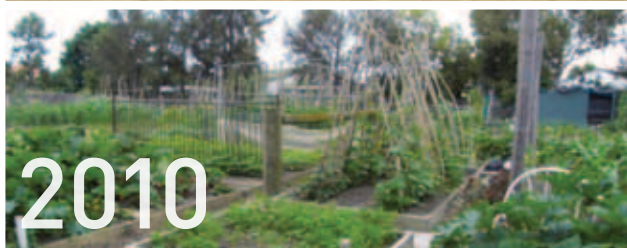


Municipal Food Security

Dimensions & Opportunities



Municipal Food Security Scanning Report



2010



Connecting Communities
Strengthening Democracy

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*Supporting local governments and other stakeholders who are working towards
improving access to healthy food and food security for all residents and visitors*

Project report

Municipal Food Security Dimensions and opportunities

- I Report 2010
- II *Scanning Work Book*
- III Scanning Resource Manual
- IV Scanning Training Manual

The Victorian Local Governance Association

Vision: Our communities will be inclusive, sustainable and dynamic characterised by strong leadership and effective local governance.

Mission: The VLGA is a unique peak body for councillors, community leaders and local governments working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change.

Values: We believe that transparent, accountable and democratic governance policies and practices in all settings enable citizens to create their own sustainable futures.



*Connecting Communities
Strengthening Democracy*

Preface

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is a unique peak body for local governments, councillors and community leaders who are working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change. The VLGA has helped in leading the developing community movement to improve local area food security and local food chain systems across Victoria.

Our commitment to *Connecting Communities and Strengthening Democracy* led to us developing the Food Security Network (FSN) in 2003 with funding support from VicHealth. Importantly, the VLGA supports local governments and other stakeholders who are building integrated planning and policy approaches to whole of population municipal and community food security.

(<http://www.foodsecurity.vlga.org.au>)

Long term strategies are needed to achieve the systemic and sustainable change required to improve Municipal Food Security, particularly in local government areas of disadvantage such as those with Neighbourhood Renewal Projects.

A rapid assessment process (RAP) for scanning Municipal Food Security provides the necessary understanding of the local issues to facilitate a shared understanding, strategic and cost-effective approach to area food security.

This Report and its three companion documents are about the outcomes of the trial of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* together with the trial of the Training Program for the Scan.

Acknowledgements

The VLGA thanks the partnership between the Victorian Department of Human Services (Housing and Community Building - Neighbourhood Renewal Program) and the Victorian Department of Health (Public Health), who funded this work. We thank Susan McDowell, Stephanie McAdam, Veronica Graham, Shauna Jones, Joan Nankervis and other members of the Steering Committee for their valued input.

The project would not have been possible without the partnerships between the VLGA and the Cities of Casey, Greater Geelong, Hume, Greater Shepparton and Wyndham. Particular thanks to the many people in the councils, Neighbourhood Renewal Programs and residents who contributed to the successful conduct of the trials and their outcomes.

Numerous people in both sites contributed to the successful conduct of the trial, and particular thanks is afforded the following: City of Casey (Tracey Rodoni) with Doveton NR (Sarah Northey), City of Greater Geelong (Jane Wager) with Corio Norlane NR (Rachel Tournier), City of Hume (Briony Gee) with Broadmeadows NR (Ian Adotey), City of Shepparton (Peter Bourke), with Parkside Estate NR (Amanda Tingay), and the Wyndham City (Jacqui Croxon) with Heathdale NR (Lesley Murray).

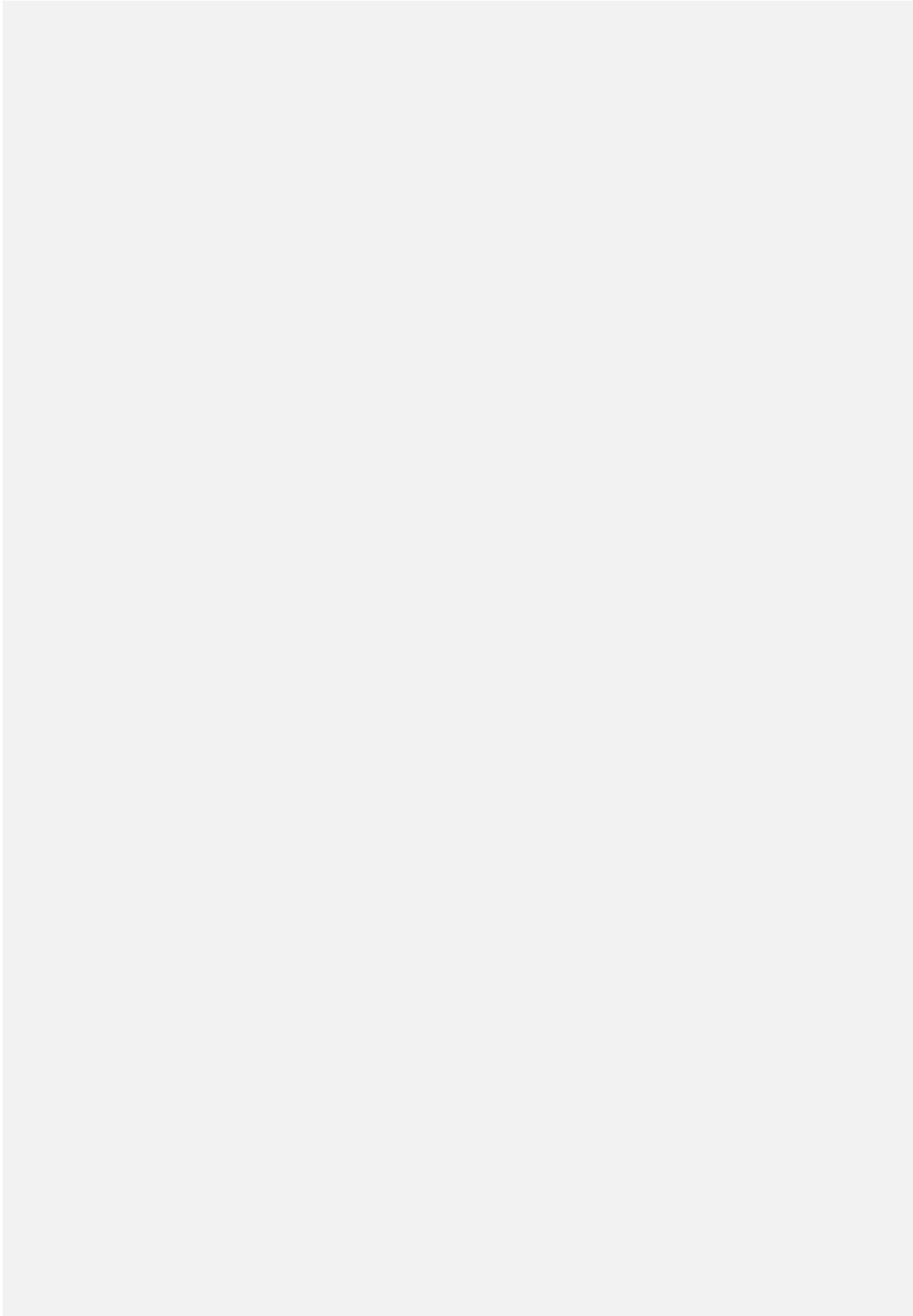
This resource was developed with support from the Department of Health, State of Victoria.

A list of acronyms and a glossary of terms have been provided in Appendix 1.

Note re: Terminology

The five Projects reported here were undertaken across the years 2008 - 2010. In October 2009, the Victorian Government extended the previous documentation for the Victorian *Environments for Municipal Public Health Planning Framework* with *A Practical Guide to Municipal Public Health Planning. A resource for public health and social planners in local Councils in Victoria.*

Consistency with this later Guide has now been improved throughout this Report - by substitution of the original 'Municipal Food Security Survey' with 'Municipal Food Security Scan'



Executive Summary

The Victorian *Environments for Health* (E4H) *Municipal Public Health Planning Framework* (Victorian Department of Human Services, 2001) is based on the natural, built, economic, and social environments. The systemic view inherent in E4H is reflected in the definition of food security adopted in this Project.

Food security

“Food security can be defined as the state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency food sources.

Food security broadens the traditional conception of hunger, embracing a systemic view of the causes of hunger and poor nutrition within a community while identifying the changes necessary to prevent their occurrence. Food security programs confront hunger and poverty”
(Community Food Security Coalition, 2002)

The E4H Municipal Public Health Planning framework was utilised to scan the dimensions and opportunities for improving local area water security and food security through cost-effective and integrated and iterative local government processes and planning, which can be progressed through good governance.

We have an individual choice in what we eat but we have a governance and collective responsibility to see that there are systems in place to support (and not impede) the household and individual choices that will strengthen the collective and lifetime resilience, independence and health and wellbeing of our communities.

Social co-operation in populations is essential to ensure sustainability of local food supplies to support everyone over their lifetimes in an equitable way.

Victorian local governments have a legislative obligation to plan for municipal health and wellbeing through Municipal Public Health Plans. Long term sustainable solutions to local food security barriers towards an *integrated* sustainable water and local food chain systems from paddock to plate for all, promotes social inclusion and food inclusion.

Democracy, good governance, and community planning for mental and physical wellbeing for whole of populations will achieve a democratic community movement for health and wellbeing. Water security and food security for all will be protected.

What we did in partnership

A previous version of the E4H Municipal Public Health Planning framework for food security (Wood and Streker, 2005) included health and wellbeing and was developed into a *Scanning Work Book* for application by rapid assessment procedures (RAP) through participative research methods (information gathering through primary and secondary sources).

The E4H framework facilitated the trial of the *Scanning Work Book* by two councils (Project ONE) to quickly identify Municipal Food Security dimensions and opportunities in a geographical area. The next trial took the form of a Training Program for the Scan by three councils (Project TWO).

In summary, the *Municipal Food Security Scan* was undertaken in the Cities of Casey, Greater Geelong, Hume, Greater Shepparton and Wyndham, and their associated Neighbourhood Renewal sites of Doveton, Corio Norlane, Broadmeadows, Parkside Estate and Heathdale respectively.

The rapid assessment process employed (RAP) provided an effective method of implementing and evaluating the trial of the *Scanning Work Book* (and subsequently the Training Program), which included an inter-sectoral framework for municipal food security in the whole of population setting.

The processes in council were complementary, provided cross-validation, and were strengthened by community consultation. The outcomes for the trials were captured and used collectively to finalise the *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*, to evaluate the processes used, and to develop the *Scanning Resource Manual* and the *Scanning Training Manual*.

Transforming the way local government thinks about local area planning and integrating food security for all

This document highlights the effective utilisation of the *Victorian Environments for Health* (E4H) framework to conduct the *Municipal Food Security Scan* and identify the dimensions and opportunities for improving local area food security.

The *Municipal Food Security Scan* was trialled and achieved by VLGA partnerships with five local governments and their Neighbourhood Renewal Program areas, who submitted Expressions of Interest in conducting the Scan.

In the experience of working with these local governments to date, all managed to complete the Scan without funding. However it was obvious that lack of funding was sometimes a factor that weakened the priority of the processes within councils.

Most of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* can be readily completed within two weeks by council staff. Internal council consultation and external community consultation is required to validate the outcomes and this extends the management processes required - usually to monthly timelines (say six months barring interruptions).

The implementation of the Scan is more time consuming when the in-Council Working Group does not include representation from the council departments covering the Environments for Health (health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural), and if the selected comparative target areas are not clearly delineated as Collector Districts or Electoral Wards. Inclusion of an external partner from primary health care is advantageous for their contribution to the scan of Health and Wellbeing Dimensions and perhaps community consultation.

None of the participating councils were able to extend in-Council Working Groups to include external partners (outside council) from the Environments for Health (health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural). Ultimately, it will be important for this to happen at some stage to support a sustainable local economy and employment into the future through more local food production and distribution.

“Food is good.” “How do we work together to get more food easily?”

(Focus Group evaluation)

A brief Training Program was developed for conduct of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* by local governments. This includes the following documents:

- *Scanning Work Book*;
- Scanning Resource Manual; and the
- Scanning Training Manual.

Using a rapid scanning process, the outcomes provide the beginning of an evidence base on *Municipal Food Security* for councils that require an evidence base to act at the local level. The resources include model outlines for potential management and processes for the Scan within council, the community consultation and outcomes, the Scan outcomes, and report writing and strategy development within council.

The project outcomes include the initial identification of systemic barriers to local water security and food security and the beginning of local government and other systemic planning for intervention strategies to improve municipal food security for all.

Good governance and planning for whole of population mental and physical wellbeing will protect water and food security for all

Local government strategies and other activities were undertaken by several councils to improve local food security during the five year *VicHealth Food for All Program* (VicHealth, 2005 - 2010).

Current promotion and support is being given for the latter by the *Food for All Dissemination Project* being conducted across local governments by the VLGA. There are also other initiatives being promulgated by other organisations at the local government level.

All of these initiatives can potentially contribute to Victorian local government and public health policy development on **food security for all at the local government level**.

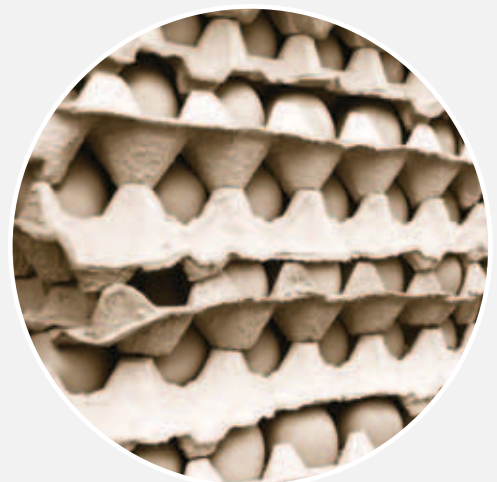
If we are food secure, it makes an enormous contribution to our lives over the life span and to our communities. We have an individual responsibility for health and wellbeing but we have a collective governance responsibility to see that the systems are in place to support (and not impede) this household and individual responsibility.

As part of the Health and Wellbeing section in the *Municipal Food Security Scan*, intermittent and simple monitoring of household and individual food security is very useful, even though the current and validated methods available in Victoria only focus on individual adults who participated in the telephone survey.

