Urban Food Strategy

2023-2027



Banyule
City Council

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

Banyule City Council proudly acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

Banyule Diversity Statement

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

Community and Key Stakeholders

Banyule City Council extends a heartfelt thanks to the individuals, businesses and organisations who dedicated their time and contributed their input to this consultation report via focus groups, surveys, pop-up sessions, kitchen table talks and two community workshops. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of many Banyule Council staff who engaged directly with the consultation process and shared their expertise. We extend our deepest appreciation to members of the Urban Food Strategy Working Group who generously supported the consultation process with their time, ideas and networks.

Banyule City Council is made stronger by the collective expertise, ideas, enthusiasm and passion of the many people, organisations and businesses committed to an inclusive, healthy, sustainable, and delicious food future for the whole community.

Mayor Foreword

Enjoying a meal with your loved ones and friends is more than food on a plate.

During the recent floods, bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, the vulnerabilities within our local food systems have been highlighted and amplified. We shared a front row seat to witness the impacts of food chains disruptions including price rises, and limited availability and access to foods that have nourished us and given us comfort. Some have been more impacted that others. We know that our most vulnerable families in Banyule frequently run out of food and are unable to buy more. Some are skipping meals or eating low-cost unhealthy options to avoid going hungry. In recent times, the demand on local emergency food relief has skyrocketed as a result of cost of living pressures, insecure work and poverty. Our emergency relief services have strained under the pressure.

As an environmental advocate, I am particularly excited to see the future benefits of planning for healthy and sustainable food environments. This will help us build on our commitments to act with a sustainable mindset, tackle climate change, empower our communities to share responsibility to take action, and educate and inform our communities on waste and food security. Our local food systems are complex and vulnerable and building and maintaining a resilient local food system is going to have long-lasting benefits for all people and our natural environment. I believe the Urban Food Strategy is an important step towards achieving our Banyule Community Vision 2041 for a sustainable environment and an inclusive and connect community, where everyone can thrive.

(Cr. Peter Casteldo)

Deputy Mayor

Council is taking an important and leading role in protecting our urban food bowl, strengthening food security for all residents, celebrating the contribution our diverse cultures make to our local food options and creating better ways of working together.

During the development of our Urban Food Strategy, we heard from over 650 people about how food system insecurity impacts them. Sitting with our resident during our kitchen table talks, I heard firsthand about the increasing levels of food insecurity and the compromised families are making to put a meal on the table at night and about the struggles our residents have experienced in accessing and choosing healthy food priorities. These conversations ignited my passion for creating better ways for ensuring local food security and sustainable food systems. As we researched the elements of Banyule's local food system, I was surprised to learn that there are significantly more unhealthy food outlets in Banyule compared to healthy ones. Facts like this galvanised my commitment to ensuring our residents have easy access to healthy food choices in their neighbourhood.

I look forward to celebrating how the Urban Food Strategy brings communities together to improve access to local healthy foods, ignite new community food initiatives, and help reimaging Banyule as a sustainable farming producer and contributor to the local food system.

(Cr. Alida Mckern)

Contents

Acknowledgements **2**
Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians 2
Banyule Diversity Statement 2
Community and Key Stakeholders 2
Mayor Foreword **3**
Deputy Mayor 3
Community Recipes by Aunty Jenny **6**
Special Zucchini Pie 6
Silverbeet Burritos 6
Executive Summary **7**
Overview 7
Strategy aims, purpose, and outcomes 7
The community's vision for Banyule's urban food system **9**
Developing the Urban Food Strategy **11**
Guiding principles 11
The community consultation process 11
Consultation process 12
Consultation snapshot 13
Setting the scene **14**
The big picture 14
What is an urban food system? 15
The Strategic Context **17**
Community vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 themes 17
Working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals 17
The role of Council 17
Community expectations regarding the role of Council 18
A Snapshot of Banyule's Food System **19**
Our strengths and opportunities 19
Case Study: Local Food Connect 19
Case Study: Farm Raiser 21
Challenges and vulnerabilities 21
Themes and objectives **25**
Theme 1: An inclusive, connected food community 25
Case Study: Barrbunin Beek 25
Key objectives 26
Community voice 26
Theme 2: A thriving local food economy 27

Key objectives 27
Theme 3: Planning for healthy and sustainable food systems 29
Key objectives 29
Community voice 30
Theme 4: Abundant edible landscapes 31
Key objectives 31
Community voice 32
Theme 5: Good food governance 33
Key objectives 34
Community voice 34
Monitoring Our Progress 35
Appendixes 36
Appendix 1: Glossary 36
Community garden 36
Food insecurity 36
Food literacy / food systems literacy 36
Food security 36
Food system 36
Food system governance 36
Good food 37
Healthy food 37
Local food 37
Local food system 37
Urban agriculture 37
Appendix 2: Strategic Context 38
Appendix 3: Alignment between key themes and Council's policies and strategic priorities 39

Community Recipes by Aunty Jenny

Special Zucchini Pie

Heat oven to 180 degrees Celsius.

Cut crusts off soft old bread.

Butter bread inside and outside with butter or margarine.

Put bread in tray in similar way to pastry, squish down to make sure you've formed a good crust.

Cook diced bacon and let the oil drain out.

While waiting for bacon to cool, grate four zucchinis and squeeze out water.

In a bowl, mix grated zucchini, bacon, six eggs and your choice of seasoning (suggested chicken salt).

Put wet mixture into bread lined tin, and cover with grated cheese. Put into oven until cooked (around 30 minutes).

Silverbeet Burritos

Cook silverbeet leaves for five minutes in water to blanch, strain out water and put leaves aside.

Cook pumpkin until just soft to turn into a creamy mash.
Cook beef mince with carrot, onion, and seasoning of choice.

Spread mashed pumpkin over laid-out silverbeet leaves, cover with a bit of beef mince and wrap into a burrito.

Repeat for all leaves and mixture.

Put in oven for 20 minutes or until warm.

We thank the staff and volunteers at Barrbunin Beek for sharing their time and insights, in particularly to Aunty Jenny who generously shared her recipes.

Executive Summary

Overview

The Banyule Urban Food Strategy will help inform and guide Council's strategic planning and decision-making to increase the focus on local food sustainability and food security through the building of community knowledge of and engagement with Banyule's food system. The Strategy will be a key tool for building community resilience and connection in Banyule over the next decade.

The Strategy establishes the context and framework to strengthen Banyule's urban food system. A four-year Action Plan outlines key objectives and specific actions organised under the following five priority themes:

1. An inclusive, connected food community
2. A thriving local food economy
3. Planning for healthy and sustainable food systems
4. Abundant edible landscapes
5. Good food system governance

The Strategy and Action Plan were developed through an extensive community and stakeholder consultation process that involved over 600 community members.



Figure 1 | Image credit: Maude Farrugia, Heidelberg Heights kitchen table talk

Strategy aims, purpose, and outcomes

The Urban Food Strategy aims to create a shared understanding of urban food systems, food sustainability, food accessibility and food security across Council, local services, community organisations and residents. It will guide coordinated and collective action to build on existing strengths and address key challenges facing Banyule and the wider community.

The Strategy's purpose is to enable Council and community to work together to build a strong, healthy, sustainable and resilient urban food system. Key outcomes include:

- Dignified food security for all Banyule residents
- Celebration of Banyule's diverse food cultures and traditions
- Increased local economic activity, new businesses, employment and training focused on urban food growing, value-adding, retail and distribution
- Expanded access to healthy and fresh food

