



Supporting a healthy, equitable  
and sustainable food system



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging for they hold

the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

## Working with the Traditional Owners

The story of this region is cyclical, moving from sustainability to disruption and destruction, then to rehabilitation and reconnection. The gold rush turned the landscape into 'Upside Down Country'. It destroyed the natural balance but also brought creative influences from all over the world which shaped our culture and food system. We are now collaborating to 'heal the landscape'.

Through the recent success of joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (for Gastronomy) in 2019, (the City) will partner with the Traditional Owners of a large part of the region, the Dja Dja Wurrung, as well as government and non-government organisations, schools and the wider community to develop knowledge and understanding of sustainable land-use practices and the cultural life of the region through indigenous food plants. Central to this will be the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan which includes projects

to restore Indigenous food and fibre plants as part of a broader ambition to heal the country and connect with the cultural heritage of this region.

This project will be led by the Dja Dja Wurrung with support from the City of Greater Bendigo (the City) and other partners. The project will also include the development of a calendar detailing the six seasons of food and fibre plants, weather and animals that guided Traditional Owners in their reading of the landscape. The calendar will be used to guide planting and storytelling around the edible plants of the region and growing more sustainable and resilient sources of food – knowledge that will be shared with community organisations and gardens, schools, local businesses and the general public.

*Extracts from Bendigo's application to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network 2019.*

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## Introduction

Food systems are complex and there are many ways to illustrate the relationships across and between their various components and processes. The food system includes all of the steps it takes to get food (and drink) on our plate. This includes how food and drinks are grown and produced, processed, packaged and distributed, marketed, sold, consumed and then disposed of. A local food system aims to create a more direct link between producers and consumers, through the food system stages. A strong local food system not only has health and environmental benefits, but also benefits local economies through job creation, greater investment in local businesses and increased farm viability.

Greater Bendigo's food system is shaped by and shapes, in turn, all aspects of our life. This includes the culture that informs our food and drink choices, to our environment that determines what can be grown, where and when; and the economic and political forces that shape access to food and drink. Cultivating local food systems can significantly enhance the health and wellbeing of communities; improve the availability of and access to nutritious food; strengthen the local economy; and revitalise urban and natural environments (Lock & Associates, 2011).

Our current globalised food system creates multiple challenges for society. This includes year-round access to seasonal foods which are transported long distances; purchasing from a small number of large retailers and buying more processed foods with less nutritional value. This system creates a disconnect between the community and local producers and makes it easier for people to consume foods without developing skills to grow and prepare the food themselves. The modern global food system has created a culture of 'food from nowhere' breaking the age-long connection of people and food in many forms including physical disconnection and loss of knowledge of 'where, how and by whom foods are produced' (Sheridan et al. 2016).

Australia possesses one of the world's safest food supplies, but our supply chains are inefficient and threaten food security. Australia currently wastes approximately \$8 billion worth of food fit for human consumption per year, with many communities having limited knowledge of associated negative environmental consequences (Future Directions



International, 2015). Additionally, levels of food insecurity have significantly increased over the past two decades, contributing to an increased prevalence of diet-related disease and placing a severe burden on our health system. Dietary risk factors (such as eating too many foods high in fat and sugar and not enough fruit and vegetables), combined with being overweight or obese is now the major contributor to the disease burden in Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019). In Greater Bendigo, rates of food insecurity (6.96%) and residents classed as either overweight or obese (60.3%) are higher than the Victorian state average (6.22% and 50.8% respectively) (Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017).

Looking at our entire food system also provides an opportunity to prepare for a changing climate. The latest 'State of the Climate' report from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO (2018) confirms that we are experiencing hotter temperatures, fewer frosts, lower rainfall and extreme fire weather and floods due to human induced climate change. This will affect local food production, including which foods can be grown locally. Reducing emissions associated with food production, processing, storage and transportation has the potential to slow climate change. Taking action now will contribute to a resilient food system and community in the future.

# Our Vision, Guiding Principles and Objectives

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy will guide the actions of organisations and groups working to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system from 2020-2030.

## Our Vision

Greater Bendigo's food system is healthy, equitable and sustainable and supports the local economy, culture and health and wellbeing of our communities.

## Guiding Principles

- A healthy food system that promotes the health of people and enhances the natural environment
- An equitable food system that makes nutritious and culturally appropriate food accessible and affordable to everyone across our communities
- A sustainable food system that strengthens our local economy and builds the capacity and resilience of our communities

## Objectives

1. Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks
2. Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally
3. Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture
4. Reduce and divert food waste from landfill





## Glossary

### Food hub

A food hub can have varying models and goals. Food hubs generally manage the aggregation, distribution and marketing of locally/regionally produced foods (Australian Food Hubs Network, 2013).

### Food insecurity

Food insecurity is deemed to exist whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable food in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain. Food insecurity *with hunger* is where a person experiences a period where they go without food. In contrast, food insecurity *without hunger* is where a person is at risk of food insecurity with hunger and may employ tactics such as relying on low-cost unhealthy foods to avoid going without food (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017).

### Food literacy

Describes the idea of proficiency in food related skills and knowledge (Truman et. al, 2017).



### Food security

'...exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life' (World Food Summit, 1996).

### Food system

Our food system includes everything that it takes to get food on our plate, from farming, storing, processing, transporting, marketing, selling, cooking, eating and then disposing of our food waste (Cardinia Shire Council, 2018).

### Gastronomy

Gastronomy is about the growth, production and consumption of quality foods, the art of good food and drink, and celebrating the history of food from specific regions and cultures (UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy Bid, City of Greater Bendigo, 2019).

### Overweight / pre obesity

Overweight / pre obesity is classified as having a body mass index (BMI) between 25 and 30 (World Health Organization, 2019).

### Obesity

Obesity is classified as having a BMI of 30 or higher (World Health Organization, 2019).

### Urban Agriculture

Describes the growing of food in urban areas such as fruits, vegetables, herbs and Indigenous plants. This can be at the small scale, household level or involve neighbourhoods, communities, businesses and entire towns or cities (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2019).

## Geographic scope

This Strategy covers the entire Greater Bendigo region. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy provides strategic direction to guide the actions of the City, partner organisations and groups to strengthen and support our food system over the next 10 years (2020-2030).

## Policy context

This strategy has been informed by and sits within, the context of other policies and strategies at a national, state and local level. Currently there is no state or federal policy platform for creating sustainable food systems at the local level.

### National Policy, Strategies and regulatory frameworks

- 2018 National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources
- State of the Climate 2018
- FOODmap: An Analysis of the Australian Food Supply Chain 2012
- Australia's Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy 2018-2021
- National Food Plan: Our Food Future 2013
- National Preventative Health Strategy (currently under development)
- Water Act 1989
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Food Safety Act 1984

### State regulatory frameworks and plans:

- Victoria's Climate Change Adaption Plan 2017-2020
- VicHealth Healthy Eating Strategy 2019-2023
- VicHealth Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design 2011
- VicHealth Gender Equity Strategy 2019-2023
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
- Agriculture Victoria Strategy 2017-2027
- Victorian Climate Change Act 2017
- Local Government Act 2020

### Regional / Local Government Area regulatory frameworks, strategies and plans

- Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021
- Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme
- Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034
- Greater Bendigo Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2015 – 2018
- Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy 2016-2021
- All Ages All Abilities Action Plan 2019 (Greater Bendigo)
- Waste and Resource Management Strategy 2014-2019 (Greater Bendigo)
- Waste and Resource Management Strategy 2020-2025 (Greater Bendigo, currently under development)
- The City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy
- Greater Bendigo's Public Space Plan 2019
- The state of Greater Bendigo's local food economy – a pilot study
- 2015 Food Hub Feasibility Study
- Thought for Food – Greater Bendigo Food Security Research Paper
- Greater Bendigo Intensive Animal Industries Strategic Framework 2013
- Healthy Together Bendigo Food Security Report 2014
- Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan
- Loddon Campaspe Economic Growth Strategy
- North Central Regional Sustainable Agriculture Strategy 2016
- North Central Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Plan 2015
- Loddon Mallee Regional Organics Strategy 2019-25
- City of Ballarat Good Food For All: Food Strategy 2019-2022
- Manningham City Council Food Security Plan 2016
- Moreland Food Systems Strategy 2017-2020
- Food City: City of Melbourne Food Policy 2012
- Food Policy 2015 (City of Greater Geelong)
- Urban Food Production Strategy 2014-2018 (City of Darebin)
- Cardinia Community Food Strategy 2018-2026
- Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Melbourne Foodbowl 2019
- Food Policy and Strategy Discussion Paper 2016 (North East Victoria Local Government)
- Surf Coast Shire Local Food Program 2018-2021
- North East Local Food Strategy 2018-2022: strengthening the local food system in North East Victoria
- Greening Greater Bendigo (currently under development)
- City of Greater Bendigo TAKE2 pledge

# Bendigo's designation as a UNESCO Creative City in the category of Gastronomy – October 2019



Bendigo and the region's core gastronomy themes are; a 40,000-year-old sustainable food system through the Dja Dja Wurrung people and the need to heal the landscape following colonization and gold mining, the creativity and innovation of the community and of our food producers, health and nutrition and the role of food in inclusion

and community wellbeing, and the importance of developing a sustainable food system in an era of climate change. The City will support an ongoing community action plan comprising events and projects that will complement the Food System Strategy.

## Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2021)

The Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2021) outlines the health and wellbeing priorities for the community and guides the City and its partners work to improve the health and wellbeing

of our community. Greater Bendigo's Health and Wellbeing Plan has five domains including, 'healthy and well', 'safe and secure', 'able to participate', 'connected to culture' and 'liveable'. See figure 1.

Figure 1. Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan

### Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan

Healthy and well	Safe and secure	Able to participate	Connected to culture and community	Liveable
Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who rate their health as very good or excellent	Proportion of adults feeling safe walking in their street at night / in their home at night	Employment rate	Proportion of adults who feel valued by society	Greater Bendigo Liveability Indicators (score across relevant selection)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote healthy lifestyles                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy eating</li> <li>Increase physical activity and decrease sedentary behaviour</li> </ul> </li> <li>Promote positive mental wellbeing</li> <li>Improved sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>Reduce harm from                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco</li> <li>Alcohol and misuse of drugs</li> <li>Gambling</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent violence against women and children</li> <li>Increase community safety                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease crime and antisocial behaviour</li> <li>Deliver health protection services</li> <li>Lead community-based emergency management planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reduce socio-economic disadvantage by increasing access to affordable:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutritious food</li> <li>Diverse housing</li> <li>Energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support early years learning and development</li> <li>Promote educational attainment</li> <li>Support inclusive employment</li> <li>Improve health, financial and digital literacy</li> <li>Support positive ageing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support inclusive communities by valuing:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</li> <li>Cultural diversity</li> <li>People with a disability</li> <li>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning/Queer (LGBTIQ) community</li> </ul> </li> <li>Build community resilience                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen community participation and belonging</li> <li>Increase social connection and reduce loneliness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote environmental sustainability and resilience to a changing climate</li> <li>Improve accessibility                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and community services</li> <li>Transport</li> <li>Technology and information</li> </ul> </li> <li>Facilitate supportive built and natural environments</li> </ul>

### Our Framework for Action

Our principles	Equity and fairness		Accessibility		Policy alignment		Community engagement		Evidence informed		Evaluation									
Our approach	Place based		Co-design		Health in all policies		Asset-based community development		Systems thinking		Collective impact									
Our focus	Children and young people		Older residents		Disabled residents		Gender equity		Socio-economic disadvantage		Cultural diversity		Climate change impact							
Our settings and environment	Whole of population		Rural communities		Public space		Schools (including early years)		Arts and culture		Sport and active recreation		Workplaces		Health and community services					
Our enablers	Shared leadership and strategic thinking				Community groups and organisations				Financing and resource allocation				Media and communications				Learning and development			



# One Planet Living Principles

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy has incorporated the One Planet Living framework. The One Planet Living framework is about making it easy, attractive and affordable for people to lead happy and healthy lives within a fair share of the earth's resources (Bioregional, 2019).