The *Municipal Food Security Scan* outcomes provide councils with the opportunity to be mindful of these barriers and to conduct further strategic planning and to identify the systemic changes which have capacity to make the most difference to improvement in area food security for the whole population.

Governments must make sure that shopping, transport and other infrastructure barriers do not affect the ability of households and individuals to achieve activities of daily living, independence, health and wellbeing and quality of life.

Concurrently, many of the barriers to local area food security will also be removed for vulnerable groups - an outcome safeguarded by the inclusion of primary health care in the Council Working Group for the Municipal Food Security Scan.



Recommendations

Long term sustainable solutions to local food security barriers (towards *integrated* sustainable water and local food chain systems from paddock to plate for all) promote social inclusion and food inclusion. Social cooperation is essential to ensure food supply and support community independence and resilience.

To achieve sustainability of change in the wider community and a liveable and just society, integrated government planning and resources are essential for the equitable support of activities of daily living. There is a need for more integrated, long-term planning for food security as core business for the whole of government.

The following recommendations are made to progress the identification of systemic and other barriers to the improvement of *Municipal Food Security* and health and wellbeing in the local government setting across Victoria:

- 1) Establish the Training Program for *Municipal Food Security Scans* as fee-for-service training within the VLGA for ongoing roll out across the State.
- 2) Introduce intermittent monitoring of *individual* food security where other demographic and health and wellbeing statistics are available (Collector Districts, Electoral Wards). This can be readily conducted by including the standard questions on *individual* adult food security (as adopted for the Victorian Population Health Monitor) in any local community surveys that are conducted.
- 3) Provide resources to local government for the conduct of *Municipal Food Security Scans* and incorporation of the outcomes into relevant aspects of Municipal Public Health Plans, Community Planning, Corporate Planning and Strategic Planning. Comparative area studies are recommended to facilitate a whole of population approach to health and wellbeing.
- 4) Advocate and promote training for improvement in *Municipal Food Security* to all local governments in Victoria, with encouragement of local food and water policy development through iterative cost-effective processes and integrated planning across council departments, with well-targeted interventions for improvement in population health and wellbeing.
- 5) Recommend that the outcomes of complementary Victorian Food Security Programs and Projects be considered for the development of Victorian Public Health policy on **food security for all at the local government level**.
 - a) **Scanning and monitoring:**
 - The Project *Municipal Food Security Dimensions and Opportunities. Municipal Food Security Scanning* (VLGA, 2010)
 - b) **Planning and intervention:**
 - The five-year VicHealth Food for All Program in its entirety (VicHealth, 2005 - 2010), including the current *Food for All Dissemination Project* being conducted by the VLGA
 - Other initiatives being promulgated by other organisations at the local government level which target food security for all
- 6) Ultimately, all this work will contribute to the development of policy which supports **good governance of food security for all at the local level**, which can then be integrated into a whole-of-government *Victorian Food and Water Policy*. Such a policy should ultimately extend beyond the economics of agribusiness and trade to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all of the Victorian population in the short-medium and perpetual future.

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1.0 Introduction

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) was funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services to lead and facilitate two Food Security Projects in the setting of local government with Neighbourhood Renewal Program sites.

In the first Project (Project ONE, 2007-2008) the VLGA developed and facilitated a trial of rapid assessment procedures (RAP) to identify systemic barriers to local food security through Municipal Food Security Scans.

This was followed by Project TWO (2009-2010) with the trial of a training program for conducting Scans and achieving a more integrated systemic approach to food security by local governments.

The VLGA, which is a unique peak body for councillors, community leaders and local governments working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change, has helped to lead the developing governance and community movement to improve local food chain systems and local area food security across Victoria.
(<http://www.foodsecurity.vlga.org.au>)

1.1 Municipal food security

Since the 1990s, a community movement has been developing to address the barriers to food security at the local level across Victoria. An important part of this movement has been to progress local strategies to improve local food security through inclusion in Council Municipal Public Health plans and programs funded by VicHealth and the Department of Human Services Neighbourhood Renewal Program and the Public Health Unit.

Climate change, drought, water shortage and peak oil are all major issues which already affect local food chain systems, and have the potential to dramatically affect it in future. The food supply contributes 30-50% of the total ecological footprint. Therefore, what happens at the local level is more important than ever before.

There is an even more urgent focus required to improve the integrated planning and policy approaches of local governments to community water security and food security. In turn, these actions will improve household and individual food security of residents in the municipalities.

The most effective way in which local government can act to improve local food security is through Council and Community Plans, as informed by consultation with local citizens.

The revision of the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Act (2008) (Victorian Government, 2008) emphasizes the Victorian Government priority for preventive health. The Act also requires a whole of government approach to public health and wellbeing.

To achieve improved health and wellbeing for all Victorians in an equitable way, it will be necessary to put health and wellbeing at the centre of government planning, through a multi-faceted approach, integrated planning and inter-sectoral work.

The involvement of local governments in local food systems is highly variable across Australia and within Victoria (Yeatman, 2007). The most common involvement is in the monitoring and enforcement of food safety issues, which is a legislative requirement and to which considerable resources are assigned by all local governments in Victoria.

In the face of an apparently abundant food availability, municipal food security issues have been largely invisible to date, despite the availability for many years of validated population statistics on the subject.

The concept of a sustainable local food and water system providing basic necessities for life throughout the life cycle from birth to death, an important public health and wellbeing basic, is taken for granted on the whole and largely left to the commercial sector.

Most strategies to date have been in the setting of vulnerable groups:

- Council Community Services e.g. meals on wheels, emergency food parcels, community buses
- Schools e.g. community gardens, breakfast programs
- Primary Health Care Agencies Programs e.g. breakfast programs, cooking classes
- Welfare Organisation Programs (community meals, emergency food relief)

Consideration of food security across the *Victorian Environments for Health (E4H) Municipal Public Health Planning framework* (Victorian Department of Human Services, 2001) provided the opportunity to introduce the dimensions and opportunities for improving local food security through local government policies, planning and processes.

The application of the E4H framework developed from the evaluation of two food security demonstration projects in the Cities of Maribyrnong and Yarra (Wood, Swinburn, Burns, 2003). The first application of this framework was conducted in the City of Port Phillip (Wood and Streker, 2005 - http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/Municipal_Food_Security_Part_V.pdf).

Local governments have a whole of population mandate and can improve community health and wellbeing through support for equitable and local food chain systems, and by ensuring that shopping, transport and other infrastructure barriers do not affect the ability of the residents to achieve independence and quality lifestyle.

This is a traditional local government role, and can be achieved through local food policies and Municipal Public Health plans linked to local government Community Plans, Municipal Strategic Statements, and Council Plans – all legislated requirements of local governments and ultimately core council functions. These plans provide leadership and a structural framework for the environments and amenities that affect the resident's ability to access healthy food, and make healthy food choices on a lifelong basis and without resort to expensive local government community services and/or inadequate emergency food sources.

A systemic view and definition of food security

"Food security can be defined as the state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency food sources.

Food security broadens the traditional conception of hunger, embracing a systemic view of the causes of hunger and poor nutrition within a community while identifying the changes necessary to prevent their occurrence. Food security programs confront hunger and poverty"

(Community Food Security Coalition, 2002).

Other organisations also have a traditional and established role in addressing the food security, social and health needs of many groups, households and individuals. These stakeholders are the residents, self-help groups and clubs, primary health care partnerships, primary health care agencies (community health, health promotion plans and direct services), community services, welfare organisations, and health institutions.

In this current trial, participating local governments were required to bring their local community, business, food production and other networks and resources *"to the table"* to support identification of the local dimensions of food security and to generate the resources for the opportunities identified to improve it in sustainable ways.

1.2 Victorian Neighbourhood Renewal Program

Neighbourhood Renewal is a long term place based initiative of the Victorian government aimed at addressing disadvantage.

(<http://www.neighbourhoodrenewal.vic.gov.au>)

To narrow the gap between disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Victoria and the rest of the State, each Neighbourhood Renewal Project has been implementing a six-point plan of action that has focussed on:

- Increasing people's pride and participation;
- Enhancing housing and the physical environment;
- Lifting employment and learning opportunities and expanding local economies;
- Improving personal safety and reducing crime;
- Promoting health and wellbeing, and
- Improvement in government responsiveness.

Increasing concerns about inadequate community food security in Neighbourhood Renewal sites across Victoria have led to short - moderate term strategies such as community gardens, community kitchens, food co-operatives, breakfast clubs, and community food enterprises.

These initiatives relate to food supply and access and produce multiple outcomes for residents such as increased availability and access to healthy food as well as opportunities for social connectedness. They have helped to generate interest and enthusiasm around issues of food access and supply.

Sustainable long term strategies are needed to achieve the systemic and sustainable change required, particularly in local government areas of disadvantage, such as those with Neighbourhood Renewal Projects.

1.3 Food insecurity and its extent in Victoria

There are many facets of food security (health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural) and many levels of food security (global to regional and local, to household and individual) (refer Appendix 1).

We have known for a long time that many problems exist in equity of food access and food security in remote and rural communities (SIGNAL, 2000a). More recently, such problems are becoming more visible in urban communities also (SIGNAL, 2000b).

In Australia, the only monitoring question on food security in common use is "*In the last 12 months, were there any times that you ran out of food and you couldn't afford to buy more?*" (ABS, 1998). This question was asked in the last (1995) National Nutrition Survey of adults 16 years of age and over (Figure 1) and in the Victorian Community Indicators Survey (Figure 2) (The McCaughey Centre, 2007).

This question measures only one facet (economic) and one level (individual adults) of food security, and can be reasonably expected to underestimate the extent of food insecurity. Food insecurity is most likely to be intermittent, and is more likely to be suffered by those who do not participate in government and other surveys. Studies in other developed countries employ a much wider range of questions.

The estimated national food insecurity frequency was 5% of adults across Australia in 1995 (897 000 adults and estimated dependent children).

The national frequency rose to 8.9% of adults in the areas of most disadvantage (Wood et al, 2000a), 12.8% of adults on low income and reporting fair or poor health, and 16.5% of persons on low income who were aged 16-24 years (Wood et al, 2000b). Lower levels of entitlements which are known to affect food access and ability to purchase basic food and beverage necessities were found in the areas of most disadvantage.

Higher frequencies of poor general health factors and food-related health risk factors were also observed (Wood et al, 2000ab), and a higher proportion of persons were underweight or obese in each adult age group. Generally lower food and nutrient intake and consumption of different foods was observed in the most disadvantaged areas, where lower frequency of intake and lower variety dominated the results for major food groups.

Food insecurity is reported in all areas of Australia, irrespective of the level of relative advantage or disadvantage. Every local government area in Victoria has a proportion of its population (approximately 40% on average) in disadvantaged areas (1st - 2nd quintiles of the Socio-Economic Index of Disadvantage - SEIFA).

The risk of obesity is 20 to 40% higher in women who have low incomes and are experiencing food insecurity. Those with the poorest social, economic and educational resources are more likely to be obese. This has been observed consistently across the developed countries of the United States of America, Europe and Australia (Burns, 2004), and is still to be fully explained.

In Victoria, the frequency of food insecurity in adults is of the order of 6.1% (in adults) (317 000 adults and estimated dependent children), and the 2007 survey showed that the range was 0.8 to 11.6% (in adults) across local government areas (The McCaughey Centre, 2007).

In Victorian local government areas, the range for food insecurity was 1.5 to 23.2% (adults only). This order of magnitude for food insecurity is supported by surveys of at risk groups and anecdotal information. Food insecurity is mostly invisible to those not affected by it.

1.4 Rapid assessment procedures (RAP)

Rapid assessment is a qualitative method for planning and evaluation health related programs (Scrimshaw and Gleason, 1994), and is usually conducted by a multi-disciplinary team.

Rapid assessment procedures

“Rapid assessment is not merely a method for collecting data about . . . , but more importantly a process on which to formulate a plan of action to improve the living conditions of the people, based on their participating in defining their own problems”

(Rifkin et al, 1994)

Rapid assessment procedures are applied over a relatively short time to the collection of field data that can identify a range of dimensions and opportunities and link directly to intervention strategies. The information collected is cross-validated by the use of a variety of techniques such as key informant interviews, surveys, community consultation, observation, and focus groups.

In this project, the main target groups were local governments in partnership with a local Neighbourhood Renewal Program, as well as residents and other stakeholders.

2.0 Project aims

2.1 Project ONE

The aims for the trial of the rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for the *Municipal Food Security Scan* were as follows:

- 1) Facilitate two site-specific Neighbourhood Renewal Program food security processes:
 - a) Identify (and if necessary adapt) existing participatory mechanisms and work in partnership thereafter
 - b) Utilise relevant and available reports and information (local place features and characteristics, demographics, health and wellbeing, policies and plans); and
 - c) Trial of the *Scanning Work Book* to identify the dimensions and opportunities for food security across the natural, built, economic and social and cultural environments.
- 2) Build the capacity of each Neighbourhood Renewal Program to develop and begin to implement site-specific food security strategies:
 - a) Work with residents, local governments, Neighbourhood Renewal Program staff and other stakeholders to identify goals and local interventions, to achieve improvements in food security over the short, medium, and longer terms, and
 - b) Use the information and resources generated from consultations and training to disseminate to other stakeholders and settings.

2.2 Project TWO

The aims of the trial of the Training Program for the *Municipal Food Security Scan* were as follows:

- 1) Development of a Training Program to incorporate the *Municipal Food Security Scan* and its outcomes across local governments, with a priority to Neighbourhood Renewal sites:
 - a) How to work with local government (internal, external), and
 - b) How to use the *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*.
- 2) Invite five local government councils to participate with their partners free-of-charge in the initial Training Program (trial). These areas had already been identified through the expression of interest process in 2007 (Project ONE).
- 3) Establish the Training Program as fee-for-service training within the VLGA for ongoing roll out across the State.



3.0 Trial of the *Scanning Work Book* - Project ONE

A rapid assessment procedure (RAP) was developed for collecting municipal food security information, formulating action plans and initiating strategies within a short period (three months).

3.1 Development of the trial for the *Scanning Work Book*

Experience in applying the E4H framework for municipal food security in the City of Port Phillip (Wood and Streker, 2005) was utilised in developing the trial *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*.

The draft Work Book provided the outline for collecting local municipal food security information. It was planned to activate a form of scoping - needs assessment - mapping of the local site areas.

