



Peoples' Food Plan 2022: Overview, key themes and recommendations

[The People's Food Plan](#) was initially developed in response to the government's National Food Plan in 2012/13. It is still relevant today, but must be updated to reflect new knowledge and changes to our food systems. The Plan itself is designed to inform government and community policy at all levels and to address real systemic change. The recommendations are practical, realistic and specific to our audience. There is much work that individuals and communities are already doing on the ground and every day for food sovereignty, but progress is also hampered by government legislation, inaction, neglect and lack of knowledge. This is where the People's Food Plan comes to the fore.

The 7 pillars of food sovereignty. ([La Via Campesina](#))

These pillars provide a framework for the Peoples' Food Plan, linking to some of the key themes emerging in past AFSA submissions. They are:

- Food for people
- Builds knowledge and skills
- Works with nature
- Values food providers

- Localised food systems
- Puts control locally
- Food is sacred

Key themes from AFSA submissions

- First Peoples First
- Biosecurity
- GMOs
- Agricultural land use and water policy (regulatory barriers)
- Animal welfare
- Localisation
- Community supported agriculture (CSA)
- Health & Wellbeing
- Horizontal knowledge sharing
- Agroecology (including biodiversity)
- Capitalism (including industrial agriculture)

Below are some of the recommendations for each theme identified in previous AFSA submissions to federal, state and local government. These are intended as a guide for development of the Peoples’ Food Plan, using responses from the open survey to create a framework that represents the diversity of our movement. Have a read through the below example recommendations before filling out the survey, and tell us if you notice any gaps or opportunities to be addressed in the Peoples’ Food Plan.

AFSA priorities and policy recommendations	Related food sovereignty pillars
<p>First Peoples (to lead through all PFP sub-themes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Uluru Statement from The Heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills

- Support rebuilding Indigenous knowledge, including language
- Prioritise direction that First Peoples' wants in managing Country
- Establish a process of benefit sharing
- Acknowledge the need for and include actions for reparations/restitution.
- Advocate for traditional food for people - not commodities
- Remote access to food (subsidies)
- Establish the concept of food as kin
- Tenure on Country for food provisioning
- Support multiple sovereignties - different Peoples/Nations/diversity of Countries
- Revising public engagement and community consultation methods to prioritise First Peoples' perspectives and feedback
- Apply a rights based framework to Indigenous food and land management, and across the food system more broadly, by fulfilling the obligations outlines in the Nagoya protocol and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Support the First Nations Bushfood and Botanical Alliance Australia Statement and ensure First Peoples are the leaders of policy and decision making in relation to food and land management

- Works with nature
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- Food is sacred (where food is kin)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enact legislation to ensure First Peoples' knowledge is acknowledged and compensated in the Bush Food industry in line with the Nagoya Protocol ● Learn from other jurisdictions e.g. Victorian Traditional Owner Native Foods and Botanical Strategy to develop an aligned strategy across all states and territories in Australia 	
<p>Biosecurity (Note: Food safety recommendations are now listed under regulatory barriers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should reference One Health; UNDRIP; UNDROP ● Biodiversity offsets (capitalist solutions) ● Small-scale agriculture as the solution ● Original invasive species ● Locking up land (capitalist solutions) ● On-farm composting/EPA and abattoir waste ● Chemical hazards ● Open access knowledge ● Animal feeding guidelines ● Dangers of regulating for industry ● Risk management and outbreaks - impact on smallholders via regulation (limited to large-scale/industry) ● Core issue rising: Major/emerging diseases (from industrial agriculture) impacting small-scale farmers. Should address Industry blaming small-scale ag for biosecurity hazards. Data to support industrial agriculture as the major catalyst in disease/pandemic outbreaks. ● Agroecologists/Indigenous peoples are maintaining biodiversity in food and farming systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred

<p>GMOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seed and breed sovereignty ● Works against nature ● Corporate control - commodification (not food for people) ● Values experts not farmers ● Food labelling ● Capitalist - where food is not considered sacred ● Establish a compensation fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred
<p>Agricultural land and water use policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scale-appropriate legislation ● Biodiversity (inclusive of agricultural biodiversity) ● Appropriate ecosystem management ● Direct sales models eg. farm gate shops ● Regulatory approach - eg. reef regs, needs a scale lens ● Intensive vs. extensive ● Protect valuable agricultural land - already some captured in wrong zones ● Address problems with conservation targets - locking up land ● Whole-of-supply-chain infrastructure on farm ● Local government representation from civil society and empowerment of members ● Farmer debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred
<p>Animal Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Smallholder and civil society representation on advisory committees ● Eliminating intensive livestock systems - aligned with One Health (see: on Livestock) ● Crossover - biosecurity and public health ● Breed appropriateness (health/resilience of genetics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people (here we need a position on live exports) ● Builds knowledge and skills best practice; deeper understanding of animals and Country) ● Localised food systems (Free-trade and solidarity w/smallholders globally) ● Puts control locally (Democratic decision-making; broad representation)

- Chemical intervention
- Advocate for declaration of confinement practices
- Review of state-based regulatory bodies (not addressing wide-scale issues: eg. can't use double-sided tape on trees, but can use agchems)
- Find good animal welfare regs and apply to Aus. context
- Social licence and ag gag laws (transparency)
- Address free-trade implications on animal welfare (solidarity with smallholders globally)
- Alignment/misalignment with animal welfare organisations - how can we build relationships to ensure better outcomes?

