



# Gather + Grow 2023–2032 Queensland Remote Food Security Strategy

OCTOBER 2023

## Language

Throughout Gather + Grow 2023–2032 (the Strategy), ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander’ is respectfully used to describe the First Peoples of the lands and waters now known as Australia. Where it is part of a title or quote, the term ‘Indigenous’ is, at times, used to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. With respect, Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises the distinctly different cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples described by this term.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland is mindful of the negative ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are often discussed. Such discourse undermines the complex determinants of inequity while inflating measures that highlight and reinforce disadvantage. In producing the Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Queensland has made a conscious effort to avoid negative perceptions and language while acknowledging the challenges experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Terms and definitions

To make this document easier to read, key terms and their definitions are included at page 27.

### Gather + Grow

Gather + Grow does not just refer to the gathering and growing of food, but also recognises the importance of actions required to support communities to be food secure by:

- gathering friends and stakeholders, momentum, effort and opportunities to address food security; and
- growing the workforce, capacity or resources to address food security.

The basket weave associated with Gather + Grow is representative of, not only a vessel that carries food, but also an arrangement that consists of multiple strands or partners that, when woven together, will create a strong structure that supports food security across remote communities. The name and branding of Gather + Grow were consulted on with members from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## Attribution and licence

Gather + Grow 2023–2032 was developed by Health and Wellbeing Queensland, stakeholders and the community with the support of the Queensland Government.

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## Disclaimer

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### Artwork

Making Tracks artwork produced for Queensland Health by Gilimbaa.

# Acknowledgement

## Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Health and Wellbeing Queensland respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, winds and waters where Queenslanders live, learn and work. Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia, representing distinctly different groups with unique cultures, histories, knowledges and connections to Country. Health and Wellbeing Queensland pays our respects to, and acknowledges, Elders, past and present. As they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and have taken on the responsibility to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, leaving a legacy for future Elders and leaders. Health and Wellbeing Queensland acknowledges any Sorry Business that may be affecting individuals, families and communities.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises and respects the common strengths demonstrated across Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In particular, the resourcefulness and enduring resilience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities continue to demonstrate. Health and Wellbeing Queensland acknowledges the long-standing relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and traditional foods and recognise that colonisation has forcibly disrupted this. Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises that Australia was once a food sovereign nation. For more than 60,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hunted, fished, gathered, grew, prepared and shared food, in ways that promoted planetary and human health. Today Queensland's food system is very different, and in many ways, contributes to and reinforces food insecurity in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Therefore, working towards food security means systematically removing the barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination imposed by colonisation. Health and Wellbeing Queensland acknowledges that the impacts of colonisation mean that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to fight for sovereignty of land and food.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland thanks and acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have contributed to and led this work.

## Our commitment

Health and Wellbeing Queensland commits to being respectful and takes our lead from the community to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the journey to better health, equity and food security. Health and Wellbeing Queensland acknowledges the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Path to Treaty. As a statutory body of the Queensland Government, Health and Wellbeing Queensland is aware of the work needed to reframe our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This can only begin with truth-telling about the historical and ongoing relationship between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Health and Wellbeing Queensland continues its commitment to reflecting the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in every step of this journey.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories are rich and diverse, and Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises our responsibility to facilitate efforts that account for this and ensure equity for all.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strength, resilience and courage which has endured over time and now inspires current and future generations. Health and Wellbeing Queensland acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events of significance such as National Reconciliation Week and Closing the Gap Day. Health and Wellbeing Queensland is also building organisational cultural capability through a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland recognises and supports the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which can only be achieved with new ways of thinking and working that share leadership. The Strategy supports the Queensland Government's commitment to achieving targets and priority reforms under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Health and Wellbeing Queensland supports the Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2023–2025, Queensland Health's Making Tracks towards closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders by 2033 and Queensland's 2022 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

# Foreword

All Queenslanders deserve access to affordable, fresh and healthy food that meets their dietary needs and cultural preferences. Health and Wellbeing Queensland was formed in 2019 to help realise healthy diet across Queensland, particularly for those in remote communities.

That's why I am proud to commend Gather + Grow 2023–2032 and Health and Wellbeing Queensland for leading its development with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and key stakeholders.

Gather + Grow 2023–2032 outlines the Queensland Government's framework to ensure all remote Queenslanders, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have access to affordable, fresh and healthy food to help reduce the risks of developing chronic health issues.

With the goal of changing systems to improve remote food security in Queensland, Gather + Grow 2023–2032 will guide actions and community-informed change across 4 key priority areas:

- optimising **supply chain** performance, resilience and **logistics** to ensure quality, affordable, healthy food is consistently available all year-round
- improving the accessibility and availability of healthy food by creating supportive settings for sustainable **local food production**
- empowering **communities** to choose and prepare healthy food by building awareness, capability and environments for good nutrition
- supporting **healthy homes** that enable use of healthy food.

As Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, and Minister for Women, I am committed to securing a healthier, fairer future for Queensland and progressing the Queensland Government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2023–2025 and Queensland Health's Making Tracks towards closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders by 2033.

I firmly believe Health and Wellbeing Queensland will continue to play a central role in improving the health of Queenslanders and that this Strategy will have tangible benefit for communities that need it the most.

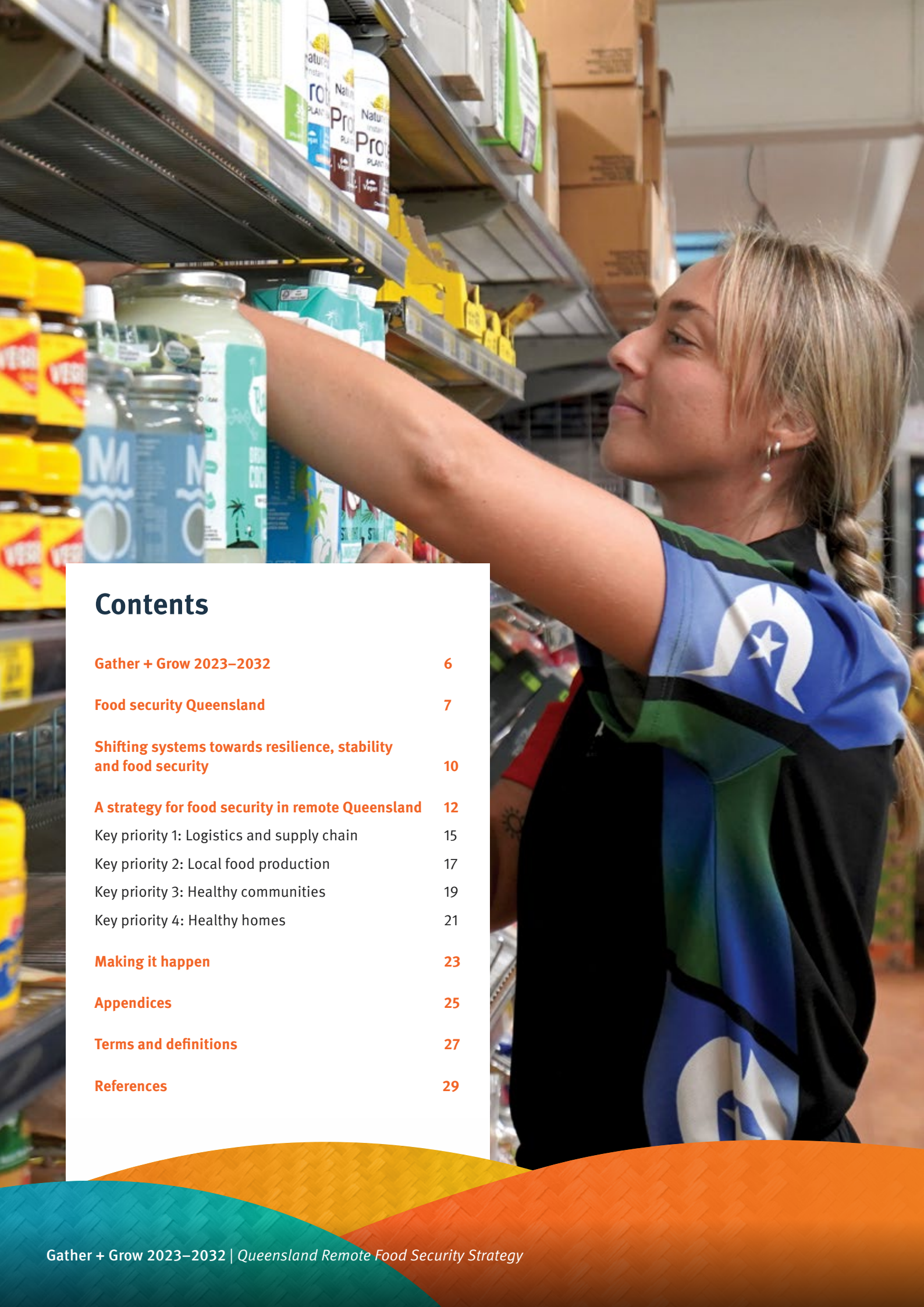
I commend Health and Wellbeing Queensland on this Strategy and acknowledge its commitment to improving health equity for all Queenslanders, no matter who they are or where they live.