In developing the Work Book, a search was undertaken for specific information categories with readily available and mandatory core data (to allow area comparisons), as well as optional local data (decided on site). A combination of secondary and primary sources of information would facilitate the identification of the dimensions and opportunities for overcoming systemic barriers to local food security.

Whenever possible, the plan was to collect the information in an objective way that would facilitate subsequent examination across municipal areas (sq kilometres) or populations (thousands).

1) Secondary sources of information

Existing information sources (documents, reports, pamphlets, fact sheets) were sourced. These sources included local government area data, and Victorian state and regional data. This information had the potential to be examined for consistency with, and support for, information from primary sources.

The local governments involved were asked to choose a second area for collection of secondary information, to provide data that could be used for comparative purposes.

2) Primary sources of information

Contact with primary sources included Key Informant Interviews, and Focus Groups of workers and residents (community consultation). These information sources all provided for

cross-reference and validation of the data that was obtained from secondary information sources.

Information gaps in the trial Work Book were supplied through contact with the stakeholders for municipal food security (whole of population), and included:

- Residents and councillors;
- Local government staff (particularly area, land, water, open space, social and business planners, transport managers, health promotion, community services, and emergency services);
- Neighbourhood Renewal Program staff;
- Primary Health Care Partnerships and agencies;
- Welfare organisations, and
- Others.

The trial was conducted using the resultant *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*.

3.2 Engagement of local governments

The VLGA sought Expressions of Interest in the Project from all 19 local governments with Neighbourhood Renewal Projects. Seven councils responded and the two trial sites were selected (refer key criteria in Appendix 2).

The participative methodology evolved in response to the activities of the Local Government partnerships established at the two Neighbourhood Renewal sites and the essential elements of it were planned to be the same in both sites.

The VLGA engaged the local governments and identified and assisted the enlistment of other multidisciplinary stakeholders in the Local Government area, including existing partnerships and alliances.

The trial was conducted using the trial *Scanning Work Book* (see Section 3.1 above), which was subsequently revised (VLGA, 2008).

3.3 RAP trial participation and observation

The VLGA objective was to provide advice and support on processes that facilitated collection of data and analysis in each site, and to conduct external evaluation.

The VLGA trial methods included participatory peer evaluation, through a mutually agreed set of evaluation criteria for process assessment. The outline follows:

- 1) To observe whether the selection criteria for trial sites were appropriate (Appendix 2), in that the local governments were ready to undertake the work in the sites using Neighbourhood Renewal as a platform for resident engagement, partnerships and community action planning.
- 2) To observe whether the RAP trial was rapid and effective (strengths) or slow and ineffective (weaknesses).
- 3) To use the evaluation to improve the *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book* and its implementation.
- 4) To validate the usefulness of the Scan in assisting identification of municipal food security dimensions and opportunities (health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural) and subsequent development of strategies.
- 5) To identify and document any models of good practice (organisational change, community participation), and lessons learnt through the trial at both sites, individually and collectively.
- 6) To use the evaluation approach to support capacity building, information transference and behavioural change in local government sites.
- 7) To disseminate the results and use them to inform future transference of the Scan (and subsequent processes) to other local government areas.

Regular review of the trial process at each site took place through:

- 1) Direct support and assistance, as required, in support of local governments, partners and residents undertaking the trial.
 - a) Regular contact (telephone, and no less than monthly face-to-face meetings).
 - b) Attendance and participation at LG Project Management Committee meetings and review of meeting records.
 - c) Attendance at combined workshops, meetings and other activities on site.
- 2) Development of Project strategies, as required, with local governments, partners and residents.
- 3) Review and analysis of Project documents, reports, and products - in consultation with the sites.

3.4 Key Informant Interviews

The VLGA conducted one round of Key Informant interviews (refer Appendix 3) at each site.

The aims for this part of trial are listed below:

- 1) To generate general and descriptive background information to inform the sites and assist in evaluation.
- 2) To obtain insight into motives, attitudes and perceptions of different key informants.
- 3) To improve interpretation of available qualitative and quantitative data derived by the sites.
- 4) To elicit suggestions and recommendations from Key Informants to inform the Project and assist in evaluation.
- 5) To develop questions, hypotheses, and proposals for later testing and elaboration.

The Project aims and objectives were used as the basis for planning the theme questions for the Key Informant interviews. This methodology was derived from consultation with site partners and reference to Samset (1993).

3.5 Community Consultation

Community planning is a mandatory function of local governments, in relation to the development of Corporate Plans.

There are many examples for the conduct of community consultation by local governments and others. The example below (three steps, one month apart) is simple and practical. The results often validate similar information obtained by other methods (for example - mapping).

Two types of Community Consultation employed here have been shown below:

- 1) One session (two hours) (two Project sites) using standard focus group methods.
- 2) Three monthly sessions (one hour) (one Project site):
 - Consultation seeking open resident feedback on the strengths and weaknesses across the site area in terms of issues affecting food security in three environments (natural, built, economic). The actual *Scanning Work Book* questions are readily used to trigger open discussion amongst residents. The process is shortened by omitting the socio-cultural and health environments because more local information is available on these environments;
 - Specific questions may be derived from gaps in knowledge identified while looking at secondary sources for completing the Work Book. The answers to these questions can be used to complete information in the Work Book and gain a broader picture of food security issues within the site area;
 - Opportunities for potential strategies may be identified through the Work Book, and previous Community Consultations (ONE and TWO). These opportunities can be selected on the basis that they will be seen by residents to be useful and they are potentially possible without excessive expenditure and complex planning. These opportunities can be validated in a number of ways. One example is by voting (using stars) in EACH of the four environments for the opportunities to improve food security in the site area.

Method 1) appears to be adequate but Method 2) is the preferred option. Community Consultation did not take place in two of three sites in Project TWO. The reasons given included pending conclusion of the Neighbourhood Renewal Program at a Project site, and Project staff changes.

3.6 Focus group evaluation of the trial and the *Scanning Work Book*

When the completed *Scanning Work Book* was available in draft form for all site participants towards the end of the Project, focus group evaluation was conducted at each site. The aims for this part of the trial follow:

- 1) Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Work Book.
- 2) Determination of why and how the process worked well (or not) i.e. determination of the effectiveness of the approach and strategies used.
- 3) Review of processes which facilitated application of the trial and collection of data and analysis at each site.
- 4) Review how *quality* was maintained through the trial for Municipal Food Security.

This outline was used to develop the theme questions for the Focus Group evaluations which were conducted by the VLGA to review the trial of the *Scanning Work Book* (Appendix 4).

The Project outcomes for the trial were then captured in each site through Focus Group evaluation and used collectively to update the *Scanning Work Book* and to evaluate the processes used.

In general, the *Municipal Food Security Scan* outcomes reflected the original Expression of Interest submitted by each local government. The trial was applied over a relatively short time (six months) to the collection of secondary and primary data, which in turn identified the range of municipal food security dimensions and opportunities.

The rapid assessment procedures provided an effective method of implementing and evaluating the Trial of the *Scanning Work Book*, which included a complex inter-sectoral framework in the whole of population setting. The processes were complementary, provided cross-validation, and were strengthened by Community Consultation.

In the Focus Group evaluations, participants at both sites considered that it would have been helpful to have more guidance - training in the Scan at the beginning of the trial was provided (but did not consider staff changes at a subsequent date) - and provision of optional management structures, procedures and timelines for conduct it. The site outcomes have been listed in Appendix 5.

All this information was then used (in Project TWO - Section 4.0) to develop a Municipal Food Security Training Program for the purpose of getting whole of population food security strategies and policies on to local government agendas.

This Training Program can be of short duration to assist participants to achieve:

- *Municipal Food Security Scan* of dimensions and opportunities, and
- Work with local government to improve Municipal Food Security.

3.7 *Scanning Work Book* review

The structure of the *Scanning Work Book* was thoroughly reviewed and updated in response to the trial evaluation, that is:

- Change to vertical format;
- Introduction of question numbers;
- Addition of separate section and increased detail for descriptors and information sources information; and
- Comparative area retained.

In Project ONE, all of the Scan questions were reviewed, some removed and most edited. Some small revisions were again made following the trial of the Training Program (Project TWO) and have been included in Table 1. This table represents the Municipal Food Security Scan that is the main outcome of the trial.

Contact with primary sources included Key Informant interviews, Focus Groups of workers and Community Consultation (residents). These information sources all provided important cross-references and validation of the data that was obtained from secondary information sources.

In the comparative area, primary sources of information were not engaged during the RAP trial, other than council staff. Gaps in answers to Scan questions provide opportunities for council staff to consider these gaps as opportunities for future strategies.

Complementary and cross-validated information was achieved using mixed methods, including key informant interviews:

- *Scanning Work Book*;
- Community consultation;
- Observation; and
- Focus group evaluations.

These methods were time responsive, cost effective, and flexibly applied, and can be repeated easily (in whole, or in part) in the future for monitoring purposes.

The participatory research methods described above led to process development without any apparent barriers, and tapped into existing structures and activities on the local community settings. A monthly timeline for meetings was suitable, often with provision of refreshments as an incentive for attendance (particularly for residents), and with time for reflection.

The Project ONE Case Studies (refer Section 5.0) contributed to the updating of the *Scanning Work Book* and this report of the trial. They also provided the basis for development of a training course to disseminate the results of the trial to other local government areas and Neighbourhood Renewal sites in Victoria and elsewhere.

Municipal Food Security dimensions and opportunities

HEALTH and WELLBEING

- What are the demographic factors? What are the indices of disadvantage?
- Are there any infants, children, youth and women of child bearing age who are at risk of food security problems?
- What are the food and nutrition risk factors for the population?
- Who are considered to be the most vulnerable?

	NATURAL	BUILT	ECONOMIC	SOCIO-CULTURAL
Local food chain system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any food growers (primary producers)? • Are there any community gardens used for growing local food? • Are any programs encouraging edible planting in public areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local food factories/processors/distributors? • Are there any local supermarket food outlets? • Are there any other local retail food outlets? • Are there any local retail food markets? • Are there any retail local dining and meal outlets? • Are there any local liquor outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any characteristics of retail food outlets that are economic barriers to food access? • Does the cost of transport affect ability of residents to access food? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any emerging cultural groups who require access to culturally appropriate food? • Are there infant, child, youth, and aged support and activities for social and food connectedness?
Food produced				
Food available for distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are any programs supporting growing & sharing of food from home gardens? • Are local water restrictions in place? • What are the effects of water restrictions on growing food in these gardens? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are daily basic food needs (milk, bread, fruit) within reasonable distance for all residents? • What amenities are provided for bicycle transport? • Does public transport connect households to retail food supplies, dining and meal outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local retail food outlets that provide home food deliveries? • Are there any local retail food outlets that provide online food shopping with delivery? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any “breast feeding welcome here” locations? • Are there community programs and activities for social and food connectedness?
Food available for purchase				
Food purchased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is any assistance available for water conservation and recycling? • How is food and water safety, food waste and packaging waste addressed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there essential (maintained) amenities on walking routes and in public spaces? • How many households have cars? • Are Baby Change Room facilities readily available? • Is there any community transport connecting households to food supplies, dining and meal outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any community dining and meal outlets? • Do any community food outlets provide take-home or home food delivery? • Are there any community kitchens? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any barriers (natural, built, economic) to food access for cultural groups and at-risk groups? • Are there any barriers (natural, built, economic) to physical activity for cultural groups and at-risk groups?
Food eaten				
Social benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local environmental initiatives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there minimum standards for food storage and preparation in community housing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any emergency relief food outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any identified community resilience factors that can be built on to improve food security?
Health status outcomes				

4.0 Trial of the Training Program for the Scan (Project TWO)

Five councils who had made previously unsuccessful Expressions of Interest in the Project (refer Section 3.1) were invited to participate in the trial Training Program for conduct of the Municipal Food Security Scan. Three councils accepted this invitation.

The participative methodology evolved in response to the activities of the local government partnerships established at their Neighbourhood Renewal sites and the essential elements of the trial were the same in all three sites (except for duration, which varied according to other council priorities at the time).

The trial Training Program was conducted using the *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*, which had been the main outcomes of Project ONE (VLGA, 2008) (see Section 3.7).

4.1 Development of the trial Training Program for the Scan

In this Project (TWO), the outcomes from Project ONE were built upon, to develop the draft Training Program.

A draft and powerpoint presentation were developed for Guidelines for management of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* and its outcomes using the Scanning Workbook (VLGA, 2008).

The resources from VLGA Training were investigated and an established learning program selected for modified application in this Project through a powerpoint presentation - *'How to get food security on to the local government agenda.'*

The content follows:

- Introduction
- Training Program outline
- *"Guidelines for Management of the Municipal Food Security Scan and its outcomes"*
- *"How to get food security on to the local government agenda"*
- Glossary
- References
- Appendix 1:
Guidelines for management outline
- Appendix 2:
Suggested timelines for key events
- Appendix 3:
Guidelines for Community Consultation

The Training Program was applied through two group training sessions one month apart:

- 1) Session one (six hours): Presentation of the *Scanning Work Book* and guidelines for its application *"Guidelines for Management of the Municipal Food Security Scan and its outcomes"*, followed by presentation and discussion about *"How to get food security on to the local government agenda."*
- 2) Session two (three hours): Follow-up group discussion of progress and issues.

The Project Officer also provided telephone and email support as required and made three visits to each site.

4.2 Engagement of local governments

The VLGA engaged the local governments and identified and encouraged the enlistment of other multidisciplinary stakeholders in the local government area, including existing partnerships and alliances.

4.3 Trial of the Training Program

The VLGA objective was to provide training, advice and support on processes that facilitated collection of data and analysis in each site.

The Project Officer made one observational and two follow-up site visits to all three Councils (Casey, Hume, Greater Shepparton) and their Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

Regular review of the trial process at each site took place through:

- 1) Direct support and assistance, as required, in support of local governments, partners and residents undertaking the trial.
 - a) Regular contact (telephone, and three on-site face-to-face meetings).
 - b) Attendance at combined workshops, meetings and other activities on site as required.
- 2) Development of Project strategies, as required, with local governments, partners and residents.

- 3) Review and analysis of Project documents, reports, and products - in consultation with the sites.

After each site Scan was completed, the council officer and co-workers also completed an evaluation questionnaire (refer Appendix 6). The results have been summarised in Appendix 7.