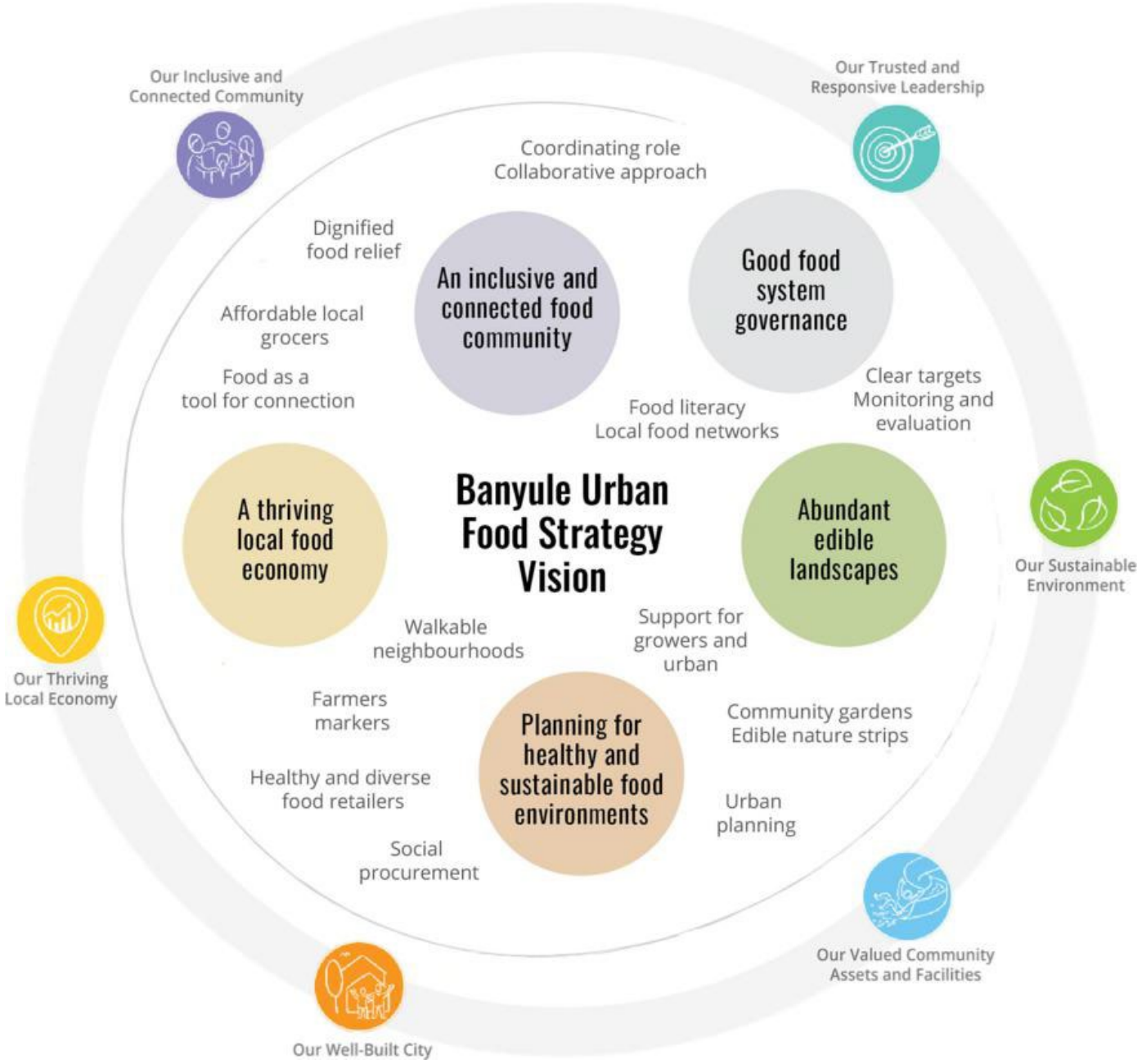
- More urban greening to support biodiversity and mitigate climate change
- Improved dietary, physical and mental health
- Stronger local organisations and networks to build community capacity and engagement with the urban food system

Indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress against outcomes are included in the Urban Food Strategy Action Plan.

The community's vision for Banyule's urban food system

The Banyule Urban Food Strategy describes the community's aspirations for the future of Banyule's food system. This vision reflects what is important to the community and unique to Banyule.

Banyule's urban food system provides equitable access to good food for all residents. We feel connected to its abundant edible landscapes and our thriving local food economy. Food connects us to each other and celebrates our diversity. Inclusiveness, collaboration and participatory decision-making guides our collective path to a thriving and sustainable food future.



Themes and aspirations of the Urban Food Strategy

Theme 1: An inclusive, connected food community

Food is the connective tissue of Banyule's diverse communities, bringing people together to celebrate and share their food cultures, knowledge and skills. All Banyule residents have equitable access to good food. Community food relief initiatives, where required, put people's dignity first.

Theme 2: A thriving local food economy

Local neighbourhoods have a lively, village feel, and local food businesses reflect the cultural diversity of their communities. Banyule residents find it easy and convenient to buy good food locally.

Theme 3: Planning for healthy and sustainable food environments

The food system is understood as vital urban infrastructure, and access to good food contributes to a sense of place, creates a sense of belonging and underpins neighbourhood and precinct planning. Healthy and sustainable food environments are not left to chance but rather integrated into the local planning scheme.

Theme 4: Abundant edible landscapes

Food is grown in backyards, community gardens and other spaces across the municipality. Urban farmers are supported to grow food and feed their community. Community members can access information and a wide array of educational and skills building activities about growing food, and there is a strong network of food gardeners.

Theme 5: Good food system governance

The governance of Banyule's food system is consultative, collaborative and participatory. Strong leadership support and decision-making processes for the Urban Food Strategy within Council are strengthened by a diverse and lively network of residents, local business owners, urban farmers, community gardeners, community organisations and volunteers. A 'good food lens' is applied to the development of new or review of existing relevant policies, strategies and plans to ensure strategic alignment and policy integration across Council.

Developing the Urban Food Strategy

Guiding principles

The guiding principles for the development and implementation of this strategy are:

- Partnerships and collaboration
- Participatory governance
- Inclusion and equity
- Respecting and celebrating diversity
- Facilitating and empowering community-led initiatives
- Cohesive policy integration and alignment
- A strong advocacy agenda

The community consultation process

The development of this Strategy commenced in August 2022.

Input from diverse community perspectives has been fundamental to the development and shaping of a responsive Urban Food Strategy.

A Working Group comprising representations of local schools, businesses and community organisations was established to inform a participatory and inclusive consultation process and guide the Strategy's development.

The Strategy is informed by independent research and analysis, including academic literature, local economic and health/wellbeing data, food system mapping and the broader strategic context. A holistic, multi-dimensional and robust consultation process was designed to help understand the community's aspirations and priorities for Banyule's urban food system.

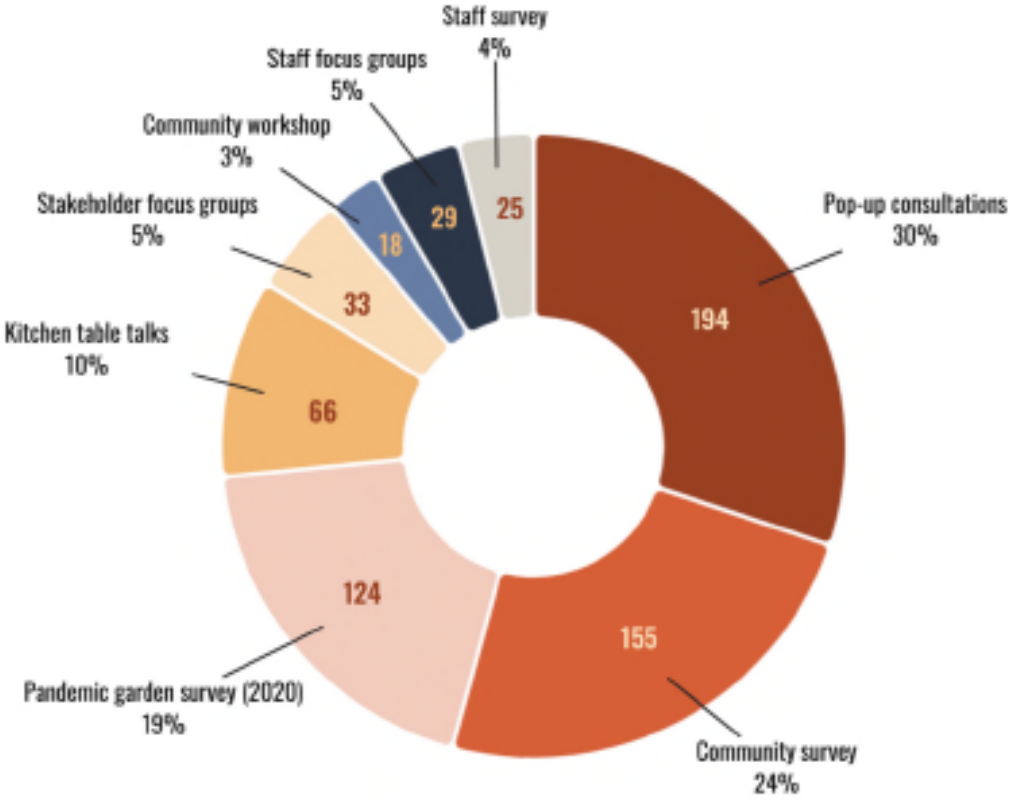
Over 600 community groups and organisations, local business owners, residents and Council staff participated in consultation activities.

