



## Ballarat Local Food Coalition

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### Purpose of the group

Local food coalitions (also known as alliances or networks) serve as forums for discussing food system issues, help develop a common language and understanding about the strengths and challenges of the local food system, foster coordination and collaboration between different sectors in the food system, evaluate and influence policy, work to mobilise resources and funding, and launch or support programs and services that address local needs.

In its first year the Ballarat Local Food Coalition (working title) will work with [Sustain: The Australian Food Network](#) to identify local needs and resources, **culminating in an action plan which gives the community more agency to develop a resilient, healthy and fair local food system.**

The development of a local food coalition is identified as an action or supported through strategies within the following Council projects and plans:

- [the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 - 2031](#)
- [the VicHealth Local Government Partnership](#)
- [the Youth Strategy 2022 - 2026](#)

The City of Ballarat committed to a vision of *'all community members having access to and celebrating a vibrant, nutritious and sustainable food system'*, with the development and implementation of [Good Food for All: Food Strategy 2019-2022](#). As this plan has now finished, the Ballarat Local Food Coalition will develop an action plan to progress work on the food system, and community-based coalition members will have more agency and be in a better position to communicate progress back to their networks.

### Objectives of the group

The objectives can be further defined and finalised once coalition members are selected. Typical objectives for a food coalition may include areas such as:

- Advocacy to support food system stakeholders or policy development
- Identify and elevate issues which impact the local food system

- Encourage engagement and collaboration between diverse sectors in projects which effect food system change
- Communication to networks and community to increase understanding of resilient, healthy and fair food systems
- Encourage innovative solutions to support a resilient, healthy and fair food system
- Monitoring of local food system indicators to inform policy development and measure change
- Support and communicate with established local food system networks and organisations

### **Examples of other local food coalitions**

The various food coalitions may have different agendas, stakeholders or resourcing:

- [Cardinia Food Movement](#)
- [The Community Plate](#)
- [Food for All Latrobe Valley](#)
- [Bendigo Regional Food Alliance](#) and [Facebook page](#)
- [Albury Wodonga local food network](#)

### **Terms of Reference**

- Final terms of reference, governance issues (and the name of the group) will be agreed upon at first meeting and reviewed in 12 months.
- Membership: we will be seeking a maximum of 15 coalition members.
- Meetings: There will be 5 meetings held throughout 2023, likely to be held in April, June, August, October, and December. Meetings are anticipated to last for a minimum of 90 minutes and maximum of 3 hours and held at a venue and time which is accessible and convenient for all members, with an online option if necessary.
- Tenure: We would suggest initial coalition members be part of the coalition for at least 18 months and a maximum of 3 years to encourage both continuity of membership and new members.
- Administration: For 2023, Sustain will be convening and supporting the meetings to ensure the following:
  - Terms of Reference and governance procedures finalised
  - Needs assessment for local food system completed and presented
  - Development of a 3-year action plan and evaluation framework
  - From 2024 the Health and Wellbeing Planner from Council will be convening meetings, taking minutes, and supporting council-based coalition actions

## Process for joining the coalition

An expression of interest (EOI) form will be circulated in early March. If you are not emailed a form by March 13, please send a request to: [hsplanning@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:hsplanning@ballarat.vic.gov.au) . The EOI process will close on April 3. The EOI applications will be reviewed by a team of 4 council staff and 2 Sustain staff and all applicants will be informed of the outcome by April 17, 2023.

The EOI process will support selection of coalition members with diverse interests and connections into different sectors of the local food system. Prospective members will be asked to respond to a range of questions including:

- What sector/s they represent
- Position and role in current business, community group or organisation
- What skills and knowledge they would bring to the group
- Their ability to commit to and participate in meetings, and communicate by email between meetings as required
- Their capacity to communicate information effectively between the coalition and the sector or community they represent
- Describe their passion for improving the resilience, sustainability and equity of the local food system including any potential projects or issues of focus

### Contact details:

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