All of these materials provided the basis for the development of a future VLGA Training Program to disseminate the results of the trial to other local government areas and Neighbourhood Renewal sites in Victoria and elsewhere (refer outline Appendix 8).

4.4 Development of site recommendations

The *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book* increased awareness in local governments and built capacity. When Community consultation took place, it strengthened the two local Neighbourhood Renewal communities in their discussion and consideration of local issues. The non-judgmental nature of the questions was welcomed by all participants at all levels.

As expected, the Scans revealed multiple dimensions and opportunities for reducing systemic barriers to food security in all three sites:

- Particular municipal food security dimensions, that appeared to be satisfactory;
- Particular municipal food security dimensions that were obviously not satisfactory, and provided opportunities for cost-effective and immediate intervention strategies; and
- Particular municipal food security dimensions that were obviously not satisfactory, and require further investigation before they can be linked indirectly or directly to intervention strategies.

One of the five sites has already progressed the Scan results and recommendations through Council Executive to the Council itself (refer Wyndham City Case Study in Section 5.2). Another three of the five sites intend to follow suit as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

"We (need to) get across to the community of that there is an issue here and all members of families (men, women, kids) can get a reasonable food supply and I hope we can assist with that"

(Key informant)

4.5 Training Program review

Review of the Training Program was made on the basis of the results of Projects ONE and TWO (refer Sections 3.6, 4.3).

- 1) The Program has been strengthened by separating the two initial group sessions so that one session occurs at the beginning of the Training Program and the second occurs at towards the end of three months.
- 2) Session One now includes prescriptive advice about how to begin to manage the council processes and outcomes from the beginning of the Scan - through setting up an inter-sectoral Council Working Group which can also make recommendations and advocate to council at a later date:
 - Elected community representative (Chair);
 - Council line-managers;
 - Council staff (Strategic Planners; Natural Environment Planners, Environmental Health Officers, Built Environment Planners, Economics & Commerce, Social Planners, Health Planners); and
 - Council partners (particularly Primary Health Care, traders and others if possible) are very important participants as external contributors and advocates. Many can also take on particular food security strategies that are consistent with their role.
- 3) Session Two now includes more direct advice and support about how to progress the Scan outcomes through council. Such progression is common to the development of all council strategies, but food security may be somewhat different in that it requires a more integrated inter-sectoral approach across council departments.

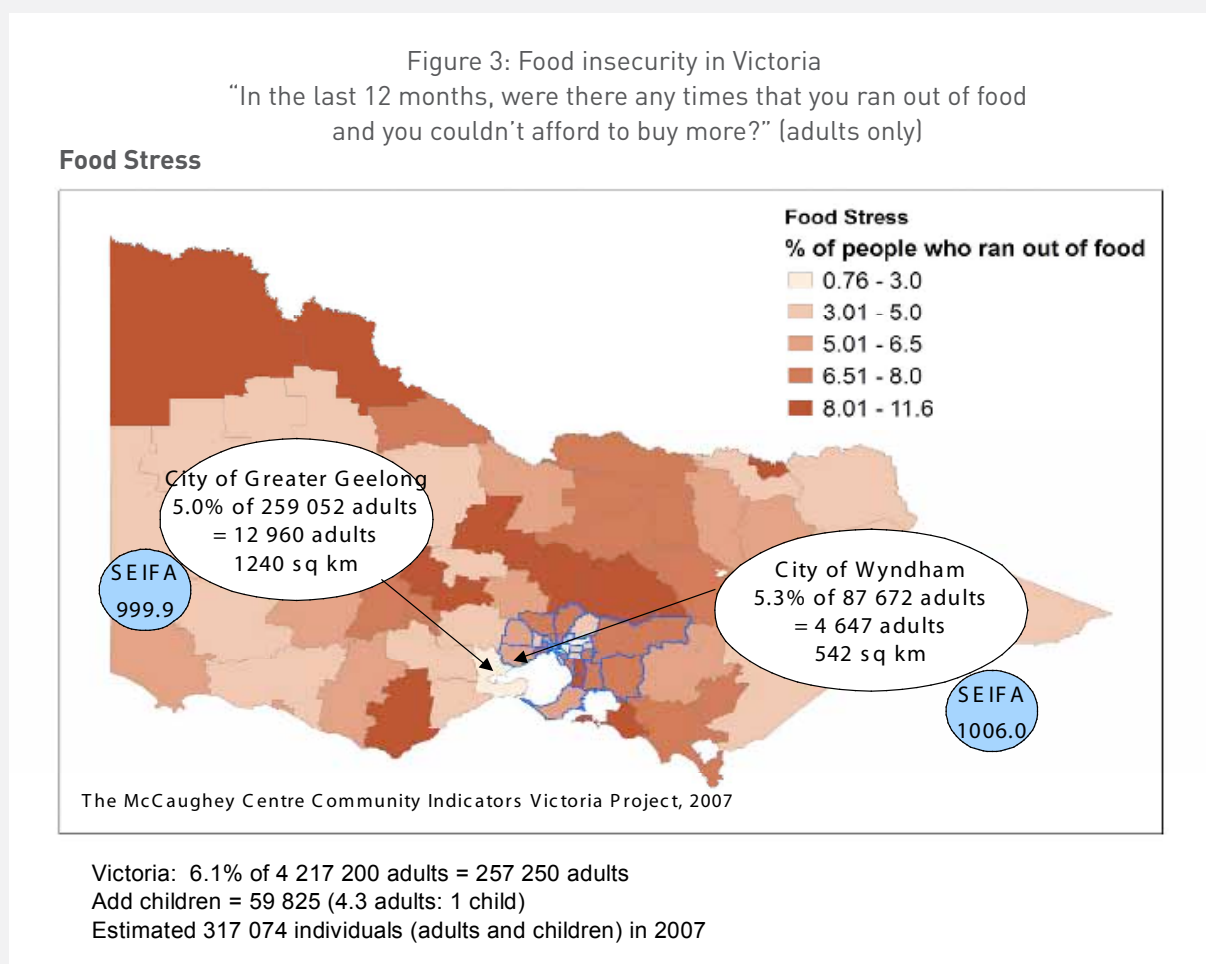
5.0 Case studies (Project ONE)

Brief Case Studies were developed for each Neighbourhood Renewal site on the basis of all of the evaluation activities for the trial and included the following:

- Was the Scan achieved?
- Did the outcomes meet local expectations? YES/NO? Why?
- How are the outcomes of the Scan being progressed?
- How can the outcomes be progressed in future?
- A snapshot of the comparative sites scanned
- Additional remarks

The Cities of Geelong - Corio Norlane and Wyndham - Heathdale achieved outcomes specific to each Neighbourhood Renewal site. Details of the trial methods and outcomes for each site have been provided in the interim site reports (refer list in Appendix 5).

The following figure provides a visual snapshot of food insecurity in these Local Government areas.



The brief Case Studies for Corio-Norlane (in Geelong) and Heathdale (in Wyndham) follow.

5.1 City of Greater Geelong - Corio Norlane (2008)

The City of Geelong achieved the 2008 *Municipal Food Security Scan* in the Neighbourhood Renewal site of Corio-Norlane. The comparative area of Belmont-Highton was chosen.

The Focus Group evaluation indicated that the outcomes of the trial did not meet local expectations:

- Although the Project included a lot of research looking at the environments and background and there were some small outcomes, additional research will be required to support Council changes in access to food for people living in northern suburbs;
- The Work Book needs to be simplified, with fewer questions and more depth; and
- Some identified activities can be conducted internally in Council, and may be suggested next steps towards an integrated response.

"We thought we were ready, but we were probably looking at a different perspective"

(Focus group evaluation)

There were two consistent responses to how the Scan outcomes were progressed and how they would become sustainable:

- It was good to focus on the whole of community (system problems), rather than on individuals (people problems); and
- It was agreed that stakeholder capacity building took place.

*"The Project has changed understanding from a values base to a systems base"
"There have not been any judgments made about food type and human body weight"*

(Focus group evaluation)

There are some existing Council structures strategically to feed back some opportunities now. It may be necessary to take the slower road through internal Geelong processes, with awareness building and strategy checks. It would be advisable for Council to answer questions about the aspects of health that they can address best and have the most impact. Detailed feedback to the Corio-Norlane Neighbourhood Renewal Program will need to

occur in future. A Forum co-hosted by City of Greater Geelong and Neighbourhood Renewal to present findings and increase knowledge throughout the Neighbourhood Renewal area on food security is also desirable.

The City of Greater Geelong's revision of their Municipal Public Health Plan will take place early in 2009, and provides an opportunity to concentrate on what Council can do about local food security. In this Plan, the social determinants of health are the same for all issues, and the new information from this *Municipal Food Security Scan* can be embedded in what is already there.

However, what is clear from this trial is that new community networks are not required. The Corio Norlane partnership structure already exists (two government tiers, lots of departments) and the challenge therefore is how to bring in other resources to progress the systemic response to municipal food insecurity.

Neighbourhood Renewal considered that there are many opportunities that this Project could contribute to and progress the issues and move them to the community of Corio-Norlane through the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee (which includes representatives of three tiers of government). Key players can invest resources and Corio-Norlane could be a model to pursue so that the progress of municipal food security doesn't just fall on Council Officers.

"It will help to put on Agenda of decision makers when we can present (Food Security Project) to the (NR) Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee and Community Reference Committee"

"(It becomes) part of future planning for Council e.g. land use planning"

(Key informants)

A snapshot of Geelong - Corio Norlane *

	City of Greater Geelong	Belmont Highton	Corio Norlane *
Land area	1 240 sq km	20.9 sq km	24.8 sq km
Population	194 346	28 123	23 171
Low income households **	23%	21%	33%
Food insecurity (2007)	5.0% of adults	N/A	N/A
SEIFA	999.9	1036	840

* Neighbourhood Renewal Project site ** Combined income less than \$499/week before tax N/A = Not available

Corio Norlane *

“A feasibility study was conducted in 2006 to identify the potential for a whole of Victorian Government major urban redevelopment in Norlane and Corio. This study identified the potential for significant improvements to be made in the urban environment including revitalisation of the strip shopping precincts, creation public open spaces and improved connectivity to increase opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices and improve the perceived safety of these areas”

(City of Greater Geelong, 2007)

2010 Addendum to the evaluation of the Food Security Project

Progression of the Municipal Food Security Scan outcomes

In addition to the Food Security Project, Council has been working both internally and externally on a range of food security, food sustainability, food capital and community garden activities. In November 2009 Council hosted a *“Food for thought”* forum that has resulted in the establishment of an ongoing *Food Network* to share ideas and work together on key projects.

While Council is the lead agency the group is connected to the *G21 Regional Health and Wellbeing* strategic plan and action framework.

In addition Council is attempting to maintain some resourcing around health promotion which will have a focus on food security, food capital, sustainability and community gardens.

Other observations were also made, as follows:

- There is a need for a dedicated resource to facilitate food security, food capital, sustainability and community gardens;
- Much of the current focus is external to Council. The approach is municipal wide and engages across the region via *G21 Regional Health and Wellbeing* strategic plan and action framework;
- Many of the activities are responsive not addressing the strategic, systemic issues, and
- Activities still tend to be a *“doing to”* rather than a *“doing with”* approach.

Corio Norlane Neighbourhood Renewal Program

This eight-year Neighbourhood Renewal Program was completed in June 2010.

The Food Security Project undertaken by the City of Greater Geelong and VLGA (Wood, 2008) in Corio Norlane, was included in the final report of the Program outcomes achieved in this period (Corio Norlane Neighbourhood Renewal, 2010).

Many of the projects and initiatives of this Program will be progressed by the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board Sub Committee through partnerships with Neighbourhood Houses, the City of Greater Geelong, and other organisations in the area. The most obvious food security strategy is the *“Green it. Grow it. Sustainable Gardening in Corio Project”*, and the Community Gardens at Norlane, Cloverdale and Rosewall.

5.2 Wyndham City - Heathdale (2008)

Wyndham City applied the Municipal Food Security Scan in the Neighbourhood Renewal area of Heathdale in 2008. The comparative area of the whole of the municipality of Wyndham was chosen. The Focus Group evaluation indicated that the outcomes of the trial of the *Scanning Work Book* exceeded expectations:

- The results evidence base and community consultation provide the foundation for strong initiatives by Wyndham City, NR-Heathdale, residents and ISIS Primary Care;
- It was seen to be an academic exercise, but we have coped with the complex E4H framework;
- The outcomes are simple and can be translated to all;
- Wyndham City's outcomes will require further development of drivers, resources, and processes within council;
- Opportunities for improving food security were identified;
- Residents valued knowing what is going on, and resident participation has been very good and informative;
- Projects like this increase awareness, and the broad nature of the term food security was now known in the area; and
- There is an obvious link to climate change and petrol prices (residents see this) – and future strategies for improving food security can be sold as cost saving.

Although no (intervention) trials were undertaken during this Project, some residents took the initiative of approaching the local milk bar to sell fruit and vegetables. They were also considering how they can devise cheap ways of conserving household water.

"Food is good." "How do we work together to get more food easily?"

(Focus group evaluation)

It is now up to prioritising the opportunities and working out what is achievable. Some activities to immediately improve local food security (quick wins) were identified, including:

- Growing fruits and vegetables in home gardens;
- Food barter systems, and
- Affordable and easy provision of water tanks, food plants

A question for Wyndham City is how to use the Project outcomes for Heathdale in the future, with the challenge of focussing on assets rather than disadvantage. There is also a strong wish that Wyndham City take up food security across all business units (e.g. land use planning).

Partners in the Project took responsibility for the feedback and dissemination of Project findings to their respective organisations and will collectively ensure in future that the Project and its outcomes are communicated to relevant stakeholders in Heathdale and to the wider Wyndham community.

The partners in the Project Expression of Interest (Wyndham City, NR-Heathdale, ISIS Primary Care, WestBay Alliance) expressed a willingness to support and participate in the dissemination of project outcomes, e.g. the hosting of a Forum, and utilising e-newsletters to promote and disseminate learnings.

On the basis of the information gained, the existing partnership could apply for Project funding to support the continuation of a true partnership (Council, Neighbourhood Renewal, Primary Health Care), and funding of positions in each organisation.



