

Hon Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Collins

Submission to Inform the Priorities and Scope of the *Feeding Australia: National Food Security Strategy*

Summary of Recommendations

Section 1: Recommendations linked to strategic principles

1. **Section 1.1:** Include a fifth strategic principle 1.5: Evidence-led to ensure all actions are grounded in robust, independent research and data. This principle will support more effective, measurable, and accountable food security outcomes, building on the demonstrated success of evidence-based programs such as *The Great Unwaste* and the Australian Food Pact.
2. **Section 1.2:** We recommend that the strategy adopt a long-term outlook of 10 years or more, underpinned by tangible and actionable short and medium-term milestones to ensure progress is measurable and accountability is maintained.
3. **Section 1.3:** We recommend that the Feeding Australia Strategy include provisions to extend and expand funding for collaborative research, involving industry and government partners, to ensure our food system remains a strategic national asset in the face of future shocks.

Section 2: Recommendations linked to key priority areas

1. Implementation of shipment temperature monitoring tools to reduce spoilage and maintain food quality during transport, safeguarding national food availability.
2. Introduction of mandatory food waste reporting to improve transparency and accountability across the supply chain. Data is essential for crisis preparedness and long-term planning.
3. Introduction of tax incentives to encourage increased food donations by businesses. In times of crisis, well-established food rescue and donation systems can act as a critical safety net, reinforcing social cohesion and reducing pressure on emergency relief systems.
4. Reform of trade practices to address unfair trading conditions that are currently contributing to systemic inefficiency and waste across the supply chain.

Section 3: Recommendations linked to whole of system considerations

1. Establish biennial updates to Australia's food waste baseline, led by End Food Waste Australia, with dedicated funding to ensure consistent, high-quality data collection, analysis, and public reporting. Reliable national data is essential for risk management, investment planning, and policy alignment across governments and sectors.

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the *Feeding Australia: National Food Security Strategy*. We commend the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for its leadership in initiating this important work and welcome the opportunity to support the strategy's development.

Food security is a cornerstone of national security. Reducing food loss and waste is not only an environmental and economic imperative, it is a critical component of Australia's resilience to future shocks, including climate change, supply chain disruptions, geopolitical instability, and volatility in the global food system. We therefore encourage the inclusion of ambitious, measurable targets to reduce food loss and waste as central policy outcomes of the strategy.

In addition to the policy linkages outlined in the Discussion Paper, we recommend that the strategy be closely aligned with the *National Food Waste Strategy*¹ and *The Great Unwaste*² campaign. The National Food Waste Strategy provides a robust framework for collective action toward halving Australia's food waste by 2030. The Great Unwaste is a national consumer-focused behaviour change campaign that supports this target.

End Food Waste Australia is a key delivery partner for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in implementing both initiatives. Through this partnership, we drive coordinated, evidence-based industry action via the Australian Food Pact and Sector Action Plans, working collaboratively across the food system to reduce waste and improve food security outcomes.

We also conduct world-leading research through the End Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre, supported by the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), to identify and remove systemic inefficiencies that undermine national food security.

Key examples include:

- Analysis of trading practices and their impact on food waste³
- Development of Sector Action Plans to guide systemic industry change⁴
- Design and testing of household-level behaviour change interventions⁵
- Transforming rescued food into shelf-stable meals to support disaster resilience⁶

As Australia faces an increasingly complex and uncertain global environment, food waste avoidance must be recognised as a strategic priority. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Commonwealth and stakeholders across the food system to ensure the National Food Security Strategy is bold, evidence-led, and aligned with Australia's commitment to food waste reduction and national resilience.

¹ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-food-waste-strategy>

² <https://thegreatunwaste.com.au/>

³ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/understanding-how-trading-practices-affect-food-waste/>

⁴ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/sector-action-plans/>

⁵ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/designing-effective-interventions-to-reduce-household-food-waste/>

⁶ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/transforming-rescued-food-into-shelf-stable-meals/>



About End Food Waste Australia

End Food Waste Australia is the nation's leading organisation dedicated to strengthening the security, productivity, and resilience of the Australian food system by tackling food waste at scale. In a time of growing uncertainty driven by climate change, global supply chain pressures, and economic volatility, our work helps to safeguard Australia's food supply and national resilience.

