

An Action Agenda to Make Australia's Towns & Cities Edible

\$500M National Edible Gardening Fund

Dietary-related ill-health and mental illness costs Australia around \$200B every year. For a tiny fraction of this, the return on investment on an Edible Gardening Fund could be enormous.

Dr. Nick Rose, Sustain

As part of the COVID-19 recovery process, we are calling for the establishment of a national, co-financed Edible Gardening Fund as a long-term investment in the public health of all Australians.

Dr. Kelly Donati, Sustain



Urban Planning/Land Use

- › **Work towards land justice for First Nations** by acknowledging Indigenous land governance, support recovery of history and culture, and enable First Nations communities to access their own land in towns and cities
- › **Prioritise urban food production** as part of vital city and town infrastructure
- › **Embed urban agriculture** in local and state planning schemes
- › Map and **audit available land**
- › **Facilitate access** to public land through specific initiatives



Finance, Subsidies & Incentives

- › A **\$500M national Edible Gardening fund** as an urgent investment in public health and wellbeing
- › This will support nearly **3000 new jobs** in local government, community gardens and social enterprises
- › A **\$40M national gardening infrastructure** and materials fund, co-managed by community and local government
- › A **\$50M annual grants program**, with \$35M for schools benefiting 2.6M students nationally
- › **\$45M in rates rebates** to support local government to incentivise private landowners to unlock land
- › **\$225M in social prescribing** supporting vulnerable community members to access subsidised local and healthy food as well as gardening and cooking classes



Capacity Building

- › **Make food literacy a key goal** and embed it through curriculum
- › **Create and distribute resources**, fact-sheets and how-to-guides
- › Host **workshops** and hold courses
- › Provide mentoring, advice and **guidance**
- › **Facilitate supported exchanges** between older and experienced gardeners with younger and new gardeners



Governance & Coordination

- › Resource and support **urban agriculture cooperatives**
- › Resource and support **local food networks**
- › Resource and support **Youth Food Security councils**
- › Resource and support **national and state sector coordination**
- › **Joint governance and coordination** at local level between councils and community groups



Infrastructure & Materials

- › Councils and communities to **make essential gardening infrastructure available** to groups and low-income individuals
- › **Free water connections** as of right for approved community gardens / urban farms
- › Mass expansion of **community composting**
- › National network of **community seedling nurseries**



Policies & Plans

- › National **commitment to eradication of food poverty** and food insecurity
- › Participatory **development of local, state and national food security** & food system strategies and plans
- › Implementation resourced through **dedicated food security and food system officer roles**
- › Participatory **monitoring and review**

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"I think [COVID-19] has made many people realize how dependent and vulnerable we really are and the importance of taking back some of the control over our food supply. It has also shown we are capable of making significant change to the environment with our actions if we all work together."