A snapshot of Wyndham – Heathdale *

	Wyndham City	Heathdale *
Land area	542 sq km	2.64 sq km (0.5%)
Population #	122 036	6 815 (0.06%)
Low income households **	13%	23%
Council core activity need for assistance	3.1%	N/A
Food insecurity	5.1 % (adults only)	5.3%
SEIFA	1006	902.3

*Neighbourhood Renewal Project site. # Forecast (2007) **Combined income less than \$499/week before tax. N/A = Not available

Heathdale*

Heathdale has two small local shopping areas within its boundaries, each of which consists of a mixed business (no fresh fruits and vegetables sold), and one or two takeaway outlets. Three shopping precincts (which include large supermarkets) are located on the opposite side of main roads bordering the Heathdale area. These major arterial roads are physical barriers between Heathdale residents and the shopping precincts. It is difficult to obtain choice of affordable food in these locations. The many discarded shopping trolleys in Heathdale streets reflect the difficulty experienced in achieving access to food shops by Heathdale households.

"It is said to not be unusual for fish and chips to constitute a family's evening meal because of the convenience of take-way food outlets"

(Key informant)

2010 Addendum to evaluation of the Food Security Scan

A report on the outcomes of the 'Food Security Project. Local Government and Neighbourhood Review' was submitted to Wyndham City in May 2009. This resulted in Council endorsing the development of a Wyndham City position on the issue of food security.

Wyndham City is also currently developing its Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Plan 2010-2013. Following the outcomes of the *Municipal Food Security Scan*, food security is likely to be included within this plan.

Wyndham City's position on food security will be developed in the latter part of this year. Further action in the area of food security will be informed by the Wyndham Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Plan 2010-2013, when Heathdale will receive consideration.

Further observations were made as follows:

- The Scan was successful in raising the profile of the issue of food security, especially for a Council that had previously done only a small amount of work in this area
- It laid a good foundation for progressing the food security agenda in Wyndham.

Heathdale Neighbourhood Renewal Program

The Food Security Project undertaken by Wyndham City and the VLGA with this Program (Wood, 2008) identified many strategies that can be implemented over time to improve community food security in the area.

Many of the smaller projects and initiatives recommended by the Food Security Project will be progressed by the Heathdale Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group through partnerships with Wyndham City and other organisations in the area.

The most obvious current food security strategy in Heathdale is the 'Shoestring Gardening Project.'

This eight-year Neighbourhood Renewal Program will continue into 2011.

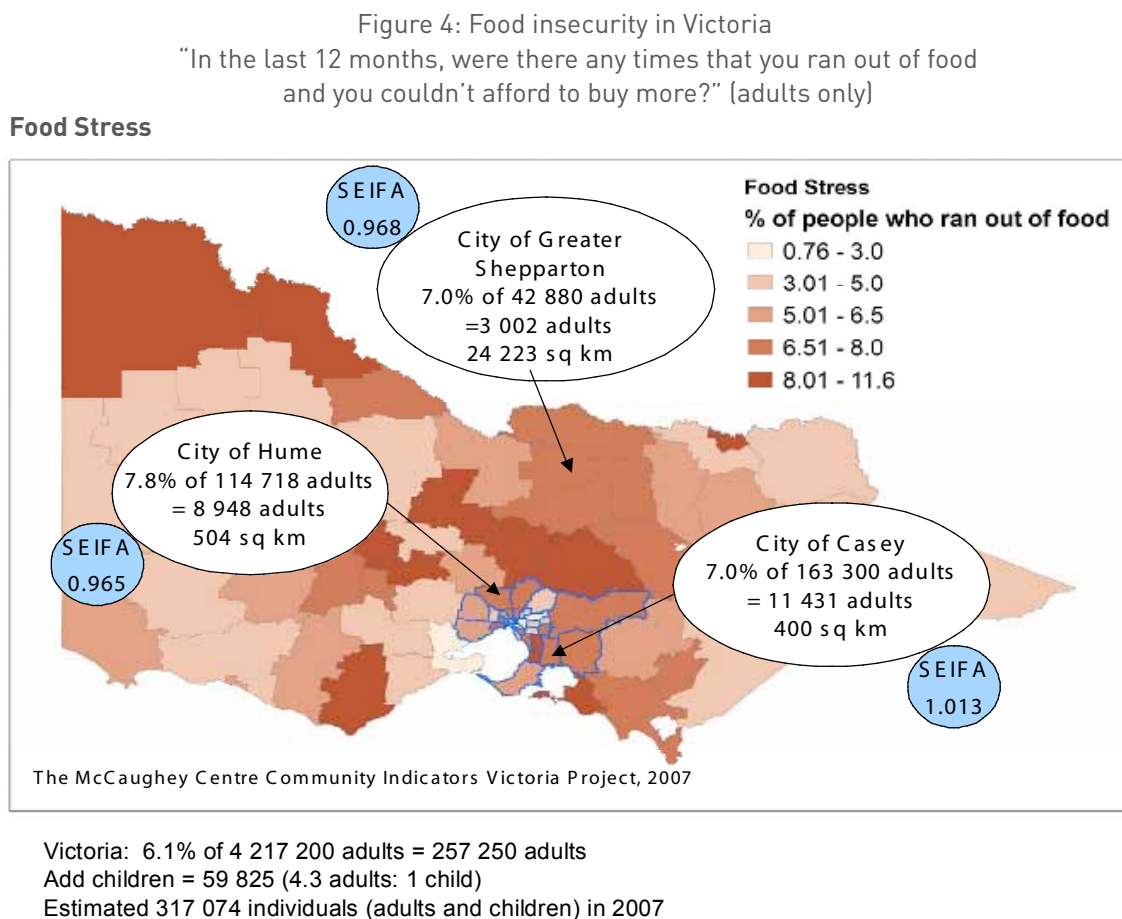
6.0 Case Studies (Project TWO)

Brief Case Studies were developed for each Neighbourhood Renewal site on the basis of all of the evaluation activities for the trial and included the following:

- Was the Scan achieved?
- Did the outcomes meet local expectations? YES/NO? Why?
- How are the outcomes of the Scan being progressed?
- How can the outcomes be progressed in future?
- A snapshot of the comparative sites scanned
- Additional remarks

The Cities of Casey, Hume and Greater Shepparton achieved outcomes specific to each Neighbourhood Renewal site. Details of the trial methods and outcomes for each site have been provided in the interim site reports (refer list in Appendix 5).

The following figure provides a visual snapshot of food insecurity in these Local Government areas.



The brief Case Studies for Broadmeadows (in Hume), Doveton-Eumemmering (in Casey), and the Parkside Estate (in Greater Shepparton) follow.

6.1 City of Casey - Doveton Eumemmering (2009)

Over recent years, the City of Casey had begun some initiatives to address local food security issues; the *Municipal Food Security Scan* enabled identification of further (multi-level) strategies to improve food security in Casey and specifically in a low SEIFA area.

The City of Casey achieved the 2009 *Municipal Food Security Scan* in the Neighbourhood Renewal site of Doveton Eumemmering. The comparative area of whole of the City of Casey was chosen.

Climate change is not adequately covered by the questions. This could be considered as a topic for additional questions in the natural environment section. For example considering the impact of rising prices emanating from government action and the private market response on food security. The issue of genetically modified foods and the potential impacts to food security were not identified in the tool.

There was an issue with the level of detail that some Scan questions were asking for. For example, specifying the number of milk bars in an area was too difficult, particularly now that planning considers 'activity areas' rather than planning for sole shops in an area. Also concepts like 'walkability' are hard to establish just from maps. Data is not always readily available in the format being asked of in the Scan, so this can make it more of a lengthy process to complete, for some questions.

There was inadequate time allocated in the Project to achieve a community consultation on local food security issues. It was however identified as an important issue for the area in a recent local community survey. To date there has been little community capacity building by either local government or the community sector around the issues of food security to inform meaningful community participation.

A snapshot of Casey – Doveton Eumemmering *		
	City of Casey	Doveton-Eumemmering *
Land area	~ 410 sq km	5.21 sq km
Population #	255,103	10,467
Low income households **	13.8%	29.7%
Food insecurity (2007)	6.3% of adults	N/A
SEIFA	1013 (Rank 53 of 79 local government areas in Victoria)	841.7 (Rank 11 of 644 postcodes in Victoria)
*Neighbourhood Renewal Project site. # May 2010 **Combined income less than \$499/week before tax N/A = Not available		

Feedback on trial process and outcomes indicated that the process assisted to engage staff from a number of departments across Council in the Working Group to map the dimensions of food security; most were previously not aware of the range of issues.

The outcomes identified will assist Council Departments to develop a local strategic and sustainable approach to food security, and has potential to assist planning and policy decisions and position Council for future funding opportunities.

There has been no agreed process on how to progress opportunities identified in the Report, this includes any process in partnership with Neighbourhood Renewal. The challenge is to impress on local government the importance of recognising the trend in food security and act sooner rather than later; to plan for future food security rather than respond to food shortage.

The Doveton-Eumemmering Neighbourhood Renewal Program will continue into 2011.

6.2 City of Hume - Broadmeadows (2009 - 2010)

The City of Hume achieved the 2009 *Municipal Food Security Scan* in the Neighbourhood Renewal site of Broadmeadows. The comparative areas of Sunbury and Craigieburn were chosen.

The Council Working Group who completed the *Municipal Food Security Scan* reported that it provided a broad overview of the factors influencing food security across the Environments for Health, was easy to use and did not require in depth training to implement.

It was easy for the Council Working Group to work on the particular sections relevant to their areas of work. The members of the Working Group have increased their knowledge of food security as a result of the Scan.

- The Scan took more time to complete than was first thought. Some information was not easy to source and required more time and effort;
- It was difficult to choose comparable sites at the start of the Project. Perhaps more information is needed about how to do this successfully and the rationale behind the different models (e.g. comparable land size, population size etc.), and
- The category description in the Scan was sometimes unclear, making it hard to work out what information was required. A glossary of terms may help to alleviate this.

Due to the completion of the Scan, food security has been identified as an issue requiring further discussion and focus within Hume City Council. The Project Report will provide an avenue for recommendations for future action to be identified and discussed. The Scan is also useful in guiding the cooperative work of Hume City Council and local Community Health Centres towards an integrated approach to food security needs assessment, and planning new food security initiatives in the municipality.

A snapshot of Hume - Broadmeadows*, Craigieburn, Sunbury

	City of Hume	Broadmeadows *	Craigieburn	Sunbury
Land area	504 sq km	2.42 sq km	3.40 sq km	1.92 sq km
Population #	157 000	3 023	3 235	3 205
Low income households **	17.2%	36.9%	7.8%	26.1%
Food insecurity (2007)	7.3% of adults	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEIFA	965.2 (Rank 16 of 79 local government areas in Victoria)	884.7 (Most disadvantaged area in Victoria)	1034.9	955

*Neighbourhood Renewal Project site. # May 2010. **Combined income less than \$499/week before tax. N/A = Not available

The Project Report will now be presented to Hume City Council Executive Management Team for their information, who will then decide on an appropriate progression of the reports actions.

Hume Council will be better placed to focus on systemic change and food security activities once the final Project Report has been presented to the Executive Management team. Access to nutritious and affordable food features as a theme in the Hume Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 – 2013 is a demonstration of Council's resolve and commitment to the issues.

The eight-year Broadmeadows community Neighbourhood Renewal Program will conclude in 2011.

6.3 City of Greater Shepparton - Parkside Estate (2009 - 2010)

In 2009, Greater Shepparton City Council released the Municipal Public Health Plan. This plan was developed in consultation with internal Council staff and external stakeholders and will be reviewed in 2013.

Council commitment to the issue of food security and access to nutritional food is a key theme in the Health Plan as enunciated under - *“Access for all Community members to Quality Nutrition”* which outlines that nutrition is an input to and foundation for health and development.

Further goals include: increase access to nutrition, education programs in schools and early childhood networks; identify Greater Shepparton City Council as a role model to industry by implementing healthy eating policies/guidelines for council catered events.

The City of Greater Shepparton achieved the *2010 Municipal Food Security Scan* in the Neighbourhood Renewal site of Parkside Estate. The comparative area of South Shepparton was chosen.

The comparative South Shepparton area was not ideal, due to size, and location within Shepparton. Comparative geographical areas needed to be similar in size, and socio-economic status. Although no intervention trials were undertaken during this project, clear progress was made.

The Parkside Estate area is located approximately 3km northwest of the Shepparton CBD. Olympic Avenue forms the central link on the estate. There are 19 courts that service Parkside Estate; many of these have up to 12 houses. The redevelopment of Parkside Estate saw some of these courts reconfigured into interconnecting streets allowing for better connectivity throughout the Estate.

The Shepparton South area is bounded by the railway line and Sallow Street in the north, Archer Street in the east, Broken River Drive in the south-east, and the Broken River in the south-west and west.

Parkside Estate has one convenience shop on the boundary of the area that consists of a mixed food business (no fresh fruit and vegetables sold) and includes fried food.

Approximately 2km away there is an IGA supermarket which includes a café, liquor store and lotto outlet that offers quality food, however there is no direct transport access to this shopping centre. IGA has a delivery service for a fee. It is difficult to obtain choice of affordable food in these locations.

The many discarded shopping trolleys in Parkside Estate reflect the difficulty achieving access to food shops by Parkside households. Approximately 1.5km from Parkside is a McDonald’s outlet.

A snapshot of Shepparton - Parkside Estate* v. Shepparton South**

	Parkside Estate *	Shepparton South **
Land area	0.6 sq km	5.45 sq km
Population #	1 300	6 519
Low income households **	20.9%	24.1%
Food insecurity (2007)	N/A	N/A
SEIFA	849.8	930.8

*Neighbourhood Renewal Project site. #2010 **Combined income less than \$499/week before tax. N/A = Not available

*The Goulburn Valley is often referred to as “The Food Bowl of Australia”
We need to strengthen opportunities for community to access food*

The evaluation indicated that the outcomes of the trial *Scanning Work Book* met expectations:

- Gaps have been identified with areas for improvement
- The research is an excellent tool to actually “paint a picture” of how geographical areas are placed
- Opportunities for improving food security have been identified, and internal discussions within Council need to commence regarding an integrated response and resources
- A partnership has been formed with a local health provider which has identified options going forward

The Project Report will now be presented to Council’s Executive Leadership Team for their information, direction and further actions.

