



Attention Dan Cross email: daniel.cross@lands.nsw.gov.au

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**Team Leader – Land Management
NSW Department of Lands
PO Box 3935 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124**

To whom it may concern,

Phillip Bay Draft Land Assessment - Parish of Botany, County of Cumberland

The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance (SFFA) makes the following submission to the Phillip Bay Draft Land Assessment.

The Phillip Bay Draft Land Assessment study area comprises approximately 7 ha of Crown land currently occupied by Chinese Market Gardens located on Bunnerong Road in the locality of Phillip Bay. The aim of the draft assessment is to provide the basis for sound land use allocation and management decisions for Crown lands.

Comprehensive, meaningful community consultation has a fundamental role to play in facilitating effective decision making, and is an essential ingredient for sound long term planning, for urban environments to become both more sustainable and more liveable.

The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance is making a submission to the Phillip Bay Draft Land Assessment **to advocate for food security** and sustainability.

Sydney Food Fairness Alliance

The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance (SFFA) is an organisation working towards food security for all, and sustainable food systems. We are a network of over 200 people linking health, welfare, charitable and community organisations with community gardeners, organic suppliers, permaculturists, primary producers, academics and farmers networks.

Food Security

Food security includes social, health, economic, environmental, equity, cultural issues, the need to encourage and facilitate diversity, and to re-establish peoples' connection with their food source. Food is integral to our lives at every level, nutritional, health, with increasing recognition of its social and cultural importance; the importance of the contributions, skills, knowledge, culture and livelihoods of food producers, the people who grow our food.

Food security, food supply and health are key concepts the Sydney Food Fairness Alliance believe should be incorporated into relevant sections of the Draft document.

We would like to offer the following submission to the Draft Phillip Bay Land Assessment.

1. Promotion of Food security within the region
2. Promotion of food production within the region
3. Contribute to planning in wider Sydney Region to promote a Sustainable Sydney

1 Promotion of Food Security in PHILLIP BAY and region

Food security is defined as access at all times to sufficient food for an active and healthy life. (Kendall A, Kennedy E. Position of the American Dietetic Association, 1998, 98:337-342).

Food Security is essential to provide the fresh food supply for sustainable communities.

While cities are the centres of power in our society, it must be recognised that the city is dependent on, and a collaborator with rural communities. Cities are dependent on food supplies from external sources. We need to re-establish our social and cultural connections with the food supply on which we depend, and we need to consider how we can better support our local food suppliers.

These issues are increasingly important with rising fuel and food prices. The time for complacency has gone, and there is, we believe an increasing uncertainty in the wider "community"

In addition, lack of access to affordable and nutritious food is a real issue for many low-income people in Sydney, with severe long-term health implications. Research in 2004 in three low-income areas of Sydney found a prevalence of food insecurity of over 20%; this rose to 50% for particular groups such as single parents.(Nolan et al. HPJA.2006)

Since that time, food prices have risen sharply, along with petrol prices, rental costs and interest rates.

Many working in social services are aware of an increasing demand for food assistance. Those who have most to gain from healthy food can least afford it.

These pressures mean that strategies to improve access by all to healthy foods must be supported. Examples include community and school food gardens, farmers markets, local co-ops, provision of emergency relief & social enterprise.

The SFFA believes the existing use of the Phillip Bay site as urban agriculture and open space, should be retained. There are other other options for cemeteries, such as cremation rather than using valuable open space.

FARMERS MARKETS facilitate producer-consumer alliances, raise awareness of the ways

in which food is grown, and of the importance of agriculture in cities where people have become less engaged with the importance of a clean local food supply. They provide opportunities for the sale of heirloom & organic produce, and markets such as the Farmers Market at Warwick Farm & Flemington Markets provide access to cheap fresh nutritious produce, of particular importance for those on lower income.

