

## Contested Landscapes: Growing Food or Growing Houses

Presentation Sydney Food Fairness Alliance  
Can't eat your house – Development Threatens  
Food Bowl  
Sydney, 26 October, 2011

Ian Sinclair

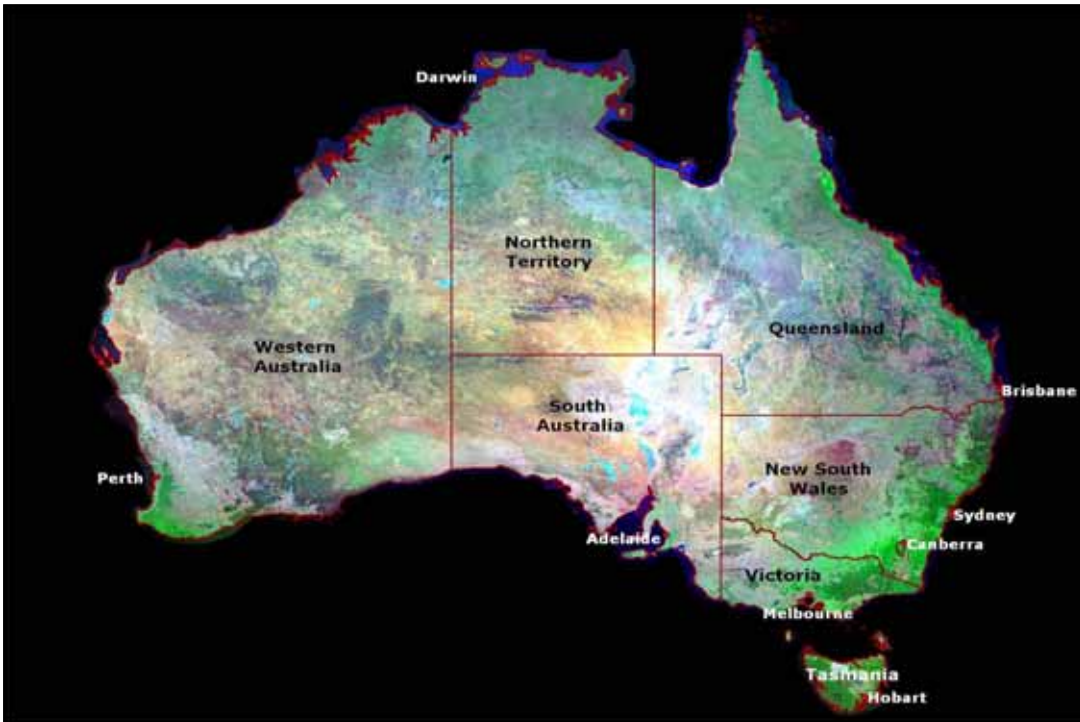
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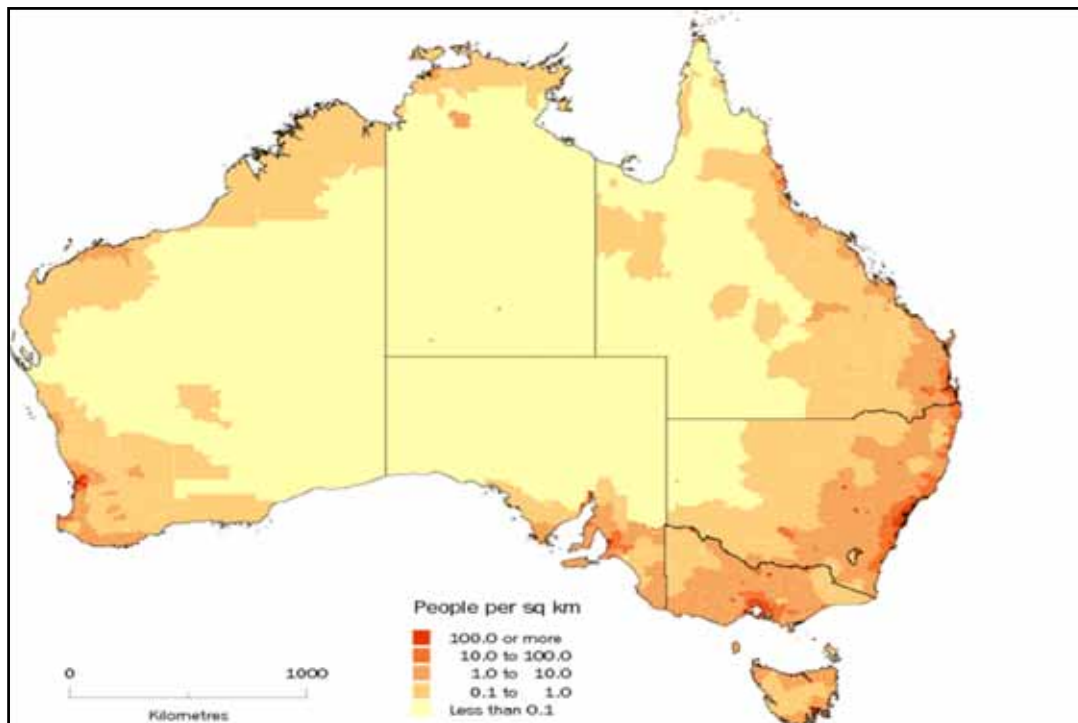


