

## Q13 Food Security How would you build community resilience and address food security in Merri-bek beyond the existing Merri-bek Food System Strategy 2024 - 2027 (PDF)? How do you think Council could further support culturally relevant and nutritionally rich food to diverse and vulnerable communities?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Employing residents as part of the food system strategy implementation will ensure that people receive culturally relevant and nutritionally rich foods. Provide targeted grants to areas with vulnerable communities, led by community. Supporting existing groups that have demonstrated impact in this area will maintain action while other more culturally relevant programs gain momentum.	10/1/2024 11:15 PM
2	Food security is increasingly important in a warmer, climate-changed world. Particularly as the climate crisis can cause disruptions to supply chains. Merri-bek has been a local government leader in food security and we recently passed our new Food Systems Strategy. I will support this strategy to be funded in our budget. We also need to better support the many food and material relief organisations who are supporting local residents through the current cost of living crisis.	9/30/2024 4:40 PM
3	The Food System Strategy is only in the first year of its current iteration and so needs time to progress. This strategy is groundbreaking for a Council and recognises the complex intersections of climate change, socio-economic status, community resilience and food security. Continuing to support local community gardens, food swaps and granting access to commercial kitchens at low or no cost are some ways that Council can support this access to culturally relevant and nutritionally rich food.	9/30/2024 10:59 AM
4	I don't agree with supporting culturally relevant food – when people talk of Italian food for instance, they'll inevitably mention tomatoes, even though tomatoes were only introduced to Europe after the discovery of South America. Few people are aware that cows were invented only 10,000 years ago after selective breeding of the auroch. If people aren't even prepared to change a part of their diet, then what hope do we have for avoiding catastrophe? In order for council to support nutritionally rich food, council could work with our wastewater companies to provide more biological analysis of wastewater, discovering the health of humans in the area. Council could also fund the development of open-source software for tracking meals and food purchases, allowing residents to more easily analyse and optimise their behaviour. Finally, council could provide more compelling active transport options and exercise equipment, spurring people into healthier lifestyles where they'll become inspired to improve their health further.	9/29/2024 8:06 PM
5	The Food System Strategy 2024-2027 is currently in its first year so has not had time to fully progress. Council should continue to implement this strategy and regularly consult with community and review the effectiveness of its implementation. Council should also continue to support local community gardens, food swaps, and grant access to commercial kitchens at low or no cost. I will also advocate for further investment in Merri-bek food hubs to strengthen the food and material relief sector and provide direct material support to the community.	9/28/2024 4:28 PM
6	Food is obviously essential for our life! This is a good document I support it. Council needs to be engaged with people in the community in developing local resources and can also assist with access to space for community gardens. Support for services facilitating access to quality food for all needs active work from Council as well.	9/23/2024 2:14 PM
7	I will encourage "urban farming" and community food gardens. As member of the culturally and linguistically diverse community, I know the importance of the availability of culturally food and see a huge opportunity in our incredibly diverse municipality to share knowledge and information in gardening practices.	9/22/2024 4:57 PM
8	The Food System Strategy is only in the first year of its current iteration and so needs time to progress. This strategy really is groundbreaking for a Council and recognises the complex intersections of climate change, socio-economic status, community resilience and food security. Continuing to support local community gardens, food swaps and granting access	9/21/2024 10:26 AM

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9	Labor and I support resilient food systems, which adopts a food system approach to help deal with climate change impacts, the rising cost of living and inequality.	9/20/2024 4:30 PM
10	I think Council's strategy on this topic, while worthy, is more hope than concrete and meaningful action. Merri-bek is a highly urbanised area with no primary production space. At best, food production is limited to household or public green open space. Care should be taken in promoting solutions that are inequitable (expensive), inefficient (too small scale), or unsafe (due to urban waste & pesticides). Multicultural communities with their own food cultures do not need local government to patronise their cultural practices. Securing Australia's food security requires, at least, national coordinated action between the primary industries sector, government, all planning frameworks, and trade organisations. People who experience food insecurity due to social disadvantage, low wages and high prices need significant social assistance, not a weekend farmers' market with expensive organic produce. Scarce public funds should not be spent which effectively cross-subsidise more expensive food choices by the wealthy.	9/19/2024 10:11 PM
11	I support existing strategies from Greens on council. "The Food System Strategy is only in the first year of its current iteration and so needs time to progress. This strategy really is groundbreaking for a Council and recognises the complex intersections of climate change, socio-economic status, community resilience and food security."	9/19/2024 8:13 PM
12	Promoting and informing	9/19/2024 6:15 PM
13	As a councilor, I will support school kitchen garden programs and also promote sourcing of programs from local and organic farmers.	9/18/2024 8:56 PM
14	Engage with Community Leaders, Support Local Food Initiatives, Promote Nutritional Education I will also advocate for state and federal efforts to ensure future food security.	9/18/2024 2:56 PM
15	I support enhancing community gardens, local food initiatives, and partnerships with community groups to increase access to culturally relevant and nutritious food. I believe in building on the existing Food System Strategy by strengthening support for food education programs and creating opportunities for diverse communities to engage in sustainable food practices	9/17/2024 11:47 PM
16	Heathy food is very expensive compared to take away leading to obesity problems. While this problem needs to be addressed at all levels of government; locally, we can invest in more community gardens, and plant more edibles in our parks and community. Working with CERES we could develop community food and relief programs to harvester food like herbs, fruit and olive oil from public places, community gardens, urban food forests.	9/17/2024 10:05 AM
17	I think council needs to work on two fronts. It needs to support urban agriculture and food security programs, but it also needs to support some of the unfunded organisations that provide emergency relief while not receiving any council or government funding.	9/16/2024 2:37 PM
18	Food is a basic right and no-one should ever go hungry in a country that has enough food. Council, being close to the community, is in a position to guarantee this people. Community kitchens must be expanded by council and the different cultural communities within council must be engaged to make sure these are relevant and accessible to people's needs.	9/15/2024 12:39 PM
19	I support urban food farming and consider this to be not only an important strategy to promote food security but also a way in which community members can be engaged in caring for land. I understand that communal gardens also have great benefit for social health and cohesion and would promote where possible.	9/15/2024 9:38 AM
20	This is something I am really passionate about and I think we are missing some really important opportunities in our open space to be growing a LOT more food in the public realm. Our food systems strategy has missed an opportunity to connect all the growers in our community in a meaningful way in my opinion. We need to understand that the north of the city has greater need for fresh local produce and less time to grow it and that some food gardens exist to facilitate the need for connection and social interaction. There are parklands in other states where there are citrus groves and big herb gardens that are available for the public. I believe that the food systems strategy should include funding for a role from open space so that we can actually have boots in the garden and not just theory in the halls. I think that until we do this and more, we will not see what we should in terms of food growing in our city and that as long as we don't we will not thrive in the long term as our peri urban farmland is decimated for cheap housing with inadequate community facilities and transport routes.	9/14/2024 5:15 PM