## Why One Planet Living?

We only have one planet, but as a global society we are living as if we have several planets and consuming in ways which cannot be sustained. If everyone in the world lived like we do in Australia we would need over four planets. We have never had so much technology, but social isolation, loneliness and poor mental health

are increasing problems. Global animal populations are in sharp decline threatening our ecosystem and food systems, and human induced climate change is already having devastating consequences (Bioregional, 2019). The One Planet Living Principles is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. One Planet Living Principles

	<b>Health and happiness</b>	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
	<b>Equity and local economy</b>	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
	<b>Culture and community</b>	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
	<b>Land and nature</b>	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
	<b>Sustainable water</b>	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
	<b>Local and sustainable food</b>	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
	<b>Travel and transport</b>	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
	<b>Materials and products</b>	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption
	<b>Zero waste</b>	Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
	<b>Zero carbon energy</b>	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

## How has this Strategy been developed?

The City of Greater Bendigo has led the development of this Strategy, with the support from an external Reference Group who provided impartial local food system advice and expertise.

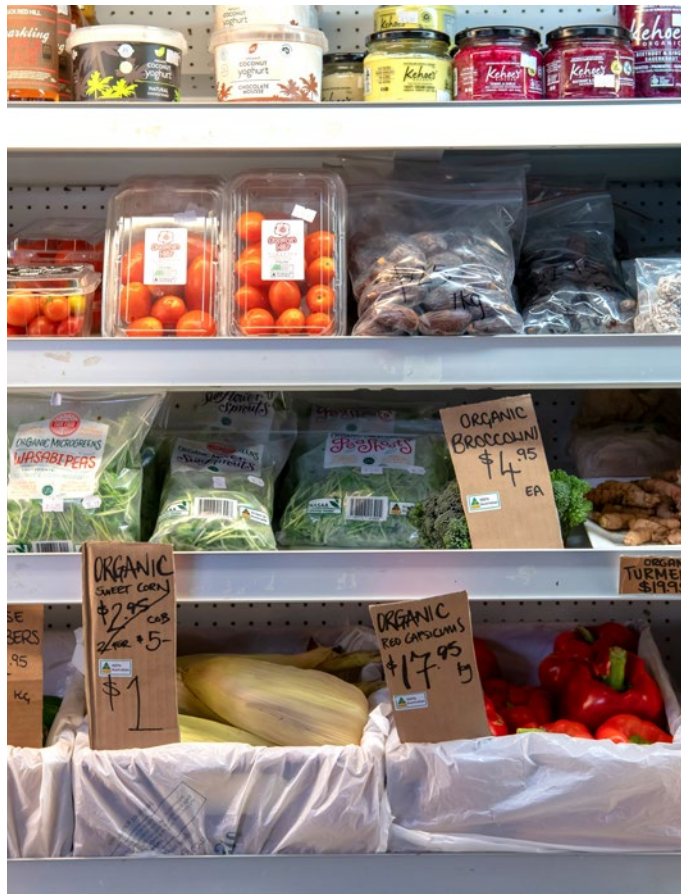
Initial community engagement activities took place across a three month period (March – June 2019). Approximately 1000 people were engaged through a combination of methods including an online survey, stakeholder workshop, face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews, listening posts, engagement stalls, focus groups and community sessions.

The following groups and organisations were engaged throughout this process:

- Six schools including engagement with teachers, parents and students in both low and high socio-economic areas
- Over 700 people through community listening posts, engagements stalls and community activities
- Almost 300 responses to the online survey
- 60 people attended a food system stakeholder workshop, with each element of the food system

represented

- Eight presentations and discussions at relevant committee meetings
- 11 farmers / producers via a telephone interview, online surveys and workshops
- Representatives from 73 organisations and businesses via the online survey
- 20 community groups via the online survey and face-to-face meetings
- Representatives from 23 hospitals and health services
- Seven food distributors / emergency food relief agencies
- 20 food service providers / food retailers
- Representatives from six sporting facilities and clubs
- 60 City staff at a project 'drop in session'
- Four multicultural and Indigenous groups at group sessions and meetings



## What the community told us

### What would make it easier for people to grow/produce food in Greater Bendigo?

The most common responses included:

- Education: basic food growing workshops; what to plant and when in our hot dry climate
- Increasing access to materials that will assist people to grow food
- Funding support for schools to set up kitchen garden programs
- Protecting agricultural and horticultural land
- Projects (i.e. seed library, urban agriculture)

### What would help residents eat more healthy fresh food?

The most common responses included:

- Increasing healthy snack and takeaway options and limiting unhealthy options
- Education: teaching people how to cook with fresh produce (in Early Learning Centre's, schools and community settings), teaching kids about 'paddock-plate-paddock' food system cycle
- Growing your own food
- More food events celebrating fresh, local produce and our diverse food culture
- Making healthy food cheaper than unhealthy food
- Changing attitudes and behaviours of residents

### What food system issue matters to you the most?

The most common responses included:

- Food waste
- Lack of healthy fast food / healthy snacks available
- Use of chemicals in food production
- Not enough access to locally produced food
- Food in unrecyclable packaging
- Seasonal eating
- Not knowing how to cook with fresh food

### What are some changes you would like to see in our local food system?

The most common responses included:

- More food grown locally – food grown in schools, community gardens
- More local produce been utilised locally – sold at Farmers Markets and local supermarkets, used in cafes and restaurants, cooked with in school kitchen garden programs
- Strengthen connections and relationships between farmers / producers, schools and the general community
- Less unhealthy fast food and more healthy options available
- More information and education on how to cook with fresh produce

### Key food growing data from the review of engagement activities included:

- 31% of survey respondents reported growing or producing food at home
- 64% of those that reported growing food at home grow their food directly into the ground (other popular methods included raised garden beds and pots)
- 21% of residents who reported growing food at home rely on this food to feed themselves and / or their family

For a comprehensive description of the community engagement process please see Appendix 2 (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Consultation Summary).



## The food system

The food system includes all of the steps it takes to get food (and drink) on our plate. This includes how food and drinks are grown and produced, processed, packaged and distributed, marketed, sold, consumed and then disposed of. It encompasses all of the resources (e.g. soil, farm inputs, and infrastructure), activities (e.g. harvesting, marketing, waste disposal) and people (e.g. farmers, processors, retailers, chefs, policy makers) involved in providing and regulating food and drink to people.

The food system influences the way that we eat and drink through the types of food and drinks that are available to us, their cost and the marketing of food. We all influence the food system through what we choose to eat, where and how we obtain it. The components of the food system are demonstrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Components of the food system



## Key issues facing our local food system

Table 2. Lists some of the food system issues that currently face the Greater Bendigo region.

Table 2. Some of the issues facing our local food system

Theme	Key issues
<b>Food security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of healthy food options available; the unhealthy choice is currently the easy choice</li> <li>• The percentage of food insecurity is higher than the Victorian state average</li> <li>• An increasing demand on emergency food relief agencies</li> <li>• Limited facilities to support fresh food rescue and distribution</li> <li>• Some townships having limited access to regular fresh food</li> <li>• Limited knowledge of the location of water fountains across the municipality</li> <li>• Limited knowledge and skills of cooking with fresh produce</li> </ul>
<b>Growing and producing food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Bendigo's high level of soil contamination</li> <li>• Unprotected agricultural and horticultural land</li> <li>• Limited management of fruit fly locally</li> <li>• Limited interest in agricultural sector careers, with an ageing demographic in this workforce</li> <li>• Some regional products contributing to poor health outcomes</li> <li>• Climate change – Greater Bendigo's climate is getting hotter and drier with less frost and rainfall</li> <li>• Inadequate support and coordination for existing and new community gardens</li> <li>• Inadequate skills in food growing, particularly related to our changing climate</li> <li>• The cost of growing food, including the high cost of water</li> </ul>
<b>Distributing and selling food locally</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited support for small and medium food businesses</li> <li>• Uncoordinated regional food distribution systems</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions from transporting food long distances</li> <li>• Uncertainty regarding the rules and regulations for selling locally produced food (food grown in community gardens, backyards, urban agriculture) and utilisation in café/restaurant dishes</li> <li>• Limited healthy snack and meal options available for resale through distribution companies</li> <li>• Limited food traceability to identify where food comes from (particularly on locally-grown products)</li> </ul>
<b>Preparing and eating healthy, fresh food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low adherence to the Australian Dietary Guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption</li> <li>• Limited access to healthy takeaway, meal and snack options</li> <li>• Levels of overweight and obese residents is significantly higher than the Victorian state average</li> <li>• Common perception that unhealthy food is cheaper than healthy food</li> <li>• Poor food literacy and lack of knowledge of where food comes from</li> <li>• Food safety regulations limit what can be sold (i.e. limited healthy BBQ options with the current permit required for a sausage sizzle)</li> <li>• Lack of time to prepare fresh healthy food, and the convenience of takeaway or processed / ready to eat options</li> <li>• There are no heavily promoted food precincts or trails in the region</li> </ul>
<b>Food waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a large amount of food that is wasted from workplace catering and events, food service providers and retail food outlets</li> <li>• Bendigo Foodshare are currently at capacity (rescuing food that would otherwise go to landfill)</li> <li>• Limited access to the City's organics collection for those residing outside Bendigo and Marong locations</li> <li>• There is limited access to local Biomix compost that is created from the City's organics collection</li> </ul>

## Overcoming local food system issues

A range of food systems work is currently occurring to combat such issues across the region such as the *Water in Sport Project* that supports sport and recreation facilities to make healthy drink changes within their facility, Agriculture Victoria's funding to support young farmers and agribusiness', fortnightly access to an accredited Farmers Market in the region, the *Grow a Row, Pick a Branch* campaign that encourages residents, community and school gardens to donate excess fresh produce to Bendigo Foodshare

and local cooking clubs. City of Greater Bendigo also has a range of free educational resources such as *Home Grown, Smart Gardens for a dry climate* (joint resource with Coliban Water) and *Indigenous plants of Bendigo: a gardener's guide to growing and protecting local plants*. The City's fortnightly Organics Collection introduced in 2016 has diverted over 10,000 tonnes of organics waste from landfill. For a complete list of the food systems work currently occurring to improve our food system see Appendix 3.

## Strengthening our local food system

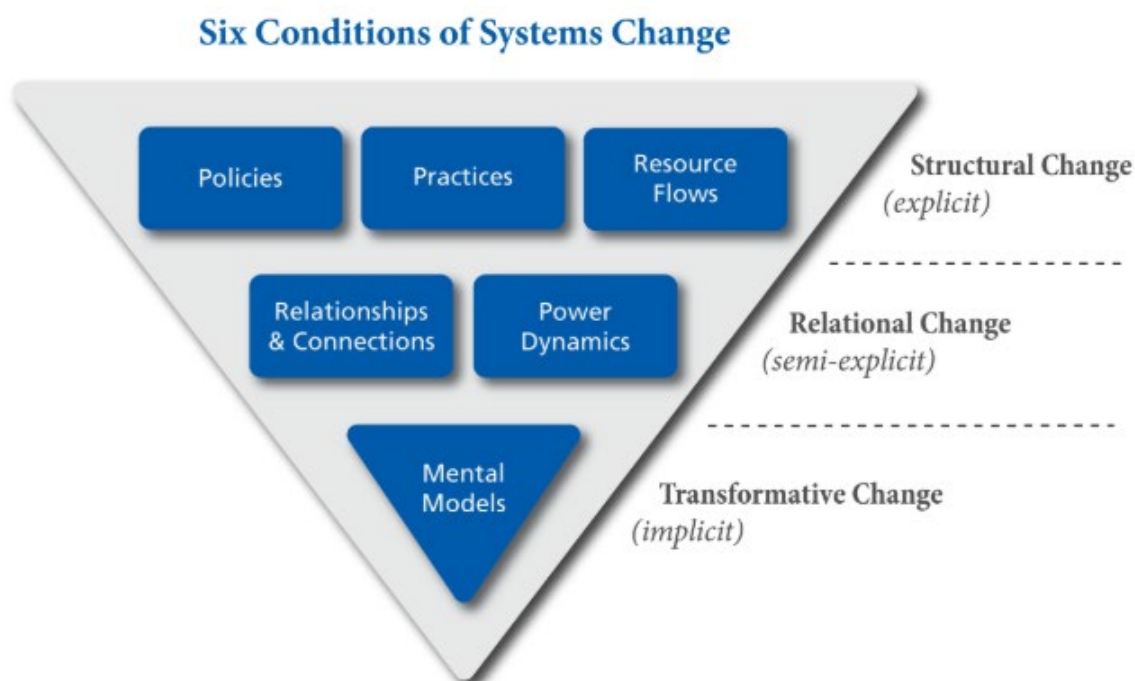
Strengthening our local food system requires a collaborative, cross-sector approach to drive systems-level change. Systems thinking is based on the concept that changing one part of a system that is made up of interrelated and interdependent components (e.g. the food system) affects other parts and the behaviour of the system as a whole system (Friel et al. 2017). For example, working to increase communities' access to healthy food choices through policy development and implementation in key settings will make it easier for residents to make healthy food choices when eating out. This is an example of changes to a setting influencing the behaviour of individuals.