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The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP  
**Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, and Minister for Women**







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# Gather + Grow 2023–2032

All Queenslanders deserve access to affordable, fresh and healthy food that meets their dietary needs and cultural preferences. Reliable access to nutritious food and the ability to safely store, prepare and consume it, is critical to a healthy diet. Without this, poor dietary intake increases the risk of chronic health issues such as overweight and obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and poor mental health and wellbeing.<sup>1,2</sup>

In Queensland, food insecurity is made worse by geographical isolation, amongst other drivers of inequity, and particularly impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote communities. Remote food security is complex and requires whole-of-system, shared and dedicated effort across all sectors.

Gather + Grow 2023–2032 (the Strategy) is the Queensland Government's long-term plan to improve and sustain food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Health and Wellbeing Queensland has coordinated the development of the Strategy through leadership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This has included continuous engagement with local, state and federal government agencies and stakeholders across a diverse range of sectors, including industry, universities and not-for-profit.

The Strategy outlines the changes required to promote remote food security in Queensland across key priority areas:

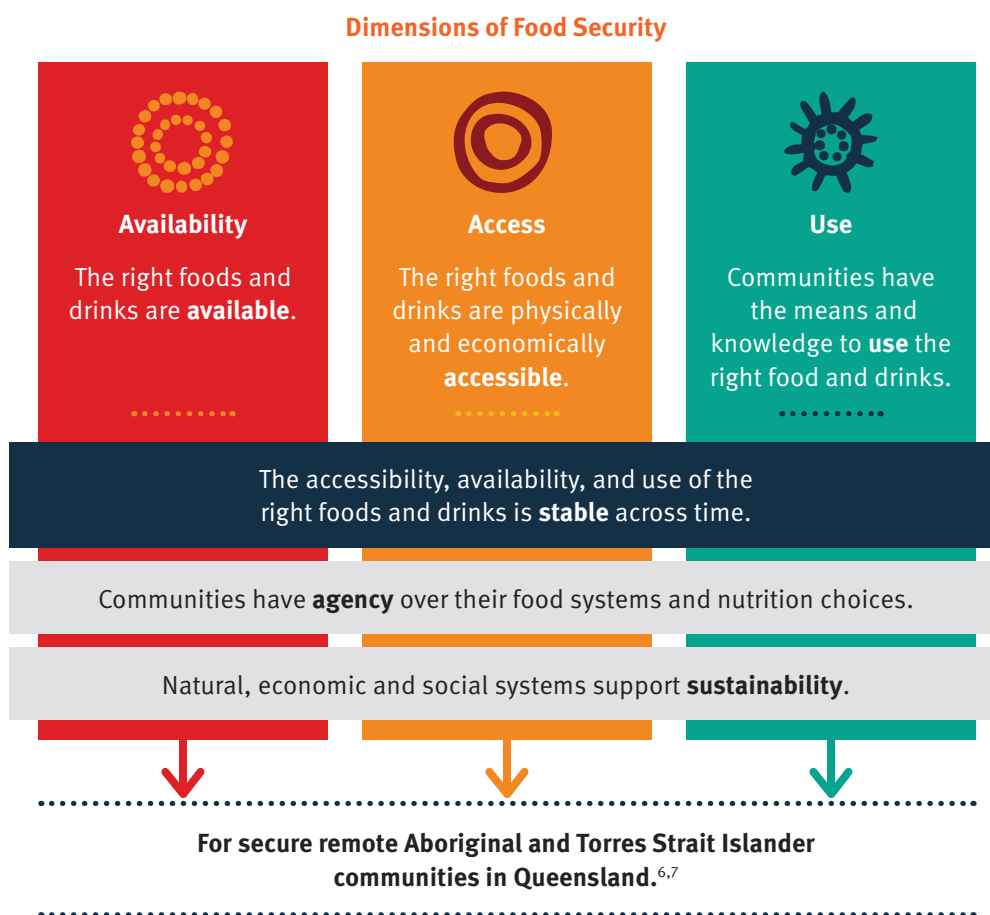
- optimising **supply chain** performance, resilience and **logistics** to ensure quality, affordable, healthy food is consistently available year-round
- improving the accessibility and availability of healthy food by creating supportive settings for sustainable **local food production**
- empowering **communities** to choose and prepare healthy food by building awareness, capability and environments for good nutrition
- supporting **healthy homes** that enable communities to prepare, consume and store healthy foods with reliable and working appliances and facilities (such as fridges, cooktops and running water).

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing health inequity. Food security is fundamental to ensuring that all communities have a similar opportunity to achieve a healthy diet and life. Getting this right will help secure a healthier, fairer future for Queensland. It will progress the Queensland Government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and Queensland Health's Making Tracks towards closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders by 2033.



# Food security in Queensland

The right to adequate food is declared under the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the right to culturally appropriate, nutritious food. Food security is when this right is realised, and all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their cultural preferences and needs for an active and healthy life.<sup>3</sup>



Even though Australia exports more food than it consumes, 31% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote Australia experience food insecurity. There are many factors that make it harder to achieve a healthy diet in remote Queensland. These challenges impact nutrition and the health and wellbeing of families and communities.<sup>4,5</sup>

In remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, food insecurity is further reinforced by the on-going impacts of colonisation and other systemic challenges such as limited land availability and internet access, unemployment, climate change, energy, water and housing insecurity.<sup>4</sup>

These challenges, and the complexity of food systems, shape how Health and Wellbeing Queensland will respond to food insecurity in remote Queensland. Developing and implementing effective solutions requires a holistic approach grounded in the lived experience of food insecurity.

