may include guidelines for food provision in Early Childhood Services, opportunities to grow food.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage vulnerable families in food redistribution.</p>	Supportive	<p>The plan includes food in a number of ways, and is an excellent example of how food can be integrated into a council department's plan. Strategies involve implementation of the National Breastfeeding Strategy and of the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings. One strategy also involves promoting key health promotion messages. It is assumed that some of these will relate to food.</p> <p>The plan also strongly supports community gardens. Children's gardens must be at every centre of Maroondah Early Childhood Services, and one strategy involves encouraging kindergartens, childcare centres, schools and community groups to plant children's gardens.</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
Disability policy and action plan 2008-12 (13)	2008	Defines the expectations around access to places and services as well as strategies for improving services and access for people with a disability. This plan is required by legislation.	Include food in the plan, including equitable access to healthy and nutritious food.	Gap	Food is only mentioned in the context of delivered meals, and does not mention other aspects of the food system which people with disabilities in Maroondah engage in, such as community kitchens, gardens, opportunities for employment in the food retail and foodservice sector. Access to healthy and nutritious food is not mentioned.
Healthy Ageing Healthy Future (Aged Plan) (14)	NA	Planning for services and activities for older adults.	Include access to food in the plan vision; potential for specific food programs and projects based on the nature of food issues and existing strengths in the community.	Gap	Food is not mentioned in the plan vision, or anywhere else in the plan. Other relevant aspects of FSPUD, such as gardening, are not mentioned in the plan either.
Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan (15,16)	July 2006	Place based, land use plan that outlines the redesign of Croydon Town Centre over the next 30 years as a Major Activity Centre, in line with the Melbourne 2030 Metropolitan Strategy.	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Supportive	The vision for the Town Centre describes a 'vibrant' town centre, revolving around Main St, (which is a traditional high street shopping strip) which people are drawn to. The objectives include strengthening the Croydon retail sector. If implemented, this will most likely support food retailers and foodservice in Croydon. Explicitly names pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users as the priority in increasing transport accessibility in the Town Centre, and lists specific strategies to support public transport access to the Town

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>Centre.</p> <p>One objective is to encourage pedestrian links between the three hubs of Croydon Town Centre, including activities to be situated on these links, to help increase accessibility to each of the 3 retail hubs in Croydon: Main St, Arndale and Croydon Market shopping centres. This would improve access to each of the 3 sites and support food retail.</p> <p>Encourages redevelopment of Croydon Market to include office space, (and therefore rezoning the north-west corner of the Croydon Market site from Residential Zone 1 to Mixed Use Zone is mentioned) but states that retail floor space should not be extended, as it would counteract other objectives of plan.</p>
				Opportunity	<p>One objective is to create a positive image of the Town Centre, which reflects the adjoining natural landscape. Small-scale urban food production, such as fruit and vegetable boxes, community gardens and productive street trees, as well as water fountains and picnic tables, could help to bring about this vision.</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
Heathmont Activity Centre Structure Plan (Draft) (17)	Feb 2013	Place based, land use plan that outlines the redesign of Heathmont Activity Centre	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Supportive	<p>Structure plan objectives include promoting the activity centre as a small-scale retail & dining destination.</p> <p>A strategy relates to the development of a community garden on open vacant land near the railway line, which is listed as a priority.</p> <p>A strategy involves exploring whether the railway station carpark could be used for a farmers' market on weekends.</p> <p>Encourages outdoor dining along Canterbury Road.</p> <p>Recommendation for 3 to 4 storey residential buildings within the 3 villages along Canterbury Road, as well as 2 to 3 storey houses adjacent to the villages and along the green axis. This increased density will support the productivity of food retail and foodservice in the village, by increasing local customers and strengthening the destinational "sense of place" of the Neighbourhood Centre.</p> <p>A variety of strategies to promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transport access to the Centre are listed and prioritised. However, it is noted that in most cases, to be</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>successful, consultation with other state-level bodies is required. Consequently, it is not clear whether these strategies are feasible or not.</p> <p>“Explore opportunities for community gardens within existing public open space areas”, and development of a Master Plan which includes new community gardens, are listed as priorities in the Plan.</p> <p>The effect of building height on sunlight penetration into public open spaces is considered .</p>
Ringwood East Activity Centre Structure Plan (Draft) (18)	NA	Place based, land use plan that outlines the redesign of Ringwood East Activity Centre	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Supportive	<p>Service lane in front of IGA supermarket to be replaced by plaza. This is expected to support the viability of food retailers and foodservice, by improving ambience of the centre.</p> <p>Establishment of community gardens on the south side of the railway line is listed as a priority</p> <p>Cafes are proposed as one possible strategy for increasing community engagement with passive open space</p> <p>Increasing density of housing in certain designated areas, proximal to the station and shops, is listed as a strategy. This will increase</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>food retail profitability, reduce urban sprawl and is encouraged in the FSPUD framework.</p> <p>Potential for establishment of a community garden in Knaith Road Reserve for use by scouts and/or elderly citizens is highlighted</p> <p>Bicycle parking facilities and drinking fountains are to be included at key activity nodes.</p>
				Opportunity	<p>Street tree planting, including low-lying shrubs, along Railway Avenue and throughout residential areas, is a strategy. This is an opportunity to include productive species, including herbs.</p> <p>Establishment of a community notice board is a strategy. This could support food-related activities, such as the proposed community gardens, and if productive species were planted, could include a map of the location of productive species in the area.</p>
Ringwood Activities Area Community Infrastructure Plan (19)	Mar 2012	Report of priorities for Ringwood local community in the Central Activities Area redevelopment, identified through consultation.	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Opportunity	Stakeholder consultation did not identify any key directions explicitly related to food, however the review of case studies noted that aesthetic appeal is important in drawing people to spaces. As noted previously, food production