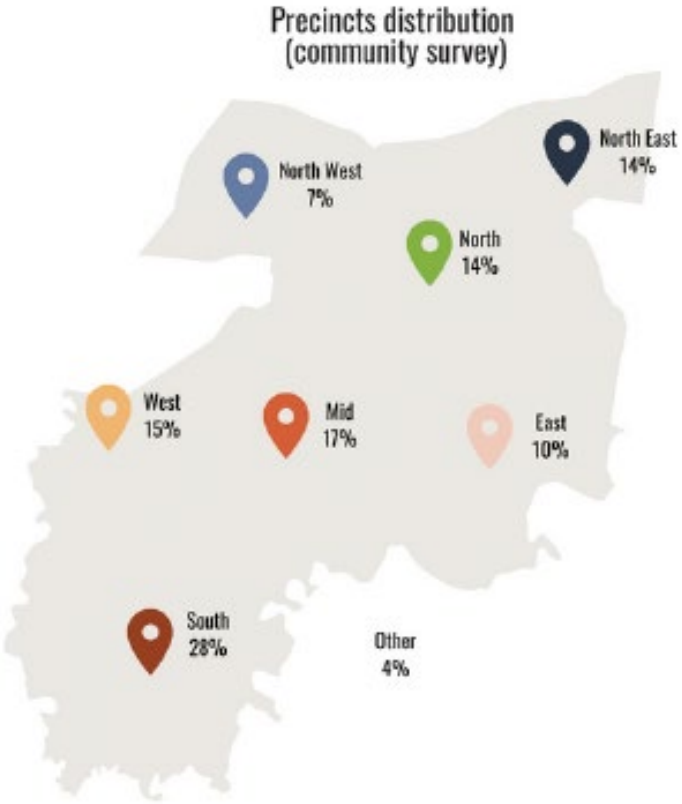


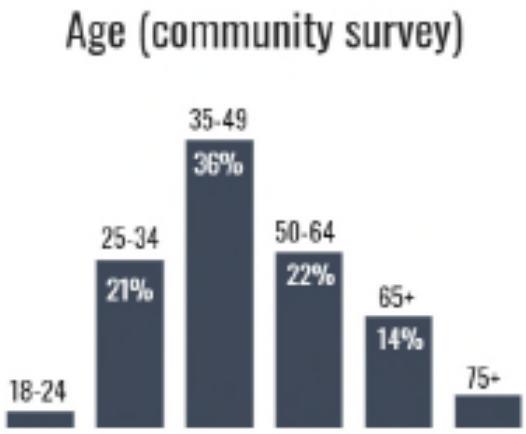
Consultation process

Strategic context	Review and assess global, national, state and local strategies, policies and plans relevant to Banyule's food system. High-level review of best-practice in local government food systems policy and governance nationally and internationally.
Background research	Profile Banyule's food system and assess trends and factors relating to the local economy, health and wellbeing, and socioeconomic status.
Working Group	Regular meetings with Working Group to ensure inclusive consultation, test priorities and provide oversight.
Food system mapping	Mapping of Banyule's food system using Council datasets (including greengrocers, major supermarkets, independent food retailers, food manufacturers and takeaway/fast food outlets) as well as community food assets such as neighbourhood houses, food relief providers, food-based social enterprises, urban farms, food swaps, community gardens and seed libraries.
Pandemic gardening survey	Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data from 124 Banyule respondents captured in Sustain's 2020 pandemic gardening survey.
Community and staff surveys	Analysis of 155 respondents from community survey distributed via Shaping Banyule to assess barriers to accessing healthy and local food, and identify community priorities for Banyule's food system. Staff survey to identify policy synergies, opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration and key priorities and constraints.
Consultation	Consultation and engagement with community representatives, businesses, Council staff and residents to discuss priorities, vulnerabilities and strengths of Banyule's food system. Consultation activities included six focus groups/interviews, six kitchen table talks and seven pop-up sessions around the municipality.
Community workshops	Facilitation of two community workshops to present issues and opportunities identified through the consultation process, identify gaps and seek feedback on the community vision and priority themes and high-level outline of the draft Strategy.
Consultation report	Preparation of report outlining findings from research and consultation process.
Strategy development	Preparation of draft Strategy including vision, themes, objectives, actions and progress indicators. Community feedback on draft Strategy via Shaping Banyule.
Strategy finalisation	Finalisation of Strategy based on community feedback. Council endorsement.

Consultation snapshot







Setting the scene

The big picture

Melbourne is a sprawling city that has lost much of its most productive peri-urban farmland. On current rates of population growth combined with loss of farmland, Melbourne's food producing capacity will reduce by over 50% in the next 25 years. Without clear planning controls and directives to protect vital farmland, we risk losing the agricultural areas that provide Melbourne with an abundance of delicious, fresh produce year-round.[1]

Losing fertile farmland with good access to water and transport hubs close to Melbourne is a key threat to our long-term food security. The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events such as flooding, prolonged droughts and heatwaves place further pressure on agricultural production. Recent research suggests that the yields of some staple grain crops could decline by as much as 24% as soon as 2030 and that the impacts of climate change are happening earlier than expected.

A broader shift to sustainable diets as recommended in the Australian Dietary Guidelines—including greater consumption of minimally processed vegetables, fruits, legumes and seeds and reduced consumption of animal products—would not only reduce the food system's environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions but also improve human health.[2]

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the vulnerability of mainstream food supply chains. Shorter supply chains, enabled by urban and peri-urban agriculture and more localised distribution systems, have proved more resilient and adaptable to transport challenges, labour shortages and other disruptions. Melbourne's growing population, unregulated marketing and availability of unhealthy food and the impacts of climate change all present significant challenges for our collective future. Given these challenges, it makes sense to support and invest in healthier, more localised and resilient food systems within Banyule.



Figure 2 | St Johns Riverside Community Garden

[1] Sheridan, J., Carey, R. and Candy, S. (2016). *Melbourne's Foodprint: What does it take to feed a city?* Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab: The University of Melbourne.

[2] Springmann, M., Spajic, L., Clark, M. A., Poore, J., Herforth, A., Webb, P., ... & Scarborough, P. (2020). The healthiness and sustainability of national and global food based dietary guidelines: modelling study. *British Medical Journal*, 370.

What is an urban food system?

The 'food system' is everything that happens from farm to fork: the network of people, processes and interactions involved in growing, processing, distribution, sale and disposal of food on-farm, in retail settings and at home. The food system is not a linear supply chain from farm to plate. Rather, it is a complex web of relationships that connects everything from soil microbes, plants and animals to health, education and political systems, retail and digital food environments, and the everyday food practices and cultures of nourishment and celebration Figure 2 | Nourish food system map

Figure 3 | Nourish food system map

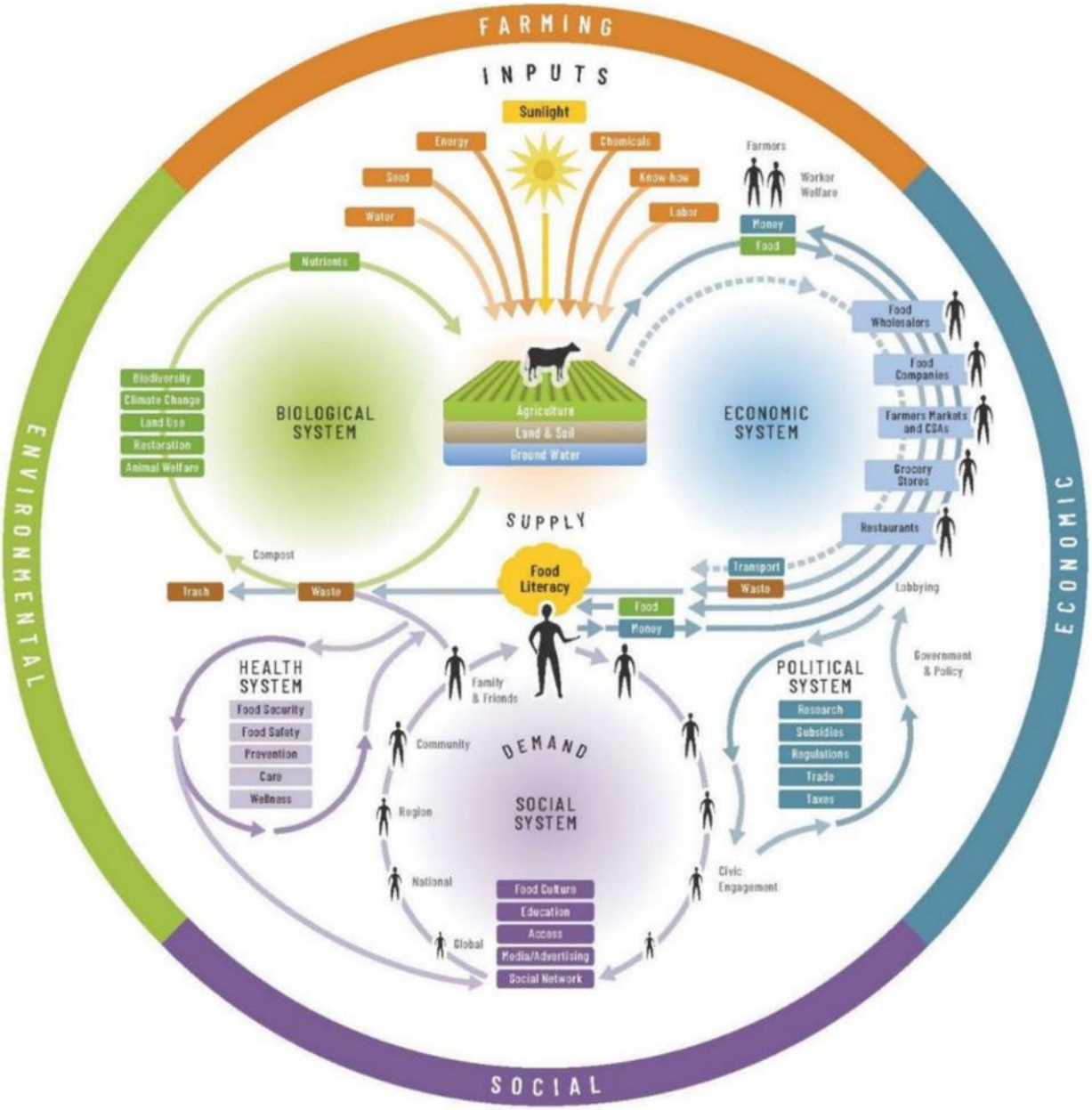


Image credit: Nourish Food System Map, www.nourishlife.org Copyright © WorldLink

The urban environment has a significant influence on human and environmental health. The 'urban food system' describes the systems, processes and networks that influence.