## Food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

For many reasons, there is significant variation in food security across Queensland. Some remote communities in North Queensland are twice as likely to experience food insecurity compared to communities in Brisbane.<sup>8</sup> This difference is driven by a range of factors such as reduced economic opportunity, extreme climates and inadequate infrastructure. As a result, the quality, affordability, shelf life, and variety of food sold in remote communities is poorer.<sup>9</sup> These regions also have reduced access to food relief services, reinforcing the need for food security action now.

In Queensland, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience poor food security compared to the rest of the state.<sup>4</sup> This is in part due to location, as approximately 20% of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population live in remote or discrete communities. Furthermore, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent 27% of the population living in remote areas, increasing to 85% in the Torres Strait and 93% in mainland discrete communities.<sup>10</sup>

Adults experiencing food insecurity are more likely to develop...

diabetes

heart disease

obesity

poor mental health

other chronic conditions<sup>7</sup>

Households experiencing food insecurity consume

**less variety of fruits and vegetables<sup>1</sup>**



**Only 69%**



of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are **food secure<sup>11</sup>**

### Households experiencing food insecurity



have lower **protein, fibre and healthy fat intake**



and consume **more carbohydrates and sugar**

than food secure households<sup>1</sup>

**Freight** to remote communities can contribute up to...

**20% of the cost of food<sup>13</sup>**



Food is more expensive in **very remote Queensland** compared with urban areas



**31% more expensive<sup>10</sup>**



**12% of basic healthy food items are missing** from very remote stores in Queensland<sup>12</sup>



*It's really hard to create a healthy diet, access healthy foods for a reasonable cost so that people can eat healthily, the result of that is the increased obesity that we see in the NPA.'*

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council



## The way forward

This Strategy seeks to deliver meaningful and sustained outcomes for those who will benefit the most, primarily Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in remote Queensland. By addressing the whole-of-system issues that contribute to food security, the Strategy will build resilience and sustainability into Queensland's food systems. This will strengthen food security for all remote Queenslanders with solutions that can be adapted to benefit other Queensland communities.

To achieve this, the Strategy will work with the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms. This includes valuing joint decision making, building the community controlled sector and transforming the way the Queensland Government works to ensure shared access to data and information. Improving food security in remote communities will also progress the Queensland Government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap commitment by supporting key outcomes relating to education, health and wellbeing including Closing the Gap Target 1, 2 and 4.<sup>14</sup> For example, food security in remote regions directly contributes to community liveability, which shares outcomes for the attraction and retention of local teachers, doctors and other professionals that actively contribute to improved community economic development, health and education. Similarly, children who are food secure are more likely to attend school.<sup>13</sup>

To achieve food security, the Queensland Government needs to take a whole-of-system approach that is responsive to local community needs and in alignment with the Making Tacks Together Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework. This means sharing leadership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and partnering with all levels of government, industry, universities and other stakeholders. Together, the Queensland Government and partners will design and deliver sustainable food security and health equity solutions.

## Food sovereignty

Food sovereignty encompasses peoples' right to define their food system and their right to healthy, culturally appropriate and environment-friendly food.<sup>15,16</sup> For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, food security is closely tied to sovereignty and self-determination.<sup>17</sup>

There is increasing attention on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food sovereignty in Australia<sup>18</sup> and more community-led work is needed to achieve a common understanding and definition.<sup>2</sup> It is likely that food sovereignty definitions will differ between regions, communities and individuals. It has been suggested that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food sovereignty and food security could work hand-in-hand.<sup>19</sup> The shared benefits include strengthened Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food practices, industry opportunities, access to fresh, healthy foods, the transfer of traditional knowledge and opportunity to care for Country.<sup>2,16</sup>

This Strategy acknowledges the connected nature of food security, sovereignty, and cultural autonomy. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will support our partners in advancing food sovereignty, particularly in the context of government reforms led by the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts.



*The land and the sea is our food security. It is our right. Food security for us has two parts: Food security is when the food from our ancestors is protected and always there for us and our children. It is also when we can easily access and afford the right non-traditional food for a collective healthy and active life. When we are food secure we can provide, share and fulfil our responsibilities, we can choose good food, knowing how to make choices and how to prepare and use it.'*

Joint Policy Statement on Food Security for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples<sup>20</sup>

# Shifting systems towards resilience, stability and food security

Recent attention on the cost of living crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have put a spotlight on Australia's health inequities. Climate change, supply chain challenges and global tensions have worsened inequities across Australia's food system and put a spotlight on long-standing food security issues. Together, these factors impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, for whom food insecurity has remained a persistent challenge.

In response, as part of the 2023 Commonwealth Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, the Australian Government has committed \$11.8 million to the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities.<sup>14</sup> This commitment further reflects the momentum that remote food security is gaining as an issue of whole-of-government significance. To address food insecurity, the input of many stakeholders and a model of collective leadership is needed to shift systems and reduce inequity.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have championed action and advocacy to improve food security over many years. In 2020, on behalf of the Queensland Government, Health and Wellbeing Queensland coordinated a submission for the Inquiry into food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities (the Inquiry). The submission, amongst others from across Australia, influenced the 16 recommendations raised by the Inquiry, including:

