

# Stimuli Material: Food Production in Australia

## Activity:

1. Read and examine the sources below.
2. Using the sources below and your own knowledge, write a discussion text on the second handout:

***Discuss the need for Australia to address the continuing urban sprawl and the competing land use within the country.***

*A scaffold and an example of a discussion text on an unrelated topic are provided to help you*

## Source A

Local food production in the Sydney basin provides many benefits and underpins the resilience of the city. Yet competing priorities for Sydney's fertile farmland could threaten future supplies of fresh, local food.

There are enormous benefits to growing fresh food in the Sydney basin – and, indeed, near any city. Perishable foods like Asian greens and eggs can be grown close to market, thereby reducing spoilage, supply chain waste and food miles, and buffering against fuel price shocks. Agriculture and food processing are labour-intensive, providing significant local job opportunities. In fact, the benefit of Sydney's agriculture to the economy is estimated at upwards of \$4.5 billion.

Loss of agriculture therefore presents serious risks to the resilience of the city, to the health of residents and the viability of farmers operations. For example, a disruption in the major transport routes into Sydney from a bushfire or fuel shortages could leave Sydney with only days worth of fresh produce.

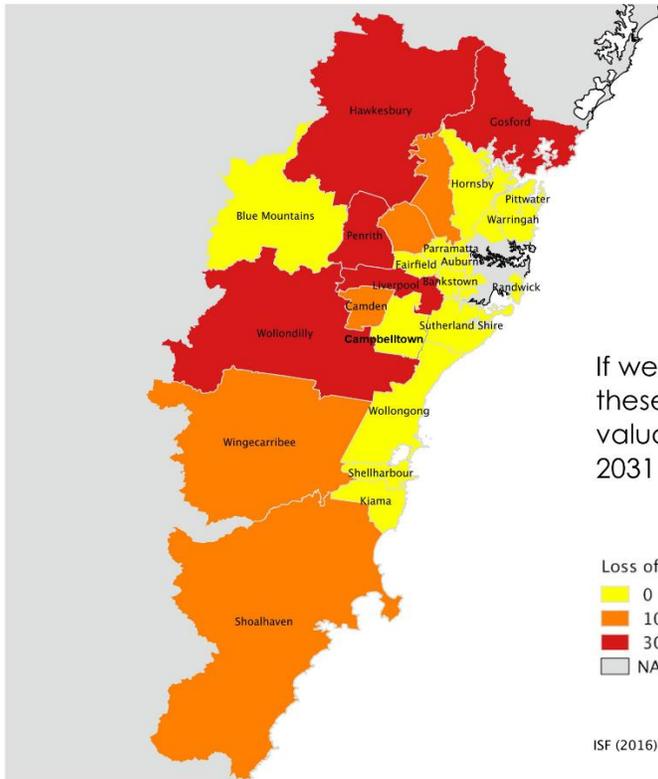
This research finds that if we continue down the path we're on, Sydney stands to lose over 90% of its current fresh vegetable production. Total food production could shrink by 60%, and the Sydney foodbowl's capacity to feed its residents could drop from meeting 20% of food demand down to a mere 6%.

However the wide range of future food production scenarios developed in this research demonstrate that the path we're on – urban sprawl – needn't be set in stone: sustainable strategies and innovations that integrate food and other essential services could open up possibilities for increasing food production in the basin, while providing for 1.6 million new residents over the next 15 years, thereby balancing housing with food production, environmental protection and health.

Creating a resilient food future for Sydney means our strategic metropolitan planning need to value and better protect agriculture from urban sprawl. Farmers and agri-businesses need viable commercial conditions, a fair price for produce, land security and a social license to operate. The people of Sydney need access to affordable housing, jobs, infrastructure like transport and water and social services. But they equally need access to nutritious and affordable food, reversing the high rate of obesity and diabetes, and 'food deserts' (grocery dead zones) particularly prevalent in Western Sydney. Through increased awareness and accessibility, food consumers can also choose to support local food producers, increasing the resilience of Sydney's food system and simultaneously reducing the environmental footprint of our food.