How food moves and is accessed at a local level and is also connected to Melbourne's foodbowl and broader agricultural regions that nourish our municipality. The urban food system includes a wide spectrum of products, people, resources and networks including cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, greengrocers, food manufacturers and other retailers whose offerings include local, Australian and imported products.

There is no one definition of local food. For the purpose of this Urban Food Strategy, local food is defined as food grown and processed in and around the greater Melbourne metropolitan area. The local or community food system includes and is shaped by the many community food organisations, networks and leaders that advocate for and participate in how people interact with, access and consume food. It includes community food assets — productive spaces like backyards, community gardens and urban farms — as well as community kitchens, seed libraries and farmers markets.

A glossary of other food system terminology is provided in Appendix 1.

The Strategic Context

The Urban Food Strategy sits within a broader strategic context relating to the economy, health and wellbeing, environment and planning at the local, state, federal and global level. This broader context reflects the systemic, cross-cutting nature of food systems and the importance of an integrated approach to the implementation of the Urban Food Strategy (see Appendix 2 for more detail).

Community vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 themes

The Urban Food Strategy is strongly aligned with the six priority themes of the *Banyule Community Vision 2041* and Council Plan 2021-2025.



Alignment between other key Council's policies and strategic priorities and the Urban Food Strategy's themes is summarised in Appendix 3. In particular, the objectives and actions presented in this Strategy align with the priorities outlined in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (contained within the Council Plan 2021-2025).

Working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Urban Food Strategy will also support enhance Banyule City Council in working towards the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



The role of Council

Local government has an important role to play in creating a healthy, sustainable, equitable and resilient food system through its responsibilities and functions within planning, community and economic development, governance, regulation, sustainability and health and wellbeing.

Food insecurity, climate change and loss of peri-urban agricultural land are complex problems emerging from many factors beyond Council's control. However, the urgency of these issues highlights the need for strong food system leadership at a local level, including robust advocacy to state and federal government on issues impacting vulnerable members of the community. More research and monitoring are also required to better understand and respond to food insecurity within Banyule.

Good food systems planning and governance requires a whole-of-system, whole-of-organisation and whole-of-community approach. Banyule's first Urban Food Strategy is an opportunity to respond to community

expectations and to provide strategic guidance for implementing targeted initiatives and programs that can create a healthy, sustainable, equitable and resilient food system for all. Through the adoption of this Strategy, Banyule City Council joins other local governments in providing strong food systems leadership and governance for our residents, businesses and visitors as well as contributing to a more sustainable and resilient food system for Victoria.

Long-term change at a systems level can only be achieved through working together with the Banyule community. In the delivery of this Strategy and its Action Plan, Council will play several vital roles, namely:

A **collaborator,** working in partnership with community food organisations, local businesses and other Councils as well as the state and federal governments

An **enabler** and **connector,** supporting the action of community organisations and individuals through grants, training, access to land, networking and coordination of events

An **educator,** creating and sharing information and advice about the urban food system and opportunities to get involved

An **advocate,** representing the interests and needs of the Banyule community to state and federal governments for policy changes that are beyond the direct control of Council

By way of example, the long-term food security of Banyule residents depends in part on protection of peri-urban farmland in the green wedge areas surrounding Melbourne, such as the Yarra Ranges, Mornington Peninsula and Werribee South Market Gardens. Banyule City Council has already demonstrated leadership in advocating on this issue, with motions from Council submitted to and endorsed at both the State Council of the Municipal Association of Victoria and at the national Council of the Australian Local Government Association in May 2023.

Community expectations regarding the role of Council

The Banyule community articulated the following expectations of Council regarding the Urban Food Strategy:

- Develop a vision the whole community can support
- Connect people across the food system (for service delivery, business needs and making the community aware about how they can access emergency food relief)
- Provide opportunities to build relationships so that community members can support each other and share resources
- Assist in cutting through red tape, accessing land and navigating Council policies
- Facilitate and lead community food events
- Provide funding to enable urban food projects

A Snapshot of Banyule's Food System

Our strengths and opportunities



The strength of Banyule's urban food system is its people: a network of knowledgeable and passionate food leaders, educators and volunteers who are keen to connect, open to collaboration and committed to their communities. Local organisations and networks such as Local Food Connect, Sustainable Macleod and the Teachers' Environment Network are firmly committed to a sustainable, healthy and local food system. The Banyule community has a strong desire to work together in creating an urban food system that supports local growers, addresses the challenges of climate change and creates a more equitable, connected community.

Case Study: Local Food Connect

Local Food Connect is a not-for-profit community organisation that has been connecting Banyule growers and eaters for over 10 years. A weekly newsletter shares local food-related events and workshops. The Local Food Connect website includes a local food directory and is a treasure trove of gardening and cooking resources.

Banyule residents enjoy access to abundant open spaces and bushland. They are also a community of passionate and knowledgeable gardeners interested in connecting with others through growing and cooking food together. Edible gardening supports the mental health and wellbeing of Banyule residents as well as local biodiversity, providing habitats and corridors for bees and other beneficial insects. Edible gardening can create more sustainable urban landscapes and enhance the health and wellbeing of our community by encouraging the consumption of fresh produce, physical activity and social connection Banyule residents also benefit from a diverse range of community food assets including urban farms such as Farm Raiser, community meal programs, community gardens, social enterprise cafes, urban food producers, local food manufacturers and artisans.

Neighbourhood houses are also important community food assets, often hosting community gardens, seed libraries, food swaps and food relief services Figure 3 | Community Food Assets provide a strong foundation for collaboration and social connection. They build a shared sense of ownership over the food system, enable community activities and are valuable places for sharing knowledge and resources.

Figure 4 | Community Food Assets



Case Study: Farm Raiser



Farm Raiser is a registered charity running an urban farm in Bellfield, Melbourne. Established by three young farmers, they sell produce to the local community grown on land provided by Waratah Special Development School, connecting farming activities with educational opportunities for students. The purchase of critical infrastructure such as irrigation and polytunnels to establish the farm was made possible via seed funding from Banyule City Council and other smaller grants. Farm Raiser grows fresh, quality vegetables for the local community while having a practical impact on the environment through regenerative agriculture practices that increase biodiversity and honour natural water and carbon cycles. Farm Raiser's farmers are motivated by the need to make good quality food more accessible and to make farming a more inclusive career path to people of all abilities.

Farm Raiser produce is sold via a farm gate on-site, local grocers and a veggie box program. Produce sales are used to cover operational costs, with the long-term aim of financial self-sufficiency. Any profits made will be directed toward food education programs in partnership with Waratah Special Developmental School and other schools.



"We love growing good quality local food, and we work really hard to do so for reasons greater than `really yummy carrots.' The very big purpose of our very little farm is to positively influence and improve the health of both humans and the environment through a fairer food system. The farm offers a sliding scale of payment for our veggie boxes, from free community boxes to upfront payment for the season. Our community boxes are paid for by others in the community, when possible, who can afford a little extra."

(Patrick Turnbull, co-founder of Farm Raiser)

Challenges and vulnerabilities

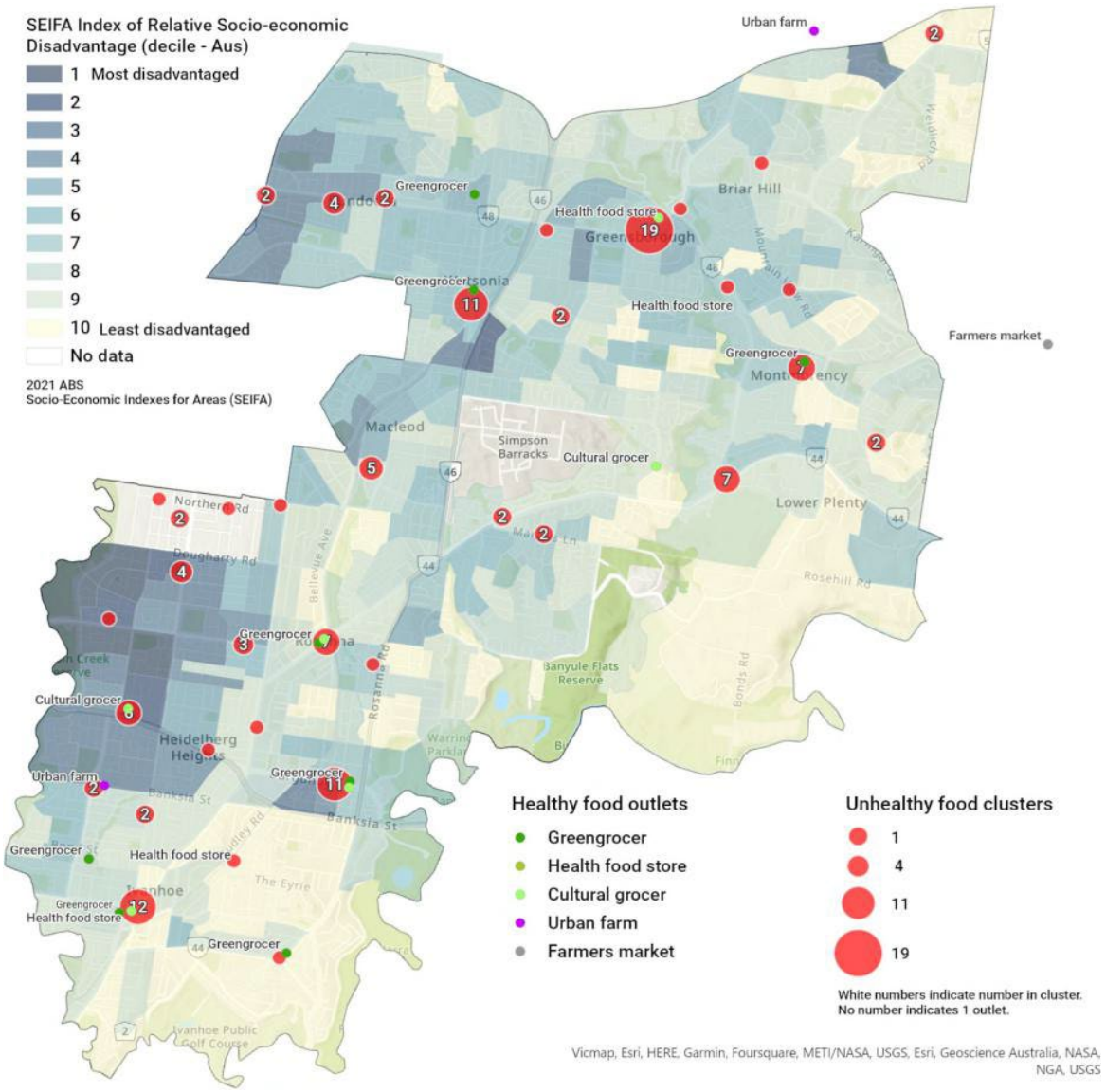
Despite its strengths, Banyule's food system faces many challenges and emerging vulnerabilities. Complex economic and policy dynamics at state and national levels have a direct impact on the wellbeing of Banyule residents.