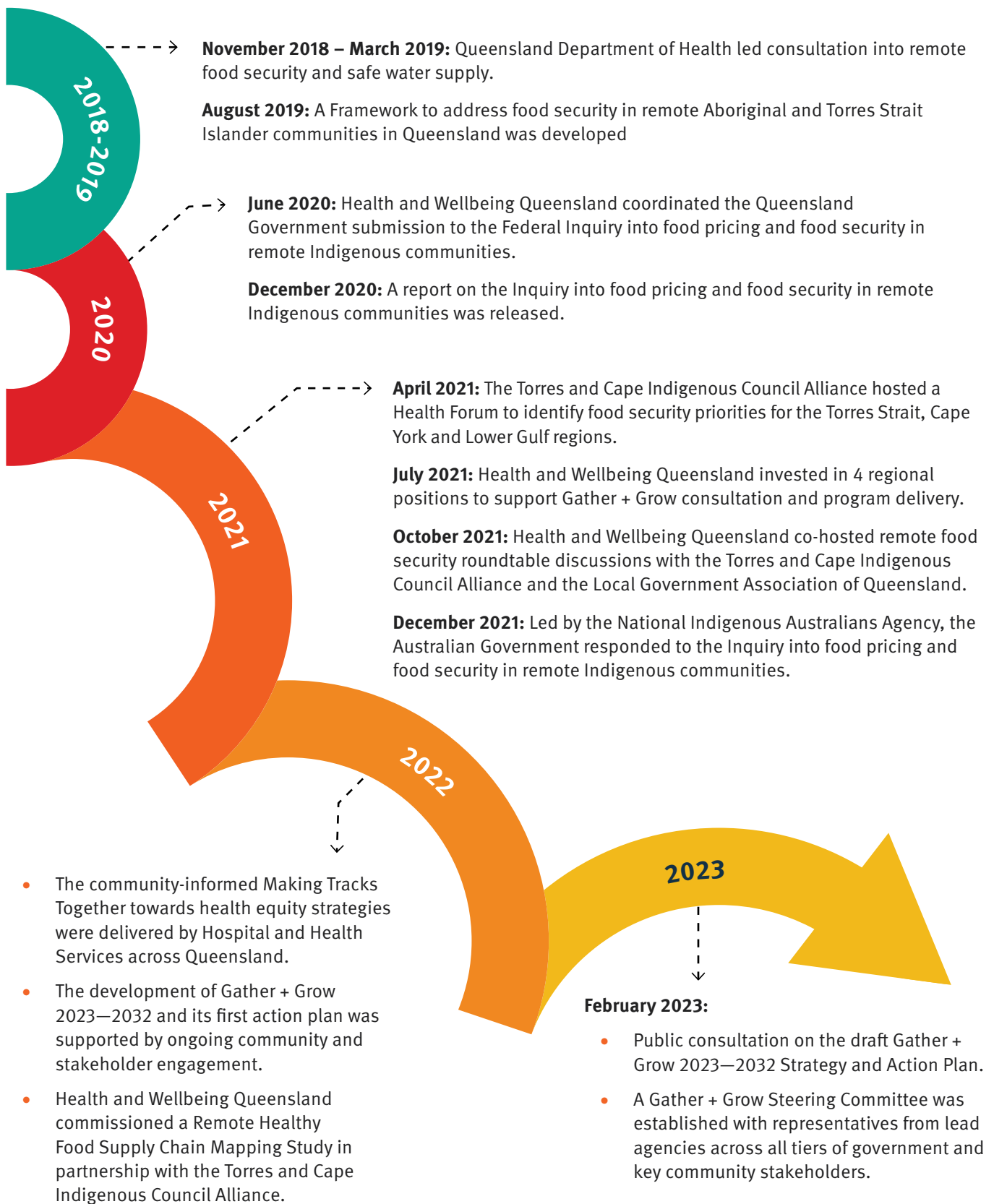
- a national licensing scheme for remote community stores
- focus on local food production and distribution
- grants to support community stores
- a national strategy for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander food security and nutrition.<sup>8</sup>

On behalf of the Australian Government, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) responded to the Inquiry in 2021 and provided support, or in-principle support, for 10 of the Inquiry's recommendations.<sup>21</sup> These recommendations and emerging priorities will be considered by the National Federation Reform Council Indigenous Affairs Taskforce through its commitment to a national strategy for priority actions on food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

With the support of the Taskforce, NIAA has established a Project Reference Group to oversee the development of the National strategy. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will align the delivery of Gather + Grow 2023–2032 with priorities, actions and opportunities identified in the national strategy.



## Growing momentum over time



The Gather + Grow Consultation Insights Report at <https://hw.qld.gov.au/gather-grow/> provides more information on the consultation timeline and findings.



# A strategy for food security in remote Queensland

## Building a shared understanding

Health and Wellbeing Queensland was formed in 2019 and soon after committed to developing a Queensland strategy for remote food security in partnership with community. This commitment recognises the significant role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and lived experience in progressing the remote food security agenda.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland has taken the time needed to properly understand the factors that challenge, enable and inform stable and resilient food security in remote Queensland.

The Strategy builds upon years of advocacy and was developed with leaders from community, government, industry, academia and other sectors. This commitment to ongoing engagement has been critical to informing a better understanding of the complex drivers of food insecurity.

In 2021, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance and the Local Government Association of Queensland partnered to deliver remote food security roundtable discussions, that attracted 125 participants across the discussions, from a range of sectors.<sup>22</sup> Since the roundtable discussions, Health and Wellbeing Queensland has continued to engage in a range of community forums, meetings and events that have contributed to consultation, partnerships, research and collaborative planning. These activities have informed development of the Strategy and associated action plans.



*Health and Wellbeing Queensland and Community Enterprise Queensland staff conducting store assessment.*



*FareShare and Burringilly Aboriginal Corporation working together to distribute food to communities.*

## Cultivating change together

Over the next 9 years the Queensland Government is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to design solutions together and ensure actions align with community priorities.

Embedded in the Strategy is a [Framework to address food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland](#). The Framework outlines how collective leadership across government, community and partners can shift systems towards resilience, stability and food security. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will apply the principles of the Framework to ensure action is taken to increase the availability, accessibility and use of healthy food, with positive and lasting outcomes for communities.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland will lead the implementation of the Strategy, in partnership with the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Housing, among other supporting agencies.

The Strategy will be delivered across 3 distinct Action Plans that will take a whole-of-system approach and respond to unique community needs. The Action Plans will build upon each other, and embed cycles of on-going learning, reflection, and improvement. Continuous consultation will occur throughout and respond to learnings, challenges, and opportunities as they emerge.

### Action Plan 1

#### **Plant, 2023 to 2026** **Establish fertile ground**

Cultivate collective leadership and vision to enable system change.



### Action Plan 2

#### **Nurture, 2026 to 2029** **Support budding change**

Test, trial and evaluate place-based solutions to support change.



### Action Plan 3

#### **Grow, 2029 to 2032** **Embed and sustain growth**

Sustain growth by upscaling and embedding effective solutions.



### **Harnessing strategic opportunities**

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provide an opportunity to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and economic outcomes.

The benefits, momentum and investment opportunities that will be generated by the Games have the potential to positively contribute to remote food security in Queensland and, if harnessed, support efforts in Closing the Gap.

# Strategy at a glance

## Vision

Food secure remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland.

## Goal

Improve food security with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland by increasing the availability, accessibility and use of healthy food.

## Target outcomes

 <p><b>Availability</b> Food is available in communities.</p>	 <p><b>Access</b> Food is affordable and accessible in communities.</p>	 <p><b>Use</b> Food choices and preparation support good health in communities.</p>
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## Priority areas

Logistics and supply chain	Local food production	Healthy communities	Healthy homes
Optimising supply chain performance, resilience and logistics to ensure quality, affordable and healthy food is available year-round.	Improving the accessibility and availability of healthy food by creating supportive settings for sustainable local food production.	Empowering communities to choose and prepare healthy food by building awareness, capability and commitment around good nutrition.	Enabling healthy homes in which communities can prepare, consume and store healthy foods using reliable and working appliances and facilities.

## Guiding principles

Community-centred	Equity	Systems thinking	Sustainability	Respect
Use a place-based approach to put communities at the centre of decision-making and action. Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to Intellectual and Cultural Property and data sovereignty.	Be guided by an equity-informed approach and prioritise remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with the greatest need and opportunity for impact.	Look at the whole picture to understand and address the various barriers to food security. Aim to create systems that holistically support communities.	Drive sustainable solutions, to support outcomes now and into the future while remaining committed to shared benefits.	Commit to learning from history, respecting culture and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing.



## Key priority 1: Logistics and supply chain

### Optimising supply chain performance, resilience and logistics to ensure quality, affordable, healthy food is consistently available year-round

#### Current state

The process of food moving from farm to table, and everything in between, is referred to as the food supply chain. For Queensland's most remote communities the cost of freight for household goods (including food) is extremely high, up to \$17 million per year per community.<sup>23</sup> There are many factors that impact remote supply chains and their cost, including: private ownership, resilience, cost, safety, quality, international conflicts, climate and weather events. Some remote Queensland stores rely on food sourced through central markets in Brisbane, which is more than 2,500 kms from Cape York.

