

RESEARCH REPORT

Palmerston North City Council's role in responding to city-wide food security and resilience issues

May 2024

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Executive summary

The purpose of this research report is to inform decisions about the role of the Palmerston North City Council (Council) in responding to food security and resilience issues in our local community.

Food security is a fundamental aspect of community well-being; ensuring access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. Despite New Zealand's agricultural abundance, issues of food insecurity persist, particularly for lower-income individuals and families.

However, it's important to note that food insecurity isn't just a symptom of income or financial situation. The complex tangle of food insecurity also includes mental and physical health, housing insecurity, employment challenges, education and skill levels, the policy environment, dysfunctional family structures, addiction, intergenerational impacts, and other entrenched difficulties. The current and rapidly escalating housing crisis and cost of living pressures are additional stressors on the current food system.

By analysing national and local data, the report provides insights into the challenges faced by the city and offers recommendations for Council's involvement. The report defines food security and food resilience, outlines the existing issues, reviews current initiatives, presents early engagement findings, provides a detailed analysis of options available to respond to the identified issue, and ultimately recommends developing a food security and resilience policy with additional resource to support to be considered through the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan deliberations.

The responses from initial engagement with identified stakeholders helped to determine scope, clarify what outcomes were sought, gain insights into the on-the-ground reality and perspectives, and assisted us in recommending the best response to what Council's role could be in responding to food security and resilience issues in the city.

For the purposes of clarity, food research and innovation are out of scope for this project as these are captured by the Manawatū Regional Food Strategy.

Background

On 18 May 2022, the Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved *'That the Chief Executive provides a short report to Environmental Sustainability Committee advising a suitable process and resourcing required to establish a Food Resilience Policy for Council'*.

This resolution followed a presentation from Dave Mollard and Madz BatacheI from Environment Network Manawatū on the recently developed 4412 Kai Resilience Strategy and the situational analysis that informed it. They advocated for Council to develop a Food Resilience Policy and take a leadership role in supporting economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the city.

On 21 September 2022, the Environmental Sustainability Committee received the memorandum titled *'Process and resourcing required to establish a Food Resilience Policy'* for information. This report noted that staff has not yet undertaken any analysis to determine whether the development of a Food Security Policy is the most appropriate response to the issues raised.

Nevertheless, the Council resolved during the 2023/24 Annual Budget round to allocate resources to a policy response and an investment of \$20,000 was subsequently allocated for the development of a Food Resilience Policy.

Given that Council resolved to allocate resources to this work, community expectations are a major consideration in informing this piece of work. However, despite these raised expectations, Council still needs to consider the most appropriate way to respond to the issues of food security discussed in this research report and determine the response that is most likely to achieve the desired outcomes. Therefore, this report provides an analysis of four possible responses:

1. Develop a food security and resilience policy and consider the resources allocated to this work through the Long-Term Plan deliberations.
2. Develop a food security and resilience policy to guide operations within existing resources.
3. Embed and emphasise food security and resilience initiatives in existing Council work programmes to demonstrate Council support, without developing a policy
4. Maintain the status quo for food security and resilience.

Objectives

The structure and objectives of this report are:

1. **Assess the current state:** Analyse national and local data to understand the current state of food security and resilience in New Zealand and Palmerston North.
2. **Early engagement:** Use the key themes emerging from early engagement with identified stakeholders to inform Council's response.
3. **Options analysis:** Explore various options for Council's response to food security and resilience issues, considering the pros and cons.
4. **Recommendations:** Provide a recommendation for Council on its role and actions to respond to food security and resilience issues in the city.

Definitions

For the purposes of this report, the key terms have been defined as follows:

- **Food security** means having reliable access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food. It includes not only the availability of food but also affordability, accessibility, and the ability to prepare and store food.
- **Food resilience** refers to a system's capacity to provide sufficient food security even during shocks and disruptions. Achieving food resilience is crucial for ensuring long-term food security, especially during times of instability.

- A **food system** is defined as a network of activities and organisations involved in growing, processing, manufacturing, transporting, storing, distributing and consuming food.

These terms do not have an official definition. Therefore, we have developed these definitions based on examples taken from the World Health Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Ministry of Health, and Health Coalition Aotearoa. These definitions are more easily understood in the context of this report.

Part 1: Current state analysis

National overview

Analysing national data provides a broader context for understanding the state of food security and resilience in New Zealand.

Figures from the 2022/23 New Zealand Health Survey state that one in five children (21.3%) lived in households where food ran out often or sometimes in the 12 months prior. This is an increase from the previous two years (14.4% in 2021/22 and 14.9% in 2020/21), but similar to other years since 2011/12. More than one in three Māori (35.1%) and Pacific (39.6%) children live in households where food ran out often or sometimes in the 12 months prior, compared to nearly one in six European/Other (18.0%) and one in eight Asian (12.3%) children. In 2022/23, 20.3% of children lived in households where, in the 12 months prior, they often or sometimes ate less because of lack of money. This is an increase from the previous two years, but similar to other years since 2011/12. Rates of each of these two food security indicators were higher in households where children were Māori, Pacific, disabled, or living in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

The population-based estimates of household food insecurity from the New Zealand Health Survey are important to measure progress towards the Government's programme to reduce child poverty in New Zealand. They are also relevant to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which includes the goal to '*end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*' by 2030. All children should have access to enough appropriate and healthy food to eat, no matter their ethnicity or living circumstances; to help ensure they have the best possible start in life.

According to the Salvation Army 2024 State of the Nation report, the rising cost of living has led to a higher need for hardship support. The total number of hardship payments made by Work and Income to households needing extra support was six percent higher in the year to December 2023, compared with the same time in 2022. More than half of the 602,000 grants made each quarter were for food assistance (336,000). The volume of food assistance provided by Salvation Army Community Ministries increased by more than 40% on the previous year, distributing around 92,000 food parcels.

The Program for International Student Achievement (PISA) 2022 results show New Zealand students' maths, science, and reading proficiency levels have dropped since 2018. The Public Health Communication Centre suggests that this is partially explained by the number of students coming to school hungry. For the first time, the PISA study included measures of food poverty. Of the 25 OECD countries who provided data on food poverty, New Zealand had the second highest rate of students who, in the previous thirty days, had missed a meal at least once a week because there was not enough money to buy food (14.1%). This was

well above the OECD average of 8.2% and was similar to rates of food poverty in Colombia and Chile. New Zealand had the third highest rate of students in severe food poverty, with 6.5% of students saying they missed meals more than four times per week. Only students in Chile (6.9%) and the United States (7%) had higher rates.

There is a growing body of research knowledge and policy development focused on food insecurity in New Zealand. For example, Christchurch City Council has had a Food Resilience Policy and Healthy Action Plan since 2014, Wellington City Council has a Sustainable Food Initiative, and food is identified as a key priority in Auckland City Council's Climate Action Plan.

There has been an increased public policy focus, particularly with the New Zealand Health Surveys, Growing Up in New Zealand research, and the Child Poverty Indicators all reporting on food security issues. However, there are significant gaps in the primary data sources used to measure and describe food insecurity, and huge COVID-19 related spikes in food insecurity. Much of the response to food insecurity continues to be short-term solutions and strategies which address immediate food needs and not systemic issues which have prolonged food insecurity in New Zealand.

The burden of food insecurity in Aotearoa falls unevenly; it is more likely to be experienced in Māori and Pacific households and among socioeconomically deprived people, a major equity issue for a food producing nation that earns billions from food and beverage exports every year.

Food waste constitutes a pressing challenge with significant implications for both food security and resilience. Every year, New Zealanders send over 157,000 tonnes of food waste to landfill. This substantial loss not only represents a squandering of resources but also contributes to environmental issues, accounting for about nine percent of New Zealand's biogenic methane emissions and four percent of our total greenhouse gas emissions. Every year, we waste \$3.2 billion worth of food or \$1,510 per household. In the context of food security, this wastage exacerbates issues of hunger and malnutrition by limiting the overall availability of food. Furthermore, it exposes vulnerabilities in the food supply chain, highlighting the importance of building resilience in the face of external shocks. The 'Love Food Hate Waste' programme has made an impact on household food waste through consumer empowerment but is no longer funded by central government. Addressing food waste in New Zealand is crucial for bolstering food security, reducing environmental impact, and creating a more robust and sustainable food system that can withstand challenges and uncertainties.

Food insecurity in Palmerston North

The following is only a mere snapshot of the food security and resilience activity that is undertaken in our city, and of the scale of food insecurity.

Environment Network Manawatū (ENM) was formed in 2000 with the aim of improving communication, coordination, and cooperation between environmental community groups. ENM is now the environment hub for the Manawatū region with the key purpose of facilitating and enabling communication, cooperation, and increasing collective action amongst its member groups and the wider community. ENM is Council's Sector Lead for the environment and receives funding support for this role.

The Manawatū Food Action Network (MFAN) is a collective of social service and environmental organisations (and other community stakeholders) working together to

increase collaboration, education and awareness around issues of food security, food resilience and food localisation. MFAN's scope of interests include food security, food sovereignty, food banks and sharing sites, food waste capture, harvest capture, food resilience, localising food, community gardens, community food education, crop swaps, seed banks and composting. MFAN seeks to foster and assist food resilience projects which are successful in increasing the mana and sovereignty of food-insecure communities.

Ora Konnect was formed in 2017 as a multi-organisational, collective impact to support the 4412-postcode community. Ora Konnect is an alliance of various organisations, supporting, creating and enhancing the relationships necessary to deliver connective services for whānau. Ora Konnect created the 4412 Kai Security Squad which led the development of the 2021/22 [4412 Kai Resilience Strategy and Situational Analysis](#) (KRS) which paints a localised picture of food security and resilience from one side of the city.

For the purpose of clarity, 4412 is the post code that overlaps with the neighbourhoods of Awapuni, Cloverlea, Highbury, Takaro, Westbrook and West End. These neighbourhoods were chosen as the focus of the KRS largely due to receiving high scores on the New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2018, but Ora Konnect recognises the limitations of this data in their study.

Key issues highlighted by the KRS include:

- Many 4412 households have insufficient funds to meet all of their basic needs.
- Money is only one of the many factors impacting food access.
- Approximately 10,000 people, one third of those living in 4412, face some degree of food insecurity.
- Nine free food providers serving 4412 residents collectively distribute food up to 3,600 times weekly, however there is evidence they do not meet full demand.
- Fresh produce, and healthy food more generally, is costly and challenging to access and use.
- Approximately half of 4412 residents live in rentals. Tenancy agreements and housing instability are barriers to growing food at home.
- Lack of food is not the primary issue that food insecure people face but is a stressor that takes energy away from overcoming the real challenges.
- Child poverty and food insecurity contribute to reduced outcomes for generations.

These issues are not exclusive to the 4412 postcode and food security and resilience issues are felt across the city.

The purpose of the KRS is to identify new strategic actions that can contribute to food security by enhancing food system resilience. In 2022, 100 projects categorised broadly as community development, education, food markets, food support, māra kai, and social enterprise initiatives were developed out of the KRS and prioritised for implementation. One of these projects is a 'PNCC Kai Resilience Policy' with the aim of making food resilience a function of Council and a desired output of more resources for communities.

Just Zilch is New Zealand's longest running free store guided by the purpose of rescuing food, serving the community, and caring for the planet. Just Zilch rescue food from local suppliers including supermarkets and cafes, the food is sorted and stacked by volunteers, and that food is then distributed to those in need. As of May 2024, Just Zilch have served more than 619,000 people from when they began in 2011. Just Zilch estimates that to date over 3.2 million kilograms of food has been distributed, 9.2 million meals have been provided, and 8.5

million kilograms of carbon emissions have been prevented. Just Zilch serve an average of 345 people every day and give away approximately \$85,000 worth of food each week.

The Salvation Army Community Ministries in Palmerston North operates a food bank/social supermarket on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They receive their food from the New Zealand Food Network, Foodstuffs, Fonterra, local producers, and supermarket and school donations to name a few. The Palmerston North branch distributed approximately 5,500 food parcels in 2023, roughly 100 people per week. Recipients are 'interviewed' in order to give context to their situation, such as how many people they're feeding in their household. This enables the Salvation Army to allocate 'points' to be 'spent' in the supermarket and allows them to offer holistic wraparound services such as counselling, social work, financial mentoring and budgeting. Providing food parcels is often a window into other challenges and hardships experiences by that person or their whānau.

Food waste is arguably the biggest contributor of rubbish to landfill in most households. In Palmerston North the average household using a bag for rubbish throws away 3.5kg of good a week. A household with a small wheelie bin throws away 3.76kg of food a week. And those using a large wheelie bin throw away 5.03kg.

Government initiatives

The Ka Ora, Ka Ako healthy school lunches programme was launched in 2020 to alleviate food insecurity, improve children's wellbeing and learning at school, and reduce financial hardship for families. However, challenges and gaps still exist, necessitating further intervention.

