

Food Matters in Urban Planning

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EDUCATION • NETWORKING • ADVOCACY • RESEARCH

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Sydney Food Fairness Alliance

working towards food security and sustainable food systems



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- SFFA: Advocacy, education, research and networking
- SFFA members working across sectors in: health, aged care, community services, local government, agriculture, education, community gardens, organic food organisations, media, religion, & urban planning
- Formed in 2003, & incorporated
- Food Fairness Forum at Liverpool in 2004
- Launch at Parliament House in 2006
- 650 people attended community consultation Summit lead up events in Lawson, Illawarra, Sydney, Wyong, Macarthur
- Sydney Food Summit October 2009 – over 200 attendees
- Sydney Food Declaration delivered to Parliament House

Issues? The SFFA is currently interested in...

- Food security matters
- Raising awareness of food insecurity (yes, it's here)
- Community connectedness eg. gardens, co-ops, eating
- Advocate retention of productive urban agricultural land
- Fairer policies and practice that promote our aims Eg *How do we ensure healthier people and places?*
- Advocacy for local, State and/or National Food Policy

SFFA submissions to public inquiries include:

- The Metropolitan Strategy 2005
- The ACCC grocery prices enquiry in March 08
- City of Sydney 2030 Vision
- Phillip Bay Community Gardens
- The Senate Inquiry into Food Production in Australia in October - subsequently 4 SFFA members presented to the inquiry in March 2009
- Re: Proposal to sell Hurlstone Agricultural School
- Brisbane City Plan
- Submission to Human Rights Commission Enquiry re a Bill of Rights for Australia (advocated inclusion of adequate nutrition as a basic human right)

What do we mean by...

- **Food security?**

... when all people at all times have the ability to access and prepare sufficient, safe, appropriate, nutritious and affordable food necessary for an active and healthy life

- **Sustainable food systems?**

...systems that make use of regional agriculture, technology, distribution and economic methods that enable food to be produced and fairly shared over a long period of time

... today's food production should not undermine the rights of future generations to be food secure.

Meeting nutrient requirements

- Food insecurity may rise with increasing mortgage stress & high rentals
- Remote Aboriginal communities: fewer healthy food choices
- Family on average income needs 22% of income for groceries
- Households in lowest income bracket need 56% of their income to purchase a healthy food basket (Cancer Council)
- Food deserts: few fresh food outlets in urban areas
- Running on Empty Project (SSWAHS, 2004) in 3 low income areas of in SW Sydney found:
 - 21.9% of households had experienced food insecurity
 - 30% of households with children were food insecure
 - 45% of single parent households were food insecure.

How secure is our local food supply?

- By 2050, Australia will be faced with feeding 36 million people.
- For the first time, Australia is now importing more fruit and vegetables than it exports.
- Last year, \$826 million worth of food came into the country while \$749 million worth went out.
- Most comes from New Zealand, but increasingly garlic, peas, broccoli, cauliflower, beans and corn are being sourced from China
- Rising land prices in Hawkesbury, Penrith, Wollondilly, Wyong, Gosford, Blue Mountains
- Hawkesbury (2009) has 482 ha in vegetables: since 1998 area in vegs fallen by 65%: number of farms declined 58%
- Wollondilly veg farms fallen by 50%, area in veg by 75%

Increasing in Food Prices

- Reported increases in Sydney over 4 years
- Increase in food prices, especially vegetables, does not appear to be going to producers

CPI	11.07%
Milk	31.7%
Bread	23.0%
Fish	19.15%
Eggs	14.5%
Fruit	12.8%
Vegetables	12.5%
Poultry	-3.95%

Increasing World Food prices

- Attributed to drought, use of grain for biofuels
- Growing markets of India & China
- Rice shortage in Bangladesh in 2008
- Increase in price of wheat: estimates from 80% to five times
- Global food production will have to double over the next 40 years to avoid major deficits in food supply

World Urbanisation & Food supply

- 50% of current world population in cities
- 60% by 2015
- Cities worldwide are producing 30% of food consumed by residents
- 800 million people worldwide are engaged in urban agriculture

Sydney Basin peri urban farms

- The Sydney Basin became the 'food bowl' for Sydney & continues to contribute to Sydney's fresh food supply with access to water, close to transport and markets.
- Highly productive fertile land generates over \$5,000 per hectare PA compared with \$135 per hectare across rural lands in NSW
- Increasing urban sprawl threatens the local fresh food supply for the Sydney region
- Approx 2,000 small family farms, many 5 acres or less
- 90% farmers from CALD background including Maltese, Italian, Lebanese, Chinese, Vietnamese. A settlement opportunity for many immigrants (Parker, 2009)
- Many cannot read English but are entrepreneurial & skilled
- Agriculture provides employment for about 12,000 people

Value of Sydney Basin agriculture

Sydney Basin produces 16% of the state's vegetables on approx 2% of the area of NSW. Farmgate value \$1M PA

- 91% Asian vegetables
- 90% parsley
- 82% mushrooms
- 75% capsicum & chillies
- 70% cucumbers
- 63% basil & coriander
- 61% cabbages
- Approx 50% lettuce
- 70% fresh tomatoes
- 40% poultry
- 100% duck production
- plus fruits, berries, nuts, dairy produce, flowers, turf, oysters