When they are well supported, localised supply chains are more efficient and protected from external influences such as the cost of fuel and weather events. However, supply chains to remote Queensland are long and highly sensitive, driven by many competing priorities.<sup>24</sup> Remote communities face greater freight challenges than urban communities due to poor accessibility, small freight volumes, limited choices of freight companies, higher costs and low buying power.<sup>25</sup>

The process of transporting food over vast distances is fragmented, complex and susceptible to disruption.<sup>21</sup> Political and economic challenges, including the complex composition of private, government and corporate ownership across remote supply chains, make collaboration and coordination difficult.<sup>8,21</sup>

Opportunities to improve supply chains through pooling government freight will be explored (for example, pooling freight of medical and education supplies with food).

Understanding the procurement policy and legislative environment to support this approach is critical and has potential to remove substantial freight costs.

#### Supply chain map to Bamaga, Queensland



#### Challenges

**Distance:** Remote supply chains are much longer than those that serve urban centres. Food travelling long distances incurs significant carbon emissions.

**Complexity:** Remote supply chains often involve many organisations and touch points. Each touch point adds cost and can reduce the quality of food in remote communities.

**Duration:** Food bound for remote communities spends a greater length of time in the supply chain compared with food bound for urban centres.

**Disruption:** Remote supply chains are heavily reliant on various geographically dispersed transport and logistics infrastructure which are subject to disruption<sup>26</sup>

## The opportunity for change

Exploring alternative evidence-based models for freight and logistic services in remote Queensland will improve the reliability and resilience of food supply chains. This will require solutions that address specific regional challenges, including workforce shortages and infrastructure. Transparency and access to good data, information and mapping are critical to understanding the opportunities to create change.

In remote Queensland, commercial competition among freight service providers is challenged by geographic isolation, extreme climate conditions, infrastructure and workforce shortages. Addressing these barriers to promote resilience and sustainability is needed to improve remote supply chains and food security.

Achieving optimal supply chains and food security will require collaboration and alignment with broader Queensland Government plans and opportunities, including the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Queensland Freight Strategy – Advancing Freight in Queensland and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



*It is high time that the supply chain through Queensland is examined more closely. Present supply chain serves the coastal and urban communities reasonably well but the remote communities and particularly those who live in the Cape find that by the time food gets to them, the food has lost much of its value.'*

Interested member of the non-Indigenous community

### Queensland Government objectives

Invest in data and evidence that informs solutions, implementation, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation across remote supply chains.

Design strategies together which improve supply chain resilience and reliability, such as policy, infrastructure, practice, and non-infrastructure solutions..

Make governance more transparent across remote supply chains to support improved coordination.

Support local businesses to participate in supply chain opportunities, such as exports.

### Changes to achieve by 2032

A supply of healthy food to remote communities that is more reliable and resilient and supported with appropriate infrastructure and workforce.

Healthy food travels shorter distances to remote communities, with fewer touch points, better coordination and reduced environmental impact.

Resilient supply chains and logistics that support regional economic growth and disaster management.

A strong remote logistics and supply chain sector that complements local food production to maximise benefits across regions.

### Target outcomes



**Availability**  
Food is available in communities.



**Access**  
Food is affordable and accessible in communities.



## Key priority 2: Local food production

### Improving the access and availability of healthy food by creating supportive settings for sustainable local food production



#### Current state

Agriculture, including cattle grazing, horticulture, aquaculture and fishing, play a key role in the economies and cultures of remote Queensland regions.<sup>27</sup> Boosting local food production has been identified by communities as an opportunity to improve resilience, economic, social and cultural outcomes and strengthen local food systems.

Local food production refers to food that is sourced, grown, produced, sold and consumed in the same geographic locality. In remote areas, local food production can facilitate greater access to fresh produce at a reduced cost to community. This supports nutrition and food security. Strengthening local food production can also support social and economic development benefits through the creation of employment, training, education and social connection opportunities.<sup>25</sup>



Local food production should be supported by regional supply chains (including local processing and distribution) that enable resilience and economic development across communities. Cross-sector partnerships can support sustainable regional economic development at the same time as improving local food production opportunities.<sup>25</sup> For example, through infrastructure and technology investments.<sup>25</sup>

It is acknowledged that agricultural projects in remote areas can be challenged by many factors, including lack of business development and technical support, workforce shortages, biosecurity, limited funds, climate change, limited internet access, transport and complex land tenure and water ownership agreements.

#### The opportunity for change

Taking a tailored approach to each community, will ensure that cultural, environmental, social, and economic factors are considered holistically. Alternative food systems, gardens and other food production ventures should be informed by local communities and Traditional Owners and built on the learnings of past experiences.

Harnessing traditional knowledges about bush food and caring for Country enables cultural resilience, effective land management and economic development in remote regions.<sup>25</sup> Australia's bush food industry holds great economic, social and environmental potential and the market demand for native bush food is increasing.



For example, wattleseed and Kakadu plums are now in demand across Australian and international grocery stores and restaurants. Some native foods, such as macadamias and finger limes, have established supply chains and markets. These existing capabilities provide opportunities to strengthen systems around native food and to develop products quickly, paving the way for an expanded native food market in the future. In particular, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a unique chance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to showcase native bush food, traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable growing and harvesting practices. To harness this opportunity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples control over native food production and its benefits should be prioritised with the view to strengthen production.

It is crucial to ensure the intellectual and cultural contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities are protected and appropriately compensated. Bush foods, and their collection, are closely connected to culture and often closely protected by

knowledge holders. However, Australia's bush food industry is currently predominately owned by non-Indigenous stakeholders.<sup>28</sup> Mechanisms to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional foods and knowledges should be implemented to ensure that rising demand does not adversely impact access and availability for Traditional Custodians.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, solutions should support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to determine the economic development, resources, labelling, certification and market for traditional food.<sup>27</sup>

The success of local food production projects will be based on long term funding and community-leadership.<sup>30</sup> Streamlining efforts towards local food production across sectors will reduce the risk of duplication and better equip remote communities to benefit from agribusiness. Strategic opportunities, including those identified by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will support delivery of remote local food production initiatives ([Appendix 1](#)).

### Queensland Government objectives

Work in partnership with community to understand and address local food production barriers.

Leverage industry and technical expertise to resource and design community-specific solutions that have community-voice, evidence and data at their heart.

Trial, test and scale innovative solutions that drive social, cultural and economic development.

Investigate mechanisms to support interconnected and coordinated local food production across regions to develop resilient local food systems.

### Changes to achieve by 2032

Community-driven, locally produced healthy food that is available and accessible in remote communities.

A resilient food and drink supply that includes a combination of imported and locally produced products and services that meets community needs and aspirations.

Local food production that generates economic development for communities through local and regional business, employment and training.

Increased opportunities for remote communities to participate in commercial export markets and associated economic benefits, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

Strong partnerships between community, industry and government support innovative local food production systems tailored to communities that deliver sustainable and long-term benefits.

