

INQUIRY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Hearing, Melbourne

23 August 2011

Kathy McConell and Rachel Carey



FOOD ALLIANCE
for a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system

Food Alliance vision and aim

Vision: *a healthy, equitable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable food system*

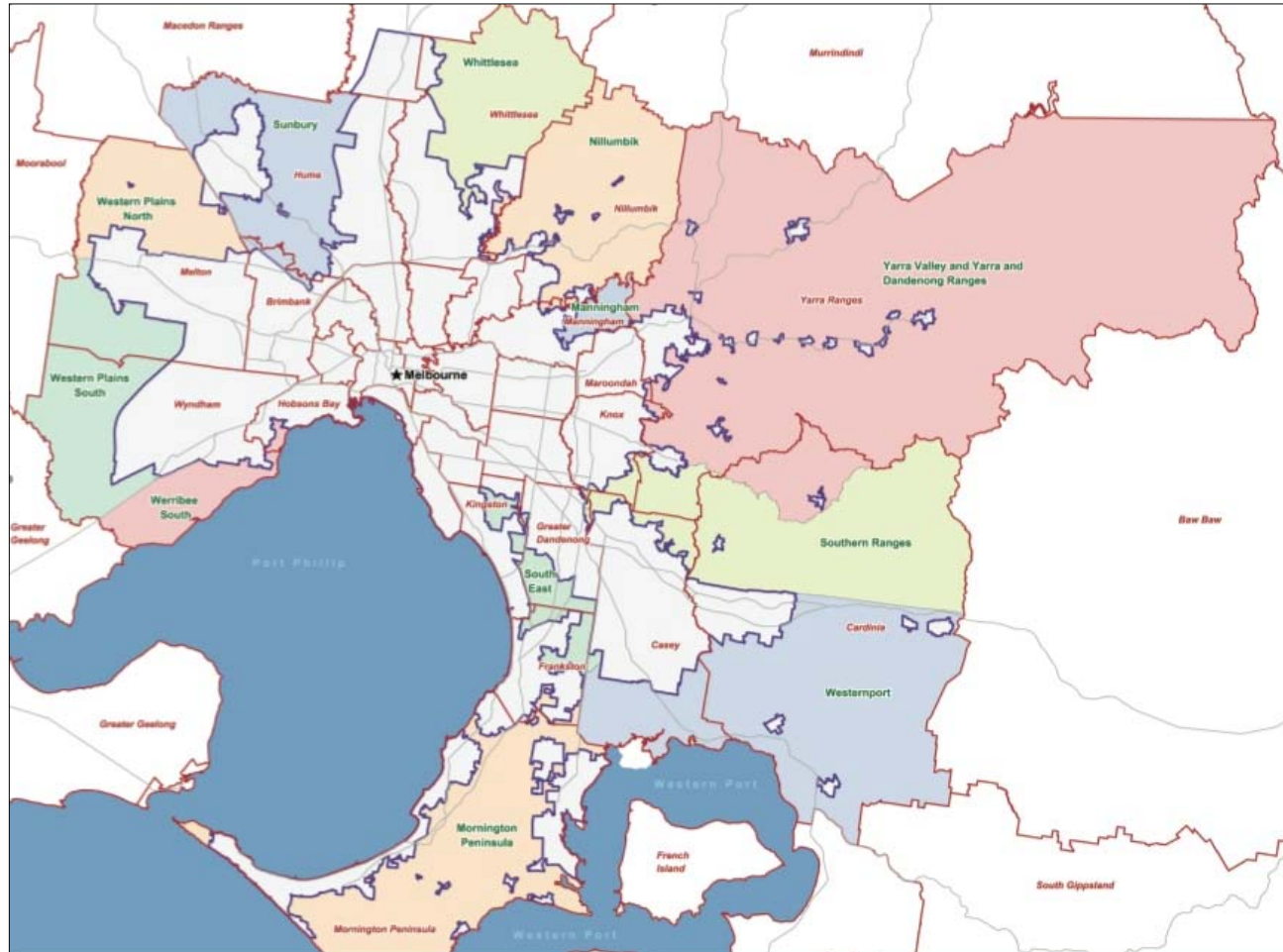
Aim: To identify, analyse and encourage evidence-informed policies and regulatory reform to enable sustainable food security and healthy eating in the Victorian population.

The importance of fruit and veg supply

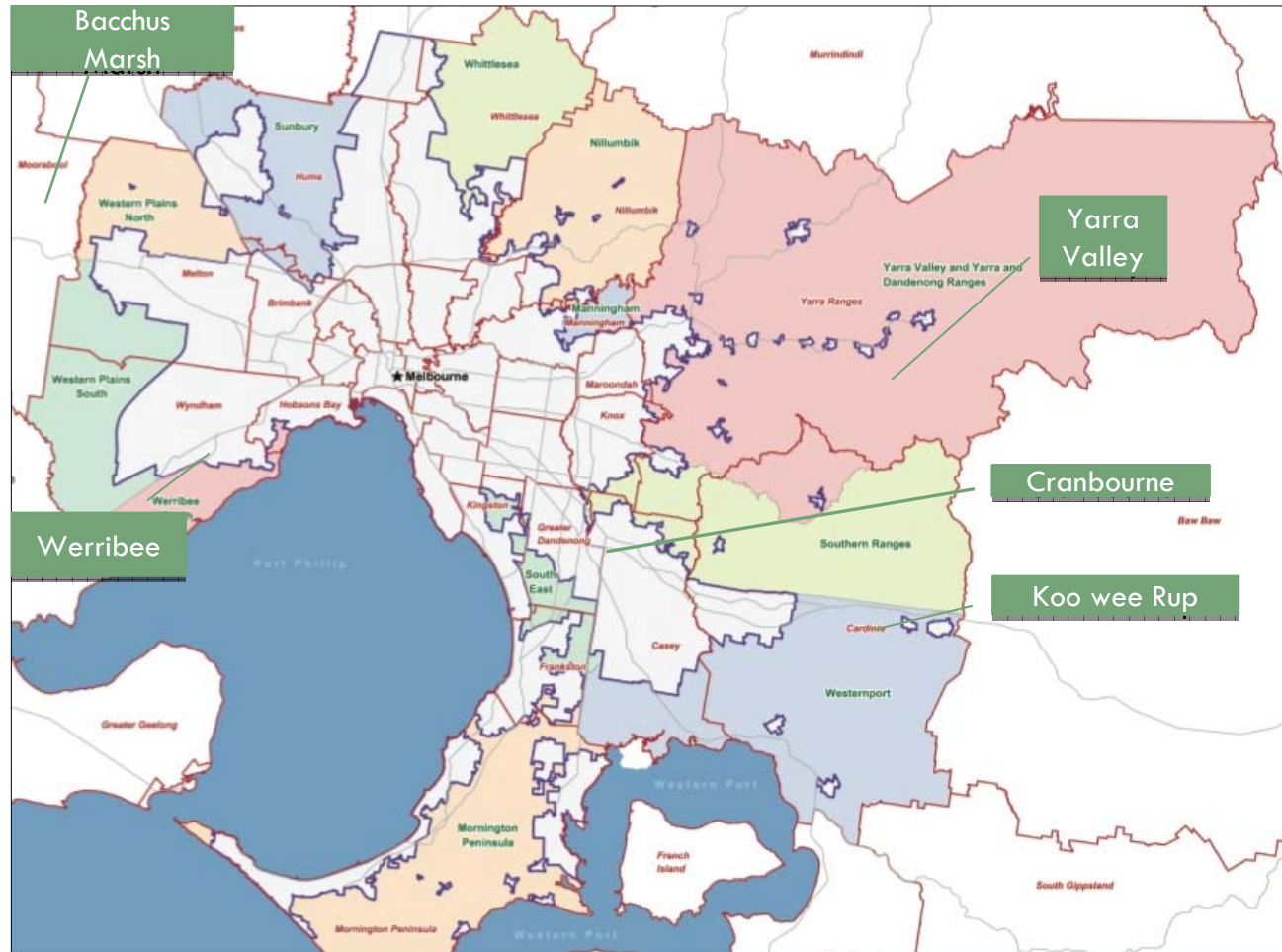
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is important to disease prevention
- Less than 10% of Victorians consume the recommended daily intake
- Our fruit and vegetable supply is vulnerable
- We need to maintain a strong Victorian supply
- We need to ensure land and water availability for fruit and veg production

Land availability

- Victoria has only a small amount of productive agricultural land
- Land suitable for fruit and veg production is becoming more expensive due to urban growth
- Over 50% of Victoria's veg and 17% of fruit are grown in peri-urban areas of Melbourne
- Melbourne's peri-urban areas are part of the 'Green Wedges'



Melbourne's 'Green Wedges' – Source: Melbourne Atlas



Melbourne's 'Green Wedges' – Source: Melbourne Atlas

Protecting agricultural land

- Areas of fruit and vegetable production have public health value
- Productive agricultural land in Victoria needs to be mapped and protected
- The urban growth boundary should be stabilised for at least 10-15 years

Water availability

- Over half of Victoria's vegetable farmers see water availability as a barrier to farm viability
- Recycled water could improve water security for peri-urban farmers
- Fruit and veg areas that are potentially water secure have high agricultural and public health value

Community food production

- Community production of fruit and veg improves food security
- In some areas of Melbourne, 16-21% of food insecure people grow their own
- Community production may increase resilience to fruit and veg 'price spikes'
- Planning and design of new residential areas and retro-fitting of existing areas should include opportunities to 'grow your own'

Local availability of fruit and veg

- People living in outer suburban areas may have little access to fruit and veg grown in those areas
- We need to plan spaces to connect growers with eaters
- Planning for regional 'food hubs'

Food Alliance recommendations

- value **public health**, as well as agricultural production when considering productive peri-urban land
- **Map** and **protect** significant areas of productive agricultural land
- include **food production** and **food security** the State Planning Policy Framework and the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987



FOOD ALLIANCE

for a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system

Kathy McConell and Rachel Carey

9244 3802

kathy.mcconell@deakin.edu

rachel.carey@deakin.edu.au

foodalliance.org.au