



OUR HUNGRY FUTURE?

*A joint project between SEE-Change Inc. and Fusion Canberra
to focus the issue of local and global food security.*

www.ourhungryfuture.org

For further information about this discussion paper and related events, please contact:

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For bulk copies of this discussion paper, please contact Fusion Canberra.



OUR HUNGRY FUTURE?

Canberra is one of the world's most affluent and well serviced communities but threats are emerging to our food security and therefore to our lifestyle and social order. This discussion paper is part of a campaign running in 2013 to generate awareness and action in the community and government in relation to our potentially hungry future.



We can expect declining food production and higher prices. Julian Cribb suggests that Australian food will double or triple in price (Canberra Times, 4 March 2013). This will generate community concern, social discord and extreme political reactions. Famine overseas will prompt mass movements of hungry people to Australia.

Discussion question:

What should our Governments do to alleviate the emerging situation?

About the Groups that produced this paper:

SEE-Change is a locally grown community group. Since 2006 they have inspired, informed and supported people to reduce their ecological footprint and build a more sustainable future for Canberra. SEE-Change acknowledges the support of the ACT Government in the form of annual grant funding. Visit www.see-change.org.au for more information. **Fusion Canberra** is an Australian grown international Christian youth and community agency, with 20 years experience in the ACT of training refugees and other disadvantaged people in food production and the new technology of aquaponics. Fusion Canberra's mission is to create a Canberra where nobody gets left behind, and their firm belief is that food security is one issue that needs to be addressed to create a Canberra that is truly sustainable in every sense.



Discussion question:

What do you suggest we can do to enhance food security in Canberra?



THE STRATEGY: Villages, towns or even small cities like Canberra could establish localized intensive food production and processing operations. This would use local resources, create investment opportunities and local jobs, reduce transport, wastage and other costs, with profits and wages remaining in the local area. Diversification would strengthen the local economy

TECHNOLOGY to produce more food as broad-acre and irrigation production declines is related to aquaculture: hydroponics, aquaponics and fish farming are proven technologies with low water and energy use, reasonable investment requirements, require less chemical inputs and have no need of fertile soils and regular rainfall. Aquaponics (producing fish, vegetables and fruit in one system) and hydroponics (vegetables, fruit) produce \$1 to 1.5 million of produce per hectare per year, versus about \$80,000 per hectare in the field. Such operations use only 10% of water required in the field; produce less greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our carbon footprint.

OUR HUNGRY FUTURE?
is focusing attention on the threats to food security. Please turn to the back page for details of more events.

4. Disastrous events are probably closer than anticipated.

Time is running out!

In our more heavily populated world, major fluctuations in food production will have more disastrous consequences than in the past.

Reserves of food even in developed countries are insufficient to cope with national emergencies.

Science is not offering quick fixes, and breakthroughs may take 20 years to implement.

The scale of risk in the 21st Century is unprecedented: the welfare and lives of hundreds of millions of people are at stake.

5. Further Discussion Questions

How would you react to:
significantly higher food prices?
higher taxes to subsidise low income people?
influxes of people fleeing starvation overseas?
extremist political parties?

What do you know about peak phosphorous, peak oil, ocean acidification, or other threats to our food security?

If you believe we have an emerging food security problem, what are the possible solutions?

Would you favour massive Government intervention or more local initiative and cooperation?
Or would you leave it to corporations and free market forces?

Do you think it is feasible to establish a food production industry in the ACT?

For a demonstration of Fusion's Aquaponics set-up in Kambah please call 02 6162 3700.

We urge the ACT community and government to formulate a food policy...

and implement a program for the development by the private sector of a local intensive food production industry.

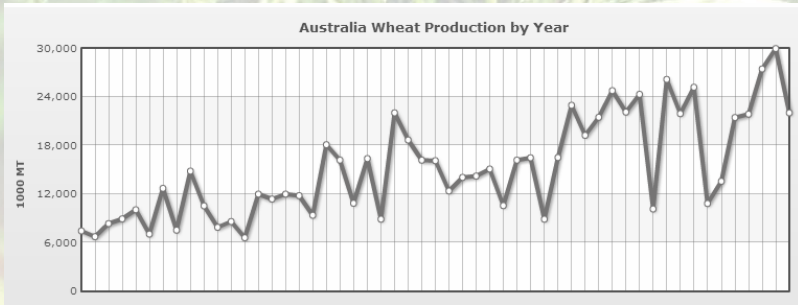
Australian Food Statistics

Exports (dark green bars), Imports (light blue bars)

