

FOODPRINT MELBOURNE

INQUIRY 7

Can you make a difference?

WORKSHEET 10

Taking action to protect Melbourne's future food supply

PAGE 1 of 1

INTRODUCTION

If we want to protect our fresh food supply as Melbourne grows, we need to do some things differently. Strong policy is needed to protect agricultural land, increase the resilience of our food supply to climate change, make recycled water available to farmers, and ensure that farmers can farm profitably on the city fringe. Some are actions that government needs to take, but there are things that we can all do. Protecting Melbourne's foodbowl requires co-operation and understanding between many different stakeholders. We all have a role to play.

This is your chance to become active citizens and make a difference. There are a number of actions that you can take. The following list presents you with some ideas, but you can also develop your own action plans for the class or the school.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Think about what you can do at home:

- waste less food
- compost food scraps
- buy only what you are going to eat
- eat a more vegetarian diet
- try a 'Meatless Monday'
- take every opportunity available to tell other people about the issues relating to a future food supply for Melbourne.

AS A CLASS

As a class there are opportunities to influence larger groups of people. Think of ways to reach other members of school:

- speak at assemblies
- create and display informative posters around the school
- utilise the school intranet to get your message out
- write an article for the school newsletter
- ask to speak to the School Council
- discuss options available in the school canteen to reduce food waste
- if applicable, organise specific days such as a 'Meatless Monday' for school lunches
- campaign against food waste at your school
- develop a survey about food waste (using SurveyMonkey) to undertake in your homes and publish the findings
- invite some key speakers in the field to address the school.

Can you go further than influencing your school? Is there somewhere in the community that you can present a display on the issues? Perhaps this is the local government offices, the local library, a shopping centre or a farmer's market. Try to get an article in the local newspaper, especially about one of the activities that is happening in your school.

Write to your local government minister, invite them to the school (many MPs like to be active in their local electorate) and hear their views on this issue. Also provide your class's point of view on the issue. Write letters or use electronic media to contact government leaders and authorities concentrating on a specific issue. Think about your career pathway – is there a job opportunity for you in this issue?