

**DRAFT**

# **Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan**

**If you are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have complex communication needs, phone the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 or the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.**

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of Tasmania's land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders – past and present.

Communities, Sport and Recreation  
Department of Communities Tasmania  
GPO Box 65 HOBART TAS 7001

**Phone: (03) 6165 8388**

**Website:** <https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/>

**Facebook:** Communities Tasmania

Copyright State of Tasmania



**Tasmanian  
Government**



# Acknowledgement

The Tasmanian Government Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan was developed by the Department of Communities Tasmania, in partnership with the following stakeholders who provided strategic guidance in the development of this draft Action Plan. The Tasmanian Government thanks all members for their contributions.

Anglicare Tasmania  
Eat Well Tasmania  
Foodbank Tasmania  
Hobart City Mission  
Launceston City Mission  
Loaves and Fishes Tasmania  
Neighbourhood House Tasmania  
Salvation Army  
School Food Matters  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
Tasmanian Social Council of Social Services  
Volunteering Tasmania



# Contents

<b>Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Goal</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Key Priority Areas</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<i>Priority 1</i> .....	<i>6</i>
Integrated Support - Collaborative Leadership and Innovation.....	6
<i>Priority 2</i> .....	<i>6</i>
Place-Based – Supporting Community Food Resilience Solutions .....	6
<i>Priority 3</i> .....	<i>6</i>
Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing.....	6
<b>Developing the Action Plan</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Solutions to the Challenges - What we heard</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>How will we know if we are successful?</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Actions</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Priority 1</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Integrated Support - Collaborative Leadership and Innovation</i> .....	<i>10</i>
Focus Area – Connection.....	10
Focus Area - Sector Leadership.....	12
Focus Area - Food Literacy and Nutrition.....	12
<b>Priority 2</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<i>Place-Based – Supporting community food resilience solutions</i> .....	<i>13</i>
Focus Area - Community Led Co-Design .....	13
Focus Area - Capacity Building.....	14



Focus Area - Strengthening Food Systems .....	15
<b>Priority 3 .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing .....</i>	<i>15</i>
Focus Area - Data Gathering .....	15
Focus Area - Lived Experience .....	16
Focus Area - Understanding Systems .....	17
Focus Area -Governance .....	17
<b>Monitoring and Reporting .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Evaluation .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>PESRAC Recommendations .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Alignment of Actions PESRAC Recommendations .....</i>	<i>19</i>
Objective – Connection .....	19
Objective – Sector Leadership .....	19
Objective – Food Literacy and Nutrition .....	19
Objective – Local Food Systems .....	20
Objective – Community Led Co Design .....	20
Objective – Capacity Building .....	20
Objective – Strengthening Food Systems .....	20
Objective – Data Gathering .....	20
Objective – Lived Experience .....	20
Objective – Understanding Systems .....	20
Objective – Governance .....	21



# Introduction

The Tasmania Government's Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan is a three-year plan that contains actions to achieve the goal of the *Food Relief to Food Resilience – Tasmanian Food Security Strategy 2021 – 2024*.

The whole-of-government Action Plan has been developed to implement activity across each of the focus areas identified in this Strategy.

## Our Goal

An integrated food relief sector that supports Tasmanians in need to access sufficient, safe, nutritious, quality food, and access services that support long-term food resilience.



# Key Priority Areas

To achieve our Goal, the Action Plan will focus on three priority areas as identified in the *Food Relief to Resilience Strategy 2021*.

## Priority 1

### **Integrated Support - Collaborative Leadership and Innovation**

The process of surveying local food relief providers and geospatial mapping of their responses demonstrated the complexity of food security in Tasmania. Leadership is needed to build the capacity of local organisations to mobilise action. These focus areas are designed to recognise the inherent connection between food resilience and the safety, health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

## Priority 2

### **Place-Based – Supporting Community Food Resilience Solutions**

Tasmania's social and geographical diversity presents opportunities for innovation. These focus areas are designed to encourage solutions that are responsive to local need.

## Priority 3

### **Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing**

Data and information sharing must underpin long-term solutions. These focus areas are designed to promote the utility of existing information, and identify the affordability, availability and sustainability of healthy food at the local level – which is vital to identify those communities most reliant on food relief.



# Developing the Action Plan

The Action Plan has been co-designed in partnership between the food relief sector and government. It represents a commitment to working collaboratively to achieve the goal of the *Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy 2021 – 2024* to deliver improved client and community outcomes.

