



Rural City of Wangaratta Local Food Coalition

Rural City of
Wangaratta

Information and Expression of Interest process

Purpose of the group

Local food coalitions (also known as alliances or networks) serve as forums for discussing food system issues, help develop a common language and understanding about the strengths and challenges of the local food system, foster coordination and collaboration between different sectors in the food system, evaluate and influence policy, work to mobilise resources and funding, and launch or support programs and services that address local needs.

In its first year the Wangaratta Local Food Coalition (working title) will work to identify local needs and resources, culminating in an action plan which gives the community more agency to develop a resilient, healthy and fair local food system.

The development of a local food coalition is identified as an action or supported through strategies within the Council Plan and Council's commitment to the VicHealth Local Government Partnership project.

Objectives of the group

The objectives can be further defined and finalised once coalition members are selected. Typical objectives for a food coalition may include areas such as:

- Advocacy to support food system stakeholders or policy development
- Identify and elevate issues which impact the local food system
- Encourage engagement and collaboration between diverse sectors in projects which effect food system change
- Communication to networks and community to increase understanding of resilient, healthy and fair food systems
- Encourage innovative solutions to support a resilient, healthy and fair food system
- Monitoring of local food system indicators to inform policy development and measure change
- Support and communicate with established local food system networks and organisations

Examples of other local food coalitions

The various food coalitions may have different agendas, stakeholders or resourcing:

- Cardinia Food Movement <https://www.cardiniafoodmovement.org/>
- The Community Plate <https://communityplate.org.au/who-we-are/>
- Food for All Latrobe Valley <https://www.healthassembly.org.au/all-projects/food-for-all-latrobe-valley/>
- Bendigo Regional Food Alliance <https://www.brfa.org.au/>
- Ballarat Local Food Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/BallaratLocalFoodCoalition/>

Terms of Reference

- Final terms of reference, governance issues (and the name of the group) will be agreed upon at first meeting and reviewed in 12 months.
- Membership: we will be seeking a maximum of 15 coalition members, minimum of 6.
- Meetings: There will be 6 meetings held throughout 2024, likely to be held in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Meetings are anticipated to last for a minimum of 90 minutes and maximum of 3 hours and will be held at a venue and time which is accessible and convenient for all members, with an online option if necessary.
- Tenure: We would suggest initial coalition members be part of the coalition for at least 18 months and a maximum of 3 years to encourage both continuity of membership and new members.
- Administration: Rural City of Wangaratta Community & Recreation team will be convening meetings, taking minutes and supporting the following:
 - Terms of Reference and governance procedures
 - Needs assessment for local food system
 - Development of an action plan and evaluation framework

Process for joining the coalition

An expression of interest (EOI) form is available via Microsoft Forms at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4kKcTWJThB>

The EOI process will close on Monday December 4. The EOI applications will be reviewed by the 4 members of the Community Food For All Steering Committee and all applicants will be informed of the outcome in the week beginning December 18 2023.

The EOI process will support selection of coalition members with diverse interests and connections into different sectors of the local food system. Prospective members will be asked to respond to a range of questions including:

- What sector/s they represent
- Position and role in current business, community group or organisation
- What skills and knowledge they would bring to the group
- Their ability to commit to and participate in meetings, and communicate by email between meetings as required
- Their capacity to communicate information effectively between the coalition and the sector or community they represent
- Describe their passion for improving the resilience, sustainability and equity of the local food system including any potential projects or issues of focus

Development of the Wangaratta Local Food Coalition has been made possible through the funding and support of VicHealth through the VicHealth Local Government Partnership to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.



VicHealth