The challenges faced by Greater Bendigo's food system are interlinked, and require a whole-of-community response that involves all sectors of the food system to make a positive impact. To organise this collaboration across our community, we are using the framework

of collective impact. The framework is based on the knowledge that individual actions and efforts are limited, but when we work collectively towards a common aim we maximise our impact. In this context the framework guides the Food System Strategy as a multi-stakeholder initiative, with actions being led and supported by a range of organisations and community groups, along with City of Greater Bendigo.

As this Strategy will guide the actions of the City and *partner organisations and groups over the next 10 years, this Strategy will allow for exploration and the uptake of new opportunities to help achieve our vision of a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system that supports the local economy, culture and health and wellbeing of our communities. This approach is crucial for our community amidst and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The conditions of systems change to successfully occur are demonstrated in figure 3.*

Figure 3. Six conditions of systems change (Reimagining Social Change, 2019).





## Levels of intervention

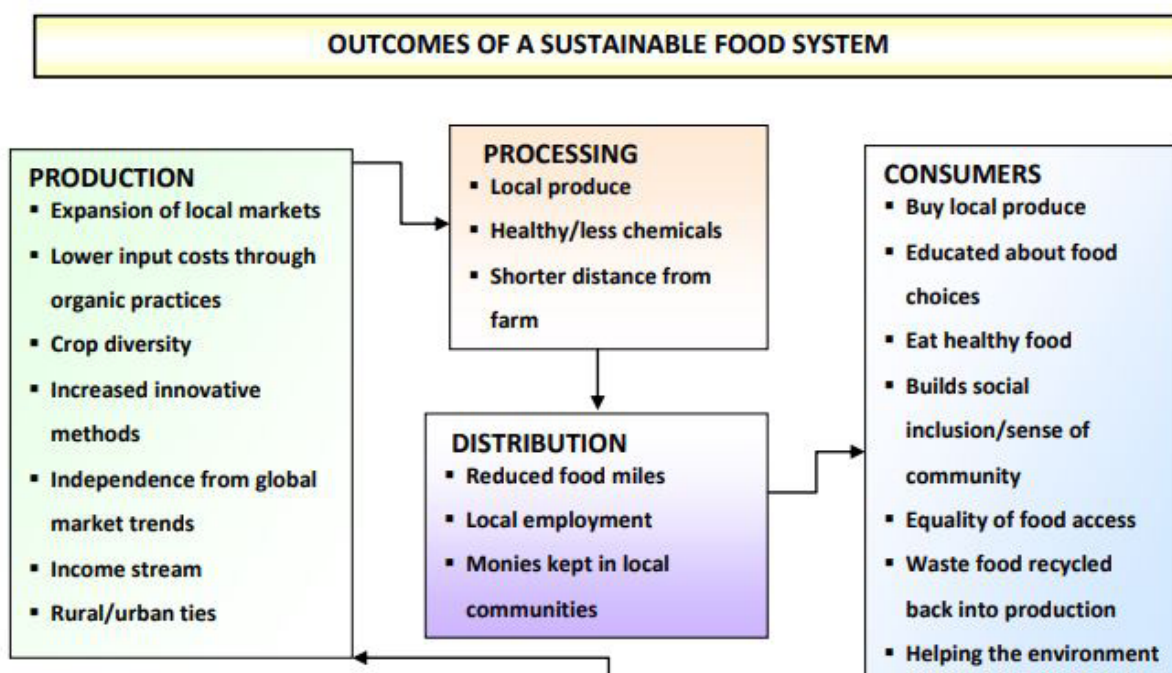
The different levels of the food system at which we can intervene are shown in Figure 4, ranging from individual level to public policy level. In order to deliver our strategies, we are taking action across all of these levels, which have been informed through

community and stakeholder input, wider research and consultation. Figure 5 shows some of the outcomes that can be achieved through a sustainable, local food system.

Figure 4. Socio – ecological model of health (UNICEF, 2016).



Figure 5. Outcomes of a sustainable food system (La Trobe University, 2010).



# Strategy Objectives

## Objective 1: Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks

### The Evidence

Despite there being an abundance of food in Greater Bendigo and the majority of people in the region having regular access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to meet their dietary needs, 6.96% of residents experience food insecurity which is higher than the Victorian state average (6.22%) (Victorian Population Health Survey, 2017). Levels of food insecurity are significantly higher in some of the sub regions of Bendigo such as Long Gully / West Bendigo / Ironbark (18.6%) and North Bendigo / California Gully (16.6%) (Healthy Heart of Victoria, 2019). In 2013, the average cost of a healthy food basket for a typical family living in Greater Bendigo was \$423.74 per fortnight. At that time, in Greater Bendigo 14.3% of households were earning less than \$400 per week. For these households, a healthy food basket for a typical family cost 53% of their income (Healthy Together Bendigo Food Security Report, 2014).

Within Greater Bendigo, community meals, soup kitchens and grocery distributions are offered at over 20 different locations throughout the municipality, with high demand for services. Determinants affecting people's level of food security include income, how far they live from food outlets, availability of transport to food outlets and food literacy. Those most vulnerable to food insecurity are adults who are unable to work, adults who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, unemployed people, and people with very low total annual household incomes (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017). When people do not have enough food, it affects all aspects of daily life and can severely restrict economic, social and educational participation in the community (Rosier, 2011).

Food insecurity is strongly associated with obesity in Victoria (Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017). Today's food system makes it easier for people to make unhealthy food and drink choices and choosing foods that are low in nutrients but high in energy is contributing to the high percentage of overweight and obese residents within Greater Bendigo (60.3%). For every one fresh food outlet (supermarket or greengrocer) there are 5 take away or fast food outlets in Greater Bendigo (Greater Bendigo Food Security Report, 2013, Healthy Heart of Victoria, 2019).

According to the 2017 Victorian Population Health Survey (Greater Bendigo), 14.3% of adults reported eating takeaway meals or snacks more than once per week. The 2019 Active Living Census for Greater Bendigo reports 15.3% of adults reported consuming sugar sweetened beverages daily. Furthermore, only 12.9% of adult respondents were meeting the recommended vegetable consumption guidelines for their gender and age group, while 48% met the recommended serves of fruit daily.

Local barriers to adequate fruit and vegetable intake amongst adults were explored by IPAN, Deakin University using a mixed-methods approach analysing the results of Greater Bendigo's 2014 Active Living Census (Livingstone et al., 2019). Major themes reported included:

- lack of time
- that guidelines were perceived as unachievable
- the wide variety of other foods available
- the high cost and limited availability of fresh fruit and vegetables

Results are consistent with the 2019 Active Living Census results for Greater Bendigo, with 'lack of time' (17.6%, 32.2%), 'personal preference or habit' (36.9%, 27.0%), 'cost' (15.7%, 14.7%), 'diet or health restrictions' (14.7%, 13.9%), and a 'lack of awareness of, or agreement with, the guidelines' (8.8%, 11.8%) reported as the main barriers to consuming the recommended serves of fruit and vegetables respectively (Healthy Heart of Victoria, 2019).

We know that a large proportion of food is consumed outside of the home including lunch and snacks bought during work hours, children attending early learning centres, kindergartens and long day care, elderly residents in aged care facilities, hospital patients, communities attending sporting facilities and events. Therefore, actions targeting food service settings are critical to reorienting to a healthy food system.

## What the community told us

We need initiatives like 'Food is Free' and more fresh produce stores near home.

We don't have enough healthy options available.

It can be hard to get to places and events where fresh food is available if the bus doesn't take us there.

If the traffic light system was displayed at more places like fast food outlets it would help.

## Case studies

### Victorian Healthy Supermarkets Project

Deakin University in partnership with City of Greater Bendigo, Champions IGA and VicHealth, have conducted several controlled trials over the past five years to test the effect of small changes to supermarket shopping environments designed to encourage healthier purchasing behaviour. The project was initiated by Champions IGA through discussions with the City of Greater Bendigo. The aim of the research was to work with local retailers to improve the health of residents and to demonstrate that healthy changes in supermarkets can be

sustainable and effective. The project has involved three short-term trials to test individual changes and culminated in the recently completed, multi-component 'Eat Well @ IGA' randomised controlled trial that was conducted over 12 months and involved 14 stores. The trial was funded by VicHealth and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Analysis of sales data from that trial is ongoing. For more information visit the Eat Well @ IGA website. Details of the trials undertaken and their results to date are shown below:

Trial	Results
8-week trial of shelf tags for all packaged food with 4.5 or 5 health star rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 12% increase in sales of 4.5 and 5 health star rated grocery products in intervention stores, compared to control stores</li> </ul>
8-week trial of healthy signage in shopping trolleys and baskets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales of healthy food increased</li> <li>Sales of unhealthy food decreased</li> </ul>
8-week trial of healthy end of aisle, checkout and island bin displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsuccessful trial due to limited scope to change displays</li> </ul>
12 month trial of a multi-component intervention in 14 stores, involving shelf tags, trolley/basket signs, media and social media, advertising, posters, shelf wobblers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of sales data currently underway</li> <li>Customer and retailer satisfaction extremely high</li> </ul>



Healthy supermarket project interventions, including health star rating shelf tags and signage.

See Appendix 3 for a list of projects occurring locally that support our region to meet objective 1 of this Strategy.



## Karen Healthy Eating Guide

Diabetes Victoria and Bendigo Community Health Services developed a pictorial guide to healthy eating targeting members of the Karen community. The pictorial guide profiles healthy eating information in a simple and easy to understand format. The resource is in both English and Karen and is suitable for service providers working with and supporting the Karen Community. The pictorial guide includes information on food groups and recommendations, the concept of portion sizes, healthy snacks, healthy cooking methods, buying healthy foods on a budget and sample meal plans. The pictorial guide is available on the Diabetes Victoria website.



## What will we do?

The below lists some of the key actions the City and our partners will take over the next 10 years. Please see Appendix 1 for the complete list of actions (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030).

### One Planet Living Principles



### What we will do:

- Support the establishment of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub
- Support implementation of the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines in sport and recreation settings and investigate expanding the Healthy Choices Guidelines to other settings
- Support settings through the healthy eating and oral health priority area of the Achievement Program
- Support the installation of water fountains in locations of need
- Investigate developing local planning policies that support food security
- Support fresh local produce to be rescued and distributed to educational, organisational and community settings

## Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally

### The Evidence

The average Australian eats out two to three times per week and spends approximately \$100 per household per week (Future Food, 2017). Research also tells us that communities who live closer to healthy, affordable food retail outlets tend to have healthier eating habits and a lower risk of obesity and diet-related diseases. Additionally, healthy food retail stimulates economic activity (Bell et al. 2013). Global research suggests a \$100 increase in per capita direct farm sales is associated with 0.80% lower obesity rate and a 12% lower diabetes rate (Abate, 2008). This indicates that strengthening the local food economy increases the production and consumption of locally-grown food, and reduced prevalence of diet-related disease. Certain conditions need to be fostered and enabled for the success of local food economy initiatives, including collaboration, trust, connections and supportive policy (Food Security Research Network, 2013; Auckland, Murray, Saunders & King, 2015; Abate, 2008).