Through ongoing research, national partnerships, and system-wide initiatives, we deliver evidence-based, practical solutions that drive measurable change from paddock to plate. Our work is structured around four core pillars, each critical to achieving Australia's legislated and strategic target to halve food waste by 2030 under the National Food Waste Strategy.

1. **Research and Development** - Delivered through the End Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), one of the world's largest research and development initiatives focused on food waste and co-funded by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR). Our research provides the national evidence base for policy, innovation, and resilience planning.
2. **Industry Action** – Led through the Australian Food Pact and Sector Action Plans, we support coordinated, system-level change across the food supply chain to reduce waste, increase efficiency, and improve food availability in the face of future shocks.
3. **National Behaviour Change Consumer Campaign** – Delivered via *The Great Unwaste*, this public-facing campaign is designed to drive meaningful behaviour change among Australian households, the single largest source of food waste, to reduce pressure on the food system.
4. **Policy** – We work alongside all levels of government to support evidence-informed policy development and ensure food waste avoidance is embedded within Australia's broader security, climate, and economic strategies.

End Food Waste Australia convenes one of the world's largest public-private partnerships focused on addressing food waste, with more than 100 organisations committed to solving Australia's \$36.6 billion food waste challenge. We collaborate across industry, government, and research sectors to develop scalable solutions that improve food system efficiency and resilience.

Our mission is to ENGAGE with industry and consumers, REDUCE food waste across the supply chain, and TRANSFORM unavoidable waste into new products and opportunities. Our *Reduce, Transform, Engage* program framework underpins this mission and supports a national shift toward a circular, climate-resilient and food secure economy.

Our initiatives deliver tangible benefits, including:

- Strengthening Australia's food security and supply chain resilience
- Unlocking new revenue and growth opportunities for food businesses
- Increasing food donations to vulnerable Australians
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting food waste from landfill

Through collaborative action and innovation, End Food Waste Australia is enabling Australia to lead globally in reducing food waste while enhancing food security, sustainability, and economic prosperity.



The Opportunity for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Food waste presents a critical and underutilised lever in strengthening Australia’s food security, system resilience, and preparedness for future shocks. Each year, Australia loses an estimated \$36.6 billion to food waste, approximately 70% of which is still edible⁷. This not only represents a significant economic and environmental loss, but is a major opportunity to improve food system resilience, productivity, and equity.

Reducing food loss and waste is essential to securing long-term national food security. It enables more efficient use of resources across the supply chain, reduces pressure on production systems, supports environmental sustainability, and increases the availability of food for Australian households, particularly those experiencing food insecurity.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is uniquely positioned to lead on this issue by embedding food waste reduction as a central pillar of the *Feeding Australia: National Food Security Strategy*. By leveraging existing national frameworks and partnerships - particularly the National Food Waste Strategy and the cross-sectoral work delivered by End Food Waste Australia - DAFF has the opportunity to drive system-wide transformation.

This submission explores key opportunities for DAFF to strengthen food security through the lens of food loss and waste reduction. The specific questions addressed are listed in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: National Food Security Strategy: discussion paper - Questions for discussion

Section	Description	Page
1 Principles	What other principles should government, industry and community prioritise to support the development of the strategy and why are these important?	5
	What timeframe should the strategy work towards – short (1 to 2 years), medium (5 to 10 years) or long (10-plus years) term, and why?	6
	Are there examples of current or planned initiatives by you or your organisation to improve food security in your sector?	7
2 Key priority areas	What actions could the strategy take to address challenges under each key priority area?	10
3 Whole of system considerations	What actions could the strategy take to address challenges under these whole-of-system considerations?	13

⁷ FIAL, 2021. The National Food Waste Strategy Feasibility Study – Final Report

Responses to the National Food Security Strategy: discussion paper

Section 1: Recommendations linked to strategic principles

1.1: What other principles should government, industry and community prioritise to support the development of the strategy and why are these important?