- Food is sacred (self explanatory; First Peoples orgs feedback should inform this pillar and how it is reflected in practice.

CSA

- Explore solidarity economies and how they relate to other themes - climate change; pandemics and biosecurity etc.
- [Government should] Research and report on direct sales models such as the Community Supported Agriculture model (CSA) and farmers' markets by way of facilitating direct participation of producers in the process of conducting this Parliamentary Inquiry.
- Conduct a survey to gather information about food access across the retail sector, including farmers' markets and Community Supported Agriculture participants (CSAs).
- The pandemic has demonstrated that globalised food systems are brittle and threatened, while local food systems, solidarity economies, and strongly networked and collectivised communities are strong. AFSA requests that this learning be first and foremost in the Commission's ongoing consideration of Australia's perishable agriculture industry. [The government] should also research and report on direct sales models such as the Community Supported Agriculture model (CSA), farmers

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<p>markets, and online sales such as through the Open Food Network mentioned above. We have farmer members who would be more than happy to directly participate and provide any information the Commission may require.</p>	
<p>Health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food subsidies for low income families to have access to affordable, nutritious food ● Synthetic protein manufacturers should be subject to the same compositional requirements regime as per those currently imposed on meat manufacturers. ● Health and well-being are primary – Optimise physical and psychological health for all Australians ● Quality not quantity – Let food – good, safe, fresh, fair food – be our medicine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred
<p>Localisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognise the worth of improving transparency and price disclosure through the value chain. . ● The COVID-19 pandemic presents a compelling learning opportunity around the fragility and inherent risks of globalised industrial food systems, while highlighting the strength of local food systems, solidarity economies, and strongly networked and collectivised communities. Local food economies and rural infrastructure to support them should be prioritized over export agriculture. ● Local, local, local – Local food systems, not exports, build communities and tread more lightly on the environment ● Democracy and participation – Empower people and communities to shape food systems; ownership and responsibility across the whole food system is more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred

<p>democratic.</p>	
<p>Horizontal knowledge sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100% of regional farmers having access to farmer-led agroecological farming education. ● Community-wide education program through schools and community groups to promote knowledge of agroecology, local food production, processing and supply and consumption. ● Development of a register of local food and fibre suppliers, processors and short supply chain members to enable the chain to work better at every step from growing through to eating. ● By providing and funding knowledge exchange on agroecology for the food and fibre sector. ● Know our food, where it comes from, who produces it, and how; all aspects of the food system, from seed and soil to shops, markets and plates, are interconnected, and it should be seen as a whole, with citizens being able to ‘see’ this whole and make fully informed decisions – there should be a resurgence of value chain infrastructure in regional communities ● Cooperation – Better communication and collaboration amongst producers, businesses, eaters, planners and policy-makers rather than the ethic of competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred
<p>Agroecology (including biodiversity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for research and innovation in agroecology and opportunities to learn from Indigenous knowledges and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature

<p>practices of caring for Country. Building capacity to develop and manage ecologically-sound agro-ecosystems that are more resilient in the face of rising biosecurity threats. Building capacity to detect and respond with systemic reforms to pests, weeds, and diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performing tasks for everyday management & fostering of biodiversity to reduce biosecurity threats. Includes agroecological farming for diversity and resilience, as well as constant monitoring of agro-ecosystems as well as unmanaged ecosystems, and co-managing pests, weeds and diseases with government support. Contributing to the protection of Country & communities through proactive ecologically-sound measures and practical biosecurity measures. ● Diversity – Of agro-ecosystems and food economies; of farming sizes and systems; of fauna and flora; of diets and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred
<p>Capitalism (including industrial ag.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commence an assessment of the current and potential disruption of fresh food pricing directly caused by Amazon’s recent acquisition of supermarket chain Whole Foods. This should include consultation with growers who are impacted by the discounting of wholesale fresh food. ● Undertake investigations to create a detailed understanding of factors in domestic and export value chains that influence pricing and, in particular, farmgate prices. More research is needed to understand how Australians access food through their own production and purchasing activities. ● We argue that small-scale agrarian futures are a common sense alternative to the current industrialised food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food for people ● Builds knowledge and skills ● Works with nature ● Values food providers ● Localised food systems ● Puts control locally ● Food is sacred

system. That the growth trajectory is not in fact an ineluctable facet of a market economy, but is a continuation of irresponsible practices knowing the environmentally and socially damaging effects of large-scale corporate takeovers (eg. JBS acquisition).