Within the Loddon Mallee region sheep, grains, beef and dairy cattle farming are the most significant agricultural industries in the north, accounting for 48.1% of all food related agricultural output across the entire region. Meat and meat product manufacturing is the largest food related manufacturing industry in the region contributing 25.1% of output for the gastronomy industry. Within Greater Bendigo, poultry processing accounted for 24.5% of output generated by all industries in the gastronomy sector in 2017, increasing from 16.6% in 2011 (REMPLAN, 2019). Other commercially grown and produced food in Greater Bendigo includes, but is not limited to eggs, potatoes, onions, olives, herbs, walnuts and honey (Sustain the Australian Food Network, 2017).

Opportunities to obtain locally-grown produce within the region include:

- bimonthly accredited farmers' markets
- non-accredited farmers markets
- some grocery stores
- butchers, cafes and speciality food stores that stock local produce
- food swaps
- community gardens

The loss of agricultural land is acknowledged as a significant threat to Australia's long-term food security (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009; Millar & Roots, 2012). Furthermore, the State government's *Agriculture Victoria Strategy* reports that growing Victoria's agriculture sector is vital to the economic and social prosperity of rural and regional communities (Agriculture Victoria, 2017). To address this issue at a regional level, local government-developed policies and strategies include actions to protect agricultural and horticultural land resources, and actions to protect natural resources (Cardinia Community Food Strategy, 2019; North East Local Food Strategy Working Group, 2019). Furthermore, Foodprint Melbourne research has identified priority actions to protect land in the Cardinia Shire and peri urban areas of Melbourne, however this project does not currently extend to the Greater Bendigo region.

During the consultation period community members suggested they would like to see more food grown, produced and utilised locally i.e. in schools, community gardens, cafes, restaurants, community cooking classes and meals. Community members and key stakeholders also informed us that the cost of water was a significant barrier to growing food locally.

### What the community told us

We need to protect our farmland from housing and other developments.

Start-up food businesses need more support to expand.

We need support to put us 'on the map' for being a key food destination.

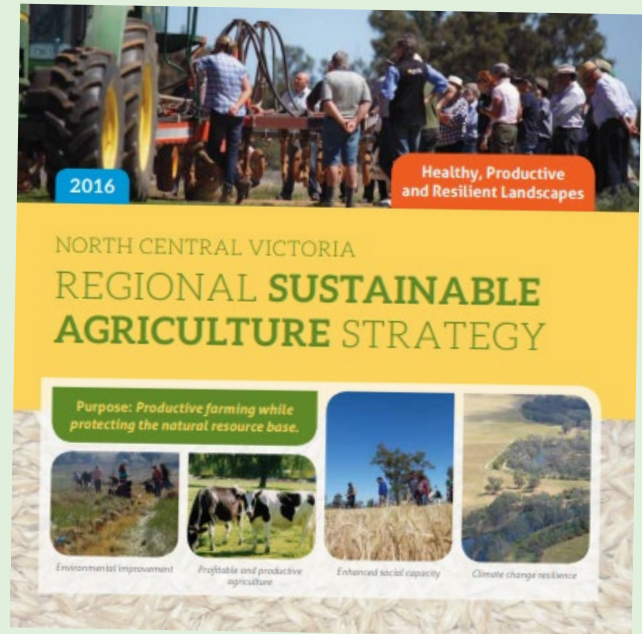
I'd like to see more food grown, used and sold locally.

## Case study

### North Central Victoria Regional Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

In 2016, North Central Catchment Management Authority released the regions first *Sustainable Agriculture Strategy*. The aim of the Strategy is to strengthen improvement of sustainable agriculture in the region over the next 15 years and provide a regionally coordinated approach towards sustainable agriculture that enhances and builds relationships between the regions service providers, producers, manufacturers and consumers. Anticipated outcomes include environmental improvement, profitable and productive agriculture, enhanced social capital, building capacity within farming communities and climate change resilience.

See Appendix 3 for a list of projects already occurring locally that support this region to meet objective 2 of this Strategy.



## What will we do?

The below lists some of the key actions the City and our partners will take over the next 10 years. Please see Appendix 1 for the complete list of actions (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030).

### One Planet Living Principles



### What we will do:

- Create a 'local food brand' for the region that supports an increase in consumer awareness of where food comes from and may include:
  - an investigation into food traceability options for food retailers
  - 'buy local, eat local' campaign
  - 'local food hero' campaign
- Develop a local planning policy that protects horticultural and agricultural land across the whole municipality
- Support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change
- Coordinate the creation of a network of linked food precincts across the region
- Establish a business mentoring program for small producers and growers



## Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture

### The Evidence

Healthy food choices are influenced by the social determinants of health, most of which are outside the control of an individual. The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, which are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces including economics, social policies, and politics (World Health Organization, 2008). Research also shows that our cultural norms and values define what is socially acceptable, desirable and appropriate to eat. This, along with the physical environment, determines our eating choices, and therefore our health (Friel, Hattersley & Ford, 2015).

A national review of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP), which involves food education that teaches children to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal, delicious food in order to form positive food habits for life, indicated the program increased children's willingness to try new foods and improved children's knowledge and confidence in relation to growing, preparing, cooking and eating a diverse range of fresh foods (Block et al. 2019).

Currently, three primary schools within the municipality have registered SAKGP, while six early learning centres

and two primary schools have joined the program as 'members'. Multiple other settings offer variations of the kitchen garden program to their students, parents and carers. There are over 10 community gardens at various locations throughout Greater Bendigo, including central Bendigo, Quarry Hill, Long Gully, Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat and Heathcote. Some of these are already at capacity or require (re)activation. Currently there is no coordination of the community or schools gardens as a collective. The City have coordinated edible planting displays at various locations throughout the municipality such as the edible planting display at the Conservatory Gardens in March 2019. Residents were encouraged to engage in the display by picking a handful of produce as they passed by.

During the consultation period community members suggested that there is insufficient knowledge of where food is produced, how to grow food in a changing climate, and how to cook with fresh produce. The cost of water was also cited as a significant barrier to growing food locally. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Engagement Survey tells us that only 53% of respondents cook (on average) seven days per week and 23% of respondents that reported growing food (31%), rely on this food to feed themselves or their family.

### What the community told us

We need more opportunities to learn how to grow and cook with fresh food.

There is a wealth of knowledge and cultural diversity in our community – we need to tap into that and share it with others.

Schools need support to start and maintain kitchen garden programs.

### Case studies

#### Community Plants – Us to You Program

The Loddon Prison's program run in partnership with Bendigo Kangan TAFE enables prisoners the opportunity to study a Certificate II in Horticulture while growing and gifting seedling punnets to schools, kindergartens and community groups from Castlemaine to Swan Hill. More than 200 prisoners have been involved in the Community Plant Project over the past four years, learning valuable skills while giving back to the community. The project gives prisoners a chance to get hands on, practical experience as part of their horticulture studies – but it's also so much more than that. It teaches skills they could use to gain employment, while giving something positive back to the community.



*Growing seedlings at the Loddon Prison for the Community Plants: Us2You Project.*

### Grow, Cook, Share Project

The Bendigo Regional Food Alliance, in partnership with The Salvation Army, Bendigo Foodshare, Bendigo Kangan TAFE, Loddon Prison and Coliban Water, received funding from the Victorian Government's *Pick My Project* community grants to implement the Grow Cook Share Project. The project aims to establish and support local Cooking Clubs at food relief and community meal sites throughout the Greater Bendigo region. The clubs will utilise fresh produce from the Gravel Hill Community Garden and Bendigo Foodshare (community and school gardens have started donating fresh produce to Bendigo Foodshare through the 'Grow a Row, Pick a Branch' campaign) and provide an opportunity for people accessing food relief to develop the confidence and skills to prepare healthy meals for themselves and their families.

See Appendix 3 for a list of projects currently occurring locally that support our region to meet objective 3 of this Strategy.



*Students from St Francis of the Fields Strathfieldsaye Primary School donating produce from their kitchen garden to the project.*

## What will we do?

The below lists some of the key actions the City and our partners will take over the next 10 years. Please see Appendix 1 for the complete list of actions (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030).

### One Planet Living Principles



### What we will do:

- Support schools and early learning centres to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP) or equivalent
- Support for community gardens (network, information hub)
- Partner with Traditional Owners and relevant stakeholders to develop knowledge and understanding of sustainable land-use practices, language and the cultural life of the region through Indigenous food plants
- Develop a calendar, using Indigenous language, detailing the six seasons of food and fibre plants, weather and animals that guide Traditional Owners in their reading of the landscape
- Hold sustainable food festivals and events
- Support community kitchens and clubs to be established in region
- Activate the community food information portal

## Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

### The Evidence

High levels of food waste undermine food security and significantly impact the environment. In Australia 8.2 million tonnes of food waste is generated each year, contributing to our changing climate. When food is thrown into the rubbish bin and goes to landfill, it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. When food is wasted, it also wastes the resources used to grow, harvest, transport, store and process that food. As processed foods take up a large proportion of the Australian diet, the packaging of these foods also contributes substantially to household waste. Actions to eliminate the use of single-use plastics are being addressed in the working documents currently being drafted by the Resource Recovery and Education unit at City of Greater Bendigo.

In Greater Bendigo, currently over 10,000 tonnes of organic waste is diverted from landfill within the municipality through the City's organics collection that was introduced in 2016. This service was introduced as kerbside audits found that over 50% of household waste was organic in nature. This service reaches approximately 38,000 households within the Bendigo and Marong areas. The City offers schools and child care centres within the Bendigo and Marong areas to participate in the collection as well as trialling the collection with food businesses within Bendigo.

During consultation, food waste (including packaging associated with food waste) was the most frequently cited food system issue that mattered to community members the most.

### What the community told us

Can the green bins be expanded to reach more places like schools, workplaces and organisations?

Can the compost we give to you through the green bins be redistributed back to us?

Support Bendigo Foodshare to rescue and redistribute fresh food.

### Case Studies

#### Bendigo Foodshare

Over 12,400 people every week have improved food security through the work of over 120 volunteers at Bendigo Foodshare. An incredible 650,000 kgs of food that would otherwise go to waste (food that would have ended up in landfill) was donated by over 30 local producers and retailers in 2018-19. The rescue of this food not only helps people in need, but also reduces CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from landfill and prevents the waste of the water used in its production. The food is distributed to those in need by 87 partner organisations, including schools, charities, neighbourhood houses, health services and community organisations. The current 'Grow a Row or Pick a Branch' campaign has engaged over 400 people and doubled the volume of fresh food donations from backyards, schools, community gardens and retailers. The food that is donated supports schools to provide breakfast and lunches to children who would otherwise go hungry, provides

food for community meals and cooking programs and food for those experiencing food poverty.



*Bendigo Foodshare volunteers preparing fresh produce to be redistributed to organisations and schools in Central Victoria.*



### Bendigo Student Association Inc. (BSA)

The BSA provides La Trobe University students and their dependents with fresh fruit, vegies, dairy products, and staple pantry items, through its Food Relief program. Students access the program via the Advocacy Engagement Officer and/or the Financial Counsellor on the Bendigo campus. This also provides students with a link to holistic support services and the opportunity to assess their financial circumstances and look at ways for increasing their financial independence and security in the long term.