The Food Sector and Supporting Partners have made the following commitment to implementing the Action Plan:

- Working in collaboration with the Tasmanian Government to support Tasmanians in need.
- Working together to improve the state-wide availability, transportation, storage and distribution of nutritious food for people and communities in need.
- Improving support to people who are food insecure through core and ancillary services, referrals pathways and advocacy
- Supporting widespread use of outcomes-oriented service delivery to promote flexible services tailored to needs and circumstances
- Continuing to develop and maintaining resources and platforms to assist providers with relevant information and referrals pathways
- Working together to strengthen local partnerships

The Action Plan:

- Supports and promotes collaboration across the sector to support Tasmanians in need;
- Identifies activities that embed the Strategy's principles across each focus area;
- Takes a flexible approach to implementation that considers the needs and views of Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity;
- Encourages emergency food providers to utilise governance and supports available through the community sector and the Tasmanian Government;
- Implements activities that are based on the best available evidence and informed by the food sector's advice; and
- Aligns with Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC)'s Interim Report Recommendation 62 and Final Report Recommendation 31 and existing Tasmanian Government policies and programs.



# Solutions to the Challenges - What we heard

Tasmania is comprised of diverse communities, each with bespoke needs. Consequently, a one-size fits all approach to move individuals from emergency food relief to food resilience is unlikely to succeed.

This Action Plan is designed to target and respond to local needs and the specific DNA of communities.

In developing this Action Plan, it became evident that the actions contained in this plan need to be bold and innovative. It is this approach that will provide the necessary levers for sustained change.

Government needs responsive policy, the food relief sector needs leadership, and the solutions need to be community led and address the systemic issues that currently exist.



# How will we know if we are successful?

- We will know we are successful when the following outcomes are achieved:
- Nutritious food will always be available to those Tasmanians who need it
- We understand the demand for food relief so we can respond accordingly
- Tasmanians have the skills to store, cook and consume nutritious meals
- All available excess food is re-directed into the food relief supply chain
- Food Relief Providers are well connected and have the necessary support to work together and increase its organisational capacity to ensure sustainability
- We know who service providers are, what service/s they provide and how they are connected
- The role of those in the sector are clearly articulated and understood
- Community members know how, where and when they can collect food supplies (free and low-cost meals)
- Food Relief Providers have access to up-to-date information on support services to connect individuals, collaborating with other local organisations as needed to support their communities
- Robust evidence to inform decision making and policy development
- Communities have the systems, resources and information to collectively decide what works for them
- Current infrastructure and relationships are fully utilised
- Food Relief to Food Resilience appears in all local council's community plans

Put simply, we know what will work



# Actions

## Priority I

### Integrated Support - Collaborative Leadership and Innovation

#### Focus Area – Connection

##### Objective I

Identify and promote the factors of success underlying current models of service integration in Tasmania, such as community food hubs, school food programs, hospitality based social enterprises and service referral pathways.

Encourage increased connection of these services across Tasmania.

##### Actions

- 1.1 Transport Partnerships  
Identify opportunities for state-wide food relief distributors to coordinate efforts to deliver efficiencies within the food sector, particularly as it relates to freight into and around Tasmania.
- 1.2 Supporting Social Connection  
Support Tasmania's Neighbourhood and Community Houses to provide services and programs that promote community cohesion and inclusion through food, and to connect with other local emergency food relief services to better support their local community.
- 1.3 School Food Pilots  
Investment of \$1.4 million over two years, (2022 and 2023) to expand School Food Matter's School Lunch Pilot Program, for another two years, after which it will be evaluated to better understand its impact, particularly for students in need of support.

Funding will be distributed according to the needs of participating schools based on several variables. This includes the number of days that schools will provide lunch, the level of existing community partnerships and in-kind support, and the number of students that will take part.



## Objective 2

Identify the challenges and opportunities for food relief design and delivery in our regional and remote communities.

### Actions

#### 1.4 Tasmanian Food Resilience Hub - Web Based Platform

The Tasmanian Food Resilience Hub web-based platform is ‘one stop shop’ information and knowledge sharing platform for both Tasmanians in need and organisations involved in the food sector. The platform will include links to other similar Tasmanian web-based food sector.

The platform will bring together the complex parts of the Tasmanian Food Relief Sector and serve as the principal information and coordination point to share news, evidence and insights on how Tasmanians in need can move from Food Relief to Resilience.

The platform will work to:

- provide information of relevance to the Tasmanian Food Sector;
- connect Tasmanians in need to support services;
- provide guidance and support to food relief hubs
- provide health and nutrition resources; and
- provide governments at all levels with comprehensive policy advice and analysis of research and how it relates to the Tasmanian Food Sector.

#### 1.5 Tasmanian Food Resilience Hub – Provider Health Check

It can be a challenge to run successful and sustainable community organisations and there is no doubt that supporting those in need of food relief can be one of the most challenging with the need to organise delivery, storage and distribution, while also supporting individuals in times of crisis.

To support the sustainability of these organisations the Hub will include a Health Check tool to assess the performance food relief providers of all sizes. This will quickly allow organisations evaluate their resilience and identify opportunities to improve capability. The Health Check will be aligned with the TasCOSS Community Services Sector Industry Plan.