### Target outcomes



**Availability**  
Food is available in communities.



**Access**  
Food is affordable and accessible in communities.

## Key priority 3: Healthy communities

### Empowering communities to choose and prepare healthy food by building awareness, capability, and commitment around good nutrition

#### Current state

Empowering people to choose, prepare and consume healthy food is a cornerstone of food security.<sup>3</sup> For more than 60,000 years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures have understood the important role of food in spiritual, cultural, social and physical health and wellbeing. However, in many remote communities healthy food items are less available and often unaffordable.<sup>10</sup> This can result in a higher consumption of nutrient-poor products that are easily accessed and require little to no preparation.<sup>1</sup>



*Only once the option of affordable healthy food is available, can the choice be made to buy it.'*

Academic Stakeholder

Communities, families, and individuals (especially children and young people) should be empowered with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to support good nutrition, particularly when living in areas with greater food security challenges. Health promotion initiatives that build environments, awareness, ability, and commitment for good nutrition are critical to improving health outcomes across generations. Initiatives need to be tailored to local communities, age groups, family dynamics, food cooking and storage facilities and preferences and kinship commitments.

While many families in remote communities are resourceful in their strategies for managing food insecurity, opportunities exist to highlight and strengthen practices and community activities that promote good nutrition. The right community infrastructure and physical environments are required to support this, including equipment and space for safe food preparation in community settings, adequate storage facilities in local stores, and safe, welcoming community spaces.

In many remote communities, a singular general store is the sole provider of food and grocery services and plays a critical role in health promotion and food security.<sup>31</sup> However, community/public transport to stores is often limited in remote areas and private transport is not available to all families.<sup>29</sup> It is important to leverage the function of stores amongst other settings to deliver evidence-based, community-specific health promotion. For example, partnership with the 26 Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) stores located in remote Queensland, as well as Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) and independent stores. Such efforts should complement health promotion efforts across other community environments (for example, education and healthcare settings) to facilitate a whole-of-community approach. This will help to drive demand in the market and supply chain and will contribute to a healthier food system.



Health and Wellbeing Queensland working with Community Enterprise Queensland stores.



Frog Gully Community Garden, Thursday Island.

## The opportunity for change

In some cases, food insecurity is short-term and related to emergency situations such as natural disasters, domestic and family violence and homelessness. This Strategy aims to embrace a holistic approach to healthy communities by addressing short-term and long-term food insecurity

issues. This means, strengthening food relief services to provide the right support, at the right time, to the right people, while also taking a whole-of-system approach. Gather + Grow 2023–2032 will also align with other strategies such as Communities 2032.



### Queensland Government objectives

- Identify and support community-led food security initiatives that support healthy food environments.
- Invest in and build capacity of local workforces to support health promotion in community settings.
- Strengthen nutrition policies in community and food relief settings to create health-promoting environments.

### Changes to achieve by 2032

- Strengthened health promotion and food security capability of local workforces.
- Increased demand for healthy food and drink in remote communities that influences markets and drives availability.
- A food relief sector, and local food environments, that are responsive to, and appropriate for, the needs and preferences of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### Target outcomes



**Use**  
Food choices and  
preparation support  
good health in communities.



## Key priority 4: Healthy homes

### Enabling healthy homes to prepare, consume and store healthy foods



#### Current state

Healthy homes play an important role in food security. They allow families to safely cook, store and eat healthy food. Access to reliable facilities which enable the storage, preparation and cooking of healthy food, is essential for good nutrition.<sup>32</sup> The facilities and equipment needed to safely prepare, eat and store healthy food is known as ‘health hardware’. It includes facilities such as fridges, cooktops, utensils, running water and power, cleaning supplies and kitchen space. Everyone needs reliable health hardware for an adequate standard of living and health.<sup>30</sup>

In Australia, one in three (33%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households live with one or more major structural problems in their homes such as cracks in walls, benches and sinks or major electrical and plumbing issues.<sup>33</sup> Unreliable access to clean, safe and palatable water and inconsistent electricity introduce additional complexities for healthy home practices.<sup>9,34</sup> In 2016, 28% of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were living in overcrowded homes. Overcrowding has been linked to a higher rate of breakdowns of household equipment and facilities. This can stop people from being healthy at home, and can increase the risk of health conditions such as Rheumatic Heart Disease and other potentially preventable chronic conditions.<sup>35,36</sup> Due to these challenges, amongst others such as low income, many families rely on processed, nutrient-poor, ready-made foods that require little to no preparation and have a long shelf life.<sup>37</sup>

Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living. The right to housing is more than simply a right to shelter, it is a right to adequate housing with available services, facilities, infrastructure, and cultural adequacy.<sup>38</sup>



## The opportunity for change

To support healthy housing in remote communities, access to affordable household items (for example fridges, cooktops and electricity) as well as the ability to maintain and repair them in a timely way by a local trades workforce, is essential.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, sustainable home-based food gardening, and addressing the barriers to this, should be explored to offer remote households the opportunity to build self-sufficiency, resilience and good nutrition.<sup>28</sup>

It is acknowledged that healthy home environments in remote communities are often challenged by complex factors, including overcrowding, limited housing availability, building design, unreliable electricity, sanitation, and water security issues.<sup>40</sup> Steps to address these complex issues will require strong and coordinated leadership across government and with

industry, not-for-profit and community sectors. Actions taken to support healthy homes are being led through the delivery of initiatives, such as, the Healthy Housing Project, the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027, Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease, and Deadly Kids, Deadly Futures. Activities delivered under Gather + Grow 2023–2032 will build upon and support this existing work with communities to enable a healthier, more secure housing future for remote Queensland.



*Unless homes are clean, have electricity and refrigeration, storage and preparation of healthy foods is challenging.'*

Health system stakeholder



### Queensland Government objectives

Clarify service provision roles and responsibilities related to housing across government, private and industry sectors.

Build joint commitment and leadership around supporting healthy homes through a coordinated and holistic approach.

Develop indicators, workflow processes and referral systems that support healthy home service delivery.

### Changes to achieve by 2032

Healthy homes that support people in remote communities to cook, consume and store healthy food and drink with adequate and reliable health hardware (e.g. fridges, cooktops, power and water).

The timely resolution of household disruptions and malfunctions that impact healthy living practices by supporting families to obtain repairs, alternative services and other solutions.

### Target outcomes



#### Use

Food choices and preparation support good health in communities.

# Making food security happen

Gather + Grow 2023–2032 is the Queensland Government’s plan to improve food security and health and wellbeing outcomes in remote communities.

The Strategy requires shared leadership and investment across all levels of government and collaboration with

community, industry and partners. As this journey continues, the Queensland Government commits to working collaboratively to deliver purposeful action and will measure, evaluate, report progress and adjust the approach along the way.

## How we will get there

The Strategy will be delivered across 3 phases to enable flexibility over time. It will also ensure that communities are empowered throughout the process of developing, implementing, evaluating and adapting solutions. The Queensland Government will review the Strategy regularly to ensure that it remains contemporary and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities. Each phase will be accompanied with an action plan, with the first one from 2023 to 2026.



### 2023 to 2026



**Planting the seed:** The first action plan will support remote communities who are ready to develop and lead their own solutions. It will focus on building strong foundations for change by investing in meaningful partnerships and governance and establishing the right mechanisms to develop, implement and measure change.

### 2027 to 2029



**Nurturing change:** The second action plan will build on the outcomes, initiatives and partnerships delivered in the first phase. Strong community and cross-sector leadership will enable ambitious strategies to be implemented to overcome barriers. Learnings generated through this process will inform future improvements in the next phase of implementation.