As the national agency delivering the National Food Waste Strategy, and drawing on our foundation as a Cooperative Research Centre, we recommend the addition of a fifth strategic principle to guide the development and long-term success of the National Food Security Strategy:

Proposed New Principle - 1.5: Evidence-led

- *Food security actions should be underpinned by robust, independent data and evidence. Research, monitoring and evaluation must inform both strategy design and implementation to ensure real-world effectiveness and accountability.*

This proposed principle builds on Principle 1.4: Outcomes-based and practical, reinforcing the importance of evidence-based decision-making to achieve meaningful and measurable results. Through our work at End Food Waste Australia, we have consistently demonstrated the value of research-led program design. Key examples are below.

Household Behaviour Change Research and Campaign Development

Households contribute approximately one-third of Australia's total food waste. As part of our ENGAGE Household Intervention project, we conducted Australia's most comprehensive study into consumer and household food waste behaviours. Key findings included:

- The average household wastes 4.22 kg of food each week, more than double what they believe they waste (2.03 kg).
- This equates to approximately 2.5 million tonnes of food waste annually from Australian households, or 7.7 million edible meals wasted every day.
- Nearly half of Australians (46%) agree they could do more to reduce food waste, and 45% are actively seeking better information and support.

This evidence base informed the development of *The Great Unwaste*, a national behaviour change campaign funded by \$10 million in seed funding from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). One year after launch, the campaign has demonstrated⁸:

- Strong consumer recall, with 1 in 4 Australians reporting they had seen the campaign.
- Observed behavioural shifts, with 1 in 10 Australians changing their food waste habits

⁸ WhereTo and End Food Waste Australia, 2025. NCBC Impact Monitoring Program: In Market Wave 2 Research - Topline Findings.

Evidence-led Industry Action: The Australian Food Pact

Since 2022, 48 organisations have signed on to the Australian Food Pact, a collaborative initiative to implement food waste reduction strategies at scale. Delivered in partnership with DCCEEW, this program:

- Has secured \$2.6 million in direct industry investment.
- Supports 83% of the supermarket sector to develop and deliver waste prevention solutions.
- Facilitated over 40 food waste reduction initiatives in the 2024–25 financial year alone.

Outcomes to date include⁹:

- 982,000 tonnes of surplus food repurposed.
- 13% reduction in food waste among Pact signatories.
- 254 million meals donated to food rescue and relief organisations.

These examples illustrate the transformative potential of an evidence-led approach to food waste and, more broadly, to food security. Embedding *Principle 1.5: Evidence-led* into the strategy will enable government, industry, and community stakeholders to align efforts with measurable, data-informed outcomes, maximising both impact and accountability.

1.2: What timeframe should the strategy work towards – short (1 to 2 years), medium (5 to 10 years) or long (10-plus years) term, and why?

To effectively address the complex and interrelated drivers of food insecurity in Australia, we recommend that the National Food Security Strategy adopt a long-term horizon of 10 years or more, supported by clearly defined short, medium, and long-term milestones. This tiered approach will ensure that the strategy delivers tangible early outcomes, while laying the groundwork for enduring, system-wide transformation.

Recommended Timeframes

- **Short-term** (1–2 years): Focus on enabling immediate action. Establish foundational governance structures, stakeholder engagement processes, and early policy signals to guide business and sector planning. These actions must account for the realities of commercial and operational planning cycles, and support agile responses to emerging geopolitical and environmental challenges.
- **Medium** (5–10 years): Use this period to assess early actions, refine implementation approaches, and incorporate lessons learned, providing the opportunity to adjust or reprioritise actions to maintain progress toward long-term goals.
- **Long** (10-plus years): Achieving whole-of-system transformation requires long-term stability and commitment. Many of the desired outcomes, particularly those involving behavioural, structural, and cultural shifts cannot be fully realised in the short or medium term. A long-term view is essential for the successful and sustained delivery of systemic change across the food system.

⁹ End Food Waste Australia 2024. Australian Food Pact Impact Report.

1.3: Are there examples of current or planned initiatives by you or your organisation to improve food security in your sector?

Food waste contributes to food insecurity. Supplying domestic and export markets, Australia produces enough food to feed 75 million people every year¹⁰, yet millions of Australians go hungry every day. According to Foodbank's 2024 Hunger Report, 3.4 million households experienced food insecurity in the past year¹¹.