## Focus Area - Sector Leadership

### Objective 3

Advocate the role and responsibilities of state-wide leaders in food distribution, food literacy and education, and food relief provision across the community sector.

#### Actions

##### 1.6 Food Relief State Emergency Plan

The Committee is to work with the Tasmanian Government Agency of Police, Fire and Emergency to develop a Food Relief State Emergency Management Plan for activation during a state of emergency.

## Focus Area - Food Literacy and Nutrition

### Objective 4

- Develop opportunities to connect state-wide and local food relief providers and the local agricultural, hospitality, horticulture and processing industries to promote self sufficiency, and to reduce food waste and food loss.

#### Actions

##### 1.7 Education Program

Food literacy is the scaffolding that empowers individuals, households and communities to change and strengthen dietary resilience over time. Training and education is critical to enable Tasmanian's in Need to access quality food and prepare nutritious meals. This education program will be hosted on the Platform.



## Objective 5

- Develop opportunities to connect state-wide and local food relief providers and the local agricultural, hospitality, horticulture and processing industries to promote self-sufficiency, and to reduce food waste and food loss.

### Actions

#### 1.8 National Food Waste Strategy

- Improve awareness of the National Food Waste Strategy <sup>1</sup> | Halving Australia's Food Waste by 2030 within the food relief sector and how it applies in a Tasmanian setting.
- State and Territory Environment Ministers have committed to the National Food Waste Strategy and a target of halving food waste by 2030. States and Territories will support business, community and industry to halve food waste through a range of initiatives including behaviour education campaigns, research, infrastructure and other programs.

#### 1.9 Local Food Waste Strategy

- Investigate if there are opportunities to better connect state-wide and local food relief providers with the local agricultural, horticulture and processing industries to increase food recovery and redistribution from farms into the food relief chain.

# Priority 2

## Place-Based – Supporting community food resilience solutions

### Focus Area - Community Led Co-Design

#### Objective 1

Create networks and foster partnerships that support locally driven solutions with relevant Government and community sector activities, with priority given to regional and remote communities.

#### Objective 2

Work with the Local Government Association of Tasmania to identify and support opportunities for Councils to lead place-based initiatives to build food resilience.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://workdrive.zohopublic.com.au/file/qx5761ea4b2a2ea954660876ee98818f3e682>



## Action

### 2.1 Place Based Pilot Program

The Tasmanian Government in conjunction with the Committee and Local Councils will identify several community locations to address systematic barriers that are proposing food relief problems for the communities and individuals.

These bespoke Pilots will improve opportunities for integrated support, the development of community solutions and a greater understanding of local food relief and food security.

The government has allocated \$300k in the 2022-23 State Budget to support these pilots.

## Focus Area - Capacity Building

### Objective 3

Work with organisations to understand the barriers and motivations of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations, to ensure a sustainable volunteer workforce.

### Objective 3

Provide access to business and project design support, including support for the development of hospitality-based employment and training opportunities through food relief social enterprises.

## Actions

### 2.2 Navigate Volunteering Red Tape

The Committee and the Tasmanian Government to work with Volunteering Tasmania to provide the sector with support to navigate volunteer red tape through the lessons learnt from the Safeguarding Volunteering Project

### 2.3 Inclusion of Food Sector in Government Funded Volunteering Projects

The Tasmanian Government to work with Volunteering Tasmania to encourage inclusion of the food sector as a cohort in the re-engage Volunteer Project.

### 2.4 Tasmanian Neighbourhood Houses

Work with Tasmanian Neighbourhood Houses to scale up capability of the Neighbourhood Houses to plan and deliver opportunities to build community and individual's skills in sustainability and food resilience, working and connecting with other food and health providers in their community.



## Focus Area - Strengthening Food Systems

### Objective I

Identify pathways to increase community awareness and responsibility for food relief, including avenues for donation of in-kind support, such as backyard or surplus produce.

#### Action

##### 2.5 Public Campaign

Instil a sense of community responsibility by increasing the knowledge of where individuals can donate backyard and surplus food to local food relief providers, through a public campaign to promote the Platform.

## Priority 3

### Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing

#### Focus Area - Data Gathering

##### Objective I

Implement routine collection of organisational based data on the distribution of food relief in Tasmania, including geographic and demographic information where possible to better understand the needs of specific population groups.

#### Action

##### 3.1 Explore future trends, challenges, and opportunities in food supply

Monitor the local, national and international food sector to better understand what the future challenges in the food sector are and how these can inform our response to food relief in Tasmania.



## Objective 2

Undertake regional profiling in consultation with communities, mapping available geographic and social data relevant to each location. This will build on work already undertaken by the Tasmanian Government in this area.