Currently, Ka Ora, Ka Ako provides free lunches to 236,000 learners across in 1013 schools and kura. Schools are selected based on the Equity Index; a measure of the socio-economic barriers faced by enrolled students. Nationally, 25% of schools with students facing the greatest socio-economic barriers are eligible to participate. As of April 2024, lunches are being provided to 22 Palmerston North Schools. However, research has shown that many children experiencing food insecurity attend schools that are not currently eligible to receive the lunches and it is likely that many young people in New Zealand continue to be hungry during their school day. Based on the benefits of Ka Ora, Ka Ako, health groups such as the Health Coalition Aotearoa are calling from the programme to be extended from 25% to 50% of schools in New Zealand.

Recent research from Massey University's School of Health Science showed the implementation of Ka Ora, Ka Ako at Dannevirke High School from 2021 was associated with improved student outcomes, reduced food insecurity, enhanced learning, behaviour and engagement, and led to stronger student-teacher and student-student relationships.

Budget 2024 provides \$478 million of funding for the programme and an extension of the eligibility to include 10,000 children in low equity, not-for-profit early childhood centres. However, the Government announced that an interim model will be put in place for 2025 and 2026 for years 7 and up while a full redesign of the programme is implemented, based on commercial experience, data and evidence. At this stage, the programme is funded until the end of 2026 but could face an uncertain future after that.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, the Ministry of Social Development has supported access to food through the Food Secure Communities programme. The programme supported the delivery of more than 671,000 food parcels to people in need during the response to COVID-19. The programme also supported communities to develop food security

plans and pilot projects which increase vulnerable communities' access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food. These projects are now being scaled up and are allowing communities to take the lead in becoming more resilient.

The Food Secure Communities programme has supported several Manawatū community groups and organisations to date. Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust were recipients of 'Putā Ora Food Security' funding. Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance were recipients of 'Food Secure Communities Implementation' funding. Salvation Army Manawatū, Palmerston North Methodist Social Services Luck Trust, Te Roopu Oranga o Highbury and Te Wakahuia Manawatū Trust received 'Community Food Response' funding. Te Tihi o Ruahine, Legacy Centre, St Vincent de Paul Palmerston North, Salvation Army Manawatū and Just Zilch received 'Community Food Transitions' grants.

Budget 2023 extended the Food Secure Communities programme for a further two years and provides \$24.8 million to move away from emergency response and toward empowering, sustainable, community-led solutions that align with ongoing cross-agency conversations about improving New Zealand's food system. However, due to the targeted nature of this funding, the Ministry of Social Development now conducts a closed procurement process to allocate it to the communities who need it most; and the programme faces an uncertain future for 2025/26 and beyond.

In 2023, the Government adopted a new Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy Te Rautaki Para with the vision *"By 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society built upon a circular economy... We cherish our inseparable connection with the natural environment and look after the planet's finite resources with care and responsibility"*.

A circular economy is one that focuses on reducing waste generation and redesigning or rethinking our approaches to minimise the amount of resources used to produce and package the things we buy and use. By producing less waste at the outset, the need to recycle or recover materials is similarly reduced. This can have a positive impact on emissions and generate cost savings through the life cycle of a product.

The Ministry for the Environment has the responsibility to implement Te Rautaki Para and is working to standardise and improve waste management, recognising food waste reduction as a key component of our climate change mitigation efforts in the Emission Reductions Plan.

At present, food scraps make up 22% of New Zealand's landfill emissions. Therefore, reducing food waste to landfill is an important way we can all contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Food scraps collection services will be available to households in all urban areas by 1 January 2030. These collections will make it easier for people who can't easily compost at home.

Current council role

Alongside the more general support for Environment Network Manawatū, Council supports various initiatives to bolster food security and resilience within the community.

Council supports community gardens and allotments, enabling residents to grow their own food. Council gives away 50m³ of compost every year for community and school gardens.

Council funds local organisations and businesses to implement educational programmes, workshops, run food banks, and events to raise awareness about sustainable food practices, nutrition and waste.

During COVID-19, Council partnered with Papaioea Food Security Network to establish an emergency response provision to be rolled out during future crises or natural disasters.

Council is required to develop a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for Palmerston North under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and review it every six years. The WMMP sets out how the Council will ensure effective and efficient waste management, and minimise and manage waste in our city.

As of April 2024, the draft WMMP 2024 is out for consultation alongside the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. One of the key actions in the draft WMMP is to develop a city-wide kerbside food scraps collection service. Council has until 2030 to introduce a kerbside food scraps collection. Council aims to have this service available in 2028/29, but the planning for this service will begin much sooner. There is an opportunity for education initiatives to drive behavioural change in the short term. Education about waste minimisation can be a powerful tool and the draft WMMP includes actions that use education and funding support to promote waste reduction, and to encourage the recovery, reduce and re-purpose of material that would otherwise be sent to landfill; aligning with Te Rautaki Para and the circular economy vision.

At present, 29.4% of the potentially divertible material in our waste is food scraps. Removing food scraps material from landfill and composting it instead will also contribute to emissions reduction goals and our outcomes under Goal 4 of the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy to become a sustainable and low-emissions city.

Council also offers an optional food waste and compostable items collections service for local businesses and schools with a focus on long-term sustainability and a strong commitment to service delivery. As of February 2024, Council has 55 commercial food waste customers.

Palmerston North City Council, Manawatū District Council and the Central Economic Development Agency have worked with stakeholders and partners across the agri-food landscape to produce the Manawatū Regional Food Strategy. The strategy establishes a collective vision for the region regarding the future of food and agriculture for the next 30 years and beyond.

Part 2: Early engagement

An extensive early engagement process informed this research report. This included interviewing key stakeholders including Environment Network Manawatū, Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance and Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated – Rangitāne o Manawatū; site tours with Just Zilch and the Salvation Army; and discussions with attendees of the Manawatū Food Action Network end-of-year hui.

Two surveys were circulated. The first was to key stakeholder community groups in the regional food space (referred to as the 'community' survey) in December 2023. The second was sent to elected members in January 2024.¹ Survey participants were asked twelve questions to determine what Council's role should or could be to respond to city-wide food security and resilience issues. The community survey received forty-six responses and the elected members survey received seven responses. The majority of responses are supportive

¹ Surveys were circulated in lieu of community and elected members workshops due to time constraints.

or supportive in part of Council taking a more active role in supporting community food security and resilience.

The responses are analysed below:

Q1 – How familiar are you with the concept of food security and its importance in ensuring community wellbeing and resilience?

Community survey: 35 respondents said 'very familiar', 9 respondents said 'somewhat familiar', and 1 respondent said 'not familiar'.

Elected members survey: 4 respondents said 'very familiar' and 3 respondents said 'somewhat familiar'.

Q2 – In your opinion, what are the primary challenges regarding food security and resilience that our community currently faces?

Community survey: 40 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Financial constraints – many individuals and families face financial challenges that hinder their ability to afford healthy food. This includes low income, high cost of living, and limited resources to access nutritious food. Reliance on cheap and unhealthy food options contribute to health problems.
- Lack of knowledge and skills – there's a recurring mention of a lack of knowledge and skills related to growing food, cooking, and preserving it. There's a need for education campaigns on healthy eating, food sovereignty, and sustainable living practices; and a call for holistic, collaborative approaches that empower communities to become self-reliant.
- Housing insecurity – access to sufficient housing is crucial for establishing long-term solutions such as fruit and vegetable gardens. Housing insecurity can impede efforts to grow food.
- Systemic issues – many comments point to systemic issues such as income inequality, inadequate policy support, and the impact of capitalism on food access. These broader issues need to be addressed to effectively tackle food insecurity.
- Infrastructure and accessibility – issues related to transportation, availability of fresh produce in certain areas, and accessibility to community resources like gardens and food banks are highlighted as challenges.
- Short term solutions vs. long term solutions – While short-term solutions like food handouts and gardening initiatives are beneficial, they don't fully address the underlying issues of food insecurity. Long-term solutions focused on education, empowerment and systemic change are necessary.

Elected members survey: 6 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Lack of awareness and education – there's a recognition for greater awareness and education regarding food production practices and food security issues. This includes educating the public on growing their own food.
- Impact of weather and price hikes – adverse and unreasonable weather conditions are highlighted as factors that impact growing seasons and food supply, leading to price hikes and shortages, particularly in fresh food.

- Reliance on supermarkets - there's an emphasis on promoting local food production and reducing reliance on supermarkets. The region's favourable conditions for growing food are noted, along with the importance of education and community initiatives to encourage more people to grow their own food and establish community gardens.
- Under resourcing – the need for resources to fund food security initiatives is highlighted. This includes funding, infrastructure, and other forms of support to facilitate community-led efforts in addressing food security challenges.
- Misaligned services and social inequity - there's a call for better alignment of services provided by NGOs to ensure equitable social capital investment across the city. Elected members are urged to have a comprehensive understanding of food security and social equity issues to address barriers to growth and prosperity.

Q3 – Do you think PNCC should play a role in addressing city-wide food security and resilience?

Community survey: 38 respondents said 'yes' and 2 respondents said 'no'.

Elected members survey: 7 respondents said 'yes'.

Q4 - What role do you think PNCC should play in addressing city-wide food security and resilience? Please rank the following potential PNCC roles in order of importance to you (0 being not important at all and 5 being the most important)

- Supporting community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives
- Collaborating with community organisations to provide resources for food-insecure populations
- Investing in educational programmes on sustainable agriculture and nutrition
- Supporting local food production and distribution
- Providing grants for food security and food resilience projects
- Diverting food waste to food rescue organisations instead of landfill

Community survey: 42 respondents answered this question. The results from the respondents can be tabulated as a weighted rank or average to compare the order of importance. Based on the average, the order of importance is as follows:

1. Diverting food waste to food rescue organisations instead of landfill (4.44)
2. Collaborating with community organisations to provide resources for food-insecure populations (4.40)
3. Supporting community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives (4.38)
4. Providing grants for food security and resilience projects (4.19)
5. Investing in education programmes on sustainable agriculture and nutrition (3.95)
6. Supporting local food production and distribution (3.97)

10 respondents had 'other' ideas, including:

- Collaboration and coordination – there's a strong emphasis on the need for collaboration among various stakeholders, including relevant providers, community members, central government, and education institutions. Coordinated efforts are seen as essential for developing effective strategies and utilising available resources efficiently.
- Government engagement – collaboration with central government is highlighted as necessary for addressing food security issues comprehensively. This includes lobbying for national-level initiatives and support, particularly in areas such as soil protection.

- Education and capacity building – working with educational institutions to develop learning modules on food security and resilience is mentioned as a way to build knowledge and skills within the community.
- Policy support – strong policies that support community-based food production are seen as crucial for promoting food security at a small scale. This includes providing support for households to grow their own food and ensuring that policies align with the needs of the community.
- Resource management and rationalisation – there's a call for better management and rationalisation of available funding to ensure that support reaches those who need it most. This includes taking a lead coordination role in developing city-centric approaches to food security.
- Empowerment and sustainability – supporting community groups with a “hand up” rather than a “handout” is emphasised as a way to empower communities while respecting their *finio rangatiratanga* (autonomy). This approach aims to foster sustainability and self-reliance within communities.

Elected members survey: 7 respondents answered this question. The results from the respondents can be tabulated as a weighted rank or average to compare the order of importance. Based on the average, the order of importance is as follows:

1. Diverting food waste to food rescue organisations instead of landfill (4.57)
2. Supporting community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives (4.43)
3. Collaborating with community organisations to provide resources for food-insecure populations (4.33)
4. Providing grants for food security and resilience projects (3.86)
5. Supporting local food production and distribution (3.29)
6. Investing in education programmes on sustainable agriculture and nutrition (2.28)

4 respondents had 'other' ideas, including:

- Urban food belt strategy – there's a call for the creation of an urban food belt strategy that involves collaboration between businesses, communities, and individuals. The strategy should aim to establish a mix of private and public food infrastructure across the city, enhancing food supply and resilience.
- Support for collaboration and alignment – it's emphasised that Council should support strategic collaboration and alignment opportunities. This could include annual workshops or similar initiatives aimed at bringing together various stakeholders involved in food security efforts to foster coordination and cooperation.
- Pātaka kai in all areas – there's a suggestion to establish pātaka kai (community food pantries) in all areas. These would provide produce grown by individuals in the community, making it available to anyone who needs it. This decentralised approach to food distribution aims to increase accessibility to fresh produce.
- Balanced approach – while initiatives like community gardens and education are important for long-term sustainability, there's also a role for grant funding and other forms of support to address immediate needs. A balanced approach is seen as essential for effectively tackling the issue.

Q5 - Are there specific initiatives you think would be effective in improving food security and resilience for vulnerable populations?

Community survey: 29 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Community engagement and consultation – there's a strong emphasis on engaging with communities and individuals to understand their needs and preferences regarding food security initiatives. This includes consulting community leaders and groups to co-create solutions that are relevant and effective.
- Education and skill development – providing education and ongoing opportunities for people to learn about growing food, cooking health meals, and food preservation is highlighted as essential for enhancing food security. This includes initiatives such as community gardens, mentoring programmes, and hands-on education in schools.
- Resource allocation and funding – calls for increased funding and support for organisations already working in the food security space, such as food banks and educational programmes. There's also a call for reallocating resources, such as vacant council-owned land, for food resilience purposes.
- Community empowerment and collaboration – encouraging community-led initiatives and micro-businesses, as well as supporting local food producers and backyard gardeners, are seen as ways to empower community and build food sovereignty. Collaboration among different stakeholders, including local government, community groups, and educational institutions, is emphasised as crucial for success.
- Accessibility and distribution – ensuring access to fresh produce for vulnerable populations, including the elderly and low-income families. Suggestions include purchasing surplus fruit from locals and distributing food to wider communities rather than central locations.
- Infrastructure and regulation – addressing barriers such as regulatory hurdles and lack of resources for community garden projects is mentioned. Suggestions include providing incentives for landlords to allow food gardens on rental properties and creating easily removable garden beds.
- Holistic approaches: Recognising the interconnectedness of various factors influencing food security, such as financial literacy, housing, and transportation to address underlying issues comprehensively.

Elected members survey: 5 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Community empowerment and co-design – there is a strong emphasis on initiatives that are co-designed, led by, and empowering for communities. This approach actively involves community members in the planning, development, and implementation of initiatives aimed at addressing food security issues.
- Equitable social investment – there's a call for equitable social investment, particularly in high deprivation areas. The focus is on reaching whānau who may need support but may feel whakamā (embarrassed) to engage with support services. This suggests a need for culturally sensitive and inclusive approaches to ensure that support reaches those who need it most.
- Support for schools and education – there is support for initiatives that involve schools in growing kai for their communities. Additionally, there's a mention of community garden spaces and education programmes aimed at teaching community members how to grow their own food. This highlights the importance of education and skill-building in promoting food security at the community level.

Q6 - How important do you think it is for PNCC to allocate resources (funding, staff etc.) for initiatives targeting food security and resilience?

Community survey: 32 respondents said 'very important', 9 respondents said 'moderately important' and 1 respondent said 'slightly important'.

Elected members survey: 4 respondents said 'very important', 2 respondents said 'moderately important' and 1 respondent said 'slightly important'.

Q7 - In your view, what are the main barriers or challenges that hinder PNCC's effectiveness in addressing food security and building resilience in our city?

Community survey: 38 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Resource constraints and bureaucracy – there's a common concern about limited resources, both in terms of funding and personnel, which hinders the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity. Bureaucratic hurdles and inefficiencies are mentioned as obstacles that slow down decision-making processes and impede progress.
- Collaboration and coordination – the need for collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, including central government, community groups, and local councils is seen as crucial for addressing food insecurity.
- Community engagement and empowerment – there's a call for more meaningful engagement with communities to understand their needs and involve them in decision-making processes. Empowering communities to become self-sufficient and resilient is highlighted as essential for sustainable solutions.
- Financial constraints and funding allocation – limited funding and low funding pools, along with rigid criteria for funding, are identified as challenges.
- Systemic and structural issues – structural issues such as housing insecurity, income sufficiency, and the dominance of supermarket chains are recognised as underlying factors contributing to food insecurity. Addressing these systemic issues requires collaboration with central government and broader societal changes.
- Communication and trust – building trust between the community and Council is essential for effective collaboration and implementation of initiatives. Clear communication and transparency in decision-making processes are seen as vital for gaining community support.
- Long-term planning and sustainability – long-term planning and sustained funding for initiatives addressing food insecurity is important as short-term solutions may not effectively address the root causes of the problem.
- Education and awareness – improving education opportunities, especially for youth, and raising awareness about food poverty and nutrition are mentioned as important aspects of addressing food insecurity.
- Transport – transportation to access resources like food banks, markets and supermarkets, are highlighted as barriers for some individuals and communities.
- Cultural considerations – recognising and addressing cultural perspectives and needs, including those of migrant and indigenous communities, is important for developing inclusive and effective solutions to food insecurity.

Elected members survey: 6 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Perception and responsibility – there is a perception that food security is an invisible problem, and there is a desire for others to take responsibility for addressing it. This

attitude may stem from starting at a relatively low base of awareness or concern about food security issues. Additionally, there may be a caution about empowering communities to address these issues independently.

- Council priorities and will – some feel that there is a lack of will within the Council to address food security adequately. There is a perception that there is a greater focus on food distribution and innovation in the industry rather than building actual food resilience for people. This suggests a disconnect between priorities and the perceived urgency of the issue.
- Mapping and alignment of NGO sector – there is a recognised need to map the NGO sector involved in addressing food security and then support alignment and equitable solutions among these organisations. This indicates a desire for better coordination and collaboration among NGOs to maximise their impact.
- Lack of funding from central government – the comments highlight a lack of funding from central government as a barrier to addressing food security effectively.
- Importance of community empowerment and education – there is a call for a clear plan that focuses on teaching and enabling communities to become self-sufficient in addressing food security. This involves providing resources for community gardens and implementing education programs to teach community members how to grow their own food. Empowering communities in this way can lead to sustainable solutions beyond just funding and staff resources.
- Budgetary constraints – budget constraints are mentioned as a challenge in addressing food security effectively.

Q8 - How important is collaboration between PNCC and community organisations or businesses in ensuring successful food security and resilience initiatives?

Community survey: 32 respondents said 'very important', 6 respondents said 'moderately important', 1 respondent said 'slightly important', 1 respondent said 'not important at all' and 1 respondent didn't know.

Elected members survey: 6 respondents said 'very important' and 1 respondent said 'slightly important'.

Q9 - In your opinion, what opportunities are there for collaboration between PNCC, community organisations or businesses to improve food security and resilience?

Community survey: 30 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Collaboration and partnerships – there's a strong emphasis on the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, including community organisations, Council, and food resilience groups like MFAN. Collaborative efforts are seen as crucial for bridging gaps, leveraging resources, and addressing food insecurity effectively.
- Community engagement and empowerment – engaging with communities and involving them in decision-making processes is highlighted as essential for identifying needs, developing solutions, and ensuring initiatives are relevant and impactful. Empowering communities to take ownership of initiatives is seen as key to their success.
- Resource allocation and support – there are calls for better allocation of resources, including funding and support from Council, for community initiatives aimed at improving food security and resilience.
- Waste reduction and food redistribution – addressing food waste through composting and redistributing surplus food to those in need is emphasised as an important aspect of

food security initiatives. Encouraging businesses to donate surplus food and providing incentives for diversion from landfill are suggested strategies.

- Leadership and coordination – there's a call for Council to take a leadership role in facilitating city-wide discussions, coordinating efforts among food resilience organisations, and providing guidance and support for community initiatives.
- Education and awareness – increasing awareness about food security issues and promoting initiatives to improve resilience are seen as important for garnering community support and participation. Educating businesses about opportunities for food donation and waste reduction is also highlighted.
- Opportunities for improvement and collaboration – many commenters express optimism about the potential for collaboration and opportunities for improvement in addressing food insecurity. They suggest initiatives such as community campaigns and grants aimed at supporting food resilience efforts.

Elected members survey: 6 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Utilising public spaces for food production – there is a call to increase food production and harvesting in public spaces as a means of improving food security. This includes developing teams of local champions from businesses and other groups committed to ensuring food security for all community members. Additionally, there is a suggestion to establish recognition events and resources to foster and reward effective community-led approaches to boosting food security.
- Listening to existing leaders – acknowledgment is made of the many existing leaders in the food security space who are already doing innovative and impactful work. There is a call to listen to these leaders to understand where they most need support and to identify any perceived gaps in current efforts.
- Supporting sector collaboration – there is a suggestion to support and fund annual sector collaboration workshops to facilitate networking and collaboration among organisations working on food security initiatives. There is a call for commitment from the government to support these initiatives.
- Community-led education and support – the proposed approach involves multiple stakeholders playing roles in supporting community gardens and providing education programmes on how to grow food. This includes providing spaces and resources for community gardens, funding education programs, and encouraging businesses to contribute resources and divert food waste from landfill to support food banks.
- Need for staff and funding resources – there is a recognition of the need for staff and funding resources to support initiatives aimed at improving food security.

Q10 - Do you think there should be increased engagement and communication between PNCC and the community regarding food security and resilience initiatives?

Community survey: 22 respondents said 'yes, significantly more engagement is needed', 16 respondents said 'yes, somewhat more engagement is needed' and 3 respondents said 'no, the current level of engagement is adequate'.

Elected members survey: 3 respondents said 'yes, significantly more engagement is needed', 3 respondents said 'yes, somewhat more engagement is needed' and 1 respondent said 'no, the current level of engagement is adequate'.

Q11 - How important is it for PNCC to have a clear direction and commitment in place to address food security and resilience challenges?

Community survey: 34 respondents said 'very important', 4 respondents said 'moderately important' and 3 respondents said 'slightly important'.

Elected members survey: 5 respondents said 'very important', 1 respondent said 'moderately important' and 1 respondent said 'slightly important'.

Q12 - Please share any additional thoughts, suggestions, or comments you have regarding the role of PNCC in supporting city-wide food security and resilience.

Community survey: 26 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Council support – there's recognition of the role Council can play in supporting community initiatives related to food security and resilience. This includes providing resources, expertise, and one-off or ongoing support to community projects. There's also an emphasis on Council acting as an enabler rather than the primary implementer of initiatives.
- Community-led initiatives – many comments stress the importance of community-led initiatives in responding to food security and resilience. Council is seen as a facilitator that can empower communities to take ownership of projects and initiatives, allowing for greater engagement and sustainability.
- Education and awareness – education on food utilisation and preservation is highlighted as essential alongside food growing and rescue efforts.
- Policy and planning – suggestions are made for Council to develop forward-looking policies that prioritise food security in the region. This includes supporting existing community groups, reducing barriers to accessing vacant Council-owned land, and ensuring that food resilience is considered in planning processes.
- Collaboration and coordination – comments stress the need for coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders involved in food security initiatives. Suggestions include sending elected members to volunteer in organisations to gain first-hand experience and insight into community needs.
- Long-term solutions and self-reliance – in addition to addressing immediate needs, there's a focus on helping communities become more self-reliant and sufficient in the long term. This includes providing support for initiatives that promote self-sufficiency and resilience, especially considering challenges such as inflation and housing costs.

Elected members survey: 5 respondents answered this question. The key themes that emerged were:

- Disaster readiness and recovery – there is a suggestion to view food security through a disaster-readiness and recovery lens, recognising the importance of ensuring food security not only in everyday circumstances but also during times of crisis. Additionally, there is emphasis on the reputational and tangible values to the region as a 'food basket' and exporter, highlighting the need for a track record in ensuring food security for everyone in the local community.
- Significant impact with small investment – there is a recognition that even a small investment in food security initiatives can yield significant, positively impactful results for people. It's noted that commercial food growers should feel supported and valued.

- Potential unseen work by Council staff – It's mentioned that there may be work that staff are already doing in the realm of food security, but it may not be visible to elected members. This suggests the importance of communication and transparency with Council regarding ongoing efforts related to food security.
- Shared responsibility and collaboration – while the city has a leadership role in responding to food security issues, it's noted that addressing these challenges is a shared responsibility involving various stakeholders such as NGO organisations, faith-based groups, community groups, and businesses, especially those involved in food. Collaboration and having a clear plan are seen as essential for making a real difference in improving food security.
- Supportive attitude – there is an expressed willingness to support food security initiatives and responding to issues within the community.

Part 3: Options analysis

This options analysis explores four distinct options as roles Council could take in responding to city-wide food security and resilience issues. This analysis determines the effectiveness and feasibility of each option by evaluating the pros and cons. However, only two options – Option 1 and Option 2 - respond to the resolution made by Council.

Option 1: Develop a food security and resilience policy and consider the resources allocated to this work through the Long-Term Plan deliberations

Pros	Cons
Establishes a comprehensive framework addressing various aspects of food security and resilience.	May require significant time and resources for drafting, consultation, and implementation.
Provides clear guidelines for actions and interventions.	Policy development process may face challenges such as conflicting priorities and balancing the interests and needs of various stakeholder groups.
Demonstrates a long-term commitment to addressing food security issues within the community.	Implementation and impact may not be immediately visible, requiring patience and ongoing support.
Sets the stage for collaboration with other government agencies and organisations to address food security.	Striking the right balance between flexibility and specificity may be challenging during policy drafting.
Encourages community involvement in policy development, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered.	Allocating additional resources can strain finances, especially if funds need to be diverted from other important area of Council or if the resourcing is not sustainable over time.
Enhances transparency and accountability, allowing the community to actively participate in decision-making.	

Allows for adjustments and revisions over time to accommodate changing circumstances and evolving priorities.	
Provides a basis for systematic monitoring and evaluation of the policy's effectiveness and impact.	
Additional resources can enhance the effectiveness of policy implementation by providing the necessary funding or personnel to achieve outcomes for efficiently.	
With additional resources, Council can broaden the scope of the policy. This allows for a more comprehensive response to the issue.	
Adequate resources enable faster progress towards policy objectives as barriers such as lack of funding or personnel are minimised.	

Option 1 Analysis

This option is recommended.

The Council resolution to allocate resources to developing a policy raised expectations amongst stakeholders that there would be a more significant role taken in the future. Despite these raised expectations, Council still needs to consider the most appropriate way to respond to the issues of food insecurity discussed in this report.

In light of the research and early engagement responses, developing a food security and resilience policy and considering the resources allocated to this work through the Long-Term Plan deliberations is the recommended option.

The community have asked for Council to play a role in addressing food insecurity; and a well-crafted policy with a strategic context, purpose, objectives, principles and guidelines demonstrates a commitment from Council in responding to city-wide food security and resilience issues. The community has asked for Council to take a leadership role in this space in our own functions and work programmes, but also act as an “enabler” rather than an “implementer” by providing resources, expertise and ongoing support.

The creation of a policy provides Council with an opportunity to determine the roles it wants to play and consultation on a draft policy provides stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views on the nature of this role.

However, the issue of resourcing remains a key issue to be resolved and the most appropriate way to address the question of resourcing is through the deliberations on the Long-Term Plan. Noting that without dedicated resourcing the policy may be ineffective.

The exact nature of the resourcing that may be required is undetermined. The level of change and leadership that Council is seeking to achieve through the draft policy relates to the level of resourcing. It could include a full or part-time role within Council, internal funding to support actions, grant funding to support an external role, or another mode of resourcing.

The outcomes of this policy will only be evident in high-level and slow-moving community wellbeing indicators. Our community wellbeing monitoring (see the City Dashboards) will track this high-level progress. However, the activities associated with the policy, and the progress towards implementing the guidelines, will be publicly reported through the Council Committee process annually. These could include, for example, how food security and resilience objectives have shaped advice to elected members, and the level of support provided to community initiatives.

A working draft has been developed and is provided to the Sustainability Committee in May 2024 for elected members to consider. This draft has been prepared in accordance with Council's policy framework, A decision around resourcing will give staff greater clarity around the scope of Council's role in the policy. The draft policy will be presented to Committee in August seeking approval for public consultation.

Option 2: Develop a food security and resilience policy to guide operations within existing resources

Pros	Cons
Establishes a comprehensive framework addressing various aspects of food security and resilience.	May require significant time and resources for drafting, consultation, and implementation.
Provides clear guidelines for actions and interventions.	Policy development process may face challenges such as conflicting priorities and balancing the interests and needs of various stakeholder groups.
Demonstrates a long-term commitment to addressing food security issues within the community.	Implementation and impact may not be immediately visible, requiring patience and ongoing support.
Sets the stage for collaboration with other government agencies and organisations to address food security.	Striking the right balance between flexibility and specificity may be challenging during policy drafting.
Encourages community involvement in policy development, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered.	Without additional resourcing, the scope of Council's role is minimised.
Enhances transparency and accountability, allowing the community to actively participate in decision-making.	A lack of additional resourcing to support the policy might imply a lack of commitment from Council, potentially eroding trust and confidence in the organisation by stakeholders.
Allows for adjustments and revisions over time to accommodate changing circumstances and evolving priorities.	Without allocated resources to bolster the policy, there might be insufficient capacity to undertake essential tasks such as community outreach, program management, and monitoring and evaluation.
Provides a basis for systematic monitoring and evaluation of the policy's effectiveness and impact.	If existing staff are tasked with implementing the policy in addition to their regular duties, they may become overburdened and unable to effectively carry out their responsibilities, leading to burnout and reduced productivity.

Developing the policy without additional resourcing reduces the direct financial burden on ratepayers.	Implementing a food security and resilience policy requires ongoing effort and resources, which could prove challenging to sustain without dedicated staff to advocate for and champion its implementation in the long-term.
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Option 2 analysis

This option is not recommended.

The Council resolution to allocate resources to developing a policy raised expectations amongst stakeholders that there would be a more significant role taken in the future. While the creation of a policy demonstrates a commitment to food security and resilience from Council, without dedicated resourcing to deliver the policy is unlikely to be effective in achieving the desired outcomes.

If elected members were to choose this option, staff would have to re-evaluate the scope of Council's role in the draft policy prior to presenting to Committee in August seeking approval for public consultation.

Option 3: Embed and emphasise food security and resilience initiatives in existing Council work programmes to demonstrate Council support, without developing a policy

Pros	Cons
Ensures that food security and resilience become integral parts of Council's operations and priorities	May result in food security and resilience receiving less attention or priority compared to standalone policies, potentially diluting their impact.
Leveraging existing structures and resources minimises the need for additional spending on policy development and implementation, making it a less costly approach.	Without dedicated focus and resources, food security and resilience initiatives may lack the necessary depth and attention needed to address complex challenges effectively.
Facilitates smoother implementation and coordination as it builds on established procedures and workflows.	Existing structures and processes may be resistant to incorporating new priorities, leading to inertia or opposition to embedding food security and resilience initiatives into existing work programmes.
Ensures alignment with the organisation's broader objectives and strategic priorities.	Without a standalone policy, there may be a lack of clear accountability for food security and resilience initiatives, making it challenging to track progress and ensure effective implementation.
There is the opportunity for continuous improvement through regular review and adjustment of initiatives based on feedback and performance data.	May result in fragmented approaches to food security and resilience, with efforts scattered across different departments or areas of responsibility.
	Difficulty in tracking and evaluating the impact of diverse initiatives may pose challenges for accountability.

Option 3 analysis

This option is not recommended.

Without a dedicated policy specifically responding to food security and resilience issues, there is a perceived lack of strategic direction and commitment from Council. Embedding initiatives into existing work programmes does not adequately prioritise or address the multifaceted nature of food security challenges, potentially leading to a piecemeal approach and missed opportunities.