At End Food Waste Australia, our mission is to reduce food waste across the supply chain and transform unavoidable waste, ensuring more food reaches those who need it most. We lead a suite of national initiatives that directly support improved food security outcomes through the prevention, reduction, and repurposing of food waste.

Household-Level Initiatives

- The Great Unwaste, a national consumer behaviour change campaign tackling food waste at the household level, which accounts for one-third of all food waste in Australia.
- The campaign is backed by Australia's largest body of research into consumer food waste behaviours and was seeded with \$10 million in DCCEEW funding.
- One year post-launch, it has influenced 1 in 10 Australians to report changes in how they manage food waste, helping to reduce waste and increase food availability¹².

Sector-Based Industry Action

- Sector Action Plans¹³ co-designed with industry to identify and address food waste hotspots across specific supply chains.
- These plans take a whole-of-sector approach, with examples including:
 - Dairy (sector-wide).
 - Bananas and melons (commodity-specific chapters in horticulture).
 - Foodservice (sub-sectors: hospitality, institutions, cafés).
- The process helps prioritise actions that reduce avoidable waste and increase surplus food utilisation, including donations.

Voluntary Business Collaboration

- The Australian Food Pact¹⁴, a voluntary agreement that unites major food businesses to develop and scale food waste reduction initiatives.
- Since 2022, 48 organisations have signed on which includes 83% of the supermarket sector.
- Key outcomes include:
 - 13% reduction in food waste.
 - 982,000 tonnes of surplus food repurposed.
 - 254 million meals donated to food rescue organisations

¹⁰ National Farmers Federation, 2020. *Don't panic, we've got your back Farmers reassure Aussies about food security*

¹¹ Foodbank 2024. Hunger Report.

¹² WhereTo and End Food Waste Australia, 2025. NCBC Impact Monitoring Program: In Market Wave 2 Research.

¹³ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/sector-action-plans/>

¹⁴ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/australian-food-pact/>

Research-Driven Innovation

Our work is underpinned by three flagship research programs delivered through the End Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre, co-funded by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR).

REDUCE

- Our REDUCE Research Program¹⁵ helps industries improve the quality and yield of their food production, enabling producers to maximise returns and ensure more produce reaches consumers.
- Example: *Understanding how trading practices affect food loss and waste in Australia*¹⁶

TRANSFORM

- Our TRANSFORM Research Program¹⁷ partners with food industries to convert surplus products and by-products of food manufacturing into profitable resources. This involves research, development, practical implementation, and industry collaboration to drive innovative solutions.
- Example project: *Validating food waste opportunities, a decision-making framework for SME's*¹⁸

ENGAGE

- Our ENGAGE Research Program¹⁹ delivered Australia's most comprehensive body of research on consumer food waste behaviours.
- Completed in early 2025, the program identified key household behaviours, priority audiences, and effective messaging strategies to reduce food waste at the consumer level. The findings directly informed the design of *The Great Unwaste*.
- Example project: *Designing effective interventions to reduce household food waste*²⁰.

¹⁵ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/reduce/>

¹⁶ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/understanding-how-trading-practices-affect-food-waste/>

¹⁷ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/transform/>

¹⁸ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/validating-wa-food-waste-opportunities-a-decision-making-framework-for-smes/>

¹⁹ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/engage/>

²⁰ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/designing-effective-interventions-to-reduce-household-food-waste/>

Planned Initiative: Horticulture Food Waste

We are preparing to launch a Horticulture Food Waste Initiative, which builds on our Horticulture Sector Action Plan²¹ to target the largest single contributor to national food waste^{22,23}.

- Horticulture accounts for approximately 50% of Australia's total food waste.
- Estimated \$1.72 billion lost in fruit and vegetables annually.
- 18–22% of horticultural production is lost pre-retail²⁴.

Without significant reduction in horticultural waste, Australia will not meet its target to halve food waste by 2030. This initiative aims to transform on-farm losses into high-value uses or direct food donations, improving both food availability and producer viability.

We strongly recommend that the Feeding Australia Strategy include provisions to extend and expand funding for research and development, particularly when conducted in partnership with industry and governments. This will ