



## Premier's Economic & Social Recovery Advisory Council

### Stage 1 submission – Sprout Tasmania

*Background:*

*Sprout Tasmania represents and advocates for the small-scale sustainable farming sector in Tasmania. Information can be found at [www.sprout.org.au](http://www.sprout.org.au), or contact [info@sprout.org.au](mailto:info@sprout.org.au)*

*What are the current impacts of COVID-19 on your sector/members and organisation, and what impacts are anticipated in the coming weeks and months?*

- Dramatic loss of sales due to restrictions and closures.
- Channels to market closed overnight.
- Positive impact has been an increase in support for local producers and their produce.

*What mitigation measures are currently in place that aim to address these impacts?*

- New sales channels direct to customers
- Collaborations between small producers across the state – to share knowledge, support, and produce offering.

*What impacts are not being mitigated or for which there is no plan in place to mitigate?*

- Focus on freight support for the INBOUND requirements, rather than simply export focused freight support.

*What would help your sector/members re-employ where there have been reductions in jobs, or grow employment levels?*

### **COLLABORATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT SECTORS AND INDUSTRY**

Greater collaboration between government departments, to ensure better communication on areas that all have touch points on FOOD in our state. Be that Health, Education, Agriculture, Tourism & hospitality.

## WELL CONNECTED LOCALISED FOOD SYSTEM

If recovery for Tasmania is about jobs and economic growth, then a well-connected local food system should be immediately focused on.

Well-connected local food system – can see an increase in economic, social, health and environmental beneficial outcomes, with multipliers well proven<sup>1</sup> in terms of the value of a dollar spent locally that stays in the local economic system.<sup>2</sup> Benefits are cited across the review undertaken by Eat Well Tasmania looking at localised food systems (and institutional procurement), such as:

- Increased employment in areas such as on farm, food harvesting, processing and delivery/logistics, especially for those businesses focused on direct sales, rather than 100% wholesale.<sup>3</sup> Local food economy job creation rates 3 x higher than national and/or global economies.<sup>4</sup>
- Shorter, more resilient food supply chains
- Increased social capital and community connectedness
- Decrease in waste from those end users of food produced

## SUPPORT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR

Increase in grant support of the small business agriculture sector without the need for striving for export sized businesses. Those focused on servicing their local community are fundamental to Tasmania's recovery, both from an economic and social perspective.

## LEGISLATION FOR LOCAL FOOD

Legislation in the form of a Local Food Act will help foster successful and resilient **local food** economies and systems in Tasmania, help increase awareness of **local food**, including the diversity of **local food**, and develop new markets for **local food**.

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<sup>1</sup> The Multiplier Effect of Buying Local Food [Internet]. Sustain Ontario. [cited 2019 Dec 26]. Available from: <https://sustainontario.com/2012/07/04/multiplier-effect/>

<sup>2</sup> Eat Well Tasmania review report - <https://www.eatwelltas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EWT-Local-Food-Procurement-What-are-the-cobenefits-for-local-and-regional-economies.pdf>, p7-10

<sup>3</sup> Eat Well Tasmania review report - <https://www.eatwelltas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EWT-Local-Food-Procurement-What-are-the-cobenefits-for-local-and-regional-economies.pdf>, p23

<sup>4</sup> Willis G. From field to fork: The value of England's local food webs [Internet]. Campaign to Protect Rural England; 2012. Available from: [https://www.cpre.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2019/11/From\\_field\\_to\\_fork\\_\\_\\_The\\_value\\_of\\_Englands\\_local\\_food\\_webs\\_in\\_teractive.pdf](https://www.cpre.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2019/11/From_field_to_fork___The_value_of_Englands_local_food_webs_in_teractive.pdf)