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					could help to create this aesthetic.
Ringwood Activities Area Commercial Precinct Plan (20)	Jul 2010	Place based, land use plan that outlines the redesign of Ringwood Central Activities Area	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Supportive	<p>Development of restaurants and a food precinct overlooking Ringwood Lake is promoted. Food and drink premises are encouraged along the eastern section of Maroondah Highway, to complement the Fire Station Restaurant. This is supported by high-density residential and commercial buildings, which will help to make it profitable.</p> <p>Cafes and restaurants with kerbside dining are encouraged on the southside of Maroondah Highway.</p> <p>Small retailers and restaurants are encouraged to occupy the ground floors of high-density buildings in the Town Centre, and in industrial areas.</p> <p>Sunlight exposure in open spaces is considered. The effect of buildings and trees casting shadows is also considered, and strategies to minimise this are included in the plan.</p> <p>Bicycle facilities, such as rails, lockers and showers, are included in the plan.</p> <p>Areas for loading and unloading for goods should be included in</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					commercial areas.
				Opportunity	Green walls and roofs are included in the plan, as part of measures to promote water-sensitive urban design. Vertical farms could be incorporated as part of this.
				Barrier	Plant species to be included in public landscaping should be drought-tolerant, have low water and fertiliser requirements, and be indigenous where possible. While such requirements are undoubtedly in the benefit of environment, they act as a barrier for the planting of productive street trees and shrubs in the Town Centre. Planting of productive indigenous plant species may help to reconcile these differing objectives.
Ringwood Transit City Urban Design Master Plan (21)	Feb 2004	Master plan for the Ringwood Central Activities Area upgrade	Huge opportunity to design food into plans – can include choice of planting, land set aside for food. The design of food courts or shopping areas can facilitate certain types of shops – eg small shops, limited parking might dissuade large fast food retailers, providing strip shopping instead of hard top shopping centres.	Supportive	Allowing for safe & convenient pedestrian and cycling access to surrounding residential areas, and between central landmarks (e.g. Eastland and the Town Square) within the Ringwood CAA is noted as part of the plan Upgrading Ringwood Station bus & rail interchange to promote public transport usage is also noted. Ringwood Bypass to replace

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>Maroondah Highway as the main east-west thoroughfare through Ringwood, diverting motor vehicles from the CAA.</p> <p>Grid layout of streets, which will improve flow of foot and vehicular traffic, will make food outlets more accessible.</p>
				Gap	<p>Street tree planting only mentioned along Maroondah Highway, where productive street trees would be dangerous</p> <p>While the importance of improving non-vehicle dependent methods of transportation is noted, improving motor vehicle access throughout the CAA is also noted in the plan. Plans for improving pedestrian accessibility mainly relate to increasing footpaths throughout the precinct and to abutting residential areas, as well as creating a grid-layout of streets. However, other plans to increase walkability, such as widening of footpaths, are not mentioned.</p>
				Opportunity	<p>Public open spaces which are to be rebranded as meeting places, such as the 4 principle open spaces in the CAA, as well as Ringwood Lake, offer an opportunity to include productive vegetation, water fountains, picnic</p>

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					tables and barbecues etc. This would also contribute to the aesthetics of the area.
				Barrier	The expansion of Eastland, a major indoor shopping complex servicing the eastern regional area, may act as a barrier to the productivity of smaller and independent food retailers in the Town Square.
Local laws (22)	2010	Laws related to specific council or localised to specific area	Some local laws may work against FSPUD e.g. prevention of growing food in nature strips or parks, prohibition of keeping animals. These may require updating to facilitate FSPUD.	Supportive	No local laws act as barriers to FSPUD. Maroondah residents with less than 5000 square metres of land may have up to 5 hens. Although keeping other agricultural animals such as goats, cattle and pigs is prohibited, this is not classed as a barrier given the obvious noise and space limitations of being in an urban setting.
Integrated Transport Strategy (23)	Feb 2006	In addition to the Road Management Plan, some councils also develop a sustainable or integrated transport plan which will include the overall transport system including cycling and walking and access to public transport.	There is an opportunity to prioritise food in these plans – ensuring access to food is prioritised. It may be possible to prioritise footpath/cycle path maintenance that is part of a food network.	Gap	Plan focuses on general Maroondah area, rather than focusing on access to activity centres. Large focus on transport between municipalities, rather than short-distance transport within the municipality. Food not mentioned as trip generator, however the location of Maroondah in relation to freeways is mentioned as a positive in the context of goods distribution for

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					industries.
Road Management Plan 2013-2017 (24)	2013	Council is required to prepare a Road Management Plan under the 2004 Road management Act. It outlines road assets and maintenance.	As above	Supportive	Hierarchy of roads gives consideration to linkages with commercial and residential areas, supporting consumer access and utilisation, as well as level of transportation of goods and services, supporting food distribution. Pathway hierarchy considers location of major and minor shopping precincts, with pathways around shopping precincts being highest priority.
Pedestrian strategy (25)	Jun 2007	These will generally outline the infrastructure improvements to encourage walking and cycling and may also include behaviour change programs.	There is an opportunity to emphasise food as a trip generator and to encourage cycling and walking to food outlets. In addition emphasise the need to provide adequate food within walking/cycling distance of all residents.	Supportive	The Strategy supports the provision of drinking fountains within activity centres, and at regular and appropriate intervals along walking catchments to public transport stops. A strategy involves the development of criteria for the Principle Pedestrian Network to ensure that construction of footpaths that connect public transport, activity centres and community facilities is prioritised. Another strategy involves the development of mobility plans for the Croydon Town Centre and all Neighbourhood Centres with pedestrian orientated streets,

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					which supports outdoor food-related activities.
				Gap	The Plan does not emphasise the need to provide adequate food within walking/cycling distance of all residents, and does not explicitly mention food as a trip generator. The Plan instead focuses on improving the walkability of Activity Centres and areas in a 400m radius around public transport stops.
Croydon Pedestrian Priority Plan (26)	Jun 2009	The Plan examines the current pedestrian accessibility of Croydon Major Activity Centre, and outlines recommendations to increase walkability.	As above	Supportive	The Plan recommends strategies to increase the walkability of Croydon Activity Centre, many of which also involve discouraging the use of motor vehicles. This is likely to support outdoor activity, including cafes, small food retail outlets, urban agriculture, and markets.
Ringwood Activities Area Mobility and Way-finding Strategy (27)	2006	The Strategy outlines recommendations to promote forms of active transport- walking, cycling and public transport- in the Ringwood Activity Centre.	There is an opportunity to prioritise food in these plans – ensuring access to food is prioritised. It may be possible to prioritise footpath/cycle path maintenance that is part of a food network.	Supportive	Recommendations include significantly reducing the speed limit, and modifying the physical environment to support lower speeds. It also recommends in the long-term, reducing progressively reducing carparking requirements for new developments, in line with an envisaged expanding use of other modes of transport. Eventually, it is recommended that requirements be expressed as a maximum, rather than minimum. It

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					<p>is also recommended that bicycle facilities be increased.</p> <p>The Strategy notes that deterring motor vehicles from the area and increasing pedestrian accessibility will help to contribute to the ambience of the area. This will especially support outdoor activity in the Town Plaza, supporting small retail outlets and paving the pathway for market stalls and productive plants in the Plaza.</p>
				Opportunity	The pedestrian-friendly environment will have a more pleasant ambience due to the lower volumes and speeds of motorised traffic. This enables greater outdoor activity in the Activities Centre, such as market stalls and productive plants in the Plaza.
				Gap	Although many of the recommendations in the Plan indirectly support food access in Ringwood, food is not mentioned directly in the Plan.
Bicycle strategy (28)	NA	As above	As above	Gap	The strategy does not mention food as a trip generator, and strategies to increase bicycle accessibility to Activity Centres in the locality are either not mentioned or are rated low or medium priority.

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
Business development strategy and action plan 2011-2013 (29)	2011	This plan works with business to encourage and support local business and investment.	Opportunity to prioritise healthy food, promote healthy food venues, potentially look into opportunities to encourage food production (including primary production) and healthy food businesses.	Gap	Strategies directly targeting food businesses are absent. Strategies to engage with food retail businesses rely on engagement from the businesses. For example, via attendance at the local Traders' Association meetings, or by being involved with the BizMaroondah website and council training sessions.
Nature strip landscaping guidelines (30)	NA	A pamphlet with outlines the council guidelines on residents planting in their nature strips.	Guidelines support the planting of fruit and vegetables in nature strips.	Supportive	The guidelines support the planting of plants that meet council guidelines, such as that they suit neighbourhood character, and don't have deep roots. Although the guidelines ask residents considering planting in their nature strip to submit a plan and organise the appropriate public liability insurance while landscaping work is in progress, this was not classified as a barrier as it was thought that this was unavoidable.
				Gap	The guidelines do not mention productive plant species specifically; instead they only mention plants in a broad sense. Including a specific mention of this would support fruit and vegetable growing in the area far more effectively, with the corresponding community, health and aesthetic

Policy	Year	Description (1)	Criteria ¹ (1)	Assessment*	Notes
					benefits.
				Barrier	The guidelines are difficult to access, and the layout of the pamphlet makes it difficult to understand the steps that need to be taken to organise a permit. They are not available online through the Council website, and instead a request needs to be submitted to have the guidelines physically mailed out. It is presumed that the guidelines are also available at Council offices in Eastland, Croydon and Ringwood. This difficulty accessing the guidelines acts as a barrier to planting fruit and vegetables in nature strips, as it is unlikely that most people would go to the trouble of contacting the Council to receive a copy.
Ringwood Public Domain and Landscaping Guidelines (31)	Mar 2006	Guidelines for the supply, installation and management of street furniture, fittings and detail in Ringwood Transit City.	Opportunity to include species of street trees and shrubs that are productive.	Gap	Species of trees and shrubs are not productive.

Assessment definitions:

- *Supportive:* Aspects of the policy/plan incorporate FSPUD principles and projects to a satisfactory standard.
- *Gap:* Aspects of the policy in which food could be incorporated, but is not, exist.
- *Opportunity:* Specific areas exist, in relation to which food could readily be included.
- *Barrier:* Aspects of the policy or plan actively dissuade FSPUD activities.

References

1. Donovan J, Larsen K, McWhinnie J. Food-sensitive planning and urban design: Council plans/policies checklist. Canberra: National Heart Foundation of Australia; 2013.
2. Maroondah City Council. Maroondah 2025: A community planning together. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; [date unknown].
3. Maroondah City Council. Council plan 2014-2017: Year 1: 2013-14. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013.
4. Maroondah City Council. Adopted budget 2013/2014. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013.
5. Victorian Government Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure. Maroondah Planning Scheme. Melbourne: Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure; 2013 Jul 15.
6. Maroondah City Council. Community wellbeing plan 2013-17 (Draft). Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013.
7. Maroondah City Council. Maroondah sustainability strategy. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2009 Feb.
8. Maroondah City Council. Making the best of open space: An open space strategy for the City of Maroondah. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2005 May.
9. Maroondah City Council. Leisure services strategic plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2009 Jun.
10. Maroondah City Council. Leisure services strategic plan. Appendix 1: Action plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2009 Jun.
11. Maroondah City Council. Youth plan 2012-2016. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2012.
12. Maroondah City Council. Early years plan 2010-2014. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2010.
13. Maroondah City Council. Disability policy and action plan 2008-12. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2008 Oct 20.
14. Maroondah City Council. Healthy ageing, healthy future: A focus for the wellbeing of older persons in Maroondah. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; [date unknown].
15. Maroondah City Council. Croydon Town Centre structure plan. Volume 1: Main report. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Jul.
16. Maroondah City Council. Croydon Town Centre structure plan. Volume 2: Background report. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Jul.
17. Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd. Heathmont Activity Centre structure plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013 Feb.
18. Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd. Ringwood East Activity Centre structure plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; [date unknown].
19. Maroondah City Council. Ringwood Activities Area Community Infrastructure Plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2012 Mar.
20. Maroondah City Council. Ringwood Central Activities District Commercial Precinct Plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2010 Jul.
21. Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd. Ringwood Transit City urban design masterplan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2004 Aug.
22. Maroondah City Council. Local law no. 8: General local law. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2010 Dec 27.
23. Maroondah City Council. Maroondah integrated transport strategy. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Feb.
24. Maroondah City Council. Road management plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2013.
25. Maroondah City Council. Maroondah pedestrian strategy. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2007 Jul.
26. David Lock Associates and Traffix Group. Croydon pedestrian priority plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2009 Jun.
27. Kinect Australia, Tolley R, Grant J. Ringwood: A place for people. The Ringwood Transit City mobility and way-finding signage strategy for Maroondah City Council. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Mar.
28. Maroondah City Council. Maroondah bicycle strategy. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; [date unknown].
29. Maroondah City Council. 2011-2013 Maroondah business development strategy and action plan. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2011.
30. Maroondah City Council. Nature strip landscaping guidelines. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; [date unknown].
31. Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd. Ringwood Transit City public domain and landscape guidelines. Melbourne: Maroondah City Council; 2006 Mar.

Yarra Ranges

Key Corporate Documents

Yarra Ranges Council has 2 vision documents; 'Vision by Design 2020 - A built environment framework for the Yarra Ranges' & 'Shire of Yarra Ranges Vision 2020 Community Plan' which guide the development of all other policies and plans. The Vision 2020 Community Plan has great inclusion of the food system with acknowledgement of agricultural business, encouraging retail mix, localising the economy, ecological sustainability and connecting the community. However, The Vision 2020 by Design does not integrate food into the built environment design of the region. Secondly the Council Plan and Budget are the four year goals and objectives for the direction of the region under the current council. Strengths include goals and budget allowances to manage residential food waste and a focus on agricultural and local business development and support. These documents have opportunities to communicate the significance of the local food system.

The Green Wedge Management Plan is a great platform due to its focus on tourism & agriculture, demonstrated council support in terms of rate reductions for farming and partnerships with tourism groups focused on food. The plan also outlines future projects on innovative farming technology, to increase productivity and sustainability, water use reductions and plans to advocate for changes in the state planning framework to enable greater opportunities for farmgate sales. Within the 4 year action plan action 13 states: 'Review and revise the local planning policy related to agriculture. This project will consider emerging issues such as food miles, food security, water availability and consumer preference local produce.' For these issues to be adequately addressed they also need to be incorporated into other plans, and these elements are not addressed in the Local Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement currently.

The Local Planning Policy Framework & Municipal Strategic Statement work together to form significant strengths such as; encouraging higher density housing, clauses to protect farm land, aim to maintain and strengthen the agricultural role of the area, increase the sustainability of towns, encourage the implementation of structure plans and encouraging business development & tourism. Food is viewed economically in terms of agricultural business and tourism but is not discussed in light of food access & utilisation or community & amenity.

The Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has clear discussion of access to healthy and nutritious food, as well as use of local produce by local businesses and the community. The aims are specific to improving the local food system in the area, and this plan could therefore be the driver of the recommendations made in this report. The plan has a holistic approach to improving the local food system, as it includes physical access (public transport), capacity building in the community and supply of nutritious food.

Specific Policies & Plans

The Open Space Plans have a great focus on improving access to increase physical activity within the community. Food is incorporated in terms of spaces to prepare food and share food, however not included in the plan in terms of production. One of the main aims is to 'Design spaces that encourage enhanced activity, social experiences and events in public spaces that include all people in a community.' Edible landscapes and incorporation of community gardens into open spaces is a potential area for the future.

The environmental policies analysed have great strengths in terms of sustainability and resilience. The main goals of these policies are around 'peak oil,' reducing the human foot print, sustainable waste management practices and improvement of public transport for community access to services and townships. While many of these concepts

could be met by a localised food system, it is not mentioned within these plans. There is great potential to include sustainable food system practices right through from production to transport to access and utilisation.

The economic development strategy shows capacity to support a localised food system, where local food is distributed to local businesses, as it is mentioned but is not a clear objective. The strategy is primarily focussed on supporting business, and there is potential to include specific support for fresh food retailers and healthy food businesses in light of the health and fairness objective. There are no barriers identified in the local laws for the Yarra Ranges that would hinder the local food system. Structure plans and master plans have significant opportunities to encourage consideration of the local food system in activity centres and community spaces.

Table 2: Analysis of food-sensitivity of Yarra Ranges council policies and plans using FSPUD framework. Table adapted from table in FSPUD: Council plans/policies checklist document.¹

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Design Vision <i>Vision by Design 2020 - A built environment framework for the Yarra Ranges²</i>	2008	Analyses the build areas and agricultural land within the Yarra Ranges. It includes specific recommendations for design in the future to ensure the Yarra Ranges is enhanced by future development.	Opportunity to outline how FSPUD can be integrated into the vision for the area and how other plans and policies need to change to be supportive and inclusive. Plan can specifically outline where food integration can occur ie. major activity centres and agricultural land etc.	Gap	Encouraging a sustainable food system through localisation, support of markets and using local produce as well as assistance with residential food production and community gardens could be included as sustainability recommendations.
				Opportunity	Potential to include food vegetation in the vegetation section which also advises the use of indigenous or native plants in keeping with the existing landscape and vegetation.
Community Vision <i>Shire of Yarra</i>	2008	Outlines the vision for the community of the Yarra Ranges by the year	Opportunity to outline FSPUD elements such as localising the food	Supportive	Plan describes and outlines the importance of the food and tourism industry to the area.

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
<p><i>Ranges Vision 2020 Community Plan</i>³</p>		<p>2020. Outlines the history, importance and economy of the area and what the vision is for the community in the future.</p>	<p>system, improving the sustainability of the local food system & reducing food miles and encouraging local business.</p>		<p>Considers ‘ecological sustainability’ as a key priority and aims to ‘localise’ food production and consider more sustainable transport options.</p> <p>Acknowledges the key role of agriculture in the Yarra Ranges as a priority. Also includes other methods of food production and access such as community gardens and farmers markets.</p> <p>Encouraging small local businesses and business mix being a main priority to localise the economy. This will allow more competition within the food system and create a better chance for local produce within main streets and major activity centres.</p> <hr/> <p>Opportunity</p> <p>Has the potential to use food as one of the point for ‘connecting the community.’</p> <p>This plan could outline how many gardens or the vision for the development of community gardens and how this will improve the community and enhance opportunities and</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Council Plan <i>Yarra Ranges Council Plan 2013 - 2017 - A Place of Possibilities</i> ⁴	2013	Outlines the strategic objectives and strategies to be implemented during the term of an elected Council and must include a strategic resource plan and budget for the four year term of Council. The Council Plan is required by legislation and must be developed by 30 June in the year following Council elections and reviewed annually.	FSPUD could be a key strategic activity. Incorporating FSPUD principles into vision and key objectives. Specific FSPUD projects in the plan – potential to use FSPUD principles in planning decisions.	Supportive	education. ‘A solution for the treatment and disposal of green organic and food waste’ if listed as one of the action areas for protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Key priority area to create ‘vibrant economy, agriculture and tourism’ supports the development of agricultural businesses, supports the education and training of these businesses and includes the tourism aspect of the region.
				Gap	‘Local markets and small businesses sell locally produced seasonal fruit and veggies’ is mentioned on a decorative page divider but not included as an action area, priority or goal within the council plan.
				Opportunity	Support for the local area could also be expanded with initiatives for the community and businesses to better access local produce. For example, initiatives for businesses using local produce and reduction in food miles for companies doing processing or packaging within