### 2030 to 2032



**Growing together:** The third action plan will amplify the change generated through the previous plans with a focus on refining, scaling and embedding effective solutions across the food system. The next steps for Queensland’s remote food security agenda will be considered based on the cumulative monitoring, evaluation, reflection and learning processes undertaken over the term of the Strategy to ensure communities are supported in the long term.

## Enablers for change

The implementation of the Strategy and associated action plans will be underpinned by 4 enablers that will help achieve food security:



**Collective leadership:** Working together across government, community, industry and other sectors to support shared design, implementation and ownership of solutions together.



**Solution-driven investment:** Funding models and investment that enable effective implementation and evaluation and ensure the right mechanisms are in place to support food security in the future.



**Knowledge translation:** Recognising the importance of technical expertise and cultural knowledge to ensure that decision-making, investment and actions are evidence-based and informed by the community.



**Strengths-based approaches:** Identifying, highlighting and celebrating the strengths, resilience and leadership within communities and sectors. Using these to develop solutions and overcome challenges.

The Queensland Government will work across systems to activate these enablers and deliver effective, sustainable initiatives through each of the action plans.



## Governance and engagement

The Queensland Government's collaborative approach to implementation will be supported by strong governance across sectors and with community. The Gather + Grow Steering Committee, with representation from agencies who lead and support the food security agenda, will ensure strategic implementation of the Strategy and demonstrate the value of all 3 levels of government working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders.

Other collaborative forums and technical advisory groups will also be leveraged to ensure the development, implementation, and evaluation of actions across the 4 priority areas are informed by content expertise and community voice.

## Measuring change

Due to its complex nature, food security is difficult to measure and currently it is not routinely reported on in Australia. Most recently, food insecurity was measured through the 2011-2013 Australian Health Survey. It estimated that 4% of all Australians experience food insecurity compared with 31% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote areas.<sup>41</sup> However, this data has limitations, and is known to underestimate the true prevalence of food insecurity.

Furthermore, it does not provide an indication of the severity of food insecurity or show the differences in food security within or across states and territories.



Improving how food security is measured is critical to informing evidence-based action and evaluation of outcomes for communities. It will also help to determine the areas where positive impacts have been achieved and the areas that may need more focus for future action plans.

### Community partnerships

Local community engagement will be ongoing throughout implementation. Local Decision-Making Bodies (established as part of Local Thriving Communities), local government, community leaders and other groups are invited to share leadership of solutions. The Queensland Government recognises the ongoing opportunity to streamline partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through existing processes driven by the community.

A framework for monitoring, learning and evaluation will be developed to inform how the Queensland Government measures system change, outcomes and impacts generated by Gather + Grow 2023–2032. Measurement will aim to align with national indicators and targets to be developed as part of the National Remote First Nations Food Security Strategy.

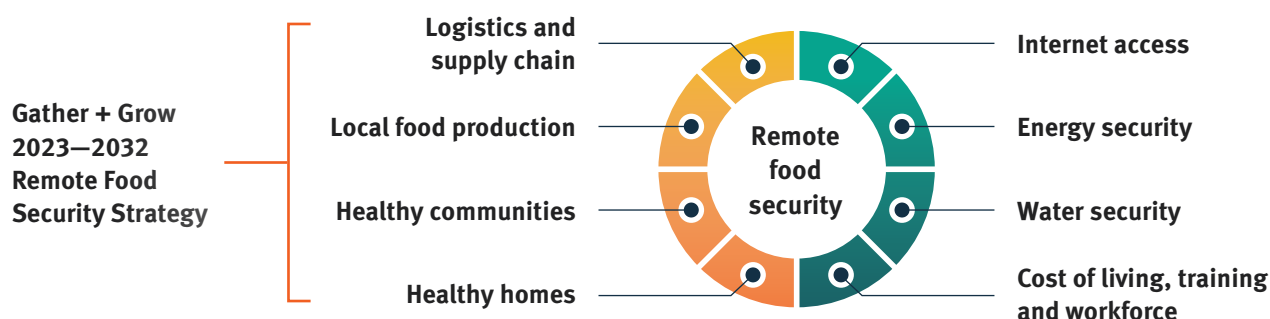
In 2022-23 the Australian Bureau of Statistics will use a new tool (the United States Department of Agriculture Household Food Security Survey Module) to build a clearer picture of food security in Australia.<sup>42</sup> Once available, this information will help inform appropriate targets and goals for the Strategy.

The Queensland Government will continue to work closely with key partners to develop a routine reporting process, including identifying appropriate measures and targets, to enable the Strategy and action plans to be reviewed and adjusted over time. Lead government agencies will also report on the progress of actions on an annual basis to the Steering Committee and progress reports will be shared regularly on the [Gather + Grow website](#).

All data and reporting processes will align with a data sovereignty approach and be guided by input from communities to ensure Gather + Grow 2023–2032 and action plans make measurable improvements to food security across Queensland.

## Appendix 1: Complementary policy and reform initiatives

Gather + Grow 2023–2032 is supported by complementary policy and reform initiatives:



### Logistics and supply chain

- **Queensland Freight Strategy – Advancing Freight in Queensland** (DTMR)
  - » Queensland Freight Action Plan 2023–2025 (pending)
  - » Far North Queensland Freight Action Plan (pending)
- **Queensland Procurement Strategy 2023 - Jobs, Economy, Legacy, Confidence** (QGP)
- **Queensland Procurement Policy 2023** (QGP)



### Local food production

- **Far North Queensland Infrastructure Plan** (DSDILGP - pending)
- **Queensland Organics Strategy 2022–2023** (DES)
- **Queensland's Agriculture Strategy 2040** (DAF)



### Healthy communities

- **Communities 2032 Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2025** (DTATSIPCA)
- **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan**



### Healthy homes

- **Queensland Housing Strategy** (DoH)
- **Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025**
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019–2023**
- **Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease: Queensland First Nations Strategy 2021–2024** (QH)
- **Deadly Kids, Deadly Futures: Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Ear and Hearing Health Framework 2016–2026** (QH)



#### Internet access

- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy **Strategic Plan 2022–2025: A thriving digital economy**
- **Digital Strategic Plan 2021–2025** (DMTR)



#### Energy security

- **Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan** (DEPW)
- **State Infrastructure Strategy 2022–2042** (DSDILGP)



#### Water security

- **Queensland bulk water opportunities statement** (DRDMW)



#### Cost of living, training and workforce

- **Good people, Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032**
- **Paving the Way: First Nations Training Strategy** (DYJESBT)
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework 2016–2026** (QH)
- **Transport and Logistics Workforce Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2024** (DTMR)
- **Economic Development Queensland Strategic Plan 2022–2026** (DSDILGP)



- **Making Tracks Together** – Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework
- **Local Thriving Communities** (DTATSIPCA)
- **Queensland Equity Framework** (pending)
- **The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament**
- **National Agreement on Closing the Gap**
- **Far North Queensland and Cape York Regional Plans review** (DSDILGP)