The pandemic highlighted existing social inequalities, increasing reliance on emergency food relief, particularly amongst more vulnerable people. These include people living on government benefit Nations peoples, students and young people. The last three years have seen sharp rises in food insecurity, placing further pressure on emergency food relief providers working hard to support vulnerable members of the community Banyule Support and Information Service (Heidelberg West) has seen a significant increase in client demand for emergency and food relief services over the past three years, including requests for housing assistance and related difficulties. Diamond Valley Community Support (Greensborough) reported a 22% increase in demand for food relief in the last year. Recent cost-of-living pressures have broadened the demographic of people now experiencing food insecurity and struggling to make ends meet, such as working families and households

experiencing housing stress. Most community food relief organisations depend heavily on volunteers, creating additional vulnerability for the sector. Maintaining a strong volunteer workforce through effective recruitment, management, training and coordination is challenging with limited resources. Some local community groups highlighted volunteer burnout due to insufficient funding. Reliance on volunteers to manage and lead programs leaves many community organisations and associations vulnerable. The Urban Food Strategy is an opportunity to support improved coordination of food relief services and access to information about where to receive support as well as ensuring that community members are not falling through the cracks of existing food relief and social support services.

Banyule's food environment also presents challenges for accessing fresh, affordable food. Unhealthy food outlets are more numerous than healthy food outlets in Banyule and more easily accessible on foot. Suburbs with the highest disadvantage or experiencing significant growth often have a greater proportion of unhealthy outlets[3]. In Banyule, the number of unhealthy food outlets are generally highest in suburbs with the highest disadvantage (indicated by darkest blue areas on Figure 4)[4]. The exception is Ivanhoe which also has a significant number of unhealthy food outlets, though this is balanced by better access to healthy food outlets.

Figure 5 | Unhealthy food outlets clusters



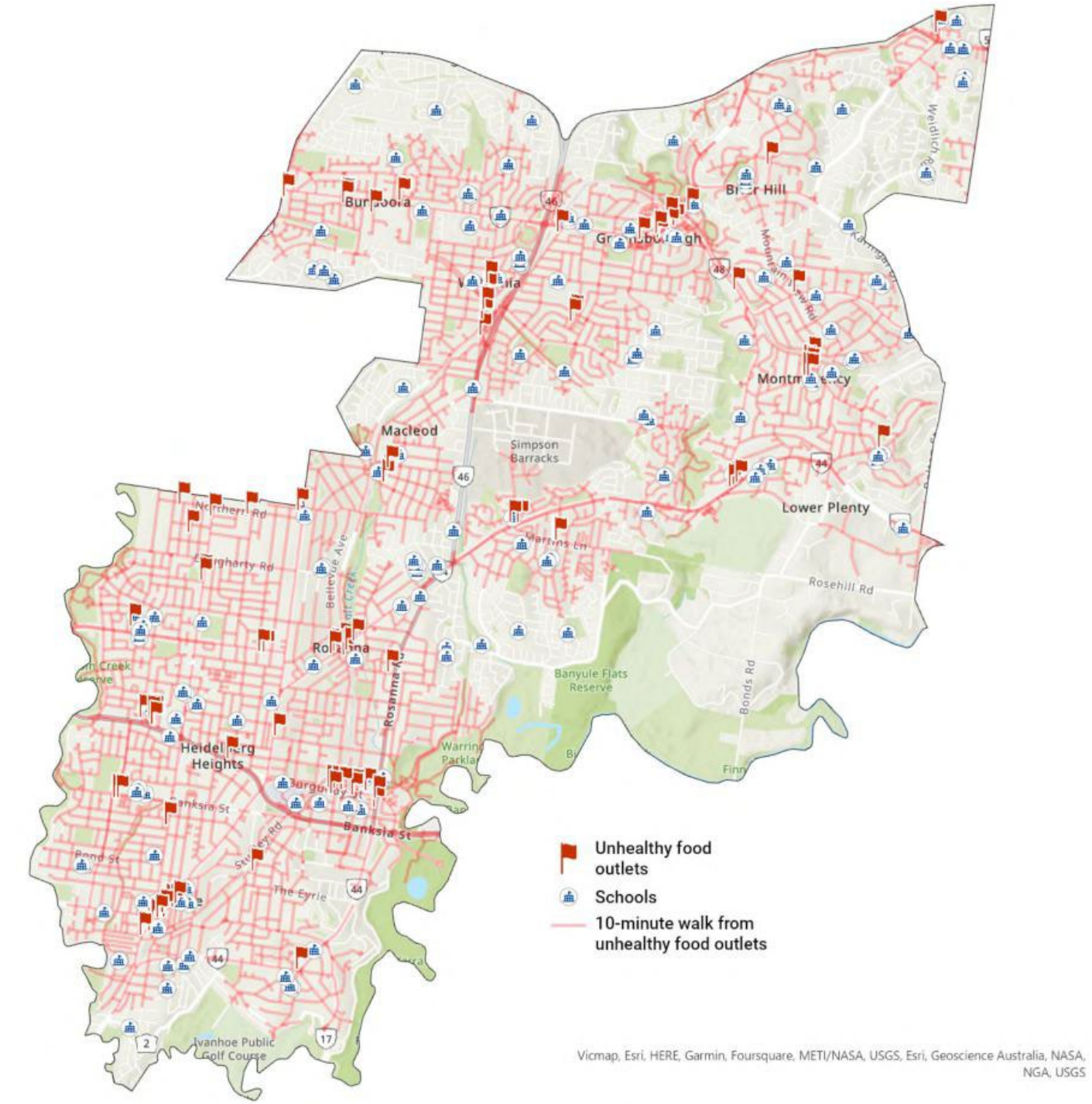
[3] Needham, C., Strugnell, C., Allender, S., & Orellana, L. (2022). Beyond food swamps and food deserts: exploring urban Australian food retail environment typologies. *Public Health Nutrition*, 25(5), 1140-1152.

[4] Unhealthy food outlets were defined as takeaway outlets, fast food chains, convenience stores and confectionary shops (that is, those food businesses focused on food to be consumed off the premises). Healthy food outlets were greengrocers, health food stores, cultural grocers, urban farms and farmers markets that primarily sell fresh produce or culturally appropriate food.

Of particular concern is the proximity of schools to unhealthy food outlets across Banyule, with almost every educational institution (childcare, primary and secondary) within ten-minute walking distance of unhealthy food (Figure 5 | Schools in walking distance to unhealthy food outlets). Food environments saturated with unhealthy food outlets such as takeaway outlets and fast food chains normalise and facilitate the consumption of unhealthy food.