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>a close radius of the agricultural business.</p> <p>Key priority area 'quality community infrastructure' includes increasing access, through public transport, roads and walkability, to improve social connectivity. This could also include access to local produce and the food system.</p>
Budget <i>Yarra Ranges Shire Council Budget Report - Year ending 30 June 2014⁵</i>	2013	<p>Outlines Council income and expenditure including funding for specific departments and projects/programs. Reviewed annually. Budget planning varies but can begin as early as June (one year prior to budget adoption) though more commonly begins in October or November. This is when budget bids are developed for new projects. Budget must be adopted by June each year and begin in July.</p>	<p>Opportunity for specific FSPUD projects to be funded. Opportunity to request funding for FSPUD training. In addition it might be possible for FSPUD activities to be included in the council's long term financial plan.</p>	Supportive	<p>Funding for community services including especially those surrounding education of community groups and supporting economic and community development. These services have the potential to integrate food, ie. community houses offering cooking and nutrition education and community groups obtaining funding for projects such as community gardens.</p> <p>Funding being provided to work with the Metropolitan Waste Management Group to increase kerb side recycling and find a solution for the treatment and disposal of green organic and food waste.</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
				Opportunity & Supportive	Budget for Open space of \$4.3 million to be spent on playground equipment, irrigation systems, parks and trails improvement and rehabilitation and the \$0.9 million to be spent on landscaping, street tree planting and improvements to pedestrian access in townships within the next year. This has the potential to include FSPUD principles such as the integration of community gardens and edible landscapes into public spaces.
Municipal Strategic Statement ⁶	2013	The MSS provides the broad outline and vision for existing and future land use within a municipality. It provides the rationale for the zone and overlay requirements and particular provisions in that council's planning scheme. The MSS is reviewed every 4 years within a year of the adoption of the Council Plan and is a legislative requirement.	Excellent opportunity to influence land use planning. FSPUD principles can be included in the MSS. Specific mention of health and wellbeing within the MSS. Opportunity to link the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with the MSS.	Supportive	<p>Clause 21.04-1: 'Encourage higher density residential housing in identified housing consolidation areas that are within easy walking distance to shops, public transport, open space and schools.' The FSPUD framework promotes medium-density housing to reduce urban sprawl and promote appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>Clause 21.04-1: 'In intensive farming areas provide for new residential accommodation only if it is directly associated with the operation and</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>management of the land for agricultural uses' and the restriction of residential dwellings being built on agricultural land if it will 'limit the sustainable agricultural operations being carried out on the land.' This supports FSPUD principles as agricultural land is being protected for agricultural purposes.</p>
					<p>Clause 21.04-2: 'Encourage business development & tourism' and 'facilitate use and development of business opportunities in the priority industry sectors of food growing and processing.' Both of these statements support the local food industry, including the large tourism opportunity this industry provides for the region.</p>
					<p>Clause 21.04-2 includes planning for restaurant locations. this includes that they should be within an 'urban area or rural township', be 'associated with a visitor accommodation facility' and/or 'associated with an established winery,' have</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>'direct access to a sealed or formed gravel road and be in-keeping with the 'residential character' of the area. These restrictions all enhance access and business develop.</p>
					<p>Clause 21.04-2 includes the objective 'to maintain and strengthen the agricultural role of the shire.' This includes strategies to 'create business opportunities,' 'encouraging value added food processing in established industrial zones' and 'encourage packing and processing' in nearby townships such as Monbulk. All of these strategies support the local food system and ensuring the prime agricultural land is used for food production primarily.</p>
				<p>Supportive & Opportunity</p>	<p>Clause 21.04-2: 'Implement structure plans for activity centres, particularly the major activity centres of Lilydale and Chirnside Park.' This provides opportunities to include FSPUD elements within these structure plans.</p>
					<p>Clause 21.05-1 includes objective 1: Sustainable Towns. This includes</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					strategies around supporting local businesses, providing quality retail, encouraging land uses which will maintain viability of the and setting strategic directions for future development. Within these strategies there could be strategies including food, such as including and considering food in future development plans and providing spaces which support local produce, such as open spaces for potential markets and/or street side trading.
				Gap	Overall food viewed as a 'tourism' opportunity and not otherwise included in the planning of the area.
					The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is not integrated into the MSS. Health and wellbeing is not mentioned in the MSS.
Local Planning Policy Framework 7	2013	Includes the Municipal Strategic Statement & Local Planning Policies.		Supportive	Clause 22.01 includes 'Land zoned for industrial purposes in the Monbulk and Silvan area be used to provide for support industries and services to the intensive agriculture, horticulture and other rural activities being

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>carried out in this area.’ This supports the agricultural industry and protecting the land for agriculture purposes by allowing packaging and processing off site.</p> <p>Clause 22.05-1 states the policy applies to proposals where a permit is required for the removal of vegetation. This protects the agricultural land and ensures it is being used for its intended purpose.</p> <p>Clause 22.06 Chirnside park activity centre and clause 22.7 Lilydale activity centre include objectives to create a ‘vibrant town centres,’ ‘improving pedestrian access,’ improving ‘transport exchange’ and ‘higher density residential neighbourhoods.’ The FSPUD framework promotes medium-density housing close to amenities and community facilities.</p>
Green Wedge Management Plan <i>Yarra Ranges Council - Green Wedge Management Plan</i>	2010	Melbourne’s green wedges make an important contribution to the liveability, economic strength and environmental health of Melbourne. The	Opportunity to incorporate FSPUD elements into management of Green Wedge land. This includes protecting	Supportive	<p>Agriculture and tourism are recognised as key areas for the green wedge management of the yarra ranges.</p> <p>Policies such as the Vision</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
8		<p>State Government has required all green wedge councils to prepare a Green Wedge Management Plan. The purpose of the plan is to establish a vision, a set of objectives and a set of policies, programs and actions that support the ongoing sustainable management of the Yarra Ranges green wedge.</p>	<p>agricultural land and tourism aspects of the food system. Council plays a lead role in promoting sustainable use and preservation of the Green Wedge as well as directly managing its own land.</p>		<p>202, council plan, community health and wellbeing plan and the planning scheme were all used in the development of this management plan. This is positive as many of these policies, especially the vision and health and wellbeing plan have FSPUD elements within them.</p> <p>‘Reduced rates are available to properties where the primary use or activity on the property is identified as farming and where the farming is intensive enough to outweigh the residential use of the property.’ This is supportive as it provides incentives for growers and makes it more economically viable.</p> <p>Council forms partnerships with many tourism groups within the yarra ranges, such as the Yarra Valley Regional food group. This assists with the operations of the businesses in terms of sustainability, viability and the economy of the tourism industry.</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>The primary green wedge values are; sustainable farming, a healthy biodiversity, and valued landscapes in its Green Wedge. Food is included in all of these values.</p>
					<p>Within the 4 year action plan action 1 states: the council will develop a position statement outlining alternative energy sources and innovative farming practices to improve sustainability and environmental impact.</p>
					<p>Council is currently working on a project with Yarra Valley water to promote recycled water for use on agricultural land and golf courses. Action 19 includes this project as a strategy within council.</p>
					<p>Within the 4-year action plan actions 10 & 11 discuss support for agricultural business by employment of an agribusiness officer in council, financial incentives and advocating on their behalf.</p>
					<p>Within the 4 year action plan action 13 states: 'Review and</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					revise the local planning policy related to agriculture. This project will consider emerging issues such as food miles, food security, water availability and consumer preference local produce.'
				Barrier & Supportive	State planning policy prohibits farmers selling all but primary produce, produce from the land, in their farm gates. This is with the exception of wineries. This is a significant disadvantage and is noted as a barrier for farm gate sales. Action area 14 includes advocating to the state government to modify these definitions.
Activity Centre Plans <i>Activity Centre Network Strategy (2012)</i> ⁹	2012	Place based, land use plans that outline development/ design for specific activity centres (such as shopping areas, transport hubs, etc.).	Potential to include food access in land use planning, opportunity to build food production into activity centres and design to encourage food retailers and foodservice into the activity centre.	Supportive	Increasing food and grocery offers in Mt Evelyn, Belgrave, Yarra Junction and Warburton.
				Opportunity	Add food production features as part of “promote high-quality design” of activity centres (not just trees, benches etc.), for example plantar boxes with food growing, or fruit trees.
Structure Plans <i>Lilydale Urban Improvement</i>	July 2008	This plan addresses a range of building design and development issues in the Lilydale activity centre.	Food can be included in plantings, potential to master plan community gardens, space for food	Opportunity	There is mention of water-sensitive design in regards to environmental sustainability of commercial and mixed use

