

Declaration on Future Food

developed at

***Hungry for Change* Food Summit 2009**

The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance (SFFA) calls for the formation of an independent Food Policy Council with statewide responsibility to develop and ensure the security of the state's food supply.

The Council would adopt an integrated approach inclusive of:

- protection in perpetuity of prime agricultural land and the agricultural water supply
- compliance of agricultural production and distribution with the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- access to affordable and adequate fresh food irrespective of income
- investigation of innovative measures such as tax reforms and subsidies to promote access to healthy foods and reduce the burden of chronic disease
- a cautionary approach to approving new food production and processing technologies to ensure food safety
- adequate funding for agricultural research and development that complies with principles of ecologically sustainable development and especially the growing organic industry
- ensuring fair economic returns to farmers
- support for the development of community-based and regional food systems which support regional economies and improve food access
- ensuring people have access to information so as to make informed food choices

Facts Support the Declaration Proposals

These proposals were developed during the SFFA 2009 Food Summit, *Hungry For Change*. The Summit and its lead-up events across Greater Sydney attracted over 850 participants including primary producers, local government, welfare, social justice and religious organisations, academics, citizens, environmentalists and others.

Supporting this Declaration on Food are a number of accepted facts:

- diet-related diseases are rising so fast, health costs will overtake state budgets by 2030
- more than a million Australians including 500,000 children cannot afford nutritious food
- 27% drop in agricultural production by 2080 is predicted if climate change is unchecked; urban development is taking over 50% of current farmland in Sydney Basin; Australia has shortfall of 1,200 Agriculture graduates p.a; the peaking of global oil extraction will raise food prices through increased transport and fertiliser costs.
- projected population growth in Australia and the Sydney region (to 7m) will need more food
- lack of intersectoral planning to meet future food needs.

TIME FOR ACTION

The SFFA asserts that access to adequate food is a human right.

The security of the food supply is now firmly on the public agenda. National governments such as Scotland and Canada, state level governments such as British Columbia and New York State as well as urban regions like London and Toronto have worked with local stakeholders to develop future food strategies. It is time for NSW to do likewise.

The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance is ready to work constructively with the whole of government in developing the proposal for a Food Policy Council.

EDUCATION • NETWORKING • ADVOCACY • RESEARCH

working towards food security and sustainable food systems

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