Fast food chains and major supermarkets also reduce the economic diversity that contributes to neighbourhood character. While the major supermarkets are often considered a healthy food outlet, they also offer a wide array of cheap ultra-processed and unhealthy food options.[5]

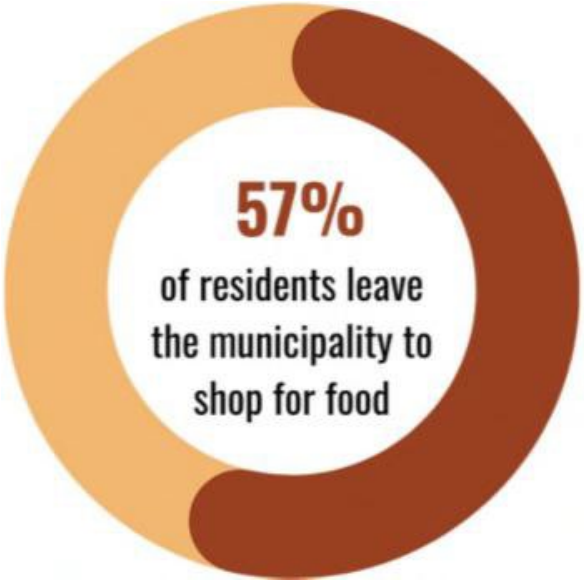
Figure 6 | Schools in walking distance to unhealthy food outlets

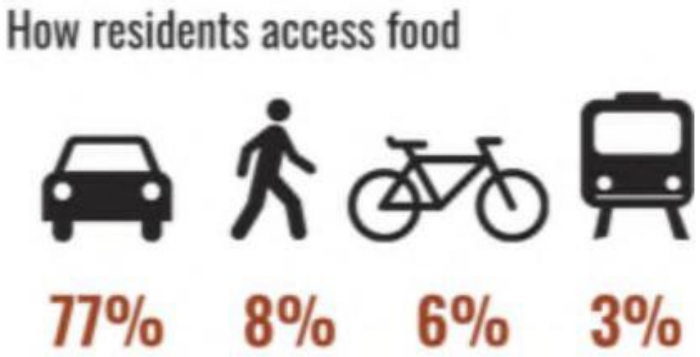


[5] 5 Laznick, N., Shahid, M., Dunford, E., Coyle, D., Taylor, F. and Jones, A. (2021). *FoodSwitch: State of the Food Supply, Australia*. The George Institute for Global Health.

Residents indicated dissatisfaction with currently available options for healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food in many areas of Banyule. This especially applies to a perceived lack of greengrocers and cultural food outlets (such as Asian and Indian grocers). A lack of food retail diversity has implications for health and wellbeing and food security, especially for lower income neighbourhoods.

Over half of community survey respondents report regularly leaving the municipality to purchase food. Most drive to purchase food, while only 8% walk and 6% ride a bike. Limited access to retail outlets at the neighbourhood level exacerbates the main barriers to choosing healthy food options for Banyule residents: time, cost, access and affordability.





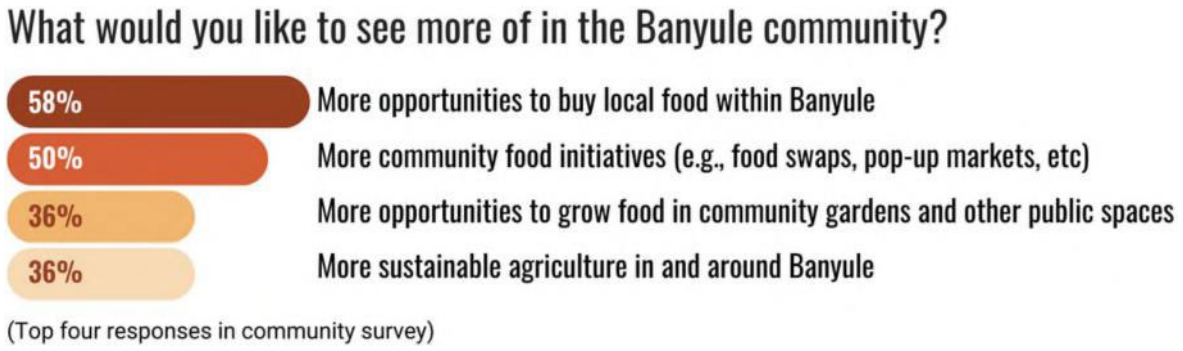


The Urban Food Strategy provides Banyule City Council an opportunity to work with residents in planning for healthy and sustainable neighbourhoods in which residents can access their food needs within twenty minutes of their home on foot, by bicycle or on public transport. More local greengrocers, butchers, bulk food stores and community or farmers markets in Banyule would improve access to fresh and affordable food, reduce food packaging, support more walkable communities, foster social connection at a neighbourhood level and strengthen the local food economy. These outcomes are strongly aligned with strategic priorities articulated in Banyule's Walking Strategy, Economic Development Strategy and Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies.

Themes and objectives

A strong and supported Banyule urban food system offers many benefits that can improve public dietary and mental health, reduce environmental impact and address climate change, support Banyule's local economy and build community connection and resilience. By investing in its urban food system, Banyule City Council can work with local businesses, organisations and community members to create a healthier, more sustainable future for themselves and for future generations.

The Strategy's five key themes and objectives will work towards achieving the Banyule community food vision as well as the top priorities identified through the community consultation process.



Theme 1: An inclusive, connected food community

Access to good food is a basic necessity and a fundamental human right. Food is also a tool for connection, celebration and inclusion of diverse cultural identities. Banyule residents value food as central to their social lives and connection to community. They wish to see food recognised and valued for its unique role in community building.

A strong urban food system creates a shared sense of purpose, increases community participation and builds social cohesion. Food festivals and celebrations strengthen knowledge of and appreciation for the diverse cultures that comprise the Banyule community.

Food relief agencies play an important role in supporting the most vulnerable members of the community. Tackling food insecurity in ways that provide dignified access to good food is important to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable community members in Banyule. Effective coordination and integration of social support services and food relief agencies is critical to ensuring nobody falls between the cracks. Tackling food insecurity in ways that uphold dignity and respect for the individual will strengthen mental health and wellbeing amongst vulnerable community members in Banyule. Aboriginal gathering places such as Barrbunin Beek provide a dedicated space for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to share food and culture.

Food insecurity increased sharply during the pandemic and continues to rise with the recent cost-of-living crisis. Residents are concerned about rates of food insecurity in Banyule and want everyone in the community to have access to good food.

Case Study: Barrbunin Beek

Barrbunin Beek, meaning 'happy place' in the Woiwurrung language, is a space for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to come together. A dedicated men's group, women's group and Elders' group enable people to celebrate and share knowledge and culture with a sense of community ownership. The food hampers and hot breakfasts provide an opportunity for people to connect and gather around a shared meal.

Key objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen dignified access to good food across the community

Objective 2: Celebrate and connect the community through food

Objective 3: Strengthen connections and participation across the community food sector

Objective 4: Prioritise First Nations foodways and connection to Country.

Community voice

> "We need to slow down and create the environment that supports people – yes, physically and nutritionally, but also psychologically back to being in our community."
>
> – Montmorency resident
>
> (kitchen table talk)

> "We can't keep up with the food demand"
>
> – participant from Watsonia Neighbourhood House (kitchen table talk)

> "We've lost our older people guiding our younger people.
>
> (...) There is a role for older people to be with younger people and food is a key part of that."
>
> – Montmorency resident
>
> (kitchen table talk)

Theme 2: A thriving local food economy

Supporting independent food retailers and manufacturers along with hospitality businesses can help stimulate the local economy, create jobs and improve livelihoods.[6] A more localised food system can also build resilience so it is less susceptible to shocks and disruption.[7]

Strong community demand to shop locally is a clear opportunity for creating a thriving food economy. There are also opportunities to leverage connections between industry sub-sectors such as food retailing and food/beverages services and other growth sectors such as the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster,[8] the La Trobe University City of the Future[9] and master planning processes for the Heidelberg West Business Park.[10] A diversity of independent food retailing offering access to fresh produce and other everyday food items can encourage employees within these economic clusters to shop locally and support local food businesses.

A strong urban food economy can also provide valuable opportunities for training, education and engagement with students and young people, particularly for urban food growing, value-adding and hospitality. Collaboration with training providers and food-based social enterprises can create pathways to future employment and local business development. This presents clear synergies with the Social Enterprise Action Plan and the Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy.

Facilitating collaboration between educators, urban farms and community gardens can help embed sustainable food systems and food production into existing professional development sessions for teachers and school curriculum. This can also contribute to building food systems literacy, skills and knowledge within the broader community.

Key objectives

Objective 5: Support greater access to shorter supply chains and Victorian produce

Objective 6: Support and diversify Banyule's local food economy

Objective 7: Encourage a vibrant, skilled and sustainable food sector

[6] n,-,enedek, Z., Ferto, I., & Szente, V. (2020). The multiplier effects of food relocalization: A systematic review. *Sustainability*, 12(9), 3524.

[7] Smith, K., Lawrence, G., MacMahon, A., Muller, J., & Brady, M. (2016). The resilience of long and short food chains: a case study of flooding in Queensland, Australia. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 33, 45-60.

[8] Victorian Planning Authority. La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster.

[9] Latrobe University. (2022). University City of the Future: A city set to transform lives.

[10] Discover the Heidelberg West Business Park.

Case Study: For Change Café, Bellfield

Located in the new Bellfield Community Hub, For Change Cafe provides a warm and inviting meeting spot for the community as well as training and employment opportunities to local young people who are at-risk of homelessness. With a strong focus on affordability and environmental sustainability, For Change Cafe specialises in high-quality coffee and delicious vegetarian meals and is committed to reducing its ecological impact by composting coffee grinds and food waste. All profits go towards supporting programs to alleviate youth homelessness. For Change Cafe is a wonderful example of how social enterprise, social justice and good food can come together.