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
<i>Project</i> ¹⁰		It complements the earlier Lilydale Structure Plan 2006 by providing more detailed strategic directions for the built form of new development in the activity centre.	growing. Design retail hubs to promote small retailers and discourage large fast food retailers and hard top shopping centres. Improve opportunity for better physical access to food (e.g. travel distance, lighting, footpaths, small to medium size local retail areas).		facilities, Food-sensitive design activities could also be included. Urban design can include community garden boxes, water fountains, edible fruit trees in the shopping streets for 'beautification'. There is potential to include composting when providing appropriate waste storage, loading and recycling facilities and screen them from public view in commercial or mixed-use facilities.
Structure Plans <i>Lilydale Major Activity Centre Structure Plan</i> ¹¹	2006	The structure plan for Lilydale envisages a consolidated activity centre that functions as the region's community, civic and recreation centre.	Food can be included in plantings, potential to master plan community gardens, space for food growing. Design retail hubs to promote small retailers and discourage large fast food retailers and hard top shopping centres. Improve opportunity for better physical access to food (eg travel distance, lighting, footpaths, small to medium size local retail areas)	Supportive Opportunity	Improving connection between public transport access and interchange with the rest of the activity centre to promote food access. FSPUD activities such as edible street scapes and community garden boxes could address the vision for incorporated sustainable building designs, and will create visually interesting environment and encourage outdoor activity as mentioned in the overall strategic directions. Encouraging stores/cafes with local produce on the

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Structure Plans <i>Mooroolbark Structure Plan</i> ¹²	March 2011	This plan provides an overall vision for how the Mooroolbark Town Centre will develop over the next 10-15 years. The plan provides strategic policy direction for Council and guidance to developers for changes to land use, built form, public spaces and accessibility that together can achieve economic, social and environmental objectives for the centre.	Food can be included in plantings, potential to master plan community gardens, space for food growing. Design retail hubs to promote small retailers and discourage large fast food retailers and hard top shopping centres. Improve opportunity for better physical access to food (eg travel distance, lighting, footpaths, small to medium size local retail areas).	Supportive	<p>Maroondah Hwy commercial strip can promote tourist attraction.</p> <p>Increasing housing density will encourage more local shops and community facilities (which can include food retail and education facilities to teach producing/preparing food).</p> <p>Creating a movement network that support walking and cycling in and around the activity centre, and from new development sites to the activity centre.</p> <p>Opportunity In regards to “reinvigorating civic and commercial precinct”, when “promoting the concentration of activities...that increase the vitality of the centre” this could also include: businesses selling local food from Yarra Valley, affordable fruit and vegetable retailers, and retail planning that supports competition.</p> <p>To create a leafy unified streetscape on Brice Avenue, there could be more than street trees planted. It could</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					include plantar boxes with herbs or vegetables growing.
				Gap	Use the Mooroolbark community centre for educational purposes as mentioned above.
Structure Plans <i>Belgrave Town Report</i> ¹³	April 2010	The Belgrave Town Centre Study is an opportunity to review the Belgrave Urban Design Framework 2002 and to provide a refreshed vision for the Township.	Food can be included in plantings, potential to master plan community gardens, space for food growing. Design retail hubs to promote small retailers and discourage large fast food retailers and hard top shopping centres. Improve opportunity for better physical access to food (eg travel distance, lighting, footpaths, small to medium-size local retail areas)	Supportive	Cherry trees forming part of the streetscape on the main street. Improving Blacksmiths Way and the roundabouts for pedestrians and cyclists (will improve access to local shops).
				Opportunity	As mentioned, a regular market along the laneway to Blacksmiths Road will revitalise the area. It can also be an opportunity to sell local produce from the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley and promote local shops. Create places for community to share food, eg. the suggested BBQ area in the Alexander Carpark Open Space.
Open Space Plan <i>Recreation and open space plan - policy 2013-2023</i> ¹⁴	2013	Access to open space, and the types of open space (eg ovals and parks); guidelines for what levels of open space should be provided and what activities can	May include access to places to grow food, ensure a balance between structured open space (eg ovals) and more flexible	Supportive	Using the 'Vision 2020' to inform this plan which has an emphasis on food. The Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013–2017

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
		occur in open space.	spaces (parks and reserves). Could include fruit trees in parks and nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, encouraging communities to grow their own food. Nutritional guidelines created for food provided or available for purchase at centres and sports grounds. Recognise growing food as a leisure activity particularly for vulnerable members of the community – opportunities to work with social support team.	Supportive & Opportunity	<p>was included in the development of this plan which contains many FSPUD supportive aspects.</p> <p>The statement 'To partner with the community to develop and manage sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces' implies capacity building and could include the development and management of edible landscapes and community gardens within these open spaces.</p> <p>One of the key outcomes and recommendations states; 'Designing spaces that encourage enhanced activity, social experiences and events in public spaces that include all people in a community.' This could be inclusive of food integration into the space as it encouraged socialising as well as engaging the community.</p>
				Gap	<p>Food could be a key outcome and recommendation area and how it could be integrated into open spaces through landscaping, community gardens, edible landscapes</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Open Space Plan <i>Recreation and open space plan - Strategic Framework 2013-2023</i> ¹⁵	2013	Access to open space, and the types of open space (eg ovals and parks); guidelines for what levels of open space should be provided and what activities can occur in open space. The strategic framework outlines the demographics, the demand for open spaces within the region and the planning framework.	May include access to places to grow food, ensure a balance between structured open space (eg ovals) and more flexible spaces (parks and reserves). Could include fruit trees in parks and nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, encouraging communities to grow their own food. Nutritional guidelines created for food provided or available for purchase at centres and sports grounds. Recognise growing food as a leisure activity particularly for vulnerable members of the community – opportunities to work with social support team.	Supportive	<p>etc. could be outlined in this plan.</p> <p>Discussion of the planning framework includes the statement: '(planning) should be integrated, holistic and respect the agendas and objectives from various planning disciplines including roads, transport, housing, biodiversity & agriculture.'</p> <p>Within the open space design standard guidelines requirements are mentioned such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pedestrian access • central location • core attribute such as: large shady trees, seating, drinking water, picnic and BBQ facilities • sporting facilities • visually pleasant and in-keeping with the surroundings of the region <p>These aspects encourage community engagement, sharing of food and physical activity.</p> <hr/> <p>Gap</p> <p>No specific mention of food within the strategic</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					framework.
Open Space Plan <i>Recreation and open space plan - Implementation Plan 2013-2023</i> ¹⁶	2013	Access to open space, and the types of open space (eg ovals and parks); guidelines for what levels of open space should be provided and what activities can occur in open space.	May include access to places to grow food, ensure a balance between structured open space (eg ovals) and more flexible spaces (parks and reserves). Could include fruit trees in parks and nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, encouraging communities to grow their own food. Nutritional guidelines created for food provided or available for purchase at centres and sports grounds. Recognise growing food as a leisure activity particularly for vulnerable members of the community – opportunities to work with social support team.	Supportive & opportunity	Strategies include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘identify opportunities to diversify open space functions or settings to offer greater variety in recreation opportunities.’ • ‘Explore opportunities for nature-based recreation and tourism activities.’ • ‘Partner with the full range of stakeholders and peak interest groups alongside other council departments through all forms of engagement including informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering.’ These strategies could include exploring how food could be integrated into open space planning. Working with the community and peak interest groups could also work towards a greater inclusion of food within planning and food security as this is the interest of many community groups.

