

Appendix 1. Feedback on National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities - Discussion Paper Focus Areas

Focus Area	Comments on Alignment	General Comments
Country	Aligns with principles of agency and sovereignty, and it will likely improve access to and availability of fresh produce. It aligns with the Local Food Production priority area of Gather + Grow 2023-2032.	The scope of the Focus Area requires further explanation. Currently, there appears to be a focus on bush food, which is supported. However, Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQld) would suggest the inclusion of other forms of agriculture and food production such as home and market gardens. HWQld is aware of many challenges associated with local food production, land ownership/availability and shortening supply chains in remote communities. It is important to acknowledge these challenges and focus on securing the right advice to determine the necessary inputs and infrastructure for sustainable place-based production. HWQld notes that there are multiple interconnections between this Focus Area and the Healthy Economies Focus Area that may need to be distinguished further for improved clarity.
Health	Aligns with the Closing the Gap agenda and the Gather + Grow 2023-2032 Healthy Communities priority area.	The focus of this priority is unclear as many of the other Focus Areas also have a health lens. HWQld suggests a greater emphasis on the outcomes of implemented actions. For instance, education should result in a higher demand for healthy food and drinks within the community, increased nutrition knowledge, and reduced diet-related illnesses. While formal education for health workers is essential, it is equally important to focus on health promotion initiatives within the broader community. HWQld suggests a focus on healthy environments, rather than education alone.
Housing	Aligns with the Closing the Gap and the Gather + Grow 2023-2032 Healthy Communities priority area.	HWQld recommends including an action focused on promoting health-related home products in stores, alongside community education on their importance in preventing chronic illness. For example, promoting cooking utensils, food storage and preparation equipment and other related goods in remote stores. This could lead to outcomes such as reduced incidence rates of diseases caused by poor hygiene and limited kitchen and facility appliances. Further, in remote communities, expensive call-out fees and long wait times for tradespeople and repairs can impact the ability of families to utilise healthy food in their homes for long periods of time. Specific actions addressing this could be considered.
Families and communities infrastructure	Elements align with Gather + Grow 2023-2032 and other policy agendas.	While HWQld supports the importance of infrastructure, the scope and intent of this Focus Area is unclear. HWQld suggests this could be embedded across all Focus Areas, noting that, housing, supply chain and health all require infrastructure. Further, HWQld suggests the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities acknowledge that infrastructure investments need to be optimised by resourcing local workforces to undertake infrastructure repair and maintenance. Often, infrastructure investments are made in remote communities with little planning about how the infrastructure will be cared for long term. HWQld suggests also including actions that consider the nutritional quality of food relief, noting this action may be most relevant to another Focus Area e.g., Health.
Stores	Aligns with the Gather + Grow 2023-2032 Healthy Communities priority area.	A voluntary industry code could support a suite of store initiatives but will need to have clear guidance, monitoring and reassessment of the approach if industry is consistently not meeting the industry code. It is suggested that this be developed in consultation with remote stores, with a focus on ensuring that adequate assistance and support is available for smaller independent remote stores. HWQld supports ensuring that convenience stores and takeaway outlets are also included in any industry code to maximise health benefits.

		The viability of remote stores, and their ability to meet some of the proposed actions, is dependent on the supply chains and logistics that service them. At this stage, this interaction between the Stores and Supply Chains Focus Areas is not acknowledged.
Supply Chains	Aligns with the Gather + Grow 2023-2032 Logistics and Supply Chain Priority Area.	HWQld suggests including an outcome where healthy foods travel shorter distances to remote communities, with fewer touch points, better coordination, and reduced environmental impact. To achieve this, a focus on logistics is also required (not just supply chains). Supply chains and logistics are systemic and complex. Interventions without comprehensive planning may result in unintended consequences that do not improve food security for remote communities. Therefore, enabling measures such as conducting and supporting investigations into remote food supply chains to better understand challenges and opportunities are needed. Therefore, HWQld suggests including an action that seeks to build upon current work (e.g Remote Community Freight Assistance Scheme , HWQld supply chain mapping study and Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance Freight Equalisation Study) to build the evidence base. Identifying all stakeholders involved and fostering collaboration is also critical. HWQld notes the potential action to 'provide communities with findings of the 2022-23 supply chain study' and would welcome the opportunity to review its findings also if they can be shared more broadly.
Health Economies	Elements align with Gather + Grow 2023-2032 and other policy agendas.	While HWQld acknowledges the important role of economy in food security, the focus of this section, and the goal, is unclear. HWQld suggests the implementation of a nationally consistent price and diet affordability monitoring mechanism. Queensland, and other states and territories, have undertaken work in this space that could be leveraged. HWQld would like to suggest that (as health in all policies is an underpinning principle) Price Watch will also monitor purchasing behaviour changes to ensure there are no unintended unhealthy consequences of investments aimed at reducing food prices. The potential actions emphasise the need for training. However, HWQld suggests job creation initiatives are also required to ensure that (once skilled), community members are supported to enter jobs on Country.
Policies, Practice and Governance	Elements align with the Guiding Principles and Enablers of Gather + Grow 2023-2032.	HWQld supports the need for a focus on this area, however, it is not clear how it will be delivered from the Discussion Paper. HWQld suggests this could be incorporated as embedded across all Focus Areas.