

Australian Government Inquiry/Report Food Waste Recommendations

November 2023 – April 2025

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture

Australian Food Story – Feeding the Nation and Beyond

November 2023

Recommendation 18

5.111 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government incorporate measures to **eliminate food waste** into the proposed National Food Plan, including:

- A **national public education campaign** aimed at eliminating household food waste.
- **Repurposing food waste**—for example as animal feed or processed food.
- Supporting food donation.
- Establishing **regional food hubs**.
- Better management of the cold chain.
- **Improving data sharing** across the food supply chain.
- Increasing federal funding for the food relief sector.
- **Creating a circular economy**.

Recommendation 19

5.112 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide an incentive through the tax system for those who donate food or related services, based on the **Food Waste Tax Incentive** developed by KPMG and the **Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre**.

Recommendation 21

5.114 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with the food industry, review the application of **‘best before’ and ‘use by’ dates on food**, and consider the use of QR codes on packaging to provide relevant information to consumers.

Recommendation 22

5.115 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop and fund a research program focussed on the development of a **circular food economy**.

Recommendation 25

6.104 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop a funding stream for long-term, public-interest **RD&E which promotes the environmental sustainability of agricultural production**.

Senate Select Committee on Supermarket Prices

May 2024

Recommendation 11

9.86 The committee recommends that the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **update the 2017 National Food Waste Strategy** to include a best-practice, nation-wide approach to **addressing food waste in the supermarket chain**. The updated strategy should consider:

- reform of the **use-by and best-before labels and their role in food wastage** and consumer confusion;
- whether **unrealistic cosmetic standards** are adversely affecting farmers and the quantity of food waste across the country; and
- a requirement for supermarkets to publish regular data on **food waste volumes**, including food rejected for cosmetic reasons and food donated to foodbanks and similar charities.

9.87 The committee recommends that the above reforms be progressed following a public consultation period.

Treasury/ACCC Review

Independent Review of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct- Final Report

June 2024

Recommendation 8:

To address issues relating to fresh produce, the Code should require that:

- Grocery supply agreements must include the basis for determining prices;
- All forecasts of required volumes are conducted with due care; and
- Fresh produce standards and specifications must be reasonable.

House Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources

Food for Thought: The opportunities and challenges for Australia's food and beverage manufacturing industry

February 2025

Recommendation 18

8.120 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government **continue to fund End Food Waste Australia**. Further collaboration opportunities should be sought to accelerate progress to meet the National Food Waste Strategy target to halve food waste by 2030.

Recommendation 19

8.121 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government consider how it can incentivise, support, and coordinate food and beverage manufacturers to engage in upcycling, recycling, and other **circular economy solutions to food waste**.

Recommendation 20

8.122 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate sectoral needs for advanced manufacturing hubs and machinery, along with their location requirements, and use that information to create an **Upcycled Food Infrastructure Investment Plan**.

Australian Government Productivity Commission

Opportunities in the circular economy interim report

March 2025 (final report due August+)

*Food and agriculture represent a large share of Australia's economic output and exports. The sector is one of the largest users of materials for domestic production, generating significant emissions and affecting biodiversity, water and land health. **Food waste** and disposal occurs at all stages of the product life cycle, so priority opportunities are aimed at recovery and **higher-value uses of food waste**.*

Reform direction 5.1 Reducing food waste through food relief and donation to charity

- Ensure **embedding circularity into Australia's food and agriculture production systems** reflects national and international targets.
- Co-ordinate national efforts to **drive positive outcomes**.
- **Enable tax incentives and other policy levers to increase food rescue and reduce waste**.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

[Australia's Circular Economy Framework](#)

December 2024

The following priorities within this framework are expected to support decarbonisation:

Reducing food waste

Reducing food waste helps lower GHG emissions by decreasing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills, which cuts down on methane emissions (Scope 1). Additionally, reducing food waste means less energy and resources are needed for food production, processing, and transportation, which in turn reduces indirect emissions from energy use (Scope 2) and emissions across the entire supply chain (Scope 3).

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group

[The Circular Advantage](#)

December 2024

Reducing pressure on cost of living

Reducing waste for consumers also assists with the cost of living. Modelling shows that reducing food waste can save the average family up to AUD3,800 per year

Reducing food waste across the supply chain is the critical circular economy opportunity in our food system, as this waste also represents lost economic opportunity, wasted agricultural land and avoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

Areas of focus

1. Diversifying and value adding in food production using agricultural by-products
2. Leveraging circularity to reduce emissions across the food supply chain
3. Supporting small to medium enterprises to adopt greater circularity



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