

Urban Food Production Strategy Consultation Summary of Feedback / Responses to the Draft Strategy

1. General Feedback

Feedback / Comment	Response
Strategy should recognise the wealth of exiting UFP skills, knowledge and resources in Darebin	Draft updated to recognise this more explicitly in the Purpose, Assets to support the Strategy and Guiding Principles. Also built into Key Action Areas through Council's key role in building community capacity and strengthening partnerships.
The UFP skills and knowledge of older residents should be recognised and preserved for the benefit of future generations (links with Active and Healthy Aging Policy)	Specific reference to preserving the knowledge and skills of older food gardeners has now been made in the Home Food Growing Key Action Area.
Recognise the role of food in Darebin's cultural identity and how UFP can help preserve local food traditions for future generations	Draft updated to include this in the Purpose and Vision.
Provide opportunities for micro food economies to thrive, grow and be self-sustaining	Action for Council to facilitate collaboration and partnerships between local food groups and sustainable food businesses included in Key Action Area 3 (Other UFP Models).
Link UFP with other Darebin initiatives aimed at creating inviting liveable local spaces and experiences eg. arts and culture projects and events	Included in actions under Key Action Areas 1 (Home Food Growing) and 3 (Other UFP Models).
Address the perceived competition between growing food crops (needing access to sunlight) and increasing tree coverage to help reduce the 'urban heat island effect' (increasing tree coverage to 25% is an objective in the Urban Forest Strategy)	The Strategy outlines Council's support for a wide range of UFP models including food forests, roof top gardens, orchards and fruit trees in selected parks all of which can be compatible with increasing tree coverage.

Support mentoring and exchange programs eg. for community gardens	Action included in Key Action Area 2 (Community Gardens) for Council to facilitate mentoring opportunities between community gardens, schools and public housing estates.
Link UFP initiatives in with schools	Action included in Key Action Area 2 (Community Gardens) to collaborate with schools to establish community garden partnerships and/ or mentorship programs.
Ensure Strategy provides for people with disabilities to participate in UFP	Strategy includes a commitment to inspire, support and address barriers to home food gardening across different sectors of the community – the Implementation Plan can explore how this can be achieved for people with disabilities. The Communal Food Garden Assessment guidelines specify that access for people with a disability should be taken into consideration.
Collaborate with local Aboriginal groups to include indigenous food in UFP	Action included in Key Action Area 2 (Community Gardens) to consult with the Aboriginal Community regarding opportunities and concepts for indigenous food growing
Include an action to map SEIFA data to help identify Darebin areas which will benefit most from UFP initiatives. A key measure of success will be how well we have engaged people in these areas.	The Strategy recognises Council's role to provide targeted UFP support for the CALD community, seniors, renters and Aboriginal groups. SEIFA mapping will be included as an action in the Implementation Plan in conjunction with the 2014 Food Security Policy review, as will a KPI for engaging disadvantaged groups
Include an action to promote and support local food providers (eg. church community gardens, community kitchens) who work with emergency relief agencies to supply healthy seasonal fresh food (rather than unhealthy packaged goods).	Key Action Area 3. (Other UFP models) states that Council will look at supporting a range of local food system models including Food and Labour Share programs. Specific links with emergency relief agencies can be explored as part of the Implementation Plan and in conjunction with the 2014 Food Security policy review.
How are neighbourhood conflicts over food grown on nature strips dealt with, as well as potential contamination issues from passing foot / vehicular traffic?	This Strategy does not cover nature strips - there is a separate nature strip planting policy and guidelines at www.darebin.vic.gov.au/naturestrips

2. Sustainable Food Leaders Forum Discussion Groups

2.1. 3rd December 2013

22 forum participants took part in group discussions to answer 2 questions:

- I. What are the **key questions** you would like to see the Urban Food Production (UFP) Strategy address in Darebin

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How can social enterprise be incorporated into food production, creating employment?	Key Action Area 3. Other UFP Models includes a commitment to explore options for recognising and rewarding community food enterprises.
How can the strategy be inclusive of the whole Darebin Community?	The Strategy proposes a whole-of-community approach as well as targeted programs for community sectors with the greatest need.
How can the strategy genuinely address food insecurity?	The Strategy will link closely with the 2014 Food Security Review to ensure the outcomes of programs and projects are directed towards those at risk of food insecurity.
How can the strategy contribute to increased food diversity within Darebin?	Key Action Area 1. Home Food Gardening and 3. Other UFP Models recognises and supports a wide range of food cultures as well as food production models. There is also an action to collaborate with the Aboriginal community on indigenous food growing.
How can Council support growing edibles which are harder to grow at home eg.fruit and nut trees, chooks, as well as facilitate their ownership and management by the community?	<p>The Strategy proposes that Council supports communal food garden proposals on public land which provide opportunities for educating the wider community in UFP practices.</p> <p>These proposals could include Food Forests and chickens provided the design and management of the site was appropriate. Linking school food gardens (which often have chickens) with the wider community is also an action in the Strategy</p>
What programs / schemes can Council provide which support people to develop and manage urban food production	The Strategy proposes a range of education programs as well as providing forums for sharing ideas, collaboration and support for innovative local food projects

How can existing Food Production initiatives be better promoted and linked in with complementary activities / groups?	Activities, projects and events will be promoted and linked via the Darebin Food Harvest Network and Sustainable Food Leaders Forums.
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II. What would a great **Urban Food Production Strategy** for Darebin look like (from a community perspective)?