Metropolitan Strategy

- Metropolitan Strategy plans to develop an area the size of Canberra, which could result in a loss of biodiversity, & some of the most productive agricultural land in Australia.
- Sydney Basing growers have access to water, and is close to transport and markets, keeping prices lower.
- The combined SW and NW designated growth centres contain approximately 52% of Sydney's vegetable farms
- Metropolitan Strategy needs clear strategy for local food production /agriculture for a secure food supply for a sustainable Sydney.
- Metropolitan Strategy acknowledges agriculture, but designates housing on food lands -

Food supply and climate change

- Australia: only 10 per cent is suitable for growing food.
- Sydney Basin has high rainfall. The drought is predicted to continue west of Sydney.
- Food production footprint is huge: with external costs from cleared land, transportation, water supply & soil health.
- Climate change, left unchecked, could reduce Australia's agricultural productivity up to 27pc over the next 75 years.
- Estimates that global warming will cut agricultural productivity worldwide by between 3pc and 19pc by 2080
- Food yields are in decline worldwide, e.g. rice & cereals, in poor countries due to rain, hail, drought, pests etc
- In Australia emissions from Agriculture accounted for 16% net emissions in 04 increasing to 23% when energy, transport & waste were added.
- Potential climate change impacts include food shortages reduced fish stocks, increased food borne disease.

Constraints & opportunities

- Land use planning law can regulate land in the public interest
- Environmental Planning Instruments (EPIs) control development in rural areas, regulate & protect neighbours from adverse impacts. Account for ESD
- The EPAA can be used to protect damage to natural resources including fertile agricultural land
- Zoning & security of tenure for peri urban food lands
- Local Environment Plans (LEPs) e.g. Farmgate sales
- LEPS could identify urban food production areas
- NSW Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture & Agriculture SEPP
- Metropolitan Strategy - for review in 2010

City farms & community gardens provide social, economic, health and environmental benefits

NSW examples

- Randwick, Marrickville, & Willoughby
- Fairfield City Farm, Abbotsbury
- Glovers Community Garden, Rozelle
- Kooragang City Farm, Wallsend/Newcastle
- Woolloomooloo Community Garden

Australian Examples

- Northey Street City Farm Brisbane
- CERES, East Brunswick
- Collingwood Children's Farm, Collingwood
- Collingwood Community Garden, Collingwood
- West Brunswick Community Gardens, Vic
- East Perth City Farm, East Perth

Worldwide urban agriculture

- Greater Vancouver and Victoria, Canada – numerous community gardens established in these regions. Includes the provision for the establishment of gardens on ‘Parkland’ guided by a Park Board Community Gardens Policy. (ref: <http://city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/info/policy/comgardn.htm>)
- Copenhagen, Denmark - A debate in the Danish Parliament in the 70's - a principle decision about protecting and extending the allotment garden areas have since meant that local authorities have an obligation to ensure the existence of allotment gardens. The attempted solution is to place the allocation of allotment garden areas into the jurisdiction of regional planning so that the Ministry of Agriculture buys up land, which is later let out to the allotment garden people on a long term basis. (ref: <http://cityfarmer.org/DenmarkHistory.html#historyCopen>)
- Agricultural Zoning in Havana, Cuba.
- State-run urban vegetable gardens developed in vacant lots here in the capital and in other cities and towns across Cuba. Recent planning laws have made the use of land for food production a priority.

Foodlands in our cities?

- Sydney - a sustainable healthy city for landscape, green lungs, food production with potential to use peri urban land for waste disposal.
- Id & mapping of potential food-growing areas within Sydney
- Listing 'urban agriculture' as a permissible use under LEPs to allow community gardens and city farms on cleared and unproductive land including schools, hospitals, parks, church etc.
- Promote opportunities for community food gardens, urban agriculture, food distribution centre, food co-operatives , farmers markets and social enterprise
- Seniors SEPP, LEPs, DCPs could be used to designate 'common land' for community food gardens & urban agriculture.
- Multi unit dwellings to incorporate food growing areas
- Develop guidelines for Green roofs for food growing
- Identification and mapping of food producing trees, street tree & park planting to include fruit growing trees as occurs in Athens.
- Support best practice environmental management for food

Food futures

- A palpable growing community food movement with much to be done for health & environments
- People need to know the source of their food, meet the people who grow their food; learn how to grow and prepare food at home & in community gardens
- Decreased meat consumption and increased intake of fruit & vegetables = less obesity reduced rates of cancers, diabetes.
- Retain Sydney's peri urban fringe agriculture industry, which feeds Sydney
- We need a sustainable Sydney, a viable local economy supporting the livelihoods of farming communities & workers in related industries.
- We need all levels of government to ensure food security through fair pricing & equitable access



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Visit, listen or join in...

- **SFFA Website:** <http://www.sydneyfoodfairness.org.au/>
- Monthly meetings and various teams
- **List serve:** Pat Rayner Pat.ian@iinet.net.au
- Call the SFFA on 0410 145 473

- Similar group in the **Illawarra** (Illawarra FFA) and Central Coast <http://www.healthycitiesill.org.au/foodfairness.htm>