Recommendations:

- **Phillip Bay to take a lead role in supporting 'food security' with other local government areas in the Sydney region**
- **Ensure that food security remains a basic objective, along with water, energy, housing and transport, for the region.**
- **Contribute to development of a Food Policy for Phillip Bay (as in Toronto, Knoxville, Penrith, South Sydney and the Hawkesbury)**
- **That Purchasing and Tender Policies include commitment to purchase foods for council services and use that are:**
 - **fresh locally produced foods**
 - **ethically produced foods**
 - **non GMO foods**
- **Identification of suitable buildings, such as warehouses, to accommodate food distribution centres for emergency food aid, at nominal rent**
- **Develop planning instruments such as SEPPS & LEPs to make provision that food outlets selling essential food items, fresh fruit and vegetables, and/or food co-ops targeting those on low income, have priority in shopping centres and precincts.**
- **Planning instruments and policies be used to encourage Farmers Markets in centres.**

2 Promotion of food production within Phillip Bay

Community Food gardens and urban farming

There are many opportunities for urban farming and growing food in cities, and many examples of this both locally and internationally, with the opportunity to contribute significantly to local fresh food supply.

The provision of 'urban agriculture' as a permissible use under planning instruments would allow the establishment of community gardens and city farms on land that is vacant and unproductive. This could include schools, hospitals, parkland, gaols, church grounds etc. This would provide urban agriculture with legislative recognition. It would also facilitate the establishment of community gardens and city farms which may be currently hindered by local planning laws.

- ❑ Within Australia there are many examples of urban agriculture (as community gardens and city farms) that are well established and already providing the many social, economic and environmental benefits that such land uses permit
- ❑ **NSW examples**
 1. Fairfield City Farm, Abbotsbury
 2. Glovers Community Garden, Rozelle
 3. Kooragang City Farm, Wallsend/Newcastle
 4. Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

❑ *Australian Examples*

1. Northey Street City Farm Brisbane
2. CERES, East Brunswick
3. Collingwood Children's Farm, Collingwood
4. Collingwood Community Garden, Collingwood
5. West Brunswick Community Gardens, West Brunswick
6. East Perth City Farm, East Perth

There are many examples from around the world where such zonings exist in high density urban areas and operate successfully within the urban context

❑ *International Examples*

1. Greater Vancouver and Victoria, Canada – numerous community gardens established in these regions. Includes the provision for the establishment of gardens on ‘Parkland’ guided by a Park Board Community Gardens Policy. (ref: <http://city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/info/policy/comgardn.htm>)
2. Copenhagen, Denmark - A debate in the Danish Parliament at the end of the 70's and a principle decision about protecting and extending the allotment garden areas have since meant that local authorities have an obligation to ensure the existence of allotment gardens. The attempted solution is to place the allocation of allotment garden areas into the jurisdiction of regional planning so that the Ministry of Agriculture buys up land, which is later let out to the allotment garden people on a long term basis. (ref: <http://cityfarmer.org/DenmarkHistory.html#historyCopen>)
3. Agricultural Zoning in Havana, Cuba.

State-run urban vegetable gardens developed in vacant lots here in the capital and in other cities and towns across Cuba. Recent planning laws have made the use of land for food production a priority.

Overall, the government estimates that 117,000 people work in urban agriculture and that the *gardens account for about half the vegetables grown in Cuba*. Officials said urban gardens are expected to increase production by more than a third next year, reflecting a policy of linking wages to productivity.

Many state enterprises, schools and hospitals grow some of their own food and raise livestock, while the government has helped thousands of families and individuals to set up home gardens, plant fruit trees and raise chickens and rabbits.

(ref: <http://www.cityfarmer.org/CubaGreen.html>)

For the first time, in the "General urban and land-use plan for the city of Havana" (December 2000), urban agriculture is explicitly mentioned and zoned as an "agricultural corridor" around the urbanised area of Havana. The goal is to “Create the urban and land-use conditions that contribute to reach the goals set for agricultural production and commercialisation.”

(Reference : http://www.ruaf.org/no4/30_31.html)

The SFFA believes the existing use of the Phillip Bay site as urban agriculture and open space, should be retained. There are other other options for cemeteries, such as cremation rather than using valuable open space.

Recommendation:

- **Retain existing use of the Phillip Bay site as urban agriculture and open space.**

- **Secure the heritage listed 'Community Garden site at Port Phillip to provide cultural and heritage links with other long established community gardens and urban agriculture sites across Sydney, such as the Market Garden in Willoughby.**
- **The provision of 'urban agriculture' community gardens in the planning instrument will secure the 'existing use' of the Port Phillip site.**
- **Identification and mapping of other potential food-growing areas within the LGA**
- **Listing 'urban agriculture' as a permissible use under the planning instrument to allow establishment of other community gardens and city farms on vacant and unproductive land. This could include schools, hospitals, parklands, gaols, church grounds etc.**
- **Develop a Food Policy for the LGA (for example based on those in Sydney such as the South Sydney and Penrith Food Projects, the Hawkesbury Food Program, and, overseas, the Toronto and Knoxville Food Policies) supporting access to local food supply through retention of agricultural land within the LGA.**
- **That the LGA supports 'food security' with other local government areas in the Sydney region through the LGSA and Regional Organisations of Councils**
- **That Purchasing and Tender Policies include commitment to local food security, e.g through purchasing purchasing and providing fresh locally produced foods.**
- **Ensure that food security remains a basic planning objective, along with water, energy, housing and transport.**
- **Promote opportunities for community food gardens, urban agriculture, food distribution centre, food co-operatives , farmers markets and social enterprise**

3 Contribute to planning in wider Sydney Region to promote a Sustainable Sydney

Current situation and food supply

The SFFA believes it is useful to raise the concept of "Greater Sydney" and to highlight the interaction between Sydney and its hinterland; indeed this is increasingly being recognised by the Western Sydney and Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC and MACROC) and other Sydney based organisations.

Since European settlement the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment has contributed as one of the most productive agricultural areas of Australia.. Covering an area 2.5% of NSW, it currently supplies up to 25% of the state's agricultural produce including fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, over 80% of Sydney's leafy green & perishable vegetables, 100% of Asian vegetables, poultry, eggs, nearly a third of the state's oysters and some dairy produce.

Sydney Basin contributes to the security of Sydney and NSW food supply, a sustainable Sydney, a viable local economy and the the economic and social livelihoods of farming communities & workers in related industries.

It is estimated that agriculture in the Sydney Basin is worth \$1B per annum at the farmgate with a multiplier effect on related industries to over \$4.5B annually (Gillespie, Mason 2003). Sydney Basin agriculture is the largest industry in Western Sydney employing around 12,000 people. At least 30% of the workforce come from culturally and linguistically divers backgrounds, with about 90% of those in the vegetable industry.

Increasing pressure for housing development, mining and urban sprawl threaten the sustainability of agriculture and food security for the Sydney region. There is increasing

recognition of the value of agriculture, the tenuous nature of its sustainability and the need to retain diverse agricultural activity within the Sydney basin to ensure the city's local food supply. (The Sydney Metropolitan Strategy advises that 640,000 residential building sites will be required in the next 30 years, 30% of these in greenfield developments in the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment. These proposals will result in loss of biodiversity & some of the most productive agricultural land in Australia).

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Food Security and Climate Change

There is increasing evidence of climate change and recognition of the need to reduce food miles. Sydney Basin has one of the highest rainfalls in NSW, and as climate change progresses, it is predicted that the drought will continue west of Sydney.

In terms of food production our ecological footprint is huge, with external costs resulting from cleared land, transportation, water supply & soil health.

Climate change, if left unchecked, stands to reduce Australia's agricultural productivity by up to 27pc over the next 75 years. US economist William Cline of the Peterson Institute of Institutional Economics in Washington, estimates that global warming will cut agricultural productivity worldwide by between 3pc and 19pc by 2080 (The Age, Sept 2007).

Stabilising the atmosphere would require cuts in greenhouse gas emissions of about 80% on current levels, to avoid dangerous climate change, as supported by Professor Garnaut in the Interim Climate Change Review. We support City of Sydney in taking a lead role in designing the city to reduce emissions.

Peri and Urban Agriculture

Securing a clean fresh food supplies within the Sydney region is essential to reduce fuel consumption, transportation costs & to reduce food miles travelled.

The importance of **peri urban agriculture**, defined as agriculture on the fringes of cities (WHO), is being increasingly recognised worldwide. It is important in the maintenance of food security and the supply of fresh, perishable food, but also in terms of its social and cultural value, its aesthetic value, promoting open space, and for the urban population, providing a closer "connection" with the food supply, and knowledge and understanding of a different lifestyle and diverse landscape, and agritourism (Parker 2004).

Peri urban agriculture influences public health from many perspectives:

1. The positive benefits to the general community through the maintenance of a sustainable healthy city from the landscape, food production, and the potential to use rural lands for waste disposal
2. Through the livelihoods of farmers (Parker 2004) and the local community.

Extracts from "Farm the City" by Jac Smit (1996)

Urban agriculture produces three to 15 times as much per hectare as common rural methods.

It is more organic and sustainable because urban waste - which is 70 per cent organic - is more abundant than rural waste, while the urban farmer's labour-intensive methods use less land and water per unit of production than industrial agriculture. Using waste reduces pollution and enriches the soil while regenerating its biodiversity, while urban agriculture reduces the city's 'ecological footprint' and so conserves the rural environment. Its intensity and proximity to habitation, however, will require new methods of regulation and monitoring. (ref: <http://www.ourplanet.com/txtversn/84/smit.html>)

**Extracts from 'Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture and Urban Planning'
Discussion paper for FAO-ETC/RUAF electronic conference "Urban and Peri-urban
Agriculture on the Policy Agenda"**

August 21 - September 30, 2000

Prepared by Axel W. Drescher, University of Freiburg, Germany

Urban planning should incorporate urban and peri-urban agriculture in order to:

- improve urban sustainability;
- enhance the urban food system, especially food security; and
- avoid or minimise conflicts between agriculture and other resource-use activities.

Transport and food supply

Planning policies towards land use and transport, and in particular policies directed at equitable access to a secure local food supply are integral to these aims.

The 'food miles' travelled by the food consumed in Sydney, along with green house gas emissions, fuel consumption and transportation costs need to be decreased not increased if Sydney is to become a more sustainable city. If Sydney's food supply has to travel a greater distance then not only will it lose freshness but also it will increase Sydney's 'food miles', external costs and contribution to green house gas emissions.

Recommendations:

- **That planning and legislation protects biodiversity & local sustainable agriculture, to ensure that the region can become sustainable, nourished by a healthy fresh local food supply.**
- **Identification and protection of open space and/or arable land as essential land uses**
- **Maintenance a sustainable healthy region from the landscape, food production, and the potential to use urban agricultural lands for waste disposal.**
- **Support best practice environmental management in food growing areas.**
- **Work to secure a clean fresh food supply within the region, essential to reduce fuel consumption, transportation costs & to reduce food miles**
- **Develop holistic land use planning directed at equitable access to secure local food supplies.**
- **Work with other LGAs to quantify the future food production and supply needs for the region.**
- **Contribute to development of a legal framework for urban and peri-urban agriculture activities.**
- **Regulate access to land and water as well as urban organic wastes and wastewater.**

(Ref: <http://www.fao.org/urbanag/Paper3-e.htm>)

SUMMARY:

Effective planning for and protection of natural resources, food & water security for a Sustainable region is essential, in close proximity to habitation, markets, transport, & access to workers.

Urban Agricultural land and potential urban farm sites are becoming fewer as the population increases. The SFFA believes the existing use of the Phillip Bay site as urban agriculture and open space, should be retained. There are other other options for cemeteries, such as cremation rather than using valuable open space.

Effective long term planning for food security is essential, to ensure that Sydney can become a sustainable city nourished by a healthy fresh local food supply. Retention of arable urban & peri urban land, city farms, and sustainable agriculture will help achieve this aim.

The heritage listed 'Community Garden site at Port Phillip provides valuable cultural and heritage links with other long established community gardens and urban agriculture sites across Sydney.

Planning instruments and policies need to reflect strategies for food security for the whole Sydney region from climate change, population increase, urban sprawl, incorporating provision for rural zones, urban and peri urban agriculture, community gardens and alternate sustainable food systems.

Future water and food supply needs of Sydney residents must be integrated into all planning instruments and policies.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Saville
President, Sydney Food Fairness Alliance
On behalf of the Sydney Food Fairness Alliance
Mobile: 0438341436
Sally James: 041 0145 473

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