



Local Government Role in Food Security

What are the Barriers?

Christine Slade

Opening Thoughts



*'There is a future of food
that is far more sustainable'*

UK Cabinet Office (2008)

- 1. Ideally, food policy should be comprehensive and integrated across the three levels of government.***
- 2. But in reality, it has started from the ground up.***
- 3. Some partnerships with State Government level.***
- 4. Federal government has not 'got the vision'.***
- 5. Now advocating to State governments to take responsibility for food issues – one department for food?***

The Context: Two Projects

1. Integrating Land Use Planning and Community Food Security Report October 2009



Victorian Local Governance Association
www.vlga.org.au



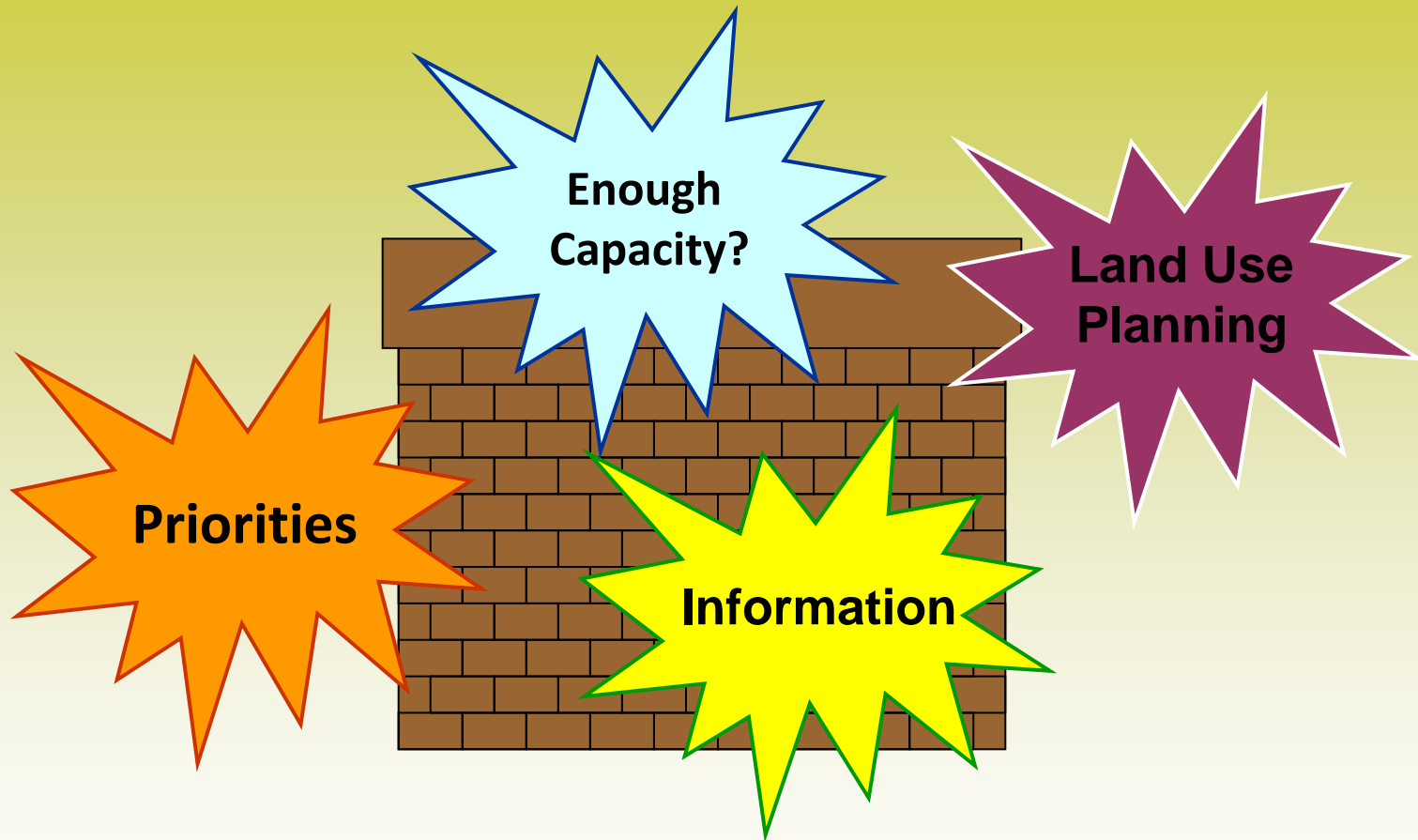
Community Planning and Development Program

2. The Role of Local Government in Providing Greater Community Food Security

Master of Arts (by research- in progress)

Christine Slade

Barriers to Local Government Involvement



Result: Disengagement in Food Issues !

Local Government Involvement in Food Security



Simplified Version!



Priorities

Barrier One



***No
Action***

- *Don't see importance of food.*
- *Community not advocating.*
- *Food is a private choice.*
- *Food system is governed by the markets.*
- *Not a local govt issue – no statutory obligation*
- *No funding*



**Enough
Capacity?**

Barrier Two



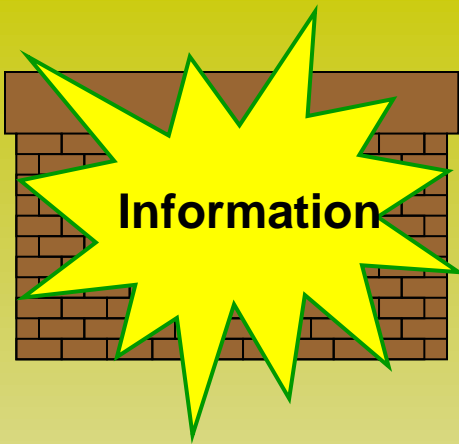
No Action

- *State government could make local government responsible for food security but not provide funding.*
- *No clearly defined roles between state and local governments.*
- *Limited by legislation*



Action

- *Financial capacity – funding for policies and programs.*
- *Staff – number, training, knowledge*
- *Technical – legislation, regulation, strategies, plans, other departments*



Barrier Three

No Action

- *Term 'food security' confusing.*
- *Don't see the big picture.*
- *Community not advocating so no pressure.*

Action

- *Lack of information about role of local government in food security.*



**Land Use
Planning**

Barrier Four



***No
Action***



Action

- *Lack of substantive support for food policies and programs.*
- *Legislation and regulation does not support special zoning for urban agriculture and consideration of healthy food outlets.*
- *Weak protection of productive agricultural on urban fringe.*
- *Risk of being taken to tribunal and losing case.*
- *Feeling of being powerless to create change.*

Local Government Facilitators

- *External funding*
- *Local evidence*
- *Community advocacy and champions in the field*
- *Information about the 'big picture' of food*
- *Assurances from state government about definition of roles and funding*
- *Changes to land-use planning regulation*
- *Partnerships with those who has similar food interests*

Thank You