Rural and Environmental Planning Consultants

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*"The county is small in area and not particularly rich from the growing point of view, yet in 1947 it produced three quarters of the State's lettuces, half of the spinach, a third of the cabbages and a quarter of the beans; seventy percent of the State's poultry farms were in the county and more than eighteen percent of Sydney's milk came from the County; the preservation of the farms and market gardens therefore is of considerable importance for the well-being of Sydney as well as for the economy of the State" (Denis Winston, Sydney's Great Experiment – the Progress of the Cumberland County Plan, 1957)*

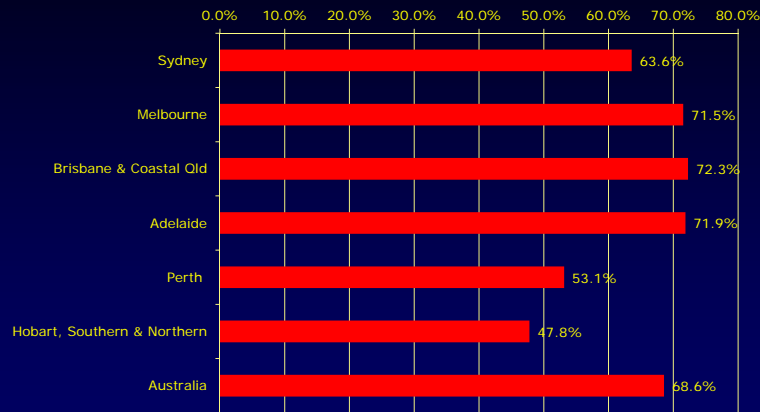




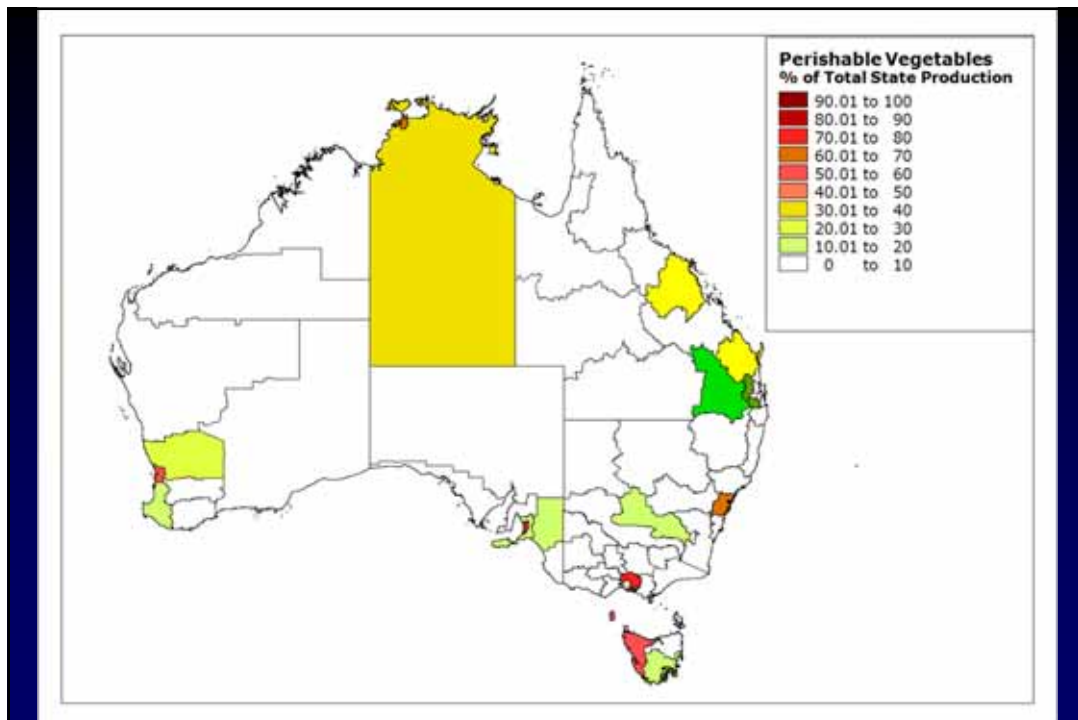
## Australia's Food Production

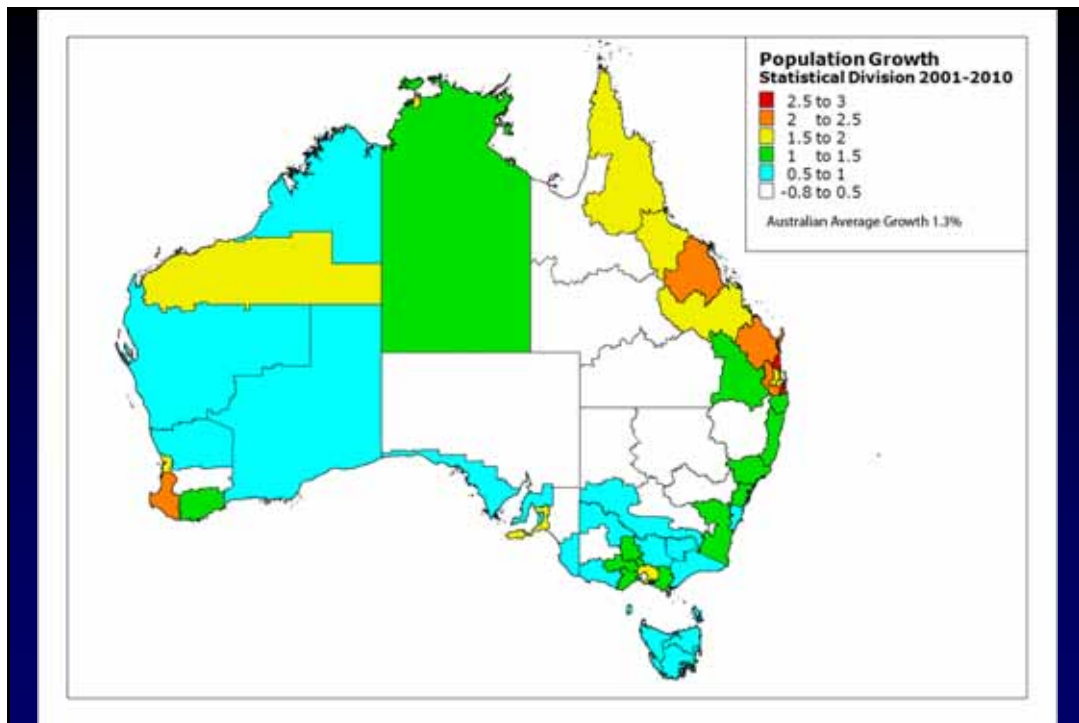
- ❖ Inland areas – Murray Darling Basin, South Australia & Western Australia
  - ⇒ Grain, Fibre, Vegetables, Vineyards, Orchards, etc
  - ⇒ Sheep, Cattle, Pigs & some Poultry
- ❖ Metropolitan Fringe
  - ⇒ Perishable Vegetables, Vineyards, Poultry, specialised niche agriculture
- ❖ Murray Darling Basin is one of the food bowls, not the food bowl of Australia
- ❖ **The fringe is a significant food producing area**

## Food is grown on the Fringe State Production Grown on Fringe



Trend is the same with the 2005-06 Agricultural Census  
**Darwin & NT are not high in Perishable vegetable production**  
Source: ABS Agricultural Commodities 2007-08



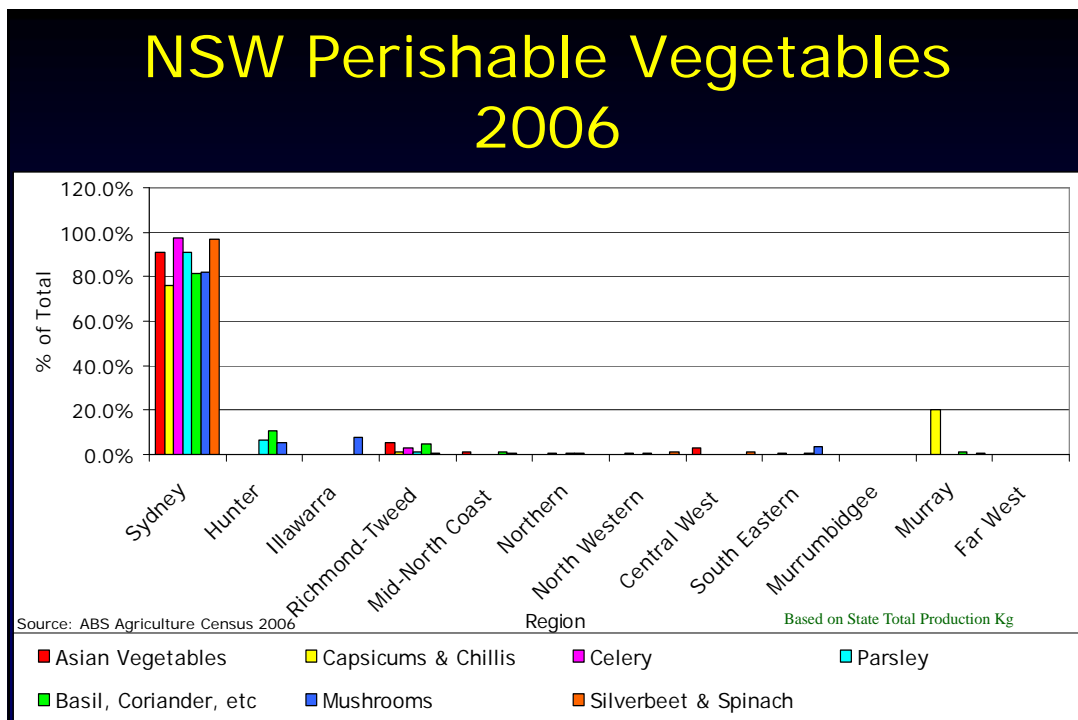
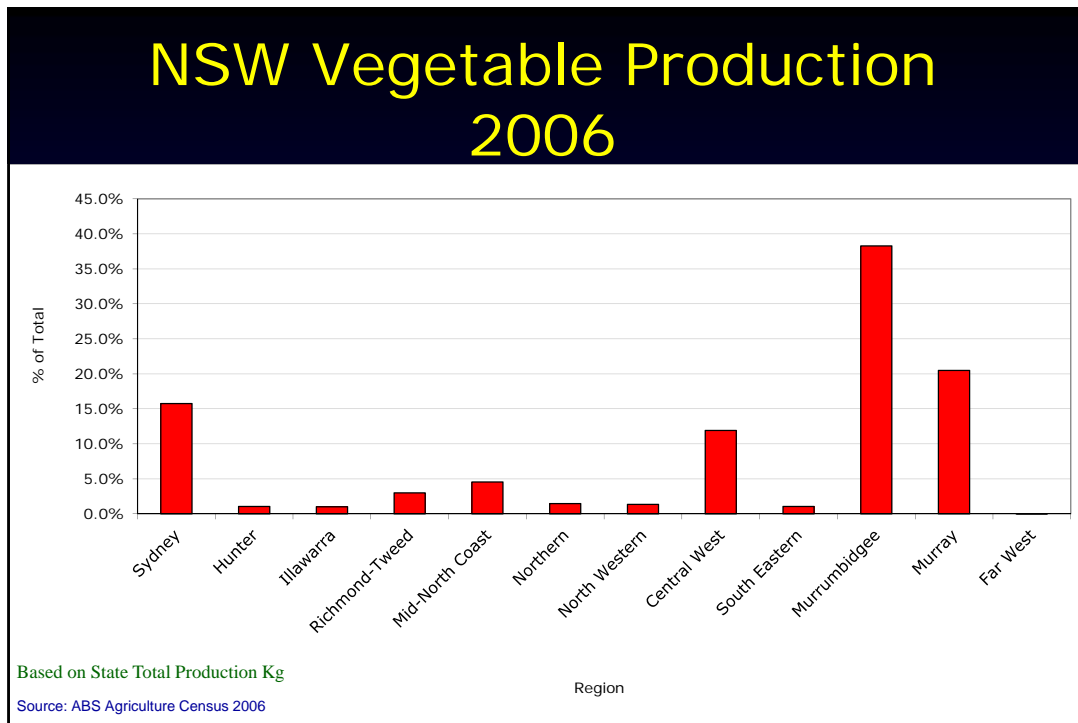


## Agriculture on the Fringe

- \$1 billion per annum Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane Fringe
- 12% of NSW's Value of Production from 0.2% of land
- 12% of Victoria's value of production from 2% of land
- 13% of Queensland value of Production from 1.3% of land
- Intensive Plants
  - Market Gardening
    - Hydroponics
    - Nurseries
    - Flowers
    - Turf
    - Vineyards
- Intensive Animals
  - Poultry
  - Aquaculture
  - Niche animals
- Extensive Agriculture
  - Part time grazing