### Actions

#### 3.2 Local Government Profiles

The Local Government profiles will provide a snapshot of the food relief providers in all Tasmanian LGAs, overlaid with demographic data. These profiles will be updated by the councils as relevant with the data from the food relief geospatial map to provide information to LGA's to support those in need.

#### 3.3 Food Relief Geospatial Map

The Food Relief Geospatial Map is a comprehensive dataset on the provision of emergency food relief in Tasmania. It provides information on who provides food relief, where it is being provided and in what forms it is being provided. The dataset also provides information on supply and demand for food relief and is overlaid with Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) disadvantage data, and data on population density.

The Food Relief Map will play a vital role in informing emergency planning, response, and recovery.

Data from the Food Relief Map will be the platform that will enhance the collective impact and value of the sector through the development of a shared outcomes framework. This framework will ensure that the data collected is shared to quantify and qualify outputs and outcomes on an ongoing basis.

## Focus Area - Lived Experience

## Objective 3

Support the collection and dissemination of information on the lived experience of Tasmanians seeking food relief, to inform service design, delivery and evaluation that will lead to food resilience.

### Action

#### 3.4 Food Insecurity Research

Monitor the sector to identify any research that is prudent to obtaining robust evidence and data to determine the best way to provide nutritional outcomes for the whole community regardless of their financial position and geographical location.



## Focus Area - Understanding Systems

### Objective 4

Undertake an audit of resources and platforms that assist food relief organisations to provide services and referral pathways, to increase connectivity and consistency.

#### Action

#### 3.5 Supporting Referral Pathways

Through the Platform easily understood and accessible referral pathways for local food relief providers to assist individuals who require connection to support services. are promoted by local service providers to assist Tasmanians experiencing financial distress or hardship who have limited means or resources.

## Focus Area -Governance

### Objective 5

Support a community sector alliance to inform Government decision making, advocate sector concerns, share information, monitor demand and contribute to the development of community.

#### Action

#### 3.6 Governance Structure

The implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by the Food Relief to Food Resilience Committee. The Committee will be responsible for driving the implementation of the Action Plan and will ensure the delivery of outcomes across the life of the Action Plan. The Committee will be governed by a terms of reference and this Action Plan will clearly identify what parties are responsible for contributing to or delivering on the Actions.



# Monitoring and Reporting

Communities Tasmania will monitor progress against initiatives in this Action Plan and on a bi-annual basis through the Food Relief to Food Resilience Committee report to:

- The Minister for Community Services and Development and the Minister for Education and Children and Youth Services annually; and
- Cabinet in relation to progress against the PESRAC recommendations annually.

## Evaluation

Work with the University of Tasmania and Menzies Institute for Medical Research to undertake research into models of best practice and evaluation on the initiatives included in this Action Plan. funded by the Tasmanian Government.

In addition, the Food Relief to Food Resilience Committee will evaluate the Action Plan on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current and progress against objectives is being made.



# PESRAC Recommendations

1. Expand recent trials of school lunch provision to include greater school and community provisions
2. Adopt a place-based approach to community food security models and not a 'one size fits all' approach
3. Include strong links to local agricultural and hospitality businesses including training opportunities for program participants
4. Scalable in design so that any potential increase in demand for emergency food relief can be managed in a rapid and effective manner

## Alignment of Actions PESRAC Recommendations

### Objective – Connection

- 1.1 Transport Partnerships
- 1.2 Supporting Social Connection
- 1.3 School Food Pilots
- 1.4 Tasmanian Food Resilience Hub - Web Based Platform
- 1.5 Tasmanian Food Resilience Hub – Provider Health Check

All actions align with PESRAC recommendations 2,3,4

### Objective – Sector Leadership

- 1.6 Food Relief State Emergency Plan

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2,4

### Objective – Food Literacy and Nutrition

- 1.7 Education Program

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2



## **Objective – Local Food Systems**

- 1.8 National Food Wastage Strategy
- 1.9 Local Food Wastage Strategy

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 3,4

## **Objective – Community Led Co Design**

- 2.1 Place Based Pilot Program

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,3,4

## **Objective – Capacity Building**

- 2.2 Navigate Volunteering Red Tape
- 2.3 Inclusion of Food Sector in Government Funded Volunteering Projects
- 2.4 Tasmanian Neighbourhood Houses

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2,3,4

## **Objective – Strengthening Food Systems**

- 2.5 Public Campaign

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 2,3,4

## **Objective – Data Gathering**

- 3.1 Explore future trends, challenges, and opportunities in food supply
- 3.2 Local Government Profiles
- 3.3 Food Relief Geospatial Map

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2,3,4

## **Objective – Lived Experience**

- 3.4 Food Insecurity Research

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2

## **Objective – Understanding Systems**

- 3.5 Supporting Referral Pathways



Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 2,3

## **Objective – Governance**

3.6 Governance Structure

Actions aligns with PESRAC recommendations 1,2