The BSA offers a range of healthy food options through its commercial café, Sweeney's, and its vending machines. In addition, the BSA implements a range of environmental sustainability actions on campus including partnering with or ordering from local suppliers, using compostable food packaging, maintaining a mug library and water refill station in the student kitchenette, being an accredited "Responsible Café" with 50c off coffee in reusable cups, and is moving toward 'zero waste' events.



*Food relief bags provided by the Bendigo Student Association.*

See Appendix 3 for a list of projects occurring locally that support our region to meet objective 4 of this Strategy.

## What will we do?

The below lists some of the key actions the City and our partners will take over the next 10 years. Please see Appendix 1 for the complete list of actions (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030).

### One Planet Living Principles



#### What we will do:

- Investigate the feasibility of expanding City of Greater Bendigo's household Organics Collection to reach more townships within the municipality
- Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo's Organics Waste can be re-distributed back into the Greater Bendigo Community
- Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)
- Work with food retailers, food service providers and the community to reduce food waste (i.e. community campaign)
- Develop Guidelines for external facilitated events regarding food and waste (i.e. healthy, local content, minimising food waste, nude food)

## Monitoring and Measuring Success

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan identifies key actions for the next 10 years across four strategic areas (Appendix 1). The detailed action plan is attached as a separate document (Appendix 1) that includes 'evidence' and 'what success looks like'. Progress against the action plan will be reviewed and reported on annually by Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group. This annual review

and reporting process will involve organisations and groups that are leading actions reporting to the Food System Strategy Reference Group (coordinated by the City) on their respective actions. These annual 'check ins' will further embed collaboration and the alignment of work across our network of key stakeholders.

## Acknowledgements

The City would like to acknowledge community members and stakeholders who provided advice, participation and input throughout the consultation and engagement processes in developing Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030. In particular, the City would like to thank the following organisations and groups contributing to the 10 year Action Plan:

- Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.
- Be.Bendigo
- Bendigo Community Farmers Market
- Bendigo Community Fruit (auspiced by Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.)
- Bendigo Community Health Services
- Bendigo Foodshare
- Bendigo Health
- Bendigo Manufacturing Group
- bHive
- Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)
- Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.
- Bendigo Student Association Inc.
- Bendigo Sustainability Group
- Coliban Water
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster
- Food Fossickers
- Food Relief Network (City of Greater Bendigo)
- Heathcote Community House
- Healthy Eating Advisory Service
- Healthy Greater Bendigo
- Healthy Heart of Victoria
- Library of Things (auspiced by Bendigo Sustainability Group)
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership
- Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Peppergreen Farm (Access Australia Group)
- Salvation Army Bendigo
- Smiles 4 Miles, Dental Health Services Victoria
- Sports Focus
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation

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## Appendix

1. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030
2. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Consultation Summary
3. Greater Bendigo's Current Food Systems Projects Summary

## Appendix 1: Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030

### Vision

Greater Bendigo's food system is healthy, equitable and sustainable and supports the local economy, culture and health and wellbeing of our communities.

### Guiding principles

- A healthy food system that promotes the health of people and enhances the natural environment
- An equitable food system that makes nutritious and culturally appropriate food accessible and affordable to everyone across our communities
- A sustainable food system that strengthens our local economy and builds the capacity and resilience of our communities

### Objective 1: Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks

#### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

Healthy and well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who consume sufficient fruit and vegetables</li><li>• Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who consume sugar-sweetened beverages daily</li><li>• Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are overweight and obese</li><li>• Proportion of adults, and adolescents with psychological distress</li></ul>
Safe and Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of adults and children who ran out of food and could not afford to buy more</li></ul>

#### Key One Planet Living progress measures

Local and Sustainable Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round</li></ul>
Sustainable water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who consume 6-8 glasses of water a day</li></ul>
Culture and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of adults who feel valued by society</li></ul>
Travel and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of households living within walking distance of an activity centre</li></ul>
Health and Happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who rate their health as very good or excellent</li></ul>

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
1.1 Support the establishment of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare Bendigo Community Farmers Market Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Food Hub Industry Reference Group	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Business Case is developed</li> <li>Concept and detailed designs are developed and adopted</li> <li>A Governance structure is decided upon</li> <li>Greater Bendigo's Food Hub is established</li> </ul>
1.2 Continue to support implementation of the Healthy Choices Guidelines (HCG) in sport and recreation settings	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of Greater Bendigo's sport and recreation facilities are implementing the HCG</li> <li>Case studies are developed on facilities that have achieved the HCG</li> </ul>
1.3 Investigate feasibility of expanding the HCG to other settings i.e. workplace cafes, Universities, Hospitals and Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service Bendigo Health Healthy Greater Bendigo	Long	A feasibility investigation has been undertaken
1.4 Investigate the need to establish and coordinate a Healthy Choices Network for local settings implementing the HCG. The network may work towards developing internal healthy food and catering policies with workplaces, implementing the guidelines in sport and recreation facilities etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Health Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An investigation is undertaken (report)</li> <li>A network is established</li> </ul>
1.5 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink Expo or equivalent per year	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Healthy Choices Forum is implemented annually</li> <li>A Forum evaluation report has been developed</li> </ul>
1.6 Develop a Healthy Catering Guide for workplaces across the Greater Bendigo municipality	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services Healthy Eating Advisory Service Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	A Healthy Catering Guide for the Greater Bendigo region has been developed and disseminated amongst key stakeholders as well as uploaded to the City's website
1.7 Support Zouki's catering menu to comply with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines and once compliant, support its utilisation and usage	Bendigo Health		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zouki's catering menu complies with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines</li> <li>Zouki's healthy catering menu and platform is well utilised amongst the community</li> </ul>



Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
1.8 Investigate opportunities to improve the food environment on campus at La Trobe University Bendigo such as implementing the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines in vending machines and the retail food outlet (managed by BSA) on campus	Bendigo Student Association		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students have increased access to healthy food and drink options on campus</li> <li>Retail food outlets and vending machines comply with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines</li> </ul>
1.9 Support settings such as early learning centres, schools and workplaces through the Healthy Eating (and oral health) priority area of the Achievement Program (AP) and Smiles4Miles	Bendigo Community Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Eating Advisory Service Smiles 4 Miles, Dental Health Services Victoria Healthy Greater Bendigo Coliban Water	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settings are actively engaged in the programs and working through the health priority areas/ program</li> <li>Case studies are developed on settings that have achieved recognition for the programs</li> </ul>
1.10 Support sporting clubs to implement the Victorian Government's HCG or equivalent, with a focus on sponsorship deals, player vouchers, fundraising and food sold through canteens	City of Greater Bendigo	Sports Focus	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs are actively engaged in program</li> <li>Case studies have been developed on sporting clubs that are implementing program</li> </ul>
1.11 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing	The policy is reviewed and updated as required
1.12 Develop and implement City of Greater Bendigo's Healthy Facilities Policy which sets expectations for users of Council facilities and future facility design with regards to the HCG i.e. catering, sponsorship, advertising and signage, vending machines, food retail	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	The Policy has been developed as per Project Brief and endorsed by Council
1.13 Explore opportunities to conduct a healthy food basket audit to update Greater Bendigo's food affordability data and replicate as required to maintain and monitor current data	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Opportunities explored and documented
1.14 Develop a food security factsheet that incorporates the location of food deserts to guide organisations work and target areas to support food security locally	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	A food security factsheet has been developed

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
1.15 Support the installation of water fountains in locations of need	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Short	Water fountains are installed in locations of need
1.16 Map all water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publically available	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Water fountains have been mapped publically available on an appropriate platform
1.17 Advocacy to address legislative and policy barriers to healthy eating	Healthy Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	Advocacy actions have been undertaken and documented
1.18 Investigate and develop local planning controls for the planning scheme that discourages convenience and takeaway restaurants and encourages fresh food outlets	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Local planning controls have been developed and implemented
1.19 Support the Food Relief Network by providing regular updates to the 'Food Relief in Greater Bendigo' brochure and make publically available	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	'Food Relief in Greater Bendigo' brochure is continually updated and publically available
1.20 Support food relief agencies and programs such as Bendigo Foodshare, community meals and school breakfast programs	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing	Food relief programs such as community meals and school breakfast programs are supported
1.21 Support the community to interpret Greater Bendigo's Active Living Census (ALC) data to address local food security issues	Healthy Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo	Short	Community groups and organisations are supported to and utilising the ALC data to address local food security issues
1.22 Seek funding opportunities to conduct future ALC to collect and maintain local healthy eating and food security data	Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership		Ongoing	Funding obtained to conduct future ALC in region
1.23 Investigate platforms to share successful strategies to reduce food poverty locally	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Community Health Services Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	A platform is identified and utilised to share information and learnings
1.24 Investigate feasibility of and subject to a successful funding application, deliver a program that includes food relief supermarket vans going to food deserts	Bendigo Foodshare		Medium	Funding obtained and program is implemented in food deserts

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
1.25 Support emergency food relief agencies to access and rescue fresh, local produce to distribute to educational, organisational and community settings	Bendigo Foodshare	Emergency food relief agencies Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fresh produce is rescued and distributed to key settings</li> <li>The number and type of settings that fresh produce is rescued from, including amount of produce rescued</li> </ul>
1.26 Improve access to healthy food by supporting the community to access produce from local suppliers i.e. coordinate a regular Farmers Market	Bendigo Community Farmers Market	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local produce markets (i.e. Farmers Market) are offered regularly to residents</li> <li>Annual Farmers Market statistics</li> </ul>
1.27 Support multicultural groups to be able to access foods that they know from their culture, locally	Bendigo Community Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Ongoing	Food security of multicultural groups increases
1.28 Work with multicultural groups to deliver healthy eating education	Bendigo Community Health Services		Ongoing	Healthy eating education programs delivered to multicultural groups
1.29 Become a signatory to The Australian Food Network's Urban and Regional Food Declaration	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster		Short	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance and Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster become signatories to The Australian Food Network's Urban and Regional Food Declaration
1.30 Identify ways to increase the regular, affordable supply of fresh, local foods to communities where this may be currently lacking	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Bendigo Foodshare		Ongoing	New initiatives are trialled and evaluated
1.31 Investigate ways to include healthy options in emergency food relief packages	Salvation Army Bendigo Bendigo Foodshare		Short	Emergency food relief packages include healthy options

## Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally

### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

Healthy and Well • Proportion of adults and adolescents with psychological distress

### Key One Planet Living progress measures

Local and Sustainable Food • Proportion of farms using sustainable farming practices

• Dollar value of local food economy

Equity and Local Economy Products • Produce and services sourced within a 50, 100, 200, 500 km radius

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
2.1 Create a 'local food' brand for the Greater Bendigo municipality that will support an increase in consumer awareness about where food comes from and may also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An investigation of 'food traceability' options for food retailers</li> <li>A 'buy local, eat local' campaign that may promote farm gates, local growers and producers etc.</li> <li>A 'local food heroes' campaign'</li> </ul>	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Food Fossickers Bendigo Community Farmers Market Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster bHive Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	A 'local food brand' has been developed and promoted
2.2 Conduct a rural and environmental study that looks at land type, quality and collects environmental data to inform future work such as protection of agricultural and horticultural land across the municipality	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	Both studies have been conducted and inform future work
2.3 Develop local planning controls to protect horticultural /agricultural land across the whole municipality	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Medium	Local planning controls have been developed and implemented
2.4 Investigate the healthy, local products that are available from local suppliers to support the creation and sale of a 'healthy local' hamper	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	Healthy, local products have been identified to support the creation of a 'healthy local' hamper



Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
2.5 Advocate for changes to regulations that are prohibitive to small and medium food businesses (including farm gates) while maintaining food safety requirements	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	Advocacy actions have been undertaken and documented
2.6 Investigate opportunities to increase the amount of fresh produce available at markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		Ongoing	The amount of fresh produce available at markets has increased
2.7 Develop facilities to enable a wider range of produce to be available for markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		Long	Facilities have been developed and the range of produce available for markets has expanded
2.8 Assist the local business community to understand and promote Food Matters through Be.Bendigo events and communications	Be.Bendigo		Ongoing	The local business community understands and is aware of Food Matters
2.9 Improve connection of food businesses to the wider business community through targeting food businesses to attend Be.Bendigo training and events	Be.Bendigo		Ongoing	Food businesses are connected to the wider business community
2.10 Support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	Short	Program supports farmers to utilise regenerative farming practices
2.11 Support the coordination of the creation of a network of linked food precincts across the region such as farm gates, community gardens, restaurants and cafes serving local produce	City of Greater Bendigo	Food Fossickers Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Medium	A network of linked food precincts across the region has been created and launched
2.12 Explore opportunities to support urban food growing at a commercial scale	City of Greater Bendigo		Medium	Opportunities are explored and implemented as planned
2.13 Promote existing resources to support food businesses to grow their business (i.e. available funding support)	City of Greater Bendigo		Medium	Food businesses are supported through promotion of relevant resources available
2.14 Develop and maintain a local commercial kitchen resource that includes details of the commercial kitchens suitable for hire in the region	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short – ongoing	A commercial kitchen resource has been developed and publically available

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
2.15 Support organisations to prioritise local food procurement through healthy food and catering policies	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations are supported to develop Healthy Food and Catering Policies</li> <li>Number of workplaces with Healthy Food and Catering Policies in the region or equivalent has increased</li> </ul>
2.16 Support local food tendering and ordering through the promotion of relevant platforms such as <i>Localised</i>	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses are promoting local food tendering and ordering options through relevant platforms such as <i>Localised</i></li> </ul>
2.17 Implement key food system related actions from Greater Bendigo's Environment Strategy and update the Strategy and Action Plan as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing	Actions from the Strategy are completed and reported on via the Annual Report
2.18 Investigate the feasibility of starting a young farmers program	Peppergreen Farm		Short	Feasibility of starting a young farmers program has been investigated
2.19 Develop and disseminate information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo			Information has been developed and disseminated and is publically available
2.20 Support an increase in value of primary producers and encourage and support primary production as a career choice i.e. supporting secondary schools and tertiary institutions to deliver programs that promote and encourage agricultural career pathways	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Heathcote Community House	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choosing primary production as a career choice has been actively promoted</li> <li>There is an increase in admissions into relevant TAFE courses</li> </ul>
2.21 Identify and promote relevant platforms and pathways for young farmers and support initiatives that address barriers to entry into farming	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)		Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant platforms and pathways for young farmers are promoted</li> <li>Initiatives that address barriers to entry farming have been supported</li> </ul>
2.22 Establish a business mentoring program for small food producers and growers	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business mentoring program established</li> <li>Number of business reached through the program per year</li> </ul>
2.23 Facilitate a food swap at the Bendigo Community Farmers Market	Bendigo Community Farmers Market		Short - ongoing	A food swap has commenced and occurs at each market

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
2.24 Include indigenous food growing at Gravel Hill Community Garden	Salvation Army Bendigo		Short	Indigenous food planting has commenced in the community garden
2.25 Partnership project to identify emerging technologies that support healthy food production	City of Greater Bendigo	Latrobe University Bendigo Bendigo Manufacturing Group Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	Ongoing	A partnership project has commenced
2.26 Develop and disseminate information about growing and selling food to the general community and to commercial enterprises i.e. cafés, restaurants and food outlets	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Relevant information has been developed and disseminated
2.27 Investigate feasibility of rate incentives, differentials, rebates or communications which support farmers in the use of sustainable farming practices. If feasible, implement accordingly	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	Investigation has been undertaken and if feasible, implementation has occurred
2.28 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	City of Greater Bendigo		Medium	A study has been conducted and results shared with key stakeholders

## Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture

### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

- Healthy and well
- Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who consume sufficient fruit and vegetables
  - Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who consume sugar-sweetened beverages daily
  - Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are overweight and obese

### Key One Planet Living progress measures

- Health and Happiness
- Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who rate their health as very good or excellent
- Culture and Community
- Proportion of adults who feel valued by society
  - Proportion of community actively engaged in community groups/activities, projects and land management
- Local and sustainable food
- People gardening for food at least once per month

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
3.1 Support schools and early learning centres to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP) or equivalent	SAKGP - City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Heart of Victoria Resource Smart Schools – Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group Bendigo Community Health Services Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are supported to implement the SAKGP or equivalent</li> <li>• Number of schools supported to implement the program</li> <li>• Case studies on schools implementing the program</li> </ul>
3.2 Investigate the need and interest in establishing and supporting a community gardens network that may share resources, knowledge, ideas etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Community gardens	Short	Investigation undertaken and network has been established if the need and interest is apparent
3.3 Update the City's 2006 Nature Strip Policy to include the City's position on nature strip edible planting and incorporate Greening Greater Bendigo principles	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	The Policy has been updated and includes the City's position on nature strip edible planting and Greening Greater Bendigo principles



Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
3.4 Develop and maintain an 'information hub' that provides a platform for sharing resources to support existing and new community gardens including policies, guidelines, relevant resources, grant opportunities and promote opportunities for people to participate	City of Greater Bendigo	Community gardens Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short - ongoing	An 'information hub' has been developed and maintained and is well utilised by the target audience
3.5 Support the establishment of new community gardens where there is a demonstrated need and interest	City of Greater Bendigo	Community gardens	Ongoing	There has been support and establishment of new community gardens in areas of need interest
3.6 Review the Community Gardens Policy for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing	The policy has been reviewed and updated as required
3.7 Develop a 'risk map' to determine areas affected by soil contamination to support and manage risk of urban agriculture and backyard food growing	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	A 'risk map' has been developed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders
3.8 Develop community campaigns about the benefits of a healthy diet, affordability of healthy food, where to go for resources etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Food System Strategy External Reference Group Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community campaigns are developed and implemented</li> <li>There is a high level of engagement with each campaign</li> </ul>
3.9 Continue to update the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	The Home Grown Booklet is updated as required
3.10 Partner with Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung and relevant stakeholders to develop knowledge and understanding of sustainable land-use practices, language and the cultural life of the region through Indigenous food plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a calendar, using Indigenous language, detailing the six seasons of food and fibre plants, weather and animals that guided Traditional Owners in their reading of the landscape</li> </ul>	City of Greater Bendigo	Dja Dja Wurrung Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	A partnership and calendar has been developed

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
3.11 Expand the Bendigo Sustainability Awards and Sustainable Living Festival that may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>incorporate a sustainable food festival</li> <li>showcase (i.e. develop vignettes) on the nominees from the Sustainability Awards categories related to the food system</li> </ul>	Bendigo Sustainability Group	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sustainable food festival is held as an expansion of the Bendigo Sustainability Living Festival annually</li> <li>New categories have been added to the Sustainability Awards to recognise food systems</li> </ul>
3.12 Support and expand food system sustainability events and expand to other townships	Bendigo Sustainability Group	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	Sustainability events are expanded to reach more townships within Greater Bendigo annually
3.13 Investigate feasibility of working with partners to implement a healthy food initiative with older adults such as implementing the Maggie Beer Program in aged care facilities	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Feasibility of implementing a healthy food program with older adults has been investigated and if feasible has been implemented in key settings
3.14 Investigate feasibility of implementing the INFANT Program with first time parents through the Maternal and Child Health service	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	Short	Feasibility of implementing the InFANT Program has been investigated and if feasible, is being implemented
3.15 Seek funding to support community kitchens and cooking clubs to be implemented across the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and disseminate a 'manual' on how to set up local cooking clubs</li> </ul>	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooking clubs and kitchens are supported and implemented throughout the region</li> <li>Number (and location) of cooking clubs established</li> <li>Case studies developed</li> <li>Cooking club manual has been developed and disseminated</li> </ul>
3.16 Facilitate partnerships between community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excess produce is donated to Bendigo Foodshare and redistributed to locations of need</li> <li>Number of partnerships established and kgs of donations received per annum</li> </ul>
3.17 Deliver accessible community food growing workshops and programs specific to our local climate	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops delivered annually</li> <li>Record of the number and location of workshops delivered</li> </ul>

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
3.18 Investigate interest and feasibility in a 'tool sharing' program	Library of Things (Bendigo Sustainability Group)	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Short	Feasibility of a tool sharing program has been undertaken and if feasible and the need is demonstrated, the program has been launched
3.19 Seek volunteer and financial support to maintain the Bendigo Regional Food Alliance's Food Information Portal	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Short	The online portal is maintained and well utilised
3.20 Advocate and apply for food systems funding (for labour to develop / implement key projects i.e. funding to implement next phase of Grow, Cook, Share project)	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Bendigo Foodshare	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Ongoing	Food systems funding has been obtained to deliver key projects
3.21 Support diverse cultures to share their food growing and cooking knowledge and expertise	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Salvation Army Bendigo Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program has been implemented as planned</li> <li>• Case studies</li> </ul>
3.22 Support older adults (and other communities) to share their food growing and cooking knowledge with cross generational groups in a setting that may include a variety of food growing and cooking opportunities, such as a community garden/hub	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program has been implemented as planned</li> <li>• Case studies</li> </ul>
3.23 Scale up 'multicultural preparing for work' program	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services		Medium	The 'multicultural preparing for work' program has been expanded
3.24 Coordinate an annual calendar of workshops to support food growing and cooking that may include preserving and seed saving	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	Local fresh food celebration events have been held annually and promoted
3.25 Actively engage with state and national advocacy platforms and campaigns e.g. Parent's Voice, Sustain and VicHealth to build local engagement and momentum	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	State and national advocacy platforms have been leveraged off and utilised locally

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
3.26 Support and advocate for better management of fruit fly locally	Bendigo Community Fruit	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Ongoing	Advocacy actions have been undertaken and documented
3.27 Continue to build water efficient wicking beds for community and key settings such as aged care facilities	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Case studies have been developed
3.28 Build a therapeutic horticulture community garden to enhance the wellbeing and health of community members	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Community garden has been established
3.29 Facilitate healthy cooking classes for community, with garden to plate approach, using produce grown onsite	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy cooking classes are offered with garden to plate approach used</li> <li>• Reach data and case study</li> </ul>
3.30 Seek funding opportunities to extend 'Grow a Row, Pick a Branch' campaign to support community gardens and engagement with young people	Bendigo Foodshare		Short	Funding obtained and campaign has been extended



## Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

### Key One Planet Living progress measures

#### Zero Waste

- Percentage of the Organics Collection collected and diverted from landfill
- Amount of the Organics compost (Biomix) redistributed to community groups and education settings within Greater Bendigo

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
4.1 Investigate feasibility of expanding City of Greater Bendigo's household Organics Collection to reach more townships within the municipality	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility has been investigated (report)</li> <li>• The Organics Collection reaches more townships within the municipality compared with 2019/2020 financial year</li> </ul>
4.2 Continue to promote and expand the City's Organics collection to schools and food businesses	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of schools and food businesses engaged in program (comparison from 2019/2020 financial year)</li> </ul>
4.3 Develop and implement a new Waste Resource Management Strategy for beyond the period of 2014-2019	City of Greater Bendigo		Medium	A new Strategy has been developed and implemented for the period beyond 2014-2019
4.4 Investigate opportunities for Our Future Workplace to become a 'zero food waste' building (pilot with temporary site/s and transition into 'Our Future Workplace')	City of Greater Bendigo		Short – medium	Opportunities have been investigated and Our Future Workplace is a 'zero food waste' building
4.5 Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)	City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals are held each year</li> <li>• Reach evaluation data</li> </ul>
4.6 Continue to offer worm farms and compost bin subsidies for residents in rural townships outside of the Organics boundary	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing	Residents outside the Organics boundary have the opportunity to obtain worm farms and compost bin subsidies
4.7 Work with food retailers, food service providers and the community to reduce food waste (i.e. community campaign)	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	Ongoing	A community campaign is developed and implemented to encourage food retailers, food service providers and the general community to reduce food waste