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan	2013	<p>The MPHWP is a four year strategic plan aligned with the Council Plan timing outlining health and wellbeing initiatives with a strong emphasis on the social determinants of health. Some councils now integrate these with their Council Plan.</p> <p>The MPHWP needs to be developed by the November of the year following Council elections unless it is integrated into the Council Plan. In this case it needs to be completed in line with Council Plan timing (except some bushfire effected councils who have been given an extension).</p>	<p>Include specific mention of food in the plan; this would be particularly useful in the strategic goals of the plan to support the importance of considering food in all council planning. Specific programs to support access to food for all residents could also be included.</p>	Supportive	<p>No specific mention of food within the strategies.</p> <p>Goal 2: increase understanding, access and consumption of healthy food. This directly discusses food access and education around healthy food. It also mentions the use of local produce by businesses and the community. All the aims in this area will directly work to improve the food system in the Yarra Ranges.</p> <p>The aim for ‘seeking greater planning control over decisions affecting health through advocacy’ will directly support our findings.</p> <p>‘Goal 5: Strong communities that include and inspire people’ outlines support for local community groups through grants, facilities and access to capacity building. This would include community projects and activities surrounding food.</p> <p>‘Goal Eleven: improved public and community transport services across the Yarra Ranges’ will improve access to</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					locally grown food and the greater food system.
				Gap	There is no specific aim for improving access and use of locally grown produce.
				Opportunity	'Priority: A healthy start to life and early childhood as the foundations for for lifelong wellbeing' could include education programs around nutrition.
Municipal Early Years Plan <i>Help shape the future for children 2010 – 2012</i> ¹⁸	2010	Planning for services for 0-12 years – may include infrastructure planning, services and support.	Include food in the plan, can include education on food and nutrition, may include guidelines for food provision in Early Childhood Services, opportunities to grow food. Opportunities to engage vulnerable families in food redistribution.	Supportive	Mentions food security as an area of need.
				Gap	The three priority areas outlined could include strategies around including health education, including children in school and community gardens.
Youth Plan <i>Young people here for today and the future - Shire of Yarra Ranges Policy and Action Plan for and with</i>	2008	Defines projects and activities available for young people (10 – 25 years). The plan may include program delivery and projects to support young people.	Include food in the plan, access to food, nutritional guidelines created for food provided or available at events. Opportunities to engage with young people in programs to increase food skills and	Opportunity	Incorporation of Vision 2020's objectives and strategies around food such as the development of community gardens with young people.

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
<i>Young People 2008-2011</i> ¹⁹			to address food insecurity. Opportunities to engage vulnerable youth in excess food redistribution.		
Aged/Positive Ageing Plan <i>Positive ageing strategy and action plan 2010-2015</i> ²⁰	2010	Planning for services and activities for older adults.	Include access to food in the plan vision; potential for specific food programs and projects based on the nature of food issues and existing strengths in the community.	Supportive	Ongoing advocacy in relation to public transport and community transport. "Age-friendly" audit of shopping strips.
				Gap	Include access to food in the vision, and as an objective in the goal "support older people to lead independent, active healthy lives".
Walking and Cycling Strategies <i>Hike and Bike Plan</i> ²¹	2005	These will generally outline the infrastructure improvements to encourage walking and cycling and may also include behaviour change programs.	There is an opportunity to emphasise food as a trip generator and to encourage cycling and walking to food outlets. In addition emphasise the need to provide adequate food within walking/cycling distance of all residents.	Supportive	Encouraging walking and cycling routes from urban areas to activity centres.
				Opportunity	Discuss food as a trip generator and ensure food is accessible within walking/cycling distance.
Environment Strategy <i>Shire of Yarra Ranges Environment Strategy 2008 - Towards a</i>	2008	Looks at the broad area of 'environment' in relation to sustainability. It may include an action plan and targets to reduce the environmental impacts of council and the community.	Include food in the plan, access to food, importance of local food production, mitigating impact of organisations through considered food purchasing and	Supportive	Strategic policy direction 4.1.3 'Purchasing, consumption & waste' discusses Yarra Ranges working towards the targets set by the state governments 'Towards Zero Waste Strategy' and the

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
<p><i>sustainable future and better stewardship of our natural environment</i>²²</p>			<p>reducing waste. The environmental impacts of growth in relation to food production (eg developments on farm land, food-miles). FSPUD principles can be included as they articulate the natural intersect between healthy food and sustainability.</p>	<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>concept of incentives for recycling and the waste hierarchy all to minimise the waste and improve the sustainability of the region.</p> <p>Strategic policy direction 4.1: 'Reducing our human foot print' could include reducing food miles.</p> <p>The policy position to model behaviours council believe to be necessary in responding to climate change and a commitment to long term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions supports many of the sustainable principles outlined in FSPUD.</p>
<p>Climate Change Plan/Climate Adaptation Plan</p> <p><i>Adapting to a changing climate and energy future</i>²³</p>	<p>Not Listed</p>	<p>Looks at the potential effect of climate change and what measures need to be put in place to mitigate them.</p>	<p>Included access to food in the plan – availability of food during extreme weather events, contingency planning to ensure adequate food, impact of food scarcity or increased prices on vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The climatic impacts of current food systems (in relation to transport, loss of agricultural land, etc) can be included in</p>	<p>Supportive</p>	<p>Considers community, people and systems thinking as sustainable excellence principles which are also integrated into the FSPUD framework.</p> <p>The 3-5 year action point; 'Improve community access to services by strengthening integration of sustainable transport into the provision of civil infrastructure.' will include access to food and transport</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
			discussion.		of food as well as community transport to get to food provision outlets.
					The 3-5 year action point; 'Strengthen organisation and community capacity to respond to climate change and peak oil challenges.' could be inclusive of strategies such as supporting community gardens, edible landscapes, domestic agriculture and a localised food system in that 3-5 year period.
				Gap	Food is not specifically mentioned within this indplan. While food could be applied to many statements within the plan, the sustainability and integrity of the food system should be further explored in terms of climate change adaptation.
				Opportunity	Within the policy position it mentions the implementation of strategies to reduce the carbon footprint and reducing exposure to 'peak oil' which would also be inclusive of many FSPUD principles. Therefore it would be appropriate to include a