**Queensland, NSW & Victoria have 78.7% of Australia's Population and growing at 1.6% p.a.**

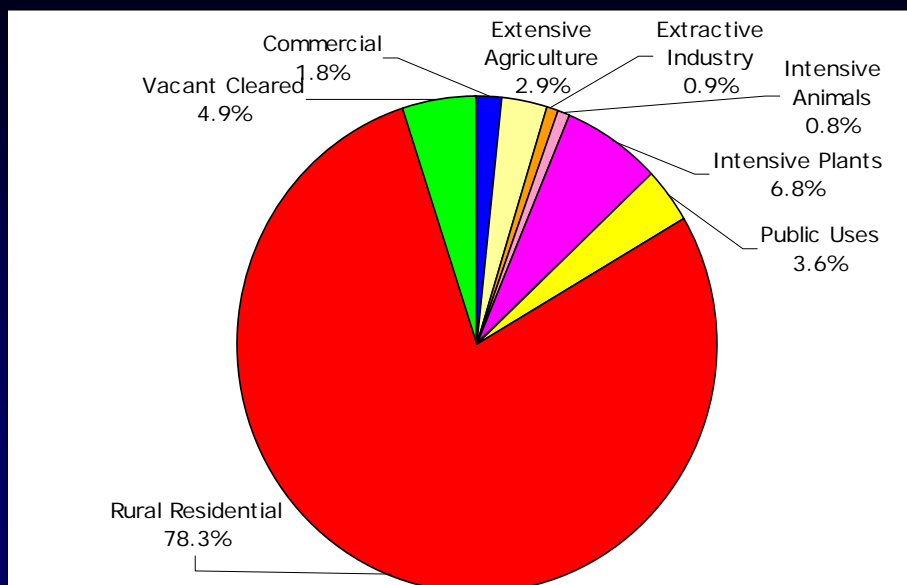
Source: ABS Agricultural Census 2006



## Sydney Region Vegetable Production

- Asian Vegetables (91%)
- Basil, Coriander, etc (63%)
- Capsicums & Chillies (76.3%)
- Cabbages (61.5%)
- Celery (97.3%)
- Cucumbers (70.9%)
- Eggplant (80.5%)
- Fennel Bulb (100%)
- Globe Artichoke (83.3)
- Leeks (76%)
- Lettuce (64.7%)
- Mushrooms (82.3%)
- Other Melons (80%)
- Parsley (90.8%)
- Radish (96.2%)
- Silverbeet & Spinach (97.1%)
- Spring Onions (93%)
- Tomatoes – Fresh Market 67.5%