Feedback / Comment	Response
Has been well researched	The Strategy draws from a wide range of UFP publications and research in the Local Government context
Considers the entire scope / diversity of Urban Agriculture options available	There is scope in the Strategy to consider a wide range of UFP models which deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.
Includes Urban Agriculture Design Guidelines	Council will provide workshops and other education programs on UFP types and techniques, as well as access to Urban Agriculture resources and publications. It is outside the scope of the Strategy as well as Council's role to include detailed design guidelines.
Incorporates waste management principles	Council considers water and waste management and recycling an integral component of UFP. The Strategy supports education as well as sites demonstrating integrated food cultivation with water and waste management
Integrates Food Production with effective water use and management eg. Water Sensitive Urban Design, Office of Living Victoria whole-of-water cycle management principles	See comment above. Opportunities for partnerships and / or grants with other government departments will be considered as part of the Implementation Plan.
Addresses the resilience of urban food production for future generations	Addressed through programs which aim to preserve older gardeners' knowledge for future generations. UFP programs will also link across council areas and with external agencies as part of creating resilient and connected communities.
Uses plain language	Local government language, acronyms, and technical terms avoided where possible

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Encompasses different cultures, languages and geographic areas within Darebin	The Strategy supports and celebrates multicultural food traditions. Food is recognised as central to Darebin's cultural identity. The programs and initiatives proposed in the Strategy recognise different cultures, languages and areas within Darebin.
Is accessible and easily understood and owned by a community which values urban food production	Many of the community's ideas and suggestions have been incorporated into the strategy. Input to the Implementation Plan will be sought from the community through Sustainable Food Leaders forums.

2.2. 17th June, 2014

21 forum participants took part in group discussions on the draft Strategy's proposed Vision and 4 Key Actions Areas:

Feedback / Comment	Response
Ensure the language of the Vision statements invoke a future reality rather than just a 'wish list' – to inspire confidence the Vision will be achieved	Language simplified and present tense used, to help statements read as though they have already been achieved
Vision should include reference to healthy communities. This needs to encompass mental and physical health	Has been added to the last Vision statement and has been interpreted as both mental and physical health in the home food growing and community gardening Key Action Areas.
Reference education in the Vision	The outcomes we seek from education are high levels of food literacy and healthy and ethical eating practices. These have been included in the Vision. Education is part of Council's role in capacity building which is in the home food growing and community gardens Key Action Areas.
Promote policy settings that protect against over development	Out of Scope – covered in planning policies / frameworks
Examine planning drivers / barriers to UFP	Covered in Key Action Area 4 (Integrated Planning for UFP)
Include an objective to increase % open space	Out of Scope- % open space targets are set in the Open Space Strategy.

Feedback / Comment	Response
	<p>However the Strategy does examine how UFP can be implemented without compromising the public's access to open space (thus not contributing to a reduction in open space)</p>
<p>UFP should be integral to Urban Design and the built environment. All development overlays should require consideration of UFP.</p>	<p>Key Action Area 4: Integrated Planning for UFP includes advocating to have UFP recognised in the State Planning Policy Framework so it can be integrated in the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.</p> <p>There is also an action to integrate food production policy into the Darebin Planning Scheme (MSS).</p>
<p>Include innovative land-use programs between landholders and non-landholders to open up private land for production</p>	<p>Landshare Australia currently provides this service.</p>
<p>Recognise and promote businesses with progressive sustainable food sourcing / procurement policies</p>	<p>This is currently recognised in Council's 'Greening our Business' program.</p>
<p>Develop food sovereignty ordinance that removes unnecessary global food market regulatory barriers to local trade</p>	<p>Local government has no direct control over global food market regulations but can explore avenues to advocate to higher levels of government for appropriate changes to legislation which will remove barriers to local trade</p>
<p>Develop a metric for the amount of space allocated to UFP</p>	<p>This will be considered as part of the development of the implementation plan</p>
<p>Develop UFP 'best practice' guidelines for developers</p>	<p>This will be considered as part of the development of the implementation plan</p>
<p>Partner with local education institutions and universities to undertake Darebin based UFP research and document case studies</p>	<p>This will be considered as part of the development of the implementation plan</p>