Case Study: Teacher's Environment Network (TEN)

The TEN, coordinated by Banyule and Nillumbik Councils, provides valuable professional development opportunities for teachers in environmental education and sustainability. There are opportunities to build more food content within TEN activities and connect teachers to local community gardens and urban farms. With support from Council, these activities could build communities of practice and provide a platform for educators and community food leaders to collaborate and build a shared sense of ownership over the food system.

Community voice

> "I participate in the veg boxes by Farm Raiser, and the fact that they deliver is central to my ability to access / participate. I don't have a car, so I always find it hard to get to local farms and/or pick up veg boxes on a regular basis [...] So the fact that they deliver and select all the veg is important. I also like that it's transparently local. It's clear where things are coming from. It's also comparably priced to supermarkets.
>
> Finally, I like that it's run by young people."
>
> – Bellfield resident (community survey)

> "An affordable bulk store would be great, but it takes funding to get off the ground.
>
> Attempts to get buying groups started have stalled because it's just too much work to do voluntarily. There's no space to store foods and it takes funds to buy heaps up front."
>
> – Heidelberg West (kitchen table talk)

> "As an organisation, the City of Banyule is right to do this. There are big opportunities in Open Space, and with the new Economy Development Strategy [and the La Trobe NEIC], the timing is perfect."
>
> – Council manager (focus group)

Theme 3: Planning for healthy and sustainable food systems

Healthy and sustainable urban food systems do not happen by chance. They are the result of good planning processes that embed food systems thinking into precinct planning, neighbourhood character and housing strategies and liveability initiatives. Food systems planning processes are strengthened when they are co-designed with communities and local businesses.

Walkable access to independent food retailers creates more active and liveable communities. Neighbourhood stores offering affordable, fresh, seasonal produce and low packaging food options (such as bulk food outlets) contribute to a healthier and more sustainable food system. A study comparing fresh produce prices in farmers markets, supermarkets and greengrocers across Victoria found greengrocers were "significantly cheaper" than supermarkets but offered "the same availability of fresh fruit and vegetables as supermarkets."[11] Farmers markets were also often more affordable than supermarkets for seasonal produce. Both greengrocers and farmers markets sell fewer ultra-processed and unhealthy food options compared to major supermarkets and can therefore play an important role in supporting healthier and more sustainable communities.[12]

Greengrocers and other smaller food retailers have the added benefit of building community connections through the personal relationships they develop with customers over time. The importance of small shops in building community relationships was noted by the Barrbunin Beek community.

Encouraging healthy food options in Council-owned and managed facilities is a good starting point for demonstrating how other institutions and workplaces can contribute to creating healthier food environments for the community.

Sustainable urban food systems also require effective strategies for minimising food waste and creating more circular economies. Residents appreciate Council's FOGO initiative and would like to see the scheme expanded to apartments, businesses and in public places. Community composting systems, like those operating in the cities of Melbourne and Merri-Bek, offer examples for applying circular economy principles to food waste management and supporting nutrient cycling within the Banyule community.

Key objectives

Objective 8: Co-design neighbourhood food retailing environments with local

communities

Objective 9: Integrate food into planning processes to support access to healthy and

affordable food

Objective 10: Encourage healthy eating and food environments

Objective 11: Enhance the ecological health of the local food system

[11] Abley, S., Cassar, O., Khinsoe, E., Marks, L., Vanderzwan, O., Palermo, C., & Kleve, S. (2020). Do Farmers' Markets Offer Consumers an Available and Affordable Supply of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Compared to Other Retail Outlets in Australia? *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 15(6), 827-834.

[12] Laznick, N., Shahid, M., Dunford, E., Coyle, D., Taylor, F. and Jones, A. (2021*). FoodSwitch: State of the Food Supply, Australia*. The George Institute for Global Health.

Community voice

I would like to see more healthy and sustainable hospitality venues in Banyule. If we are not cooking at home, we are very limited in healthy eating options and often have to compromise on our healthy eating preferences."

– Lower Plenty resident (community survey)

"Residents need to hold councils accountable to create more fairness and to implement sustainability policies encompassing food security, environmental protection...safe and secure public transport, bike tracks and pedestrian walkways... After all, the physical and psychosocial health of the community is at the core of thriving communities and must be in the local and national interest."

Heidelberg resident (pandemic gardening survey)

Regarding the planning department, we need stronger policies or by-laws that support small-scale food production."

– Food business owner (focus group)

Theme 4: Abundant edible landscapes

Edible gardening is a powerful tool for enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community. It encourages the consumption of fresh produce and supports nutritional diversity. From children to the elderly, gardening is a beneficial physical activity and regarded as a 'nature-based solution' for building social and ecological connection in ways that enhance mental health and wellbeing.[13] As a source of delicious, fresh produce, edible gardening can encourage dietary and nutritional diversity. [14][14]

Edible gardening also builds food literacy. Households, community groups and schools that grow food are more likely to understand how the production, preparation, consumption and disposal of food are connected. Edible gardening can also support community climate action in Banyule by encouraging composting, which turns organic waste into delicious and nutritious food.

The Banyule community would like to see more spaces for edible gardening and to ensure that residents in all dwelling types have equal opportunity to grow food. Over a third of community survey respondents do not currently have a garden but would like to learn more about growing food and have access to growing spaces. Council support for the My Smart Garden program could be a welcome additional source of workshops for many Banyule home gardeners. Council has an important role to play in supporting neighbourhood houses, community gardens and other food-growing spaces to host seed saving, gardening, composting and cooking workshops that bring people together and enable the sharing of knowledge, recipes and culture.

Integrating edible spaces into new housing developments and urban forests could contribute to multiple health and sustainability outcomes. Encouraging the planting of edible native plants can also provide opportunities to integrate Indigenous foodways and culture into the local community and Banyule's urban environments.

Better access to locally grown food can be encouraged through a local planning scheme that supports more urban farms. A strong advocacy agenda to preserve Melbourne's peri-urban agriculture land in the state planning framework is also important to ensuring that Banyule residents can access seasonal produce and support Victorian farmers now and into the future.

Key objectives

Objective 12: Expand access to edible food spaces

Objective 13: Empower the community to grow, cook, preserve and share food

Objective 14: Support local and regional food production

[13] Kingsley, J. et al. (2021). Urban agriculture as a nature-based solution to address socio-ecological challenges in Australian cities. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 60: 127059.

[14] Donati, K. and Rose, N. (2020). *"Every seed I plant is a wish for tomorrow" Findings and Action Agenda from the 2020 National Pandemic Gardening Survey*. Sustain: The Australian Food Network.

Community voice

Banyule is ripe for home gardens since we have lots of single houses with big backyards."

– Council manager (focus group)

"Public spaces... I would like to see the Council supporting nature strip gardening (edible and indigenous planting) and producing some guidelines on this." – Heidelberg West resident (community survey)

"When I walk past these little patches, like parks with one swing that no-one ever uses... I look at them and think: this could be an orchard, this could be a herb garden, this could be an interactive children's play space with food in it, that the local community supports and uses and benefits from. It just seems so obvious, that there's all this gorgeous land that isn't utilised. And it's ours -- not council's -- we, the community, contribute to that land through our rates." – Montmorency resident (kitchen table talk)

Theme 5: Good food governance

Good governance is key to the Banyule's Urban Food Strategy because it enables the systems, resources and people required to support the Strategy's implementation. This includes managing and responding to community expectations, values and needs; providing a coordination function; collaborating with the community; and ensuring policy coherence and alignment across Council strategies, policies and plans to avoid the siloed thinking that hampers effective implementation.[15]

Strong leadership support is an essential element of good food system governance to ensure effective policy development and coherent implementation.[16] This enables the mobilisation of resources (financial and human) along with collaborative internal and external partnerships and governance mechanisms.

Banyule already benefits from a strong and committed community food sector that seeks to work more closely together and with Council. Council has an important role to play in raising the visibility of food system issues and facilitating diverse community food initiatives, projects and stakeholders in Banyule. Working closely with community stakeholders contributes to more effective coordination and encourages mutually reinforcing activities across shared agendas.

Strong participation and interest in the consultation process indicates that many Banyule residents are already engaged with and supportive of the Urban Food Strategy. Maintaining a strong profile for the Urban Food Strategy within Council and across the community will build on public support and community awareness of its benefits and provide opportunities for strengthening community partnerships. Regular communication about Council's implementation actions will encourage accountability and build trust.

Effective urban food strategy implementation requires a whole-of-organisation approach. Strong strategic alignment with other Council priorities, policies and action plans will ensure that the Strategy's Action Plan complements and reinforces the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

An internal Urban Food Strategy Working Group will ensure a cohesive, whole-of-Council approach to implementation. An external Urban Food Working Group (coordinated by the Banyule Council) comprising of key stakeholders and community food leaders will provide the robust framework for ensuring collaborative governance, guiding action and supporting coordination.

[15] Sonnino, R. (2019). The cultural dynamics of urban food governance. City, Culture and Society, 16, 12-17.

[16] Coulson, H., & Sonnino, R. (2019). Re-scaling the politics of food: Place-based urban food governance in the UK. Geoforum, 98, 170-179.