#### Acronyms

<b>DAF</b>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	<b>DTATSIPCA</b>	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
<b>DES</b>	Department of Environment and Science	<b>DTMR</b>	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>DoH</b>	Department of Housing	<b>DYJESBT</b>	Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training
<b>DRDMW</b>	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	<b>HWQld</b>	Health and Wellbeing Queensland
<b>DSDILGP</b>	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	<b>QH</b>	Queensland Health



# Terms and definitions

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander discrete community** is a term that refers to a discrete community in a geographic location, bound by physical or other boundaries, and inhabited or intended to be inhabited by predominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with housing or infrastructure that is either owned or managed on a community basis. Discrete communities include:

- communities in urban areas where the title to a parcel of land has been transferred to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation
- well-established communities and outstations in remote areas
- Deed of Grant in Trust communities and their outstations in Queensland as well as the 2 shires of Aurukun and Mornington Island
- communities on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pastoral properties/leases.<sup>43</sup>

**Accessibility** is one dimension of food security. It relates to having physical access to food (ability to walk or drive to food, having a food store nearby that is stocked) and having the money to buy food. An adequate supply of food does not guarantee food security. *Economic accessibility* includes the cost of living and refers to the income available for families to buy healthy food. The cost of food and other essential expenses (for example, housing, electricity, medications) and income all impact economic access. *Physical accessibility* describes the ability for individuals to physically access food, including transport modes, infrastructure and costs as well as physical ability and/or supports required.

**Availability** is one dimension of food security. It refers to the supply of food and includes how much food is available to communities, and whom in the community it is available to. It is determined by the level of food production, stock levels, trade and other factors.<sup>3</sup> Food availability is when there is enough food in communities to feed its members a healthy diet that meets cultural preferences and is of acceptable quality.

**Agriculture** includes all forms of food production and all related activities, such as, workforce, water irrigation and drainage work, equipment, production, transport, processing, packaging, storage and the sale of agricultural products. Agriculture includes a wide variety of food production methods (for example, broadacre cropping, permaculture, regenerative agriculture, protected cropping, traditional and emerging techniques).

**Community-controlled sector** refers to services initiated and operated by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders communities to deliver holistic, comprehensive and culturally appropriate services to community which control it, through a locally elected board of management.<sup>44</sup>

**Food security** refers to having reliable access to a range of affordable food, drink and essential groceries that are safe and meet the nutritional and cultural needs of individuals, families and communities. Food security occurs when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their cultural preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.<sup>3</sup>

**Food security dimensions** refer to the 6 dimensions of food security, which are; accessibility, availability, use, stability, agency and sustainability. Please refer to the diagram on page 7 of the Gather + Grow 2023—2032.

**Food systems** include the entire range of people, places, processes and businesses involved in the production, processing, packaging, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the waste produced throughout these processes. Food systems underpin environmental sustainability, economic development, health and wellbeing. Food systems link closely with other systems such as health, trade, cultural, environmental and energy systems. A sustainable food system is environmentally, economically, culturally and socially resilient.<sup>45</sup>

**Food sovereignty** is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through self-determined ecologically sound and sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems.<sup>13</sup>

**Health hardware** is the facilities and equipment needed to safely prepare, eat and store healthy food at home. It includes facilities such as fridges, cooktops, utensils, running water and power, cleaning supplies and kitchen space.<sup>30</sup>

**Health inequities** describe the differences in health between groups defined on the basis of socioeconomic conditions and the material, social, political, and cultural conditions that shape peoples' lives and healthy behaviours.

**Healthy food** includes food and drinks that support health behaviours as per the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.<sup>46</sup>

**Healthy home products** are products needed for people to undertake healthy behaviours at home, such as cooking and washing. Examples of healthy home products include cooking equipment and utensils, towels, soap, washing machines and first aid.

**Health-enabling home** is a home that meets adequate standards of living to prevent disease. A health-enabling home has sufficient sanitation, hygiene and health hardware, including running water, continuous and affordable power supply, access to maintenance technicians and tradespeople when required and the ability to initiate this as needed.

**Industry** refers to service providers, consultancy firms, industry advocacy bodies and other industry-based organisations that have expertise in, or influence over, matters related to the key priority areas.

**Lead responsible agency** is a term that refers to the government agency or department(s) best-placed to lead delivery of actions due to their staff expertise, program of work and/or responsibilities to Queensland.

**Local Decision Making Body** is a term that refers to a body established by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as they determine how the Local Thriving Communities reform can best work for them, including the membership, model and local name for the local group. Local Decision Making Bodies engage directly with government to share decision-making about the design, delivery and effectiveness of Queensland Government-funded services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.<sup>47</sup>

**Local food production** refers to the process of producing food within a short distance from where it is consumed. Local food production also refers to the community structures and supply chains that enable food produced (for example at a community garden) to be accessed by community members. Often, this is different from a large-scale supermarket system. The term includes various types of local food production such as small-scale community gardens, market gardens and other forms of food production such as native foods and cattle grazing. Local food production also includes all types of food production, for example, fishing, agriculture, aquaculture and farming.

**Local food systems** is a term that emphasises reduced supply chain distances, and localised food production. The term acknowledges that the 'localisation' of food systems can mean different things, to different communities. A local food system might, for example, include no local food production but shorter supply chain distances, while another local food system might include both.

**Local Thriving Communities** is a long-term reform to achieve a visibly different way of government working with communities. Local Thriving Communities requires government and communities to work together to move

decision-making closer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, embrace self-determination, and engage in relationships so that service design and delivery better meet the needs of each community.<sup>45</sup>

**National Community Stores Licensing Scheme** is a commonwealth scheme that applies to stores supplying groceries and drink to remote Aboriginal communities where those stores are an important source of food, drink, or grocery items. To meet acceptable standards for community stores, the scheme assesses the range, quantity and quality of foods, food storage, preparation of healthy takeaway meals, governance and financial integrity of operations. The scheme currently only applies in the Northern Territory and was introduced as part of the Northern Territory Intervention.<sup>48,49</sup>

**Stability** is one dimension of food security. It refers to food security being constant and reliable over time. Stability exists when there is no risk of loss of food supply from economic, political or environmental factors. Even if an individual's food access, availability and use is adequate at one point in time, they would still be considered to be experiencing food insecurity if any of these three things are at risk of weakening, for example, due to adverse weather conditions, political instability, domestic/family violence, housing insecurity or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices).<sup>3</sup>

**Supply chain** is a network of individuals, organisations, resources, activities and technology involved in creation and sale of a product.<sup>50</sup>

**Supporting responsible agency** is a term that refers to the agency that will support the lead responsible agency in the delivery of the action. They may have a role in driving separate functions within an action through workforce expertise and/or programs of work.

**Sustainability**, in the content of this strategy, refers to programs, initiatives and partnerships continuing for as long as is required to deliver food security outcomes for communities in the long-term (unless referring to 'environmental sustainability'). Sustainability occurs when outcomes are not short-lived or dependent on factors that may change and affect community benefits.

**Remote** relates to the Australian Statistical Geographic Standard, which determines 5 levels of remoteness based on relative access to services. Under this structure, remote is defined as Remote and Very Remote Areas.<sup>51</sup>

**Use** is a dimension of food security referring to the ability of individuals and families to benefit from the nutrition of healthy food, once made available and accessible. It encompasses the physical access to all resources required to prepare, cook and store healthy food, as well as the knowledge, empowerment and physical skills to achieve a healthy diet.

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