## Western Sydney Land Use









## Community Concern

### ❖ **CAVE People**

Citizens **A**gainst **V**irtually **E**verything

### ❖ **DUDES**

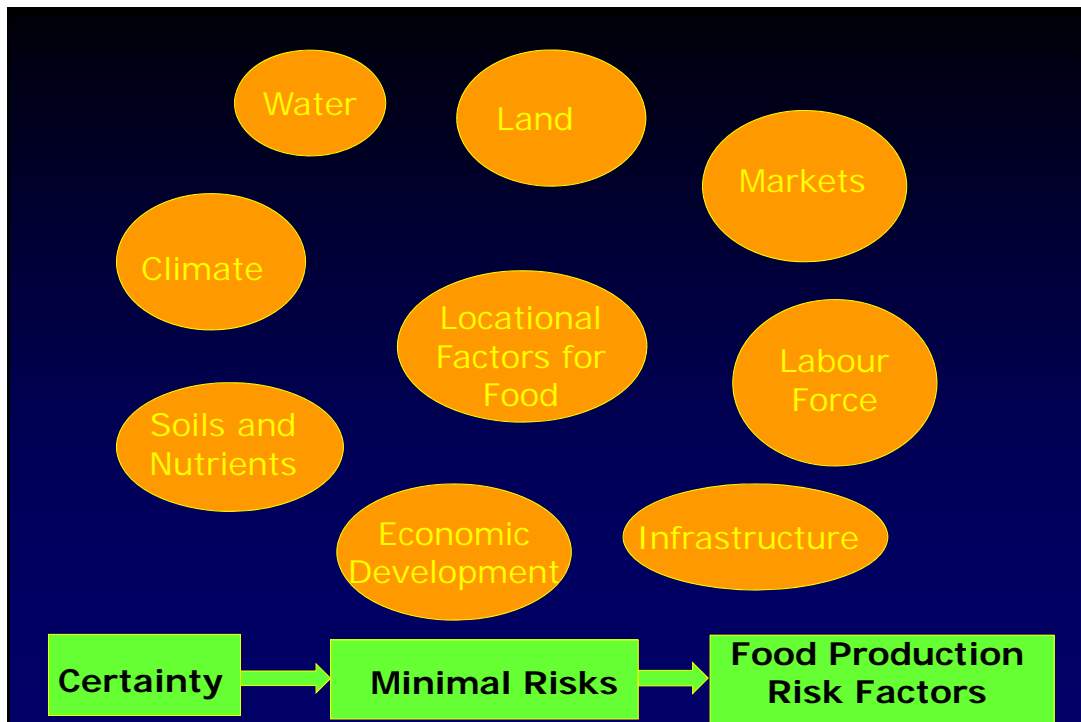