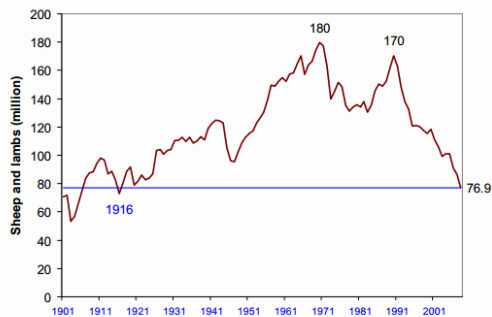
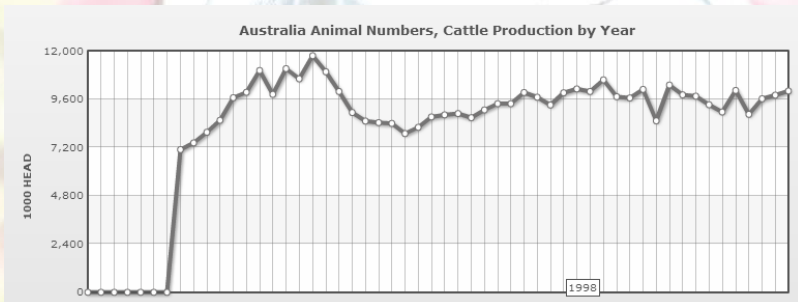
- live animals**: Exports range from ~800 to ~1300 \$m; imports are minimal.
- fish or shellfish**: Exports range from ~600 to ~1100 \$m; imports are minimal.
- fresh/chilled vegetables**: Exports range from ~150 to ~300 \$m; imports are minimal.
- fresh/chilled fruit and nuts**: Exports range from ~400 to ~700 \$m; imports are minimal.
- grains**: Exports range from ~4000 to ~8000 \$m; imports are minimal.
- oilseeds**: Exports range from ~500 to ~1500 \$m; imports are minimal.
- other unprocessed food**: Exports range from ~50 to ~300 \$m; imports are minimal.
- meat**: Exports range from ~4000 to ~8000 \$m; imports are minimal.
- processed seafood**: Exports range from ~300 to ~1200 \$m; imports are minimal.
- dairy products**: Exports range from ~1000 to ~4000 \$m; imports are minimal.

Data source:
ABS (2013b), from <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/food/publications/afs/australian-food-statistics-2011-12>

Australian Wheat Production by year, 1960 - 2012



Australian Cattle Production by Year, 1960 - 2013



Size of Australian Sheep Flock
Source: ABS
from: www.sheepcrc.org.au

2011 figure is 73.1 million

Australian Cheese Production by Type Qf Cheese

Type of Cheese	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Cheddar	191,694	179,159	171,260	178,360	164,218	154,720	160,568
SemiHard	76,813	75,529	73,854	61,659	82,494	68,176	66,898
Hard Grating	23,022	18,477	16,908	17,924	12,215	13,590	13,866
Fresh	75,441	84,443	90,934	75,430	81,682	95,418	93,966
Mould	5,847	6,030	7,966	8,915	8,663	6,736	5,042
Total Cheese	372,816	363,638	360,922	342,288	349,271	338,640	340,340

Data Source: Dairy Manufacturers, from www.dairyaustralia.com.au



Our Hungry Future?

21st May 2013, 7.15 pm,

Tim Murray Lecture Hall, Canberra Grammar School, Red Hill

Julian Cribb is an acknowledged expert on Australia's food security.

This lecture with question and answer session will provide an overview of food security from an international and national perspective.

Organised jointly by [SEE-Change](#) and [Fusion Canberra](#), this lecture is part of an 8 month long *Our Hungry Future* campaign that will change the way you think about food security, and provide food for thought on how we deal with the threat to this most basic of human needs.

To register, please visit: <http://ourhungryfuture210513.eventbrite.com.au/>

Other Events in 2013

- August Sustainability Network; Eating for the Environment – ecoaction.com.au
- 25th August You Can't Eat Your Words; Panel Discussion, Gungahlin
- September Food Growing Workshops at Canberra Environment Centre – ecoaction.com.au
- 16th November Own Grown Market Day; Meet local groups promoting ACT food security, Kambah

We invite you to join us in our awareness raising campaign:

Discuss this paper at a meeting of your service or social club, and with friends. Write to your local member and to your local newspaper. Attend lectures and other events on food security.

The campaign is organised by SEE-Change and Fusion Canberra with the support of other Canberra organisations with an interest in the subject. Members and supporters of these agencies number in the thousands. During 2013 we will organise lectures, meetings, discussion groups, media, demonstrations of aquaponic and other technologies which enhance food security, and put you in touch with other groups who are working around the region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN

- Raise awareness of food supply and food security in Canberra
- Campaign for ACT government to develop a food policy and staff to implement it
- Round table of stakeholders on food issues
- Guidance for ACT government on how to spend the money allocated for community gardens