

Melbourne Food Hub – Fast tracking a food hub cluster

Position Description – Packer

February 2021

Sustain: The Australian Food Network is seeking applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of a Driver for our 'Fast Tracking a Food Hub Cluster' initiative, funded by Working for Victoria. This role will be based at the Melbourne Food Hub, located at High Street, Preston.

Background

Building on the established success, reputation, profile and partnerships of the Melbourne Food Hub and the award-winning Cardinia Food Circles initiative (two leading projects of Sustain: The Australian Food Network), this initiative will fast-track the expansion of the Melbourne Food Hub and a networked partnership establishment of a Cardinia Community Food Hub. For a period of six months from 22 February 2021, the two food hubs, in collaboration with the established Baw Baw Food Hub, will source produce directly from 40-50 local small to medium scale (seasonal) producers, many of whom have been impacted by the COVID19 restrictions; aggregate and market that produce; and pack and deliver it to an estimated 300 households and 25 businesses and institutions in the Baw Baw-Cardinia-Casey-Yarra Valley-Dandenong region as well as the inner metro region serviced by the Melbourne Food Hub.

In addition to household-level distribution of fresh and healthy food, and the social, community and economic benefits this initiative will also build on and expand the food security and food justice work that Sustain has been carrying out with a small grant from the Moving Feast collective. Working with local producers who have surplus produce, we anticipate being able to source in excess of 3000 kgs over the six months of the funded project. This produce will be made this available to local households through prepared meals and hampers through our partnerships with local food relief providers in the respective municipal areas, as well as thousands more through the Lentil as Anything Pay as You Feel network people in need. This element of the initiative will make a substantial contribution to food security efforts at a time of heightened need amongst growing sectors of the Melbourne community.

This initiative will be showcased at the 3rd national Urban Agriculture Forum taking place on 22-24 April 2021, as well as the inaugural national Urban Agriculture Month. These events combined will reach an audience of tens of thousands nationally and internationally, showcasing leading practice and case studies in urban agriculture and sustainable local food systems in Victoria and beyond.

Sustain is Australia's meta-food network, supporting the transition to a healthy, sustainable and fair food system that works for all Australians.

Project philosophy

Consistent with our long-term partnership with Cardinia Shire Council and other partners involved in the Cardinia Food Circles project, this initiative will be delivered as a *Collective Impact* project, with Sustain as the *anchor* or *backbone* organisation, working together with HopeWorks, Baw Baw Food Hub, Cardinia Shire Council, and multiple other key partners around a shared vision for change to achieve powerful results. Collective Impact requires collaborative working amongst all partners with five conditions for success:

- **A common agenda / shared vision for change**
- **Shared measurement systems** – documenting how we will measure and report on success
- **Mutually reinforcing activities** – each partner does what they do well to support and coordinate with each other within the agreed overarching plan
- **Continuous communication** – building trust, confidence and joint working
- **Backbone support organisation** – to coordinate the project as a whole and the multiple relationships within it

Purpose of the Packer Role

The role of the Packer is to work with the Project Coordinator to sort and pack fresh produce ready for dispatch to customers of the Melbourne Food Hub and / or the Cardinia Community Food Hub.

This is a part-time position (0.5 FTE), **starting 8th March, 2021.**

The Packer will report to the Project Coordinator.

Key responsibilities and deliverables – in consultation with and support from the Project Coordinator

- Sorting and packing produce – pack veggie parcels, organise space
- Organise subscriber data and compile spreadsheet
- Overseeing / checking producer – reporting to the Project Coordinator
- Label and stamp boxes
- Track data of parcel weights, amounts donated post pack
- Breakdown and management of the work space including cleaning
- Assist in related veggie box packing and distribution efforts including community cooking and food relief programs
- Supporting the MFH urban farmer at Alphington and related sites
- Assisting in leading volunteer days at the MFH Urban Farm
- Participate in leadership development activities
- Supporting Melbourne Food Hub / Cardinia Food Circles / Sustain events
- Contributing to social media and blog posts – recipes, meet your farmer, etc

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Knowledge, skills and experience sought

- Experience in packing operations
- Handling and sorting fresh produce
- Customer relations experience (desirable)

This role will prioritise those who identify as:

- New graduates
- Persons with disabilities
- Refugees
- Asylum seekers
- Youths who have come into contact with the criminal justice system

Place of work

This role will be based at Preston (depending on allocation)

Payment

The role is funded at \$12,950.00 over six months, commencing 8th March 2021, including four weeks' paid annual leave (pro rata, 2 week's annual leave, to be taken at the conclusion of the contract), with the compulsory 9.5% superannuation in addition.

To apply for this position

Send your CV (two references) with a cover letter setting out your interest in the project, how your experience matches the selection criteria and how you would propose to achieve the deliverables to Nick Rose, Executive Director of Sustain: The Australian Food Network, by 1st March 2021:

nick@sustainaustralia.org

Sustain: The Australian Food Network is committed to the provision of equal employment opportunities for all members of the community, regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, age or ethnicity.

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