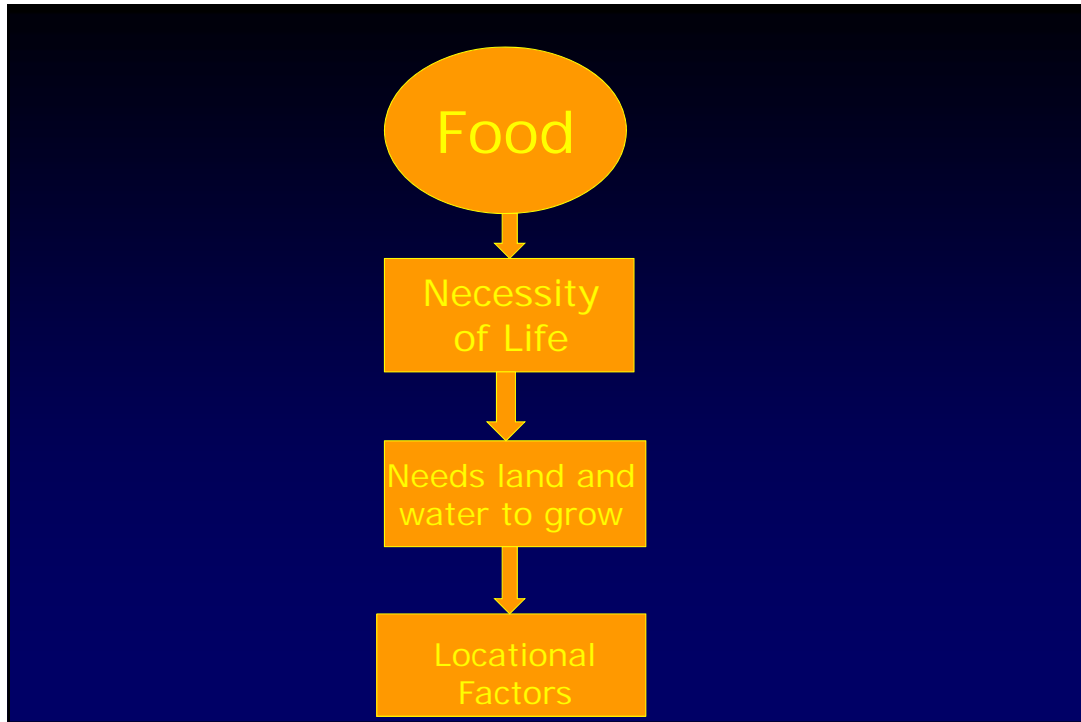
Developers **U**nder **D**elusionary  
**E**xpectations

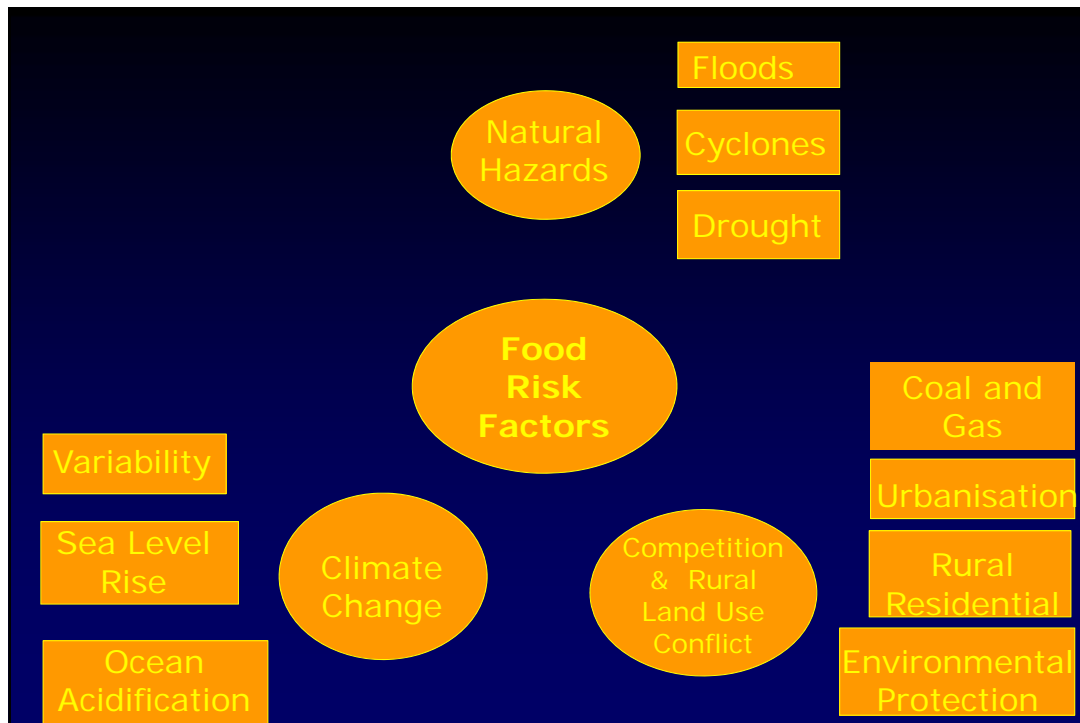
❖ When CAVE People meet the DUDES  
you get a **LULU**