While leveraging existing structures can be beneficial, without a dedicated policy there is limited guidance, accountability and oversight to ensure that food security initiatives receive the necessary resources, attention, and coordination across different units.

This option does not respond to the resolution made by Council.

Option 4: Maintain the status quo for food security and resilience

Pros	Cons
Maintains the existing state of affairs including the current funding structure, providing a level of continuity and stability in current practices.	Risks perpetuating and exacerbating existing issues related to food security and resilience.
Avoids potential disruptions and uncertainties associated with implementing new policies or initiatives.	Fails to address emerging challenges that may require proactive interventions.
Minimises the need for immediate resource allocation and financial investments in new programmes or initiatives.	Overlooks the potential benefits and returns that could result from strategic investments in food security.
Requires minimal adjustments to existing operational processes and systems, reducing the learning curve.	Ignores the opportunity for improvement and innovation in addressing food security and resilience challenges.
Provides a short-term sense of stability, especially for those accustomed to the current state of affairs.	May signal a lack of leadership and commitment to addressing important community issues, potentially eroding trust and confidence in the organisation.
Avoids potential risks associated with the implementation of new policies or programmes that may not be well-received.	Without a policy-driven approach, there may be a tendency to focus on short-term solutions rather than addressing underlying root causes and systematic issues contributing to food insecurity.
Acknowledges the current outcomes and conditions related to food security without actively seeking change.	Misses the chance to test and learn from innovative solutions that could address food security challenges.
	Makes it challenging to track progress and ensure effective implementation of initiatives.

Option 4 analysis

This option is not recommended.

The status quo lacks strategic focus and the direction needed to respond to the complex and evolving nature of food security issues effectively. Without a clear policy framework, Council efforts remain fragmented, reactive and largely ad-hoc, overlooking the opportunity for a proactive response and long-term planning. Without a policy to guide decision-making and resource allocation, there may be a lack of accountability and transparency in how food security initiatives are prioritised and implemented within the city.

While maintaining some aspects of current practices may be beneficial, it is essential to complement this approach with a robust policy to provide strategic direction, coordination, and accountability for city-wide food security and resilience efforts.

This option does not respond to the resolution made by Council.

Part 4: Recommendation

After a detailed analysis of the options, it is recommended that elected members endorse option 1. Developing a food security and resilience policy stands out as the most favourable option among the choices outlined above.

This option responds to the research and responses from early engagement recognising the urgency and complexity of addressing food security challenges in Palmerston North. A policy demonstrates a commitment from Council in responding to city-wide food security and resilience issues

Developing a policy provides a strategic, structured and coordinated response to building a resilient and sustainable food system, encompassing various aspects such as community engagement, local food production, environmental sustainability, and educational initiatives. It enables the city to set clear objectives and establish accountability measures.

This option also recommends that additional resource be considered through the Long-Term Plan deliberations, as it has become apparent through the drafting of the policy that without dedicated resourcing the policy may be less effective in achieving the desired outcomes.

Unlike maintaining the status quo or embedding food security and resilience initiatives into existing work programmes, adopting a policy signals a commitment to positive change rather than silently adapting. This approach aligns with best practices in community development - leveraging the collective efforts of local government, community groups, and residents to create a resilient and equitable food system for Palmerston North.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this report highlights the critical issue of food insecurity in Palmerston North and proposes a strategic approach for the Council to respond.

By developing and adopting a food security and resilience policy, Council can play a pivotal role in creating a sustainable, locally based, and equitable food system. The implementation and success of a food security and resilience policy will be dependent on resourcing and collaboration from various stakeholders, including Council staff, community organisations, government agencies, and residents to ensure a resilient and secure food future for Palmerston North. Addressing food security not only improves the overall wellbeing of the community but also contributes to the city's economic, social, and environmental objectives with community-driven solutions.

Thank you to the following groups and organisations (and all of the other individuals) who contributed to this report:

- Best Care Whakapai Hauora
- Bulls Food Pantry
- Central Economic Development Agency
- Environment Network Manawatū
- Future Living Skills
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Growing Gardens and Communities
- Horizons Regional Council
- Just Zilch
- Legacy Church
- Let's Grow Palmy
- Manawatū Food Action Network
- Massey University
- Niuvaka Trust
- Ora Konnect
- Palmerston North Girls High School
- Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust
- RECAP – The Society for the Resilience and Engagement of the Community of Ashurst and Pohangina
- Salvation Army
- SuperGrans Manawatū
- Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated – Rangitāne o Manawatū
- Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance
- Te Wakahuia Manawatū Trust
- Think Hauora
- Whatunga Tūao Volunteer Central

Resources informing this report

- [4412 Kai Resilience Strategy and Situational Analysis](#)
- [Christchurch City Council Food Resilience Policy](#)
- [Christchurch City Council Food Resilience Network Action Plan](#)
- [Edible Canterbury website](#)
- [Edible Wellington Snapshot](#)
- [Environment Network Manawatū website](#)
- [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations website](#)
- [Growing Up In New Zealand – Now We Are Twelve – Food Insecurity Snapshot](#)
- [Health Coalition Aotearoa website](#)
- [Horizons Regional Council Climate Action Plan](#)
- [‘Ka Tipu Ka Ora – ‘A Whanganui regenerative and Resilient Sustainable Food System’ report](#)
- [Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger Collective website](#)
- [Love Food Hate Waste website](#)
- [Manawatū Regional Food Strategy](#)
- [Ministry for the Environment Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy](#)
- [Ministry for the Environment website](#)
- [Ministry of Education website](#)
- [Ministry of Health website](#)
- [Ministry of Social Development website](#)
- [New Zealand Food Network website](#)
- [New Zealand Health Survey](#)
- [Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor website](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Community Gardens Guide](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Draft Oranga Papaioea City Strategy](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Eco City Strategy](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Environmental Sustainability Review](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Support and Funding Policy](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council ‘What Really Matters’ report](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council Vegetation Framework](#)
- [Public Health Communication Centre website](#)
- [Regional Kai Network website](#)
- [Regional Public Health website](#)
- [Salvation Army ‘Food for Thought: Disrupting food insecurity in Aotearoa’ report](#)
- [Salvation Army 2023 State of the Nation report](#)
- [Salvation Army 2024 State of the Nation report](#)
- [Spira website](#)
- [Waste Management Institution on New Zealand \(WasteMINZ\) website](#)
- [Wellington City Council ‘Our City’s Food Future’ background report](#)
- [World Health Organisation website](#)