A direction going forward for Greater Shepparton City Council is to strategically link and embed food security holistically across Council’s health planning, strategic planning processes and other key council activities and processes. Any associated financial implications would need to be considered.

Furthermore, it is important to ensure that these findings are presented to the community for a stronger understanding of what Food Security is and its importance to our building strong and healthy neighbourhoods and promote community driven change. Public education and communication of Food Security is an important element to strengthen community awareness more broadly across the municipality.

This eight year Parkside Estate Neighbourhood Renewal Program concluded in June 2010. The newly reformed North Shepparton Advisory Board and its focus groups will be able to identify, promote and support food security issues at the local level with specific solutions related to specified needs.



7.0 Common features of site specific outcomes for the Municipal Food Security Scan

7.1 Common dimensions and opportunities

The VLGA examined the *Scanning Work Books* of all five Neighbourhood Renewal sites (Broadmeadows, Corio-Norlane, Doveton-Eumemmering, Heathdale, Parkside Estate) for some examples of commonalities in the major barriers to municipal food security. These occur across the health, natural, built, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of the *Environments for Health* and have been summarised below (Table 2).

Table 2: Examples of commonalities in major barriers to municipal food security

HEALTH AND WELLBEING ENVIRONMENT	
Dimensions	Opportunities
High unemployment rate	Investigation of decentralised employment enterprise and opportunities (local food supply and urban gardening)
High levels of households with low income (less than \$500/ week)	
High numbers of individuals who did not complete year 12 schooling	Provision of opportunities for education throughout life, including food and life skill literacy
Low proficiency in spoken English	
Specific food problems in at risk groups	Specific food programs for at risk groups

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	
Dimensions	Opportunities
Arable land not preserved	Agricultural land preservation
Little local food grown	Establish urban gardening hub to support local food growing and edible food planting
Water restrictions affect ability to grow local food	Equitable extension of water conservation and recycling

BUILT ENVIRONMENT	
Dimensions	Opportunities
Centralised food supplies	Decentralisation of food supplies
Centralised dining and meal outlet access	Decentralisation of dining and meal outlet access
No provision of dedicated tracks and amenities (including lock up) for bicycle transport to the food supply and recreation	Equitable provision of dedicated tracks and amenities (including lock up) for bicycle transport to the food supply and recreation
Inadequate public transport to local food supplies	Investigation of public transport routes in relation to housing and the food supply (mapping - walkable distance 400 metres)
Inadequate amenities & infrastructure for food access (safe walking paths, adequate lighting, public toilets, drinking water, etc.)	Review of amenities and infrastructure that support food access (safe walking paths, adequate lighting, public toilets, drinking water, etc.)

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	
Dimensions	Opportunities
Limited competition in food supply	Increased competition in food supply
High food cost	Reasonable food cost
Low food variety	Increased food variety
Poor quality fresh food	Good quality fresh food
High cost of public transport	Review of the cost of public transport
Unknown location of Emergency Food Relief outlets	Map location of emergency food relief outlets and disseminate

SOCIO-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT	
Dimensions	Opportunities
At risk groups (social exclusion, food exclusion)	Provision of support and opportunities for social inclusion and food inclusion
Low skills and knowledge re household management	Provision of opportunities for improving skills and knowledge re household management
No 'breast feeding welcome here' locations	Provision of 'breast feeding welcome here' locations

Opportunities were time limited in this Project to progress local government inter-sectoral integration of food security strategies. There also appears to be a need for provision of support and capacity building for Council staff and residents in progressing food security issues in the local government setting.

The opportunities for improving Municipal Food Security have the potential to be categorised by population, cost and duration; some examples have been shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Examples for categorisation of opportunities for improving Municipal Food Security, by population, cost, and duration

	Short duration (immediate)	Moderate duration (less than 1-2 years)	Long duration (5 years)
Target population	Low income individuals and households	Whole of population - vulnerable groups	Whole of population
Less than \$ 5 000	Map location of Emergency Food Relief outlets and disseminate	Investigate public transport routes in relation to housing and the food supply (mapping - walkable distance 400 metres)	Media campaign for education throughout life, including food and life skills literacy
\$ 5 000 - \$ 20 000	Establish urban gardening hub to support local food growing and edible food planting	Review of amenities and infrastructure that support food access (safe walking paths, adequate lighting, public toilets, drinking water, etc.)	Provision of support and opportunities for social inclusion and food inclusion
\$ 20 000 - \$ 100 000		Equitable provision of dedicated tracks and amenities (including lock up) for bicycle transport to the food supply and recreation	Decentralisation of food supplies
More than \$ 100 000			

7.2 Settings for improving food security at the local level

This RAP trial of a *Municipal Food Security Scan* confirms at least three of the settings for improving food security at the local level that were suggested in a previous study (Wood, Swinburn, and Burns, 2003) (refer Table 4 below). Each setting can contribute to improvement in food security through their target population.

In the Project sites to date, many other stakeholders have not yet had the opportunity to participate (agriculture and land care, food growers, food producers, food distributors, food suppliers, traders, commerce, tertiary institutions, regional interests and planning strategists).

Improving whole of population health and wellbeing can in the future be supported by the development and testing of a prediction checklist for the effect of short, medium and long term strategies on Municipal Food Security. Three basic evaluation questions could be employed:

- Are any area demographic and other trends forecast in each environment for health?
- If the no-change option is selected, how will each environment for health develop and affect Municipal Food Security?
- When change in a dimension has been selected, what are the predictions?

Table 4: Settings for improving food security at the local level

Sector	Duration	Target population (dimensions)
Community and residents Consultation empowerment, issue identification, scan validation, assistance with interventions	Perpetual	Whole of population (inclusive of vulnerable groups in mainstream planning) <i>(health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural dimensions)</i>
Local Government Councillors and Council All Departments Municipal Public Health Policies and Plans	Moderate - long duration	Whole of population (inclusive of vulnerable groups in mainstream planning) <i>(health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural dimensions)</i>
Primary Health Care & Community Agencies Inter-sectoral policies and strategies	Short - moderate duration	Vulnerable households and individuals <i>(health dimensions, socio-cultural)</i>
Welfare Organisations Emergency Food Relief Policies and strategies	Short duration	Vulnerable households and individuals <i>(health dimensions, socio-cultural)</i>

7.3 Monitoring food security at the local level

All intervention strategies can be evaluated by using the *Scanning Work Book* to repeat relevant parts of the Scan at intervals, say two years.

In recent years, data on household food security has become available at national, state, and at the local government level in Victoria using the question “*In the last 12 months, were there any times that you ran out of food and you couldn’t afford to buy more?*”

In local areas, data is also required at the Collector District level to provide advocacy and support for local interventions and their subsequent evaluation.

Opportunities to progress the collection of this area data should be taken whenever possible, together with that for population groups. Local programs with vulnerable groups provides one of these opportunities.

7.4 Progressing Scan outcomes in the local government setting

The trial of the *Scanning Work Book* was applied in a similar way to the trials in all sites, and appeared to be influenced by the following factors:

- The largest of the local governments (Greater Geelong) had a larger Neighbourhood Renewal area and population (Corio Norlane), which together added complexity to the management of the trial procedures;
- Each council used a slightly different management structure for the Scan;
- Council Working Groups were set up with varying management and varying success (one failure due to change of council priorities)
- Community Consultation was central to the management of the Scan in one site (three meetings), and peripheral (one meeting) to the management of the Scan in two sites. Community Consultation did not take place in two sites.

These four factors appeared to make a difference in the way the RAP was conducted in each site and hence the outcomes at each site.

“Coming out of process we have got a strategic plan which will drive an integrated approach to improving food security and able to use the plan to influence other planning e.g. urban redevelopment projects”

“Something comes out of this Project and it doesn't end when audit ends”

(Key informants)

The sustainability of the outcomes for each site require further strategic development, if they are to be embedded in local government planning in most departments, and to result in procedural and policy changes in local government.

“Like to see it taken on board by Council, awareness at very least across Council and Departments (planning to health, economic developments)”

(Key informant)

“It would be good to be updated on outcomes, and form more partnerships to increase potential.”

“Start small and set up framework for change and a co-operative approach”

(Key informants)

The support of population health and wellbeing is an important and essential function for all local governments. The Training Program assisted council staff to conduct the Scan and increase awareness of the need for whole of population water and food security strategies at the local government level. Most (perhaps four of five sites) preferred to conduct the Scan in-house and were reluctant to include Primary Health Care and other partners in the process.

The Training Program succeeded in supporting council staff to conduct the Scan without major barriers. However, as yet, the report of the Scan has reached the council and elected community representatives of only one of the five councils who participated (refer Wyndham City Case Study Section 5.2). There is declared intention to progress the Scan Reports to council in three of the other four councils.

Time will tell whether sufficient momentum has been generated to get municipal food security on to local government Council Corporate Plans and Community Plans and other relevant strategies at the local level.

There may also be lack of understanding in council staff that municipal food security is the collective responsibility and mandate of the residents, elected councillors and the council, with advice and support from council staff.

Good governance requires council staff to provide the best advice into the management of this process so that good decisions to equitably support the residents can be chosen at the political level - at which time priorities, capacity, funding and other factors are also considered.

Even when food security is an accepted part of Municipal Public Health Plans, there appears to be preference by most council staff to utilise the Scan outcomes on a reactive and opportunistic basis rather than a pro-active and strategic basis. Such reactive interventions may be easier for council staff to apply. Some council staff may be reluctant to assertively progress the Scan outcomes for some other reason.

The council barriers to the progression of food security issues appear to occur between Municipal Public Health Plans (MPHP), Municipal Strategic Statements (MSS), and Corporate Plans (see diagram below) and require further investigation.



The Training Program has now been strengthened for the Management of the Scan and its outcomes by the Council Working Group (Appendix 8).

Further information is available on how to integrate the Scan outcomes with the council planning hierarchies (Victorian Department of Health, 2009 - Section 3.10).

“Council cannot achieve the changes alone, without other stakeholders engaged”

“How does food become part of ethos long term? This starts some of this process”

(Key informant)

8.0 Conclusions and recommendations

The *Municipal Food Security Scan* was trialled and achieved by VLGA partnerships with five local governments and their Neighbourhood Renewal Program areas, who submitted Expressions of Interest in conducting the Scan.

In the experience of working with these local governments to date, all managed to complete the Scan without funding. However it was obvious that lack of funding was sometimes a factor which weakened the priority of the processes within councils.

Most of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* can be readily completed within two weeks by council staff. Internal council consultation and external community consultation is required to validate the outcomes and this extends the management processes required - usually to monthly timelines (say six months barring interruptions).

The implementation of the Scan is more time consuming when the in-Council Working Group is not set up to be representative of the Environments for Health, and if the selected target area is not clearly delineated as a Collector District or Electoral Ward. Inclusion of an external partner from Primary Health Care is advantageous for their contribution to the scan of Health and Wellbeing Dimensions and perhaps Community Consultation.

None of the participating councils were able to extend in-Council Working Groups to include external partners (outside council) from the Environments for Health (natural, built, economic, socio-cultural). Ultimately, it will be important for this to happen at some stage to support a sustainable local economy and employment into the future through more local food production and distribution.

*"Food is good."
"How do we work together to get
more food easily?"*

(Focus Group evaluation)

A brief Training Program has now been developed for conduct of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* by local governments. This includes the following documents:

- *Scanning Work Book*;
- Scanning Resource Manual, and the
- Scanning Training Manual.

Using a rapid scanning process, the outcomes provide the beginning of an evidence base on *Municipal Food Security* for Councils that require an evidence base to act at the local level. The resources include model outlines for potential management and processes for the Scan within council, the community consultation and outcomes, the Scan outcomes, and report writing and strategy development within council.

Good governance and planning for whole of population mental and physical wellbeing will protect water and food security for all

This area work can be enhanced by intermittent and simple monitoring of household and individual food security.

If we are food secure, it makes an enormous contribution to our lives over the life span and to our communities. We have an individual responsibility for health and wellbeing but we have a collective governance responsibility to see that the systems are in place to support (and not impede) this household and individual responsibility.

Governments must make sure that shopping, transport and other infrastructure barriers do not affect the ability of households and individuals to achieve activities of daily living, independence, health and wellbeing and quality of life.

The *Municipal Food Security Scan* outcomes provide councils with the opportunity to be mindful of these barriers and to conduct further strategic planning and to identify the systemic changes which have capacity to make the most difference to improvement in area food security for the whole population.

Concurrently, many of the barriers to local area food security will be removed for vulnerable groups - an outcome safeguarded by the inclusion of Primary Health Care in the Council Working Group for the *Municipal Food Security Scan*.

Long term sustainable solutions to local food security barriers (towards *integrated* sustainable water and local food chain systems from paddock to plate for all) promote social inclusion and food inclusion. Social cooperation is essential to ensure food supply and support community independence and resilience.

The *Municipal Food Security Scan* provides councils with a rapid overview of area food security based on the *Victorian Environments for Health* framework for Municipal Public Health Plans. It can be used to inform pro-active and strategic planning in “council to improve area food security in an equitable way”.

Local government strategies and other activities were undertaken by several councils to improve local food security during the five year VicHealth *Food for All Program* (VicHealth, 2005 - 2010). Current promotion and support is being given for the latter by the *Food for All Dissemination Project* being conducted across local governments by the VLGA. There are also other initiatives being promulgated by other organisations at the local government level.

All of these initiatives can potentially contribute to Victorian local government and Public Health policy development on **food security for all at the local government level**.

To achieve sustainability of change in the wider community and a liveable and just society, integrated government planning and resources are essential for the equitable support of activities of daily living. There is a need for more integrated, long-term planning for food security as core business for the whole of government.

The following recommendations are made to progress the identification of systemic and other barriers to the improvement of *Municipal Food Security* and health and wellbeing in the local government setting across Victoria.



Recommendations

Long term sustainable solutions to local food security barriers (towards *integrated* sustainable water and local food chain systems from paddock to plate for all) promote social inclusion and food inclusion. Social cooperation is essential to ensure food supply and support community independence and resilience.

To achieve sustainability of change in the wider community and a liveable and just society, integrated government planning and resources are essential for the equitable support of activities of daily living. There is a need for more integrated, long-term planning for food security as core business for the whole of government.