Source: Sydney Food Futures <http://www.sydneyfoodfutures.net/>

## Source B



If we continue on the path we're on, these Sydney LGAs stand to lose valuable fresh food production by 2031 due to urban sprawl

## Source C



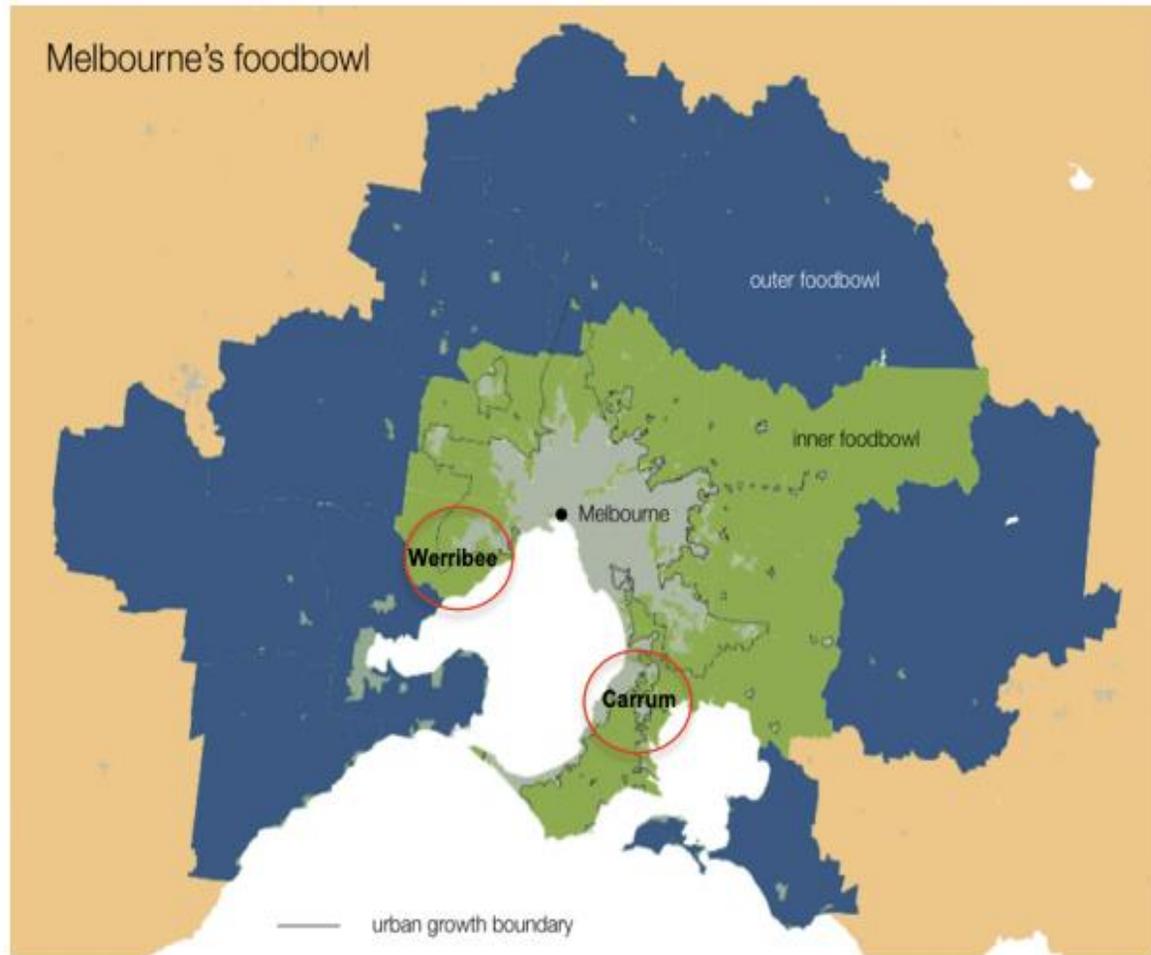
- 3.45 kg of food needs to be produced per person per day
- Per capita annual land foodprint of 3.8 hectares
- Per capita daily water foodprint of over 475 L
- Per capita annual GHG emissions from food production of around 0.9 tonnes

Sheridan, J., Carey, R. and Candy, S. (2016) Melbourne's Foodprint: What does it take to feed a city? June 2016. Melbourne: Victorian Eco-Innovation Laboratory

Source D



Source E



# RESILIENT CITY FOODBOWL

A vision for Melbourne