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					statement about food production and transport in terms of sustainability, climate change and peak oil.
Flora & Fauna Plan <i>Flora and Fauna Plan 2012 - Sustaining biodiversity for current and future generations</i> ²⁴	2012	Protection of flora and fauna is essential for the long-term wellbeing of the area's natural environment and communities. These natural assets must be protected, preserved, well managed, and enhanced over time. This plan has been prepared by Council in order to achieve that.		Supportive	The development of the Yarra Ranges Council Flora & Fauna Plan 2012 is a critical step in the journey towards our Vision 2020 Community Plan goals of improved environmental, social and economic sustainability within the Yarra Ranges.
				Gap	<p>Including the community in education and management of the flora and fauna is a great way to build skills and knowledge around vegetation and planting.</p> <p>There is no specific inclusion of food within this plan. Food plays an important role in the ecosystem and like other vegetation should be protected and enhanced.</p>
				Opportunity	<p>There is no inclusion of indigenous plant foods as 'indigenous vegetation.'</p> <p>Within the goals of the plan it states: 'to contribute to healthy functioning ecosystems that</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
					<p>underpin the social, environmental and economically productive well being of the area.’ This could also include food as this is an important aspect of sustainability and productivity of the area.</p>
<p>Economic Development Plan <i>Economic Development Strategy (2012-2022)</i>²⁵</p>	2012	<p>This plan works with business to encourage and support local business and investment.</p>	<p>Opportunity to prioritise healthy food, promote healthy food venues, potentially look into opportunities to encourage food production (including primary production) and healthy food businesses.</p>	Supportive	<p>Creating opportunities for local businesses to use local produce by “Facilitating information around better systems for procurement and distribution for local businesses wanting to sell to other local businesses.”</p> <p>Supporting particularly medium growers by “Support local food supply chains and distribution networks.”</p>
				Gap	<p>Encourage healthy food businesses in the region. Potential through “urban triangle” investment.</p>
<p>Footpath Trading Policy <i>Streets and Roadside trading policy - November 2010</i>²⁶</p>	2010	<p>Guidelines for street-side trading. This sets the balance between footpath trading and footpath safety.</p>	<p>Explains how food and food advertising can be integrated into a streetscape along the footpath.</p>	Supportive	<p>Document makes it very clear for traders where they can put signage and merchandise on the street side. This could improve the visual appeal for food retailers and encourage healthy food purchases if these were displayed on the</p>

Name of Plan/Policy	Year	Description ¹	Criteria ¹	Assessment	Notes
Local Laws ²⁷	2012	Laws related to specific council or localised to specific area	Some local laws may work against FSPUD e.g. prevention of growing food in nature strips or parks, prohibition of keeping animals. These may require updating to facilitate FSPUD.	Supportive	street side. No local laws act as barriers to FSPUD activities. There are no unreasonable restrictions on keeping animals, use of plantar boxes in shopping strips or nature strip landscaping.
Transport Plan/Integrated Transport Plan/Road Management Plan <i>Yarra Ranges Road Management Plan (2009)</i> ²⁸	2009	Council is required to prepare a Road Management Plan under the 2004 Road management Act. It outlines road assets and maintenance. Some councils also develop a sustainable or integrated transport plan which will include the overall transport system including cycling and walking and access to public transport.	There is an opportunity to prioritise food in these plans – ensuring access to food is prioritised. It may be possible to prioritise footpath/cycle path maintenance that is part of a food network.	Gap	Develop an integrated transport plan to discuss improving access to activity centres. This plan only discusses the management of the roads, not developing new/improving current access to food.

Assessment definitions:

- *Supportive*: Aspects of the policy/plan incorporate FSPUD principles and projects to a satisfactory standard.
- *Gap*: Aspects of the policy in which food could be incorporated, but is not, exist.
- *Opportunity*: Specific areas exist, in relation to which food could readily be included.
- *Barrier*: Aspects of the policy or plan actively dissuade FSPUD activities.

References:

1. Donovan J, Larsen K, McWhinnie J. Food-sensitive planning and urban design: Council plans/policies checklist. Canberra: National Heart Foundation of Australia; 2013.
2. Yarra Ranges Council. Vision by Design 2020 - A built environment framework for the Yarra Ranges. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
3. Yarra Ranges Council. Shire of Yarra Ranges Vision 2020 Community Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
4. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Council Plan 2013-2017 – A place of possibilities. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
5. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Shire Council Budget Report – Year Ending June 30 2014. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
6. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy Framework, Municipal Strategic Statement. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; July 2013.
7. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy Framework. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013 Jul.
8. Yarra Ranges Council. Green Wedge Management Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2010 Jul.
9. Essential Economic Pty Ltd. Yarra Ranges Activity Centre Network Strategy 2012: Strategy and Implementation Plan. Carlton: Essential Economic Pty Ltd; 2013.
10. Planisphere with Planning Collaborative Pty Ltd. Urban Improvement Project: Lilydale Major Activity Centre. Planisphere with Planning Collaborative Pty Ltd; 2008.
11. Shire of Yarra Ranges. Lilydale Major Activity Centre Structure Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2006.
12. Yarra Ranges Council. Mooroolbark Activity Centre Structure Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2011
13. Woods Bagot Pty Ltd. Belgrave Town Centre Study. Southbank: Woods Bagot Pty Ltd; 2010
14. Yarra Ranges Council. Recreation and open space plan policy 2013-2023. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
15. Yarra Ranges Council. Recreation and open space plan - Strategic Framework 2013-2023. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
16. Yarra Ranges Council. Recreation and open space plan - Implementation Plan 2013-2023. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
17. Yarra Ranges Council. Ranges Council Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2013.
18. Yarra Ranges Council. Help shape the future for children 2010 – 2012. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2010.
19. Yarra Ranges Council. Shire of Yarra Ranges Policy and Action Plan for and with Young People 2008-2011. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
20. Yarra Ranges Council. Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2015. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2010.
21. Yarra Ranges Council. Hike and Bike Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2005.
22. Yarra Ranges Council. Shire of Yarra Ranges Environment Strategy-Towards a sustainable future and better stewardship of our natural environment. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2008.
23. Yarra Ranges Council. Adapting to a Changing Climate and Energy Future. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council.
24. Yarra Ranges Council. Flora and Fauna Plan 2012 - Sustaining biodiversity for current and future generations. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2012.
25. Yarra Ranges Council. Economic Development Strategy (2012-2022). Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2012.
26. Yarra Ranges Council Streets and Roadside Trading Policy. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2010 Nov.
27. Yarra Ranges Council. General Provisions Local Law 2012. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2012.
28. Yarra Ranges Council. Yarra Ranges Road Management Plan. Lilydale: Yarra Ranges Council; 2009.