The following recommendations are made to progress the identification of systemic and other barriers to the improvement of *Municipal Food Security* and health and wellbeing in the local government setting across Victoria:

- 1) Establish the Training Program for *Municipal Food Security Scans* as fee-for-service training within the VLGA for ongoing roll out across the State.
- 2) Introduce intermittent monitoring of *individual* food security where other demographic and health and wellbeing statistics are available (Collector Districts, Electoral Wards). This can be readily conducted by including the standard questions on *individual* food security (as adopted for the Victorian Population Health Monitor) in any local community surveys that are conducted.
- 3) Provide resources to local government for the conduct of *Municipal Food Security Scans* and incorporation of the outcomes into relevant aspects of Municipal Public Health Plans, Community Planning, Corporate Planning and Strategic Planning. Comparative area studies are recommended to facilitate a whole of population approach to health and wellbeing.
- 4) Advocate and promote training for improvement in *Municipal Food Security* to all local governments in Victoria, with encouragement of local food and water policy development through iterative cost-effective processes and integrated planning across council departments, with well-targeted interventions for improvement in population health and wellbeing.
- 5) Recommend that the outcomes of complementary Victorian Food Security Programs and Projects be considered for the development of Victorian Public Health policy on **food security for all at the local government level**:
 - a) **Scanning and monitoring:**
 - The Project *Municipal Food Security Dimensions and Opportunities. Municipal Food Security Scanning* (VLGA, 2010)
 - b) **Planning and intervention:**
 - The five-year *VicHealth Food for All Program* in its entirety (VicHealth, 2005 - 2010), including the current *Food for All Dissemination Project* being conducted by VLGA
 - Other initiatives being promulgated by other organisations at the local government level which target food security for all
- 6) Ultimately, all of this work will contribute to the development of policy which supports **good governance of food security for all at the local level**, which can then be integrated into a whole-of-government *Victorian Food and Water Policy*. Such a policy should ultimately extend beyond the economics of agribusiness and trade to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all of the Victorian population in the short-medium and perpetual future.

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Appendix 1: Acronyms and glossary of terms

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	NNS	National Nutrition Survey
CHC	Community Health Centre	NR	Neighbourhood Renewal Program
CIV	Community Indicators Victoria	PCP	Primary Care Partnership
DoH	Department of Health (Victoria)	PH	Public Health
E4H	Environments for Health	PHC	Primary Health Care
FS	Food security	RAP	Rapid Assessment Procedures
KYA	Know Your Area	YH	Your Health (Victoria statewide)
LG	Local Government	VLGA	Victorian Local Governance Association
NHS	National Health Survey	VPHS	Victorian Population Health Survey

Levels of food security

Global food security
National food security
State food security
Regional food security
Local community food security
Household and individual food security
Individual hunger

Food security

“Food security can be defined as the state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local-non-emergency food sources. Food security broadens the traditional conception of hunger, embracing a systemic view of the causes of hunger and poor nutrition within a community while identifying the changes necessary to prevent their occurrence. Food security programs confront hunger and poverty” (Community Food Security Coalition, 1995)

Food access

Access to the food supply is defined as access to quality food in local communities which is safe, affordable at competitive prices, culturally and environmentally acceptable and nutritious, with opportunity for healthy food choices, within walking distance or by readily available, frequent and affordable public transport.

Rapid assessment procedures

“Rapid assessment is a qualitative method for planning and evaluation health related programs (Scrimshaw and Gleason, 1994), and is usually conducted by a multi-disciplinary team. ‘Rapid assessment is not merely a method for collecting data about...but more importantly a process on which to formulate a plan of action to improve the living conditions of the people, based on their participating in defining their own problems” (Rifkin et al, 1994)

Scan

“Look at parts of (something) carefully in order to determine some feature”

http://oxforddictionaries.com/view/entry/m_en_gb0738040#m_en_gb0738040

Socio Economic Index of Relative Disadvantage

“The SEIFA index of relative socio-economic disadvantage assigns an index to geographic areas based on socio-economic variables such as economic resources, education and occupation. People in the first quintile live in the most disadvantaged areas whereas people in the fifth quintile live in the least disadvantaged areas. The SEIFA indexes were derived from the 1991 Australian Census” (ABS, 1994).

VLGA Food Security Network (FSN)

The VLGA Food Security Network (FSN) supports the officers and municipalities who are participating in the VicHealth *Food for All Program*, and the many others who are also addressing food security issues in their local areas, and is expected to enhance the uptake of integrated strategies throughout the sector. <http://www.foodsecurity.vlga.org.au>

A key communication channel for the Network is its online library and discussion forum list serve. The FSN is now building strategies to extend this work for assisting all of these processes towards achieving improved food security across Victoria in rural and urban Local Government areas.



Appendix 2: Selection of trial sites

Key criteria for evaluation of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) submissions

- 1) Local government capacity and commitment to be the lead local agency, and any work to date on the issue of local food security.
- 2) Demonstrated commitment to food security as an important community issue identified within local Neighbourhood Renewal priorities and an indication that planning to improve local food security has commenced.
- 3) Evidence of existing partnerships with a range of organisations and agencies that have a role in promoting and supporting food security within the Neighbourhood Renewal setting.
- 4) Demonstrated understanding of the issue of food security and integrated health promotion and how this may apply within the government area and Neighbourhood Renewal site(s).
- 5) Identification of a broad local management structure for the Project. This should include how existing local government and Neighbourhood Renewal partnership structures could be utilised.
- 6) Provision of in-kind or financial support through local Project partners and other potential partners.
- 7) Local government capacity to commence from November 2007 with partners to develop and trial a local Food Security Rapid Assessment process in selected Local Government-Neighbourhood Renewal sites.
- 8) Willingness to support and participate in dissemination of Food Security Project outcomes through a number of strategies including co-hosting a Forum on local government and local food security.

Submissions were initially scored against the following scale.

Scoring Scale for key evaluation criteria	Scores
Exceeds all aspects of the selection/evaluation criterion	4
Exceeds some aspects of selection/evaluation criterion, and meets all other aspects of the selection/evaluation criterion	3
Meets the selection criterion	2
Fails some aspects of the selection criterion	1
Fails all aspects of the selection criterion	0

NOTE:

- 1) Seven EOIs were received.
- 2) In Project ONE, two Cities were selected (Greater Geelong, Wyndham).
- 3) In Project TWO, the remaining five Councils were all invited to participate and three did so - the Cities of Casey, Hume and Greater Shepparton.

Appendix 3: Key Informant interview outline (Project ONE)

1) Process - Extent of the problem

- What is your own definition of food security?
- Are you aware of any barriers to food security in the area?
- Who is affected by it in the area?
- Do you know of any information on the size of the problem in the area?

2) Process - Perception of possible solutions

- How can food security be improved in the area?
- What are the organisations in the municipality who can be part of the short-term solution to the issues?
- What are the organisations in the municipality who can achieve some long-term solutions to the issues?

3) Process - Perception of roles

- What do you think your own organisation is going to be able to contribute in the solution of these problems?
- How is your organisation involved in the Food Security Project?
- Is food security part of the core business of your organisation?
- Is your organisation developing any partnerships on food security issues?
- Is communication between you and other stakeholders in the Project working well to date?
- How much do you feel you have been able to influence the Project activity to date?

4) Other issues

- Do you think that the Project is well located in terms of its auspicing body?
- Does this body have enough resources/infrastructure/orientation/ to achieve the Project objectives in the time available? If not, why not?
- Was there any awareness of food security issues in the area before the Project began?
- Who was aware? Why were they aware? Had any work been done to address the problems?
- Is there enough staffing, budget and time for this Project to make a difference in the municipality?

5) Reflections and learnings

- What are your reflections? (How do you think it is all going to date?)
- What are the main lessons which you have learnt so far? (Past month)
- What is your best wish? (Where would you like to see the future going?)
- Are there any additional comments you would like to make?

CLOSE

Appendix 4: Focus Group evaluation outline (Project ONE)

Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAP) for municipal food security (procedures and Work Book)

NOTE: This method of evaluation was applied in Project ONE. The evaluation has ten main themes. Trigger questions have been listed under each theme - to aid discussion only.

1.0 Readiness for this Project

- 1.1 Was there enough communication between the stakeholders before the Project began?
- 1.2 Were the stakeholders ready for the Project to start?
- 1.3 Other comments.

2.0 Strengths and weakness of the *Scanning Work Book* for municipal food security.

- 2.1 Were the questions framed correctly to gather the information required?
- 2.2 When using the Work Book, have you changed any questions?
- 2.3 Should the Work Book be shortened/lengthened? How? What sections?
- 2.4 Was the inclusion of a comparative local area worthwhile?
- 2.5 Other comments.

3.0 Strengths and weaknesses of the rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for Municipal Food Security

- 3.1 How much time has all of the procedures taken? Average hours per week. Duration.
- 3.2 To achieve the same result, could any of the procedures have been left out?
- 3.3 What is an optimal amount of time for the Scan?
- 3.4 What resources have been needed for the Scan?
 - * Human
 - * Financial
 - * Organisational
- 3.5 Were there any resource barriers?
- 3.6 Has the Project organisation been effective?
- 3.7 Should any additional procedures have been undertaken?
- 3.8 Other comments.

4.0 Who has been involved in this Project?

- 4.1 Have the intended stakeholders been successfully engaged and sustained in the time available?
- 4.2 Do you think that the Project has reached the appropriate stakeholders?
- 4.3 Have community members-residents been successfully engaged?
- 4.4 Were the community consultation strategies effective? If not, why not?
- 4.5 Has the VLGA always responded to assistance requests and been involved?
- 4.6 Could the RAP audit be conducted by local government without VLGA assistance?
- 4.7 Other comments.

5.0 Outcomes of the trial for Municipal Food Security Scanning

- 5.1 Have the outcomes of the Scan met your expectations?
- 5.2 Have there been any unexpected outcomes?
- 5.3 What do you think about the identified systemic opportunities for improving food security?
- 5.4 Will these strategies support community food security, resilience and wellbeing (physical, mental, socio-cultural) for the whole of the population?
- 5.5 Can these opportunities be turned into short, moderate and long term strategies?
- 5.6 Will these strategies be compatible with those addressing climate change and peak oil?
- 5.7 Other comments.

6.0 Has there been any improvement in area food security during the Project?

- 6.1 Has any short term impact been made on area food security? What is it?
- 6.2 Has any short term impact been made on food security for any population group?
- 6.3 Other comments.

7.0 How are the outcomes going to be progressed and become sustainable?

- 7.1 Has any knowledge transfer taken place as a result of the Scan?
- 7.2 Is there any indication of stakeholder capacity building?
- 7.3 Is any structural-system-process change in progress as a result of the Scan?
- 7.4 Are there any networks and partnerships in place as a result of the Scan?
- 7.5 Is there any ongoing-future financial support or other resources?
- 7.6 Are you optimistic or pessimistic about this happening?
- 7.7 Other comments.

8.0 Next steps

- 8.1 How are you going to progress the identified systemic opportunities to improve area food security?
- 8.2 How and when do you expect the decision-makers to assist in this future work?
- 8.3 Are there any likely reasons why these opportunities may be accepted-rejected?
- 8.4 Other comments.

9.0 Are there any good-bad process models?

- 9.1 What are your reflections on the Scan for municipal food security?
- 9.2 What are the main lessons that have been learnt?
- 9.3 Are there any stories to be told?
- 9.4 What is your best wish for the future?
- 9.5 Other comments.

10.0 Are there any other observations you would like to make?

2010 Addendum to evaluation

Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAP) for municipal food security (procedures and Work Book)

1.0 Has a way been found to progress the outcomes?

- Is any structural-system-process change in progress as a result of the RAP?
- Are there any networks and partnerships in place as a result of the RAP?
- Is there any ongoing-future financial support or other resources?
- Are you optimistic or pessimistic about this happening?
- Other comments.

2.0 Has there been any progress?

- Have you been able to progress the identified systemic opportunities to improve area food security?
- Have the decision-makers been able to assist in this work?
- Are there any likely reasons why these opportunities have been accepted-rejected?
- Other comments.

3.0 Have there been any good-bad process models?

- What are your reflections?
- What are the main lessons that have been learnt?
- Are there any stories to be told?
- Other comments.

4.0 Are there any other observations you would like to make?

CLOSE AND THANK YOU



Appendix 5: Food Security Project interim site reports*

* These reports are available from the Local Governments if required.

The use of 'Survey' in site reports has been retained (refer Preface)

Project ONE

1.0 City of Greater Geelong - Corio Norlane

Contact: Community Development, City of Greater Geelong, PO Box 104, Geelong VIC 3220

Expression of Interest Document

Key Informant Interviews

Focus Group Evaluation

City of Greater Geelong - Corio Norlane Case Study (refer Section 5.1)

Municipal Food Security RAP trial Work Book 2008

2.0 Wyndham City - Heathdale

Contact: Social Planning Unit, Civic Centre, 45 Princes Highway, Werribee VIC 3030

Expression of Interest Document

Key Informant Interviews

Focus Group Evaluation

Wyndham City - Heathdale Case Study (refer Section 5.2)

Municipal Food Security RAP trial Work Book 2008

Food Security Project. Local Government & Neighbourhood Renewal

Project TWO

1.0 City of Casey - Doveton Eumemmering

Contact: Health Promotion Team, Community Safety Department, City of Casey, PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 2085

Expression of Interest Document

City of Casey - Doveton Eumemmering Case Study (refer Section 6.1)

Municipal Food Security Survey 2009

Food Security in the City of Casey. Local Government & Neighbourhood Renewal

2.0 City of Hume - Broadmeadows

Contact: Policy Planning & Service Development, Aged Services and Public Health, PO Box 119, Dallas VIC 3047

Expression of Interest Document

City of Hume - Broadmeadows Case Study (refer Section 6.2)

Municipal Food Security Survey

Hume City Council Food Security Survey 2010

2.0 City of Greater Shepparton - Parkside Estate

Contact: Culture and Community Strengthening, City of Greater Shepparton, 99 Welsford Street, Shepparton VIC 3630

Expression of Interest Document

City of Greater Shepparton - Parkside Estate Case Study (refer Section 6.3)

Municipal Food Security Work Book 2010

Appendix 6: Questionnaire evaluation (Project TWO)

1.0 Individual evaluation of the Food Security Project

- 1.1 Please identify THREE (3) STRENGTHS of the rapid assessment procedures for Municipal Food Security - procedures and workbook
- 1.2 Please identify THREE (3) WEAKNESSES of the rapid assessment procedures for Municipal Food Security - procedures and workbook

2.0 Team evaluation of the Food Security Project

NOTE: The evaluation has three main themes. Trigger points have been listed under each theme - to aid your main response only. You don't have to answer the trigger questions unless you want to do so.

1.0 Outcomes of the trial Training Program for municipal food security

- 1.1 Have the outcomes of the trial met your expectations?
- 1.2 Have there been any unexpected outcomes?
- 1.3 What do you think about the identified systemic opportunities for improving food security?
- 1.4 Will these strategies support community food security, resilience and wellbeing (physical, mental, socio-cultural) for the whole of the population?
- 1.5 Can these opportunities be turned into short, moderate and long term strategies?
- 1.6 Will these strategies be compatible with those addressing climate change and peak oil?
- 1.7 Other comments.

2.0 How are the outcomes going to be progressed and become sustainable?

- 2.1 Has any knowledge transfer taken place as a result of trial?
- 2.2 Is there any indication of stakeholder capacity building?
- 2.3 Is any structural-system-process change in progress as a result of the Scan?
- 2.4 Are there any networks and partnerships in place as a result of the Trial?
- 2.5 Is there any ongoing-future financial support or other resources?
- 2.6 Are you optimistic or pessimistic about this happening?
- 2.7 Other comments.

3.0 Next steps

- 3.1 How are you going to progress the identified systemic opportunities to improve area food security?
- 3.2 How and when do you expect the decision-makers to assist in this future work?
- 3.3 Are there any likely reasons why these opportunities may be accepted-rejected?
- 3.4 Other comments.

4.0 Are there any good/bad process models?

- 4.1 What are your reflections on the Scan for municipal food security?
- 4.2 What are the main lessons that have been learnt?
- 4.3 Are there any stories to be told?
- 4.4 What is your best wish for the future?
- 4.5 Other comments.

5.0 Are there any other observations you would like to make?

CLOSE AND THANK YOU

Appendix 7: Questionnaire evaluation results (Project TWO)*

* This method of evaluation was applied in Project TWO

Identified strengths of the rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for Municipal Food Security – procedures and Work Book

Training:

- Early training was offered to assist in understanding the program and expectations
- Well structured program and format to follow
- Short, outcomes focused program that assists in building a profile for food security within the organisation
- A small focus which consisted of an expert already undertaking research on food security strengthened the group

Staff:

- Bringing staff together from different Departments of Council with a stake in food security issues
- It was easy for the Working Group to work on the particular sections relevant to their areas of work
- It is easy to use and does not require in depth training to implement

Scan results:

- Mapping of food security issues across the municipality (up to date snapshot of current issues) and identifying opportunities for action
- Provided a clear overview in relation to the dynamics of each comparative area, key issues were clearly identified
- Provided a “snapshot” increasing awareness and promotes food security on local agendas
- It provides a broad overview of the factors influencing food security across the Environments for Health
- It exposed the nutrition and health risks for the nominated local community due to a broad range of factors. These were then benchmarked against a second nominated area to further emphasise key findings. This will inform further local policy that may be developed

Identified weaknesses of the rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for Municipal Food Security - procedures and Work Book

Staff:

- Getting the support of internal departments on the issue of food security was difficult for one council, which was considered (by them) to compromise the quality of the Project outcomes
- Another council did not attempt to form an internal Council Working Group

Community:

- Difficult to get the community engaged resulting in quality of data being compromised
- Only one of three councils conducted Community Consultation, and then only in a limited way

Scanning method:

- The Scan took more time to complete than was first thought
- It was difficult to choose comparable sites at the start of the Project. Perhaps more information is needed about how to do this successfully and the rationale behind the different models (e.g. comparable land size, population size, etc.)
- Difficult to obtain demographic information to gauge an accurate overview for one council where both sites were not defined by postcode. Some information was not found or not specific enough to the defined areas
- Some information was not easy to source and required more time and effort
- The category description in the Scan was sometimes unclear, making it hard to work out what information was required, a glossary of terms may help alleviate this
- The length of the Work Book was too long and questions needed to be more clear and concise
- The toolkit would have been difficult in comparison of a smaller rural township with a geographical location in an urban area

Scan outcomes:

- It was felt that it was hard to derive significance from the small target areas studied by one council

Observations made on the Training Program:

- Was particularly useful to have the VLGA support, to get issue raised/advanced in local government
- Strong support from the VLGA Training Coordinator was invaluable throughout the duration of the project. Site visits by the Training Coordinator provided on the ground support at the local level to ensure that the Food Security Project remained on track and information gathered was reported to a high standard

Observations about any good-bad process models:

- Holding a community Focus Group was useful, perhaps next time a specific Focus Group for the CALD community would be useful, ensuring a representative snapshot of the community
- Engagement of the community was difficult in the timeframe – needs a more comprehensive approach to get meaningful outcomes
- The establishment of a small Working Group consisting of both internal and external members allows for a greater understanding of food security not only in the comparative areas, but also the municipality and region more widely
- Community Consultation was not employed as previous consultation had identified the issues facing the community, in particular Neighbourhood Renewal residents

Observations made about the outcomes of the Scan for Municipal Food Security:

- Increase awareness amongst Council Departments on the impact of food security
- Due to the completion of the Scan, Food Security has been identified as an issue requiring further discussion and focus within Council. The Project Report will provide an avenue for recommendations for future action to be identified and discussed. The Scan is also useful in guiding the joint work of the City Council and the local Community Health Centre towards an integrated approach to food security in the municipality
- The *Scanning Work Book* provides a broad overview of food security within the target areas
- The Scan has been an invaluable tool in identifying food security in the comparative areas
- The outcomes validate previous concerns of disadvantage, particularly in relation to the Neighbourhood Renewal community regarding access to food and also food insecurity to access nutritious food
- The opportunities identified can be turned into short, medium and long term strategies if a whole of community approach is used - i.e. a collaboration of all tiers of government, NGO's, service providers and community members
- The opportunities identified will support community food security, resilience and wellbeing (physical, mental, socio-cultural) for the whole of the population
- The opportunities can be turned into short, moderate and long term strategies with planning, resources and commitment
- In the short term the actions could include changing the culture of internal dialogue, and present a unified example to the community, and constantly reviewing Council's practices. e.g. community BBQ's need to change from a 'Snag & bread' to healthier options
- The outcomes of the RAP generally met expectations for collecting the necessary information and collating it into the final report
- The Scan had some unexpected outcomes - increasing awareness of hitherto unknown factors affecting food security
- The identified systemic opportunities for improving food security can be addressed by adapting existing Council activities to improve food access
- The strategies be compatible with those addressing climate change and peak oil and align with sustainability strategies
- Through the Scan stronger relationships have been developed with internal staff in all three councils
- Through the Scan, one site expressed value in the stronger external link developed informally with the Community Health Service, and another is currently working on a formal partnership
- Knowledge transfer has taken place as a result of Scan within councils
- There has been no indication of stakeholder capacity building so far
- There is no ongoing-future financial support or other resources but food security/access is a theme in the three Municipal Public Health Plans, which demonstrates commitment to the issue
- Optimism is expressed through the current focus on climate change, which will facilitate wider discussion of food security

Observations made about Next steps:

- Consideration by Council for development of a Food Security Policy
- Cross council coordination in relation to food security – Departments will consider strategic approach and prioritise resources as able
- The Project Report will be presented to the Executive Management Team for their information, who will then decide on an appropriate progression of the reports actions
- The need to incorporate Food Security in Council's strategic planning will be pursued by working within internal processes and policies to encourage conversations about this topic in Council business
- The RAP will be formally directed through the hierarchical structure of Council, and it is anticipated that Council staff will support the opportunities to explore food security further
- The findings will be submitted to the Executive Management team via the final report. Hopefully discussion will be able to take place as to appropriate areas for action and the capacity for Council involvement
- There are opportunities to consider findings and build on them within Council
- There are future opportunities for further access to food for all and the dissemination of material
- Further investigation into the relationship between food security and natural disasters and the impact this has on the ongoing responsibility of service provider/organisations to meet the needs of food insecurity
- Opportunities may be accepted/rejected due to capacity to undertake new work activities, cross divisional input to Projects that may be determined '*out of scope*'

Reflections on the trial of the Municipal Food Security Scan:

- I enjoyed this project, although at times it was challenging to identify and motivate champions within Council to assist
- It is important to ensure that you have buy in from Management and that for members of the Working Group the Project is not too time consuming



Appendix 8: Municipal Food Security - Training Program outline

This VLGA Training Program has been designed to provide direct assistance and support to councils who are interested in good governance and planning for Municipal Food Security.

The information materials support conduct of a rapid assessment process for *Municipal Food Security Scans*:

- 1) *Scanning Work Book*
- 2) Scanning Resource Manual
- 3) Scanning Training Manual

The Scan is facilitated through an integrated Council Working Group that includes relevant partners and external stakeholders (particularly Primary Health Care). The management structure and outcomes then provide the necessary shared understanding of the local issues to facilitate development of a strategic integrated approach to local food security that is iterative and cost-effective.

Aim

To assist participants to increase local government awareness and accountability for good governance of Municipal Food Security, through conduct of a *Municipal Food Security Scan* and progression of its outcomes.

Objectives

This Training Program is designed to assist and support local governments who want to undertake the following:

- 1) Identification of *Municipal Food Security dimensions and opportunities* (health, natural, built, economic, socio-cultural) for improving whole of population food security.
- 2) Local government capacity building, planning, development and progression of local policies and strategies to support and improve Municipal Food Security.

The emphasis is on the identification of systems and other barriers to improving Municipal Food Security in the local government setting.



Target groups

Up to 12 individuals (council staff and external stakeholders) are a reasonable number of participants in each target group for training.

The Training Program is designed to be delivered in a number of ways, as follows:

- 1) Single Local Government Area, including local stakeholders
- 2) Three Local Government Areas, who will work independently of each other
- 3) Regional Local Government Areas who wish to work together

1) Good governance and management of the *Municipal Food Security Scan* and its outcomes.

- Information is provided on how to set up a Council Working Group with partners to manage the Scan and progress its outcomes;
- The Victorian “*Environments for Health*” framework is used to examine the food security dimensions and opportunities by area;
- Guidelines for Community Consultation; and
- Management of integrated processes and capacity building within council and with external partners to achieve the Scan outcomes and their progression.

2) Report to Council, dissemination of Scan outcomes and advocacy.

- Report preparation;
- Policy development;
- Community planning;
- Corporate planning, and
- Strategic planning.

Training Program delivery

The Training Program will be delivered by the VLGA staff in partnership with local government participants, through a short Program of three to six months duration:

- 1) Two half-day group training sessions (week one, and week 10-12);
- 2) *Municipal Food Security Scanning Work Book*;
- 3) Resource Manual;
- 4) Site visits (three - initial, mid-Scan, end of Scan, and
- 5) On-going support (telephone, email, assistance with reports).

Other relevant VLGA Training courses

Many other relevant VLGA training courses and resources are available (refer Appendix 9).

Appendix 9: List of VLGA information, training and resources

1) Liveable & Just: local governments addressing the social and equity impacts of climate change

Project overview (2009-2010)

http://www.vlga.org.au/Projects___Campaigns/Climate_Change/Liveable_and_Just.aspx

Discussion Paper (May 2009)

<http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Liveable%20and%20Just/LJ%20Exec%20Summ.%20FINAL.pdf>

Liveable & Just: A toolkit for local governments to address the social and equity impacts of climate change (March 2010)

www.liveableandjust.vlga.org.au

2) Victorian Climate Change Green Paper

Response to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper, September 2009

<http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Climate%20Change/Final%20VLGA%20Green%20Paper%20Response.pdf>

3) Food Security

Project overview

http://www.vlga.org.au/Projects___Campaigns/Climate_Change/Food_Security4.aspx

Food security network library

http://www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Food_Security_Library.aspx

Food security network discussion forum

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/foodsecurityvic/messages>

Municipal food security surveys (2008)

<http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Food%20Security/INT%20-%202008%20FS%20RAP%20Summary%20Project%20Report.pdf>

VLGA Land use planning & Community food security Project. Literature Review (2008)

http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Land%20Use%20Planning/INT%202009%20Oct%208%20VLGA%20Report%20on%20Food%20Security_Final.pdf

Economic significance of the food sector

<http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Land%20Use%20Planning/20082502%20Economic%20Significance%20of%20the%20Food%20Sector.pdf>

Peer reviewed publications:

- 1) Wood B and Osborne J. The Victorian food security network. Asia Pacific Journal Clinical Nutrition, 15 (Suppl 3): S 139; 2006.
- 2) Food Security Network Moderator. The Food Security Network. Food Chain, Issue No. 10, September, 2007.
- 3) Wood B. A local government approach for removing barriers to local food security. Public Health Nutrition in Australia Conference, Brisbane, November, 2007 (abstr.).
- 4) Wood B and McDowell S. Food security in the setting of local government and neighbourhood renewal. Public Health Nutrition in Australia Conference, Adelaide, July 2008, (abstr.).
- 5) Wood B and McDowell S. Municipal food security - dimensions and opportunities. Nutrition & Dietetics 66: (Suppl 1):A59, 2009 (abstr.).
- 6) Wood B, Budge T, Ray D. Good governance and community food security planning. Public Health Association Australia 'Future Foods Conference', Canberra, 2010 (abstr.).

4) Building Communities: A leadership journey in environmental sustainability

Project report

http://www.vlga.org.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Climate%20Change/BCLJ%20Final%20Report_VLGA_Dec08.pdf

5) Advocacy: working with local, state, and federal governments

Training course on influencing and working with governments

http://www.vlga.org.au/Events/Training/VLGA_Training.aspx

VLGA submission to the Melbourne 2030 Audit Expert Panel (September 2007)

VLGA submission for the 2008-2009 State Budget. 'Stronger local communities, integrated State, Local and Regional policy responses, and a stronger third sector' (December, 2007)

VLGA Media Release: Consumer choice on GM Foods in State Government hands (March, 2008)

The Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and related issues - Inquiry Into food production.

VLGA submission: Food Security relies on whole of Government commitment to connecting all sectors (16th September 2008).

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric_ctte/food_production/submissions/sub30.pdf

VLGA submission to Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee Inquiry into the sustainable development of Agribusiness in outer suburban Melbourne (2009).

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