

Rural City of Wangaratta Sustainable Food Alliance



Information and Expression of Interest process 2025

Purpose of the group

Local food alliances (also known as coalitions or networks):

- serve as forums for discussing food system issues
- develop an understanding about the strengths and challenges of the local food system
- foster coordination and collaboration between different sectors in the food system
- provide advocacy and input into policy and strategy development
- work to source and connect resources and funding
- and launch or support programs and services that address local needs.

What do we mean by “food system”?

“Local food systems” refer to the aspects of the food system that occur within a geographical region, such as locally produced or processed food. It also includes services, programs, initiatives or assets that impact how people interact with, access or consume food locally. Examples include community gardens, community kitchens, farmers markets, food swaps, gardening groups or education programs.

The Rural City of Wangaratta Sustainable Food Alliance

The Rural City of Wangaratta is undertaking the [VicHealth Local Government Partnership](#) program module ‘Building better food systems for healthier communities’. To achieve the goals of the program, Council has engaged with [Sustain: The Australian Food Network](#) and collaborated with Gateway Health and other health services, community groups, schools and individual community members to form the Rural City of Wangaratta Sustainable Food Alliance.

Aim

To establish, promote and expand access to a range of local, sustainable, and nourishing food pathways through sustained action in partnership with community stakeholders.

What have we done so far?

Progress to date:

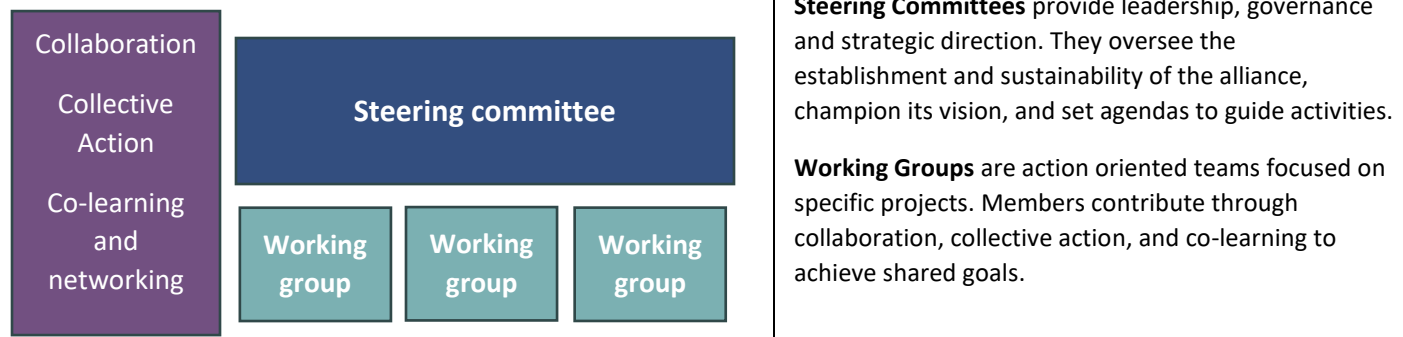
- Initial recruitment was undertaken from late 2023 to early 2024. Eight community members from a range of community groups and organisations took part in the initial meeting and development of a Terms of Reference in April 2024.
- A Community Food Survey was developed by Council in collaboration with the Sustainable Food Alliance which was open from May-June 2025.
- A Local Food System Needs Assessment is currently being drafted.

How to get involved:

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

<https://forms.office.com/r/RVFX38MPcR>

There are multiple ways to be involved, including receiving email updates, being involved in working groups, and joining the steering committee.



Anyone with an interest in strengthening our local food system can get involved. Key groups we want to hear from include:

- Environment groups
- Local food retailers
- Food relief organisations
- Neighbourhood houses
- First Nations Community Organisations
- Food supply chain (producers, processors)
- Community health
- Schools/education
- Agriculture/community gardeners

Examples of other local food coalitions

- Cardinia Food Circles Steering Committee
https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20031/liveability_health_and_wellbeing/645/cardinia_food_circles_project
- Food for All Latrobe Valley <https://www.healthassembly.org.au/all-projects/food-for-all-latrobe-valley/>
- Golden Plains Local Food Network <https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/health-and-wellbeing/golden-plains-local-food-network>
- Central Goldfields Food Network <https://www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Partnerships/Food-Systems>