Action	Lead Organisation	Project Partners	Priority	Evidence / what success looks like
4.8 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo's Organics Waste can be re-distributed back into the Greater Bendigo Community	City of Greater Bendigo		Short	An investigation is undertaken and recommendation provided
4.9 Better utilise the knowledge and skill base of community gardens and schools for example, as demonstration sites for organic waste	City of Greater Bendigo		Medium	School and community gardens are utilised for demonstration sites for organic waste
4.10 Contribute to and leverage off LaTrobe University's 'Internet of Things' unit and research	City of Greater Bendigo	La Trobe University	Ongoing	City of Greater Bendigo contribute to La Trobe University's 'Internet of Things' unit and research
4.11 Develop Guidelines for external facilitated events regarding food and waste (healthy, local content, minimising food waste, nude food)	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Short	Guidelines have been developed
4.12 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single use plastic bottles at community and Council supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group Coliban Water	Ongoing	Water trailers are utilised at community and city supported events
4.13 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Ongoing	Excess food is donated and utilised by emergency food relief agencies, community meal programs and cooking clubs
4.14 Develop a food waste reduction policy for the major events held at the Bendigo Showgrounds	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food waste reduction policy has been developed</li> <li>Major events divert leftover food from events from reaching landfill</li> </ul>
4.15 Support the utilisation of Bendigo Foodshare's Food Donations app	Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group	Bendigo Foodshare Healthy Greater Bendigo	Ongoing	The Food Donations app is well utilised and supporting food fit for human consumption from ending up in landfill

## Appendix 2:

# Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Consultation Summary



## Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy: *Supporting a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system*

### What has been done?

Community engagement activities have taken place across a 3 month period (March–June 2019) with a great response from community and key food system stakeholders. Approximately 1,000 people were engaged through a combination of engagement methods including an online survey, stakeholder workshop, face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews, listening posts, engagement stalls, focus groups and community sessions. The following groups and organisations were engaged:

- Six schools including engagement with teachers, parents and students in both low and high SES areas
- Over 700 people through community listening posts, engagements stalls and community activities
- Almost 300 responses to the online survey
- 60 people attended the stakeholder workshop, with each element of the food system represented at the event
- Eight presentations and discussions at relevant committee meetings
- 11 farmers / producers via a telephone interview, online surveys and workshops
- Representatives from 73 organisations and businesses via the online survey
- 20 community groups via the online survey and face-to-face meetings
- Representatives from 23 Hospitals and Health Services
- Seven food distributors / emergency food relief agencies
- 20 food service providers / food retailers
- Representatives from six sporting facilities and clubs
- 60 City staff at a project 'drop in session'
- Four multicultural and Indigenous groups at group sessions and meetings





### Key engagement questions for the general community

#### What would make it easier for people to grow/produce food in Greater Bendigo?

The most common responses included:

- Education: basic food growing workshops; what to plant and when in our hot dry climate
- Increasing access to materials that will assist people to grow food (i.e. subsidies for compost, raised garden beds, cheaper water)
- Funding support for schools to set up kitchen garden programs
- Protecting agricultural land
- Projects (i.e. seed library, urban agriculture)



#### What would help residents eat more healthy fresh food?

The most common responses included:

- Increasing healthy snack and takeaway options and limiting unhealthy options (making healthy choices the easy choice)
- Education: teaching people how to cook with fresh produce (in ELC's, schools and community settings), teaching kids about 'paddock-plate-paddock' food system cycle
- Growing your own food
- More food events celebrating fresh, local produce and our diverse food culture
- Making healthy food cheaper than unhealthy food
- Changing attitudes and behaviours of residents



#### What food system issue matters to you the most?

The most prevalent responses included:

- Food waste
- Lack of healthy fast food / healthy snacks available
- Use of chemicals in food production
- Not enough access to locally produced food
- Food in unrecyclable packaging
- Seasonal eating
- Not knowing how to cook with fresh food



#### What are some changes you would like to see in our local food system?

The most common responses included:

- More food been grown locally – food grown in schools, community gardens, orchards
- More local produce been utilised locally – sold at Farmers Markets and local supermarkets, used in cafes and restaurants, cooked with in school kitchen garden programs
- Strengthen connection and relationship between farmers / producers, schools and the general community
- Less unhealthy fast food, more healthy options available
- More information and education on how to cook with fresh produce





### What has the engagement told us?

Key food growing data from the review of engagement activities is summarised below:



31%

31% of survey respondents reported growing or producing food at home



64%

64% of those that reported growing food at home grow their food directly into the ground (other popular methods included raised garden beds and pots)



21%

21% of respondents who reported growing food at home rely on this food to feed their themselves and/or their family



## Appendix 3:

# Greater Bendigo's Current Food Systems Projects Summary

**Objective 1:** Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Greater Bendigo Food Relief Network Coordination	Greater Bendigo's Food Relief Network is an informal network of local not-for-profit and charity groups who provide food assistance across Greater Bendigo. The City supports network coordination and flyer development and distribution (list of community meals, soup kitchens and grocery distributions in Greater Bendigo)	City of Greater Bendigo
The City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy	<p>The purpose of this policy is to promote healthy and culturally appropriate food and drink purchase and consumption choices to employees and the community as part of the City's commitment to health, safety and wellbeing. Areas of focus include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catering</li> <li>• Sponsorships</li> <li>• Fundraising</li> <li>• Gifts</li> <li>• Vending machines</li> </ul> <p>The policy also aims to reduce the overall spend on catering, ensuring all City purchases of food and drinks are financially and environmentally responsible</p>	City of Greater Bendigo
Community Grants Program	The City of Greater Bendigo's Community Grants Program provides an opportunity for not-for-profit groups or a registered business to develop projects that complement areas identified as priorities in the Community Plan 2017-2021, such as supporting schools and community groups to establish and maintain vegetable/kitchen gardens, establishing school breakfast programs	City of Greater Bendigo
Supporting development of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub	Supporting the development of a Food Hub to support food security, our local economy and environment	City of Greater Bendigo
Healthy food at the City's Early Childhood Services	All of the City's early childhood services have a healthy eating policy that ensures the food is provided in line with the State Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines for Early Childhood Services (traffic light system)	City of Greater Bendigo
Ensuring the community has access to safe food	Local laws to ensure food businesses are operating in a safe and healthy manner through food business registrations and commercial kitchens as well as food safety education for food businesses, community groups, food stakeholders and residents	City of Greater Bendigo
Water in Sport Project and the Healthy Choices Guidelines in sport and recreation facilities	Supporting sport and recreation facilities to align with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines for retail outlets – making healthy choice the easy choice for our community	City of Greater Bendigo
Healthy food in the City's Early Learning Centre's	At Helen Jessen and Annie Galvin ELC 's the nutrition of children is monitored through Feed Australia	City of Greater Bendigo

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy	Bendigo has become a City (and region) of Gastronomy, joining the UNESCO Creative Cities network. There are 246 recognised Creative Cities around the world, in seven different categories (Design, Film, Literature, Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts and Gastronomy). Bendigo is the first City of Gastronomy in Australia	City of Greater Bendigo
Rescuing food to help people living in food poverty	Food rescued that would have otherwise ended up in landfill and redistributed to 8,800 people each week through schools and welfare agencies	Bendigo Foodshare
Emergency food relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 community meals and soup kitchens offered throughout the municipality</li> <li>Food parcels can be picked up from over 10 locations throughout the municipality</li> </ul>	Organisations, churches, welfare agencies
Grow a Row, Pick a Branch campaign	Community campaign to encourage backyard food growers, school and community gardens to grow an extra row of vegetables or pick a fruit/vegetable tree branch and donate this to Bendigo Foodshare and community cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare
The One Box	Providing one weekly box of seasonal fruit, veggies, 2L milk and a loaf of bread to 100 families in Bendigo in 2019	The Fruit Group
Fresh Fruit Friday	Distributing 1,115kg fresh fruit weekly, to 40 primary schools in Greater Bendigo	McKern Foundation
Eat Up Australia	Awarded a City of Greater Bendigo community grant to provide lunches and snacks to 14 schools in Bendigo during 2019.	Eat Up Australia
Smiles4Miles	Supporting early learning centers and kindergartens through the program ('eat well' a key health priority area) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 38 ELC's implementing Smiles4Miles</li> </ul>	Bendigo Community Health Services (formerly Bendigo Health)
Healthy Choices Guidelines at Bendigo Health	Increase access to healthy food options for patients, clients, visitors and staff at Bendigo Health through meeting the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines	Bendigo Health
Healthy Choices Guidelines at Heathcote Health	The Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines adopted for catering, food service outlets and vending machines	Heathcote Health
Food audit in Aged Care	The Victorian Government has announced an audit into the food available at publically funded hospitals and aged care facilities.	The Victorian Government
Fluoridation in water supply (Heathcote)	Advocating for fluoridation of water supply in Heathcote	Bendigo Loddon Integrated Health Promotion Partnership Group
Achievement Program	Supporting Early Learning Centers, Schools and Workplaces through the Achievement Program (healthy eating and oral health a key priority area of the program). The following settings are currently engaged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 schools</li> <li>11 workplaces</li> <li>37 early learning centre's</li> </ul>	Bendigo Community Health Services
Grow, Cook, Share (Pick My Project)	Local chefs, volunteers and organisations are establishing and support cooking clubs using food harvested from community gardens. The clubs will provide low income and vulnerable people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to cook and choose healthy food for themselves and their families. Gravel Hill Community Garden will be expanded to grow more food for the program and at least 6 cooking clubs will be established	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc. Salvation Army Bendigo Corps Bendigo Foodshare

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
House Made House Grown	Vocational training program in a community garden, including food swap	Heathcote Community House
Eat a Healthy Rainbow (Kit)	A kit of healthy eating information - games, tools and a starter garden kit for families with young children	Communities for Children Greater Bendigo
Winning Tactics	Educational program for sports clubs - session delivered by dietician to promote healthy eating and drinking	Sports Focus
Healthy Heart of Victoria - Infrastructure & Activation component. More people, more active, more often & 'eating well'	Non-traditional infrastructure, programs & activation targeted at disadvantaged areas. Projects based on best practice, with flexibility to test interventions.	Loddon Campaspe Councils
Community Food Information Portal (Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Website)	Community Food Information Portal that helps people source healthy, local produce via an interactive map. The map identifies Greater Bendigo's community gardens, community meals, cooking clubs, food recovery agencies and local food producers	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.
Welcome to our Kitchens	Connecting our local community with small independent food establishments that support local produce by highlighting them on their menus	Food Fossickers
Community Food Swaps	There are several food swaps within Greater Bendigo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Church on the Hill Community Pantry and Food Swap</li> <li>• Produce Swap Bendigo (Facebook page)</li> <li>• Bendigo free fruit and vegetable network</li> </ul>	Old Church on the Hill – Community Pantry Produce Swap Bendigo (Facebook group) Bendigo free fruit and vegetable network (Facebook group)
Active Living Census	An Active Living Census was conducted for Greater Bendigo in both 2015 and 2019. In 2019 The Active Living Census was also conducted for local government areas residing within the Loddon Campaspe region. The Active Living Census provides local government areas with data related to physical activity and healthy eating, including food security.	Healthy Heart of Victoria Healthy Greater Bendigo City of Greater Bendigo
School Breakfast Clubs Expansion Program	<p>The Victorian Government has committed funding of \$58 million to deliver the School Breakfast Clubs Expansion Program in 1,000 Victorian government primary, secondary, P-12 and specialist schools in Victoria over four years from 2019-2023.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has continued its partnership with Foodbank Victoria, the Victorian branch of Australia's largest food welfare agency in Australia, to deliver the program.</p> <p>The program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of healthy breakfasts in 1,000 Victorian government primary, secondary, P-12 and specialist schools</li> <li>• Provision of nutritious lunches and holiday food supplies targeted to students in need</li> <li>• Delivery of cooking classes for families at 100 disadvantaged schools.</li> </ul>	State Government of Victoria



**Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally**

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Aboriginal Youth Cultural Strengthening Project	A cross-organisational project which gives at-risk youth the chance to learn in a different environment – taking students out to learn ‘on Country’ about cultural and environmental management. Reclaiming this Indigenous knowledge of a sustainable relationship with the land is an integral part of a resilient food future	Dja Dja Wurrung
Strategic Soil Health Action Plan for North Central Victoria	Action Plan for improving soil health	North Central Catchment Management Authority
North Central Victoria Regional Sustainable Agriculture Strategy	Purpose of the Strategy is ‘productive farming while protecting the natural resource base’.	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator project (RALF)	Supporting local farmers industry and community groups to adopt innovative sustainable agriculture practices, to increase their understanding and knowledge of soil health and to help improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of agriculture.	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum	The role of the Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer an unbiased representation of the local agricultural region</li> <li>• Be a strong voice for the region</li> <li>• Provide communication and networking opportunities</li> <li>• Raise the profile of regional agribusiness</li> <li>• Facilitate information dissemination and support new agribusiness opportunities</li> <li>• Deliver Education Forums</li> <li>• Project Facilitation</li> </ul>	Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum
Young Farmers Scholarship Program	Young farmers in Victoria can access scholarships of up to \$10,000 to help boost skills and implement new on-farm initiatives. The Victorian Government’s Young Farmers Scholarship program aims to support young farmers to build productive and profitable careers in agriculture.	Agriculture Victoria
Agribusiness funding (small-scale and craft program)	The Small-Scale and Craft Program builds on the Artisanal Sector Program to support premium small-scale agribusinesses in Victoria to scale-up operations, diversify product lines and expand outreach.	Agriculture Victoria
Young Farmers Advisory Council	The Young Farmers Advisory Council provides a strong voice for young people in agriculture. The Council also serves to develop the sector leaders of tomorrow.  The Council is a group of dynamic and motivated young people from various agricultural industries and regions, who advise government on issues affecting young people in agriculture and on program delivery.  Council members also act as young ambassadors to attract new entrants to the state’s vibrant agriculture sector.	Agriculture Victoria
Proposed Bendigo Region Food and Beverage Tourism Strategy	A detailed Food and Beverage Tourism Strategy for the broader Bendigo Region, which encompasses the City of Greater Bendigo (project lead), Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Loddon Shires. These four local government bodies form the Regional Tourism Board of Bendigo Regional Tourism.  This project will engage with a wide range of industry groups that would otherwise not be involved in decision making processes, to develop an in-depth understanding of the essential food and beverage economic and tourism development pathways for the Bendigo Region.	City of Greater Bendigo

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Agribusiness support	Various agribusiness support initiatives for the Greater Bendigo region	City of Greater Bendigo
Business Matters Newsletter	Quarterly updates to local businesses on key themes, new legislation, economic indicators for local businesses and current workshops and events, available on the City's website.	City of Greater Bendigo
Localised	Be.Bendigo, the City of Greater Bendigo and Localised have partnered to roll out Localise. Localised is one of GROW Bendigo's key initiatives and has already established successful networks in several metropolitan and regional areas, such as Geelong and Gippsland. Localised can be used to promote business's capabilities and secure ongoing work. The aim is to keep more jobs and more B2B spending local.	City of Greater Bendigo
Food Supply Chain Mapping Project	To coherently illustrate the current food industry supply chain for the Loddon Campaspe region including a gap analysis and identification of opportunities to capture and add value to the sector. This will include identification of points where increased efficiencies and/or the reduction of barriers along the supply chain can be made. It will also inform the type of investment in infrastructure required to grow the industry.	Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership
Bendigo Community Farmers Market (VFMA accredited)	Increasing communities access to local produce twice per month (in Sidney Myer Place and Hargreaves Mall)	Bendigo Community Farmers Market
Weekly Showgrounds Market	Weekly market held every Sunday, various stalls including food and drinks	The Bendigo Agriculture Show Society Inc.
Regenerative Agriculture Research Project	Partnership project between City of Whittlesea and with Deakin University to undertake research on the potential of regenerative agriculture in enhancing climate resilience in peri-urban regions across Victoria.  The initial stage of this research involves a survey to all farmers across Victoria to obtain an understanding of the perceptions of regenerative agriculture and to identify any farmers currently implementing regenerative agriculture practices.	City of Whittlesea and Deakin University
Djakitjuk Djanga program	A program offering Aboriginal Victorian-owned businesses and organisations grants of up to \$200,000 to help establish or expand commercial native plant production	Labor Government and Federation of Victoria Traditional Owner Corporations
Water Sensitive Bendigo	A fifty year vision has been prepared to transition Bendigo to a Water Sensitive City. The Vision and Transition Strategy for Water Sensitive Bendigo includes strategies and desired outcomes for a sustainable water future. A key desired outcome is ' <i>Bendigo is resilient to climate extremes and has integrated, efficient and adaptive regional water, energy and food systems</i> '. Progressing this will require collaboration from the involved organisations, industries and the broader community to better integrate our local food production and water supply systems, whilst exploring alternative water supplies and innovative food production techniques	Coliban Water Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation North Central Catchment Management Authority Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Department of Health and Human Services Goulburn-Murray Water Regional Roads Victoria Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities
Coliban Water support	Coliban Water currently offers an application based volume-capped subsidy to Councils where the water is for recreational purposes that support the liveability for the region. Coliban Water also has a range of options to help customers who have trouble paying their bill, for example concession-card holders may be eligible for a discount	Coliban Water

**Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture**

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Dhelkunya Dja – Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan	The Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan includes projects to restore Indigenous food and fibre plants as part of a broader ambition to heal the country and connect with the cultural heritage of this region	Dja Dja Wurrung
Community Plants - Us2You	The Loddon Prison's program run in partnership with Bendigo Kangan TAFE enables prisoners the opportunity to study a Certificate II in Horticulture while growing and gifting seedling punnets to schools, kindergartens and community groups from Castlemaine to Swan Hill	Loddon Prison Bendigo Kangan TAFE
Garden resources for community members	<i>Free straw and manure given away after events to community members to utilise on their garden</i>	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP)	<p>There are three registered SAKGP schools within Greater Bendigo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California Gully Primary School</li> <li>• Eaglehawk Primary School</li> <li>• Heathcote Primary School</li> </ul> <p>There are three schools registered as 'members' of the SAKGP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strathfieldsaye Primary School</li> <li>• Girton Grammar School</li> <li>• Quarry Hill Primary School</li> </ul> <p>There are 13 Early Learning Centres and Kindergartens registered as SAKG 'members'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenny's Kindergarten (Maiden Gully)</li> <li>• Golden Square Kindergarten</li> <li>• Jenny's Early Learning Centre (Epsom, Bendigo Hospital, Strathfieldsaye)</li> <li>• Neale Street North Preschool</li> <li>• Heathcote Preschool</li> <li>• Lightning Reef Early Learning Centre</li> <li>• Country Buddies Bendigo</li> <li>• Assisi Kindergarten</li> </ul> <p>Six Early Learning Centres are participating in the (2019 pilot) SAKGP for Early Learning Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenny's Early Learning Centre (Bendigo Hospital)</li> <li>• Jenny's Early Learning Centre (Epsom)</li> <li>• Golden Square Kindergarten (Golden Square)</li> <li>• Lightning Reef Early Learning Centre (north Bendigo)</li> <li>• Country Buddies Bendigo (Epsom)</li> <li>• Assisi Kindergarten (Strathfieldsaye)</li> </ul> <p>Many other schools have variations of the SAKGP program e.g. Bendigo Violet Street Primary School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Early Learning Centres</li> </ul>
SAKGP at Heathcote Primary School	Heathcote Primary School provides food growing and cooking experiences for both students and their parents	Heathcote Primary School

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Healthy food programs at Kalianna school	<p>Kalianna have been working on the following healthy eating programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A vegie garden project funded by Connecting2Australia allows students to grow vegetables that they then cook with and use in the cafeteria at school. The program enables students to gain life skills that are required once they finish school through the hands on learning experience provided at Kalianna.</li> <li>• Whipstick seedling program allows Kalianna to provide seedlings and produce across Greater Bendigo</li> <li>• Healthy Café- Kalianna have reformulated the café menu to offer healthy food options (utilising food from the vegie garden and fresh produce also supplied by JL King and Co.</li> <li>• Cooking Program for students (using fresh produce), students also created a healthy cookbook</li> <li>• Coliban Water's general education program</li> </ul>	Kalianna School Bendigo
Growing food in urban areas	Edible planting i.e. in the Bendigo conservatory gardens	City of Greater Bendigo
Garden for the Future (White Hills)	Space for growing food, educating and processing	City of Greater Bendigo
Educational resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Grown</li> <li>• Smart gardens for a dry climate</li> <li>• Indigenous Plants of Bendigo: a gardeners guide to growing and protecting local plants</li> </ul>	City of Greater Bendigo
Bendigo Region Fruit Fly	Training volunteers to teach people how to prune their fruit trees, next phase will include a harvest program	<p>Bendigo Region Fruit Fly</p> <p>Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.</p>
Community gardens	<p>There are over 10 community gardens in the municipality and even more school gardens. There are community gardens in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bendigo</li> <li>• Quarry Hill</li> <li>• Long Gully</li> <li>• Eaglehawk</li> <li>• Kangaroo Flat</li> <li>• Heathcote</li> </ul>	Community gardens
Edible Oasis	Growing food in public spaces using raised wicking garden boxes – 12 boxes across various locations in Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.
House Made House Grown	Vocational training program in a community garden, including food swap	Heathcote Community House
Gravel Hill Community Garden	Expanding the growing capacity of gardens to produce fresh food to feed those in need (providing for the Grow, Cook, Share cooking clubs)	Salvation Army Bendigo Corps



## Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Name of initiative	Description	Responsible Organisation/s
Rescuing food to help people living in food poverty	Food rescued from landfill and distributed to those living in poverty	Bendigo Foodshare Heathcote Foodshare
ResourceSmart Schools and Kerbside Pride Schools	Provide schools the opportunity to participate in 'ResourceSmart Schools' and 'Kerbside Pride Schools' to help address waste management	Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group
Organics waste collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents in urban Bendigo and Marong receive a fortnightly organics collection service for all food and garden waste</li> <li>Organics bins are available at events</li> <li>Organics collection turned into compost that community groups and organisations can apply for</li> <li>Organics trial with food businesses in Bendigo</li> <li>Organics trial with schools and child care centres within Bendigo and Marong areas – schools also receive a free compost bin when participating in the organics collection</li> <li>6 schools not receiving organics collection received worm farms in 2018/2019</li> </ul>	City of Greater Bendigo
Waste Resource Management Strategy 2014-2019	<p>The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce waste and increase resource recovery</li> <li>Focus on diverting organic waste from landfill to minimise current and future financial and environmental liabilities</li> <li>Provide an efficient, convenient and safe resource management system for residents</li> <li>Develop partnerships throughout Victoria to develop and deliver sustainable services</li> <li>Minimise the costs and risks to ratepayers</li> <li>Support innovation in resource management and look for opportunities to maximise sector development in Greater Bendigo</li> <li>Reduce the incidence of illegal dumping and littering</li> </ul>	City of Greater Bendigo
Food Donations App	App (pilot stage) that allows people to post leftover catering fit for human consumption to the app, those registered receive a notification about the catering and can pick the catering up – preventing leftover food going into landfill	Bendigo Foodshare
Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan 2016-2026	<p>The plan establishes how the Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group can work with all stakeholders to achieve the 30-year goals of the state infrastructure plan, which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce waste to landfill</li> <li>Maximise resource recovery</li> <li>Achieve best practice standards to protect communities and the environment</li> <li>Make evidence based decisions</li> </ul>	Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group
Compost program	Loddon Prison and Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) are trialling their own composting program where in house food scraps are turned into compost and used to grow food onsite	Loddon Prison Bendigo Kangan TAFE
Love Food Hate Waste Campaign	A campaign to help people reduce food waste at home with ideas, recipes, facts and resources	Sustainability Victoria