Locally **U**nwanted **L**and **U**se

### ❖ **Political Response is NIMTOO**

**N**ot **I**n **M**y **T**erm **O**f **O**ffice



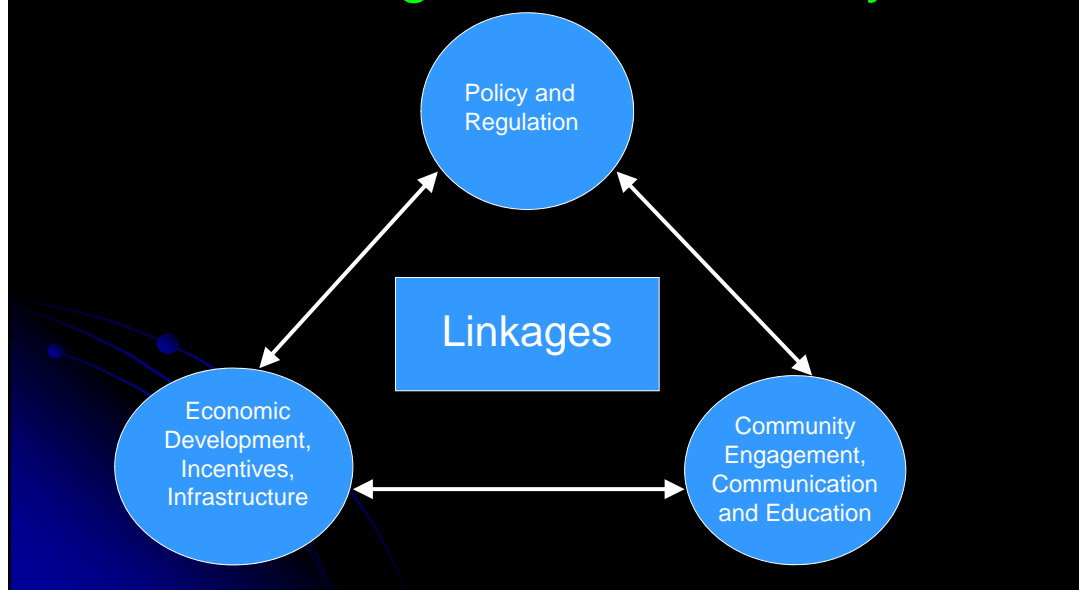


### Food is Important!

- Necessity of life
- Traditionally we have grown food on the fringe of our cities and towns
- Provide more food for the growing population but good land is being paved over
- Planning for food security has not been high on the agenda of planners or Governments
- Priority has been given to water, housing, environmental awareness and social issues
- Planning for the land that grows the food has been mostly ignored
- Starting to be addressed but slow progress