Key objectives

Objective 15: Demonstrate strong leadership support and engagement

Objective 16: Engage in collaborative governance and coordination with community members

Objective 17: Enable strategic integration and policy cohesion through a whole of council approach

Objective 18: Ensure effective resourcing, investment and data collection

Community voice

> "Council has a role to play in addressing food systems, but it requires a collaborative partnership approach with community, industry and government."
>
> – Council employee (staff survey)

> "Council could take a role in helping to facilitate the conversation and dialogue in the community around food insecurity."
>
> – Emergency food relief provider (focus group)

> "There needs to be oversight over the strategy and sub-working groups to drive implementation of actual Policies."
>
> – Council employee (focus group)

Monitoring Our Progress

This is Council's first Urban Food Strategy. It has been shaped by rapid socioeconomic change due to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis which has contributed to considerable vulnerability within the Banyule community. Given the continued uncertainties we collectively face, responsiveness to community needs and changing circumstances is critical. This requires an approach to monitoring and evaluation that enables Council to respond to emerging issues and opportunities and ensure the objectives of the Urban Food Strategy can inform future policy development across Council.

Banyule's Urban Food Strategy Action Plan identifies key actions and timeframes for the next four years across the five priority themes. Indicators and data sources provide a framework for evaluating progress. Progress against the Action Plan will be reviewed and reported on annually by Council and disseminated to Councillors and with the Internal Urban Food Strategy Working Group. The external Urban Food Working Group will also support ongoing monitoring and evaluation in collaboration with organisations and groups that are leading actions outlined in the Urban Food Strategy Action Plan. Annual 'check-ins' with both governance groups will embed a collaborative approach to monitoring and evaluating process and ensure the Strategy remains responsive to changing needs.

At the end of the four years, Banyule will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Strategy's outcomes and impacts against the indicators under the objectives and activities outlined in the Action Plan. A review of data collected by Council over the four years will be undertaken in consultation with stakeholders, and evaluation findings will be presented in a written report.

Appendixes

Appendix 1: Glossary

Community garden

Public or private land gardened for food growing by a group, most or all of whom are volunteers and local residents. Typically gardeners have their own plots (allotments), although there are many community gardens where some or most of the garden may be worked collectively.

Food insecurity

Food insecurity is deemed to exist when the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire food in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain. Food insecurity exists on a spectrum. A person or household may experience anxiety about running out of food. This may result in buying lower quality and/or unhealthy foods, skipping meals or reducing meal sizes to avoid going without food or to ensure other family members (such as children) have enough to eat.[17] Severe food insecurity is when a person or household experiences hunger due to insufficient food. Food insecurity has significant implications for mental and physical health.

Food literacy / food systems literacy

Describes the proficiency in food-related skills and knowledge necessary to make informed food decisions.[18] This can include the ability to interpret food labels, cook or plan nutritious meals. Food literacy can be developed in many different contexts, including family, educational and cultural environments. Food systems literacy includes awareness of the social, cultural, environmental and political aspects of the food system and the capacity to make decisions or develop interventions that contribute to its health, equity and sustainability.

Food security

Food security exists when people have secure and stable physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and cultural preferences for an active and healthy life.[19]

Food system

The food system includes everything from farming, food processing, transportation and the selling of food to how we buy, enjoy and dispose of food. The food system. influences how we eat, what foods are available to us and how it is marketed and distributed.

Food system governance

This describes "the broad range of policies, laws, regulations, and de facto practices that shape and influence the nature and orientation of our food systems. [It] involves both explicit rules and implicit practices, customs, and assumptions related to who and what is considered part of a food system, who should be included in governance decisions, and in what ways."[20]

---

[17] Victorian Agency for Health Information. (2017). Challenges to healthy eating – food insecurity in Victoria: findings from the 2014 Victorian Population Health Survey. Melbourne, Victoria.

[18] Truman, E., Lane, D., & Elliott, C. (2017). Defining food literacy: A scoping review. *Appetite*, 116, 365-371.

[19] Mehta, L., Cordeiro-Netto, O., Oweis, T., Ringler, C., Schreiner, B., & Varghese, S. (2014). *High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Project Team for the report on Water and Food Security*. Committee on World Food Security.

[20] Levkoe, C., Andrée, P., Ballamingie, P., Tasala, K., Wilson, A., & Korzun, M. (2023). Civil society engagement in food systems governance in Canada: Experiences, gaps, and possibilities. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 12(2), 267-286.

Good food

Although food preferences may be individual and cultural, good food is the result of a food system that enhances human and ecological health, builds community connectedness, meets cultural needs, contributes to nutritional and dietary diversity, strengthens connections between the local and regional economy and supports economic participation through living wages and fair working conditions. This definition draws on the principles outlined in Scotland's *Good Food Nation Act* (2022).

Healthy food

This refers to a wide variety of food in accordance with the Australian Dietary Guidelines, balanced against the body's requirements for growth, metabolism and physical activity across the life stages, and consumed regularly and consistently without periods of over consumption or severe restriction.

Local food

Local food includes food grown or processed within and around Banyule, including in backyards, community gardens and urban farms. However it also includes Victorian produce and food products that are marketed, distributed and sold in farmers markets, local retailers or other social or economic systems that exist outside the mainstream supermarket sector.

Local food system

A food system that provides for most or all of its components (production, processing, distribution, access, consumption and waste recovery) to occur in the same region or local area. For the purposes of this Strategy, 'local' food includes food produced within 100 kms of the boundaries of metropolitan Melbourne.

Urban agriculture

The growing of food in urban areas such as fruits, vegetables, herbs and Indigenous food and medicine plants. This can be at the small scale, household level or involve neighbourhoods, communities, businesses and entire towns or cities.[21]

[21] Mougeot, L.J. (2000). *Urban agriculture: definition, presence, potentials and risks, and policy challenges*. International Development Research Centre.

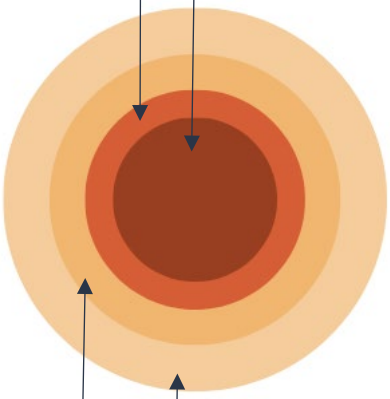
Appendix 2: Strategic Context

State

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
- Planning and Environment Act
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- 20 Minute Neighbourhoods: Creating a more liveable Melbourne
- Urban Design Guidelines for Melbourne
- Land Use Framework Plans
- Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021
- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021
- Climate Change Act 2017
- Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing Strategic Plan 2022-23
- Social Procurement Framework
- Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines 2.0
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
- Recycling Victoria: A new economy 2020
- Food Relief Taskforce 2021
- VicHealth Local Government Partnership 2021
- Consensus statement: towards a healthy, regenerative and equitable food system for Victoria 2022

Local

- Banyule Community Vision 2041
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- Banyule Planning Scheme
- Community Climate Action Plan 2020
- Towards Zero Waste Management Plan 2019-2023
- Inclusive Banyule 2022-2026
- Public Open Space Plan 2016-2031
- Interim Social and Affordable Housing Policy
- Banyule Social Infrastructure Framework
- Social Enterprise Strategy 2020-2025
- Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy 2020-2025
- Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028
- Procurement Policy 2021-2025
- Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2032
- Walking Strategy 2018-2028
- Community Infrastructure Plan 2023-2032
- Community Engagement Policy
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan



National

- National Waste Policy and Action Plan (2019)
- Australian Dietary Guidelines (2013, 2019)
- Climate Change - Powering Australia

International

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Milan Urban Food Policy Act
- G40 Good Food Cities Declaration
- UN Single-Use Plastics: a roadmap for sustainability

Appendix 3: Alignment between key themes and Council's policies and strategic priorities

Urban Food Strategy themes	Opportunities for strategic and policy alignment
Theme 1 **An inclusive and connected community**	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 Partnership Framework / Neighbourhood House Strategy 2022 Arts and Culture Strategic Plan Older Adults Strategic Plan Community Engagement Policy Neighbourhood Character Strategy (draft) Community Infrastructure Plan 2023-2033 (draft)
Theme 2 **A thriving local food economy**	Community Climate Action Plan 2020 Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028 Social Enterprise Action Plan 2020-2025 Banyule Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy 2020-2025 Neighbourhood Character Strategy (draft)
Theme 3 **Planning for healthy and sustainable food environments**	Banyule Planning Scheme Walking Strategy 2018-2028 Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028 Towards Zero Waste Management Plan 2019-2023 Community Climate Action Plan 2020 Banyule Inclusive Local Jobs Strategy 2020-2025 Banyule Social Infrastructure Framework 2022-2023 Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2032 Neighbourhood Character Strategy (draft)
Theme 4 **Abundant edible landscapes**	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 Partnership Framework / Neighbourhood House Strategy 2022 Public Open Space Plan 2016-2031 Banyule Social Infrastructure Framework 2022-2023 Biodiversity Plan 2019-2022 Community Climate Action Plan 2020 Neighbourhood Character Strategy (draft) Urban Forest Strategy (draft) Community Infrastructure Plan 2023-2033 (draft)
Theme 5 **Good food system governance**	Inclusive Banyule Plan 2022-2026 Community Engagement Policy