

How to make food in institutions more sustainable.

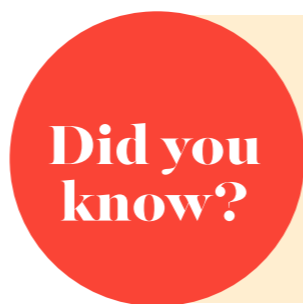
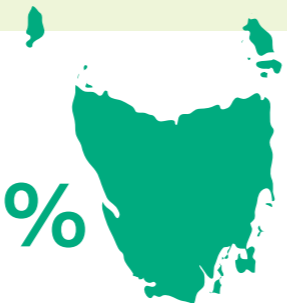
WHAT TASMANIANS WANT

Our food systems are vulnerable to disruption. COVID-19 showed us that. Climate change impacts like floods, storms, drought and fires are also showing us that. We need greater resilience in our food systems. We need food systems with lower emissions, more secure producer livelihoods (including SMEs), regenerated landscapes and biodiversity, shorter supply chains and equitable access to healthy seasonal food. We can make a big difference if our institutions adopt sustainable food procurement; in our aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons, schools, Meals on Wheels and university campuses. **This is already happening overseas. We need it in Tasmania too.**



EMRS polled adults in Tasmania* in August 2023. This is what they said:

“ Food in institutions should be healthy



Food transport makes up 19% of food emissions.

Twice as much greenhouse gas is created transporting fruit and vegetables compared with their production.¹ Sourcing Tasmanian produce means shorter supply chains, lower emissions, and more jobs and income for Tasmanian producers and processors. It also means fresher and more nutritious food for Tasmanian consumers.



“ When buying food for meals in public institutions, governments should always try to...

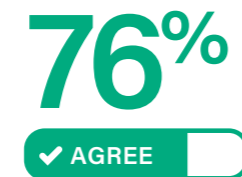
...source from Tasmanian farmers and food processors



...source food from small and medium sized farmers and processors



...have a low environmental impact to reduce the risks of climate change



+9m meals

A Tasmanian Farm to Institution Program

We need to invest in a Tasmanian Farm to Institution Program. This Program would:

- create shorter supply chains, new markets and more jobs
- reduce food waste
- create a united approach between Tasmanian farmers, processors, wholesalers, institutional food service, businesses, governments, researchers and sector peak bodies
- meet the expectations of Tasmanians around sustainable food procurement
- build on international experience.

HOW DO TASMANIANS COMPARE WITH MAINLANDERS?

EMRS also polled adults across mainland Australia* during August 2023.

The results showed that Tasmanians **care more** about this than mainlanders.

On every question, Tasmanians agreed more strongly than mainland Australians that we need sustainable food procurement by institutions.

*The polling covered 1400 adults aged 18-70 across Australia: 1000 on the mainland and 400 in Tasmania. Participants were drawn from across the income spectrum; working, unemployed, students and retirees; with diverse levels of education attainment.



Our big opportunity

Each year over 9 million government-funded meals are served in institutions across Tasmania: 2/3 are Federal Government funded and 1/3 are State Government funded. So we have a big opportunity to include Tasmanian produced and processed food in every meal.



ACHIEVING EXISTING COMMITMENTS

A Tasmanian Farm to Institution Program would also help deliver on existing State and Federal government commitments, including:

- Health Strategic Plans – State and Federal
- Buy Local Policy
- National Statement on Agriculture and Climate Change
- Tasmanian Small Business Growth Strategy
- Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00531-w>