***Planning is not about predicting the future, it is about being prepared for it.***

## Planning for Food Security

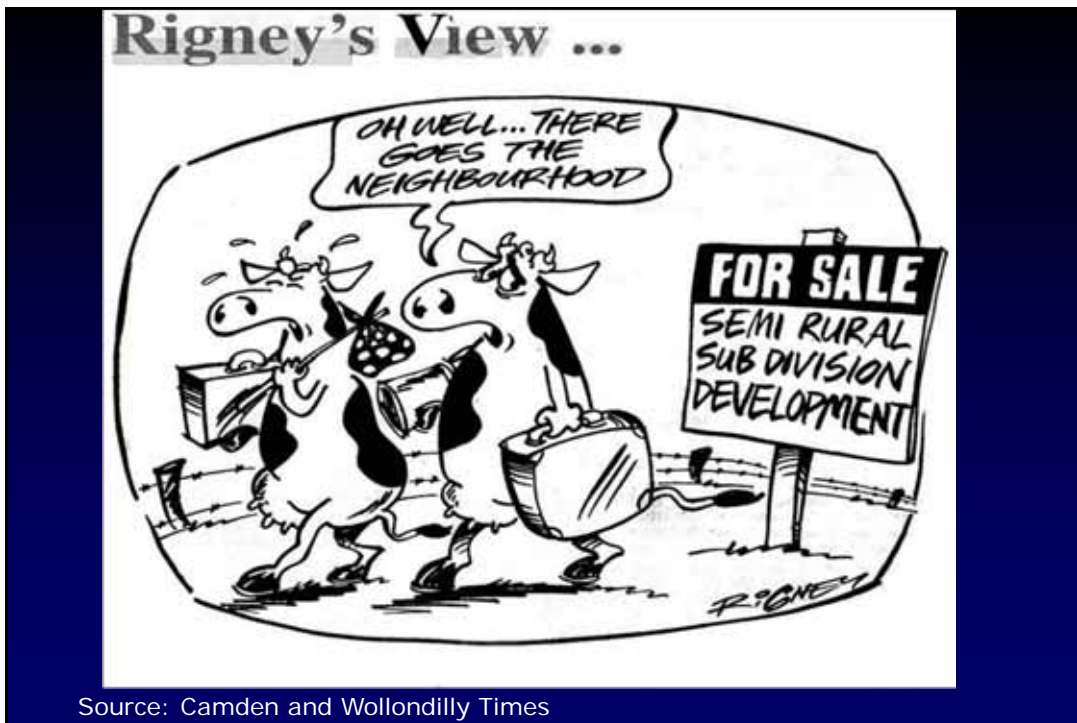


## Planning for Local Food

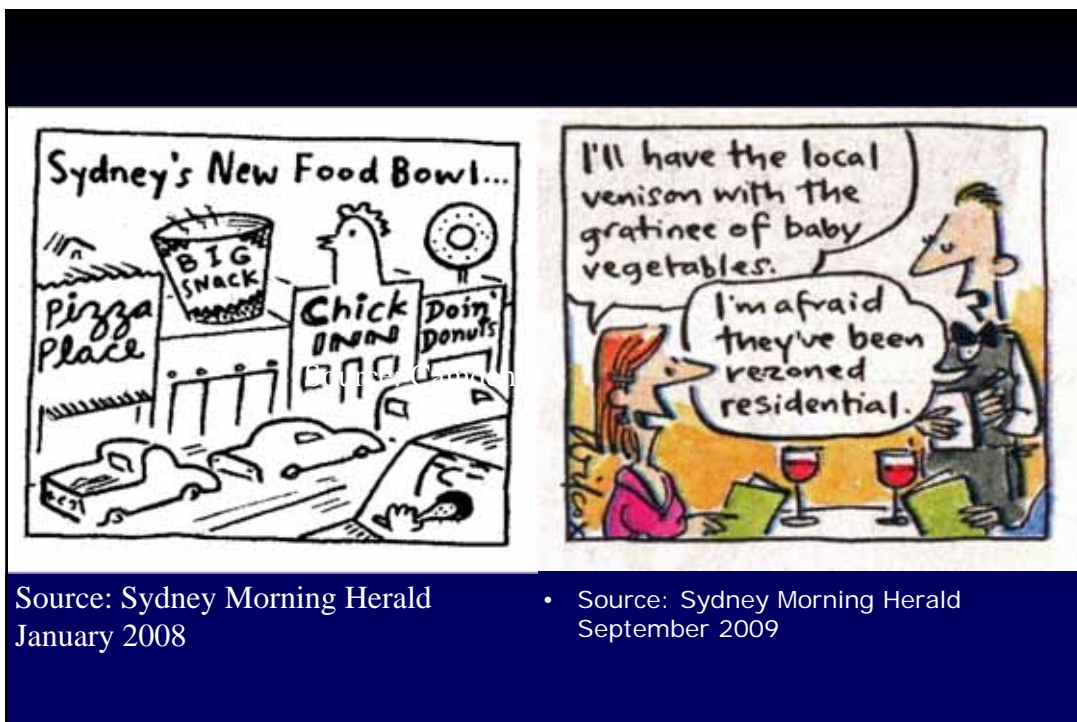
- ❖ Needs all three to be effective
- ❖ We currently do the policy and regulation
- ❖ Zoning is the main tool used but it is not working
- ❖ Still have problems
  - ⇒ Need to address economic development, incentives and infrastructure
  - ⇒ Need to engage with the community more as well as education
- ❖ Back up policy with good and meaningful data

## Planning is needed for Food Security

- Needs to have a multi faceted approach
- Need good and meaningful data
- Needs political and dollar commitment
- Statutory, incentives and educational all need to be considered
- Need to involve all players in discussions and investigations & Strategy
- Need to make some decisions and not leave it until it is too late ...
- Can grow food and grow houses and achieve a sustainable future food security



Source: Camden and Wollondilly Times



Source: Sydney Morning Herald  
January 2008

• Source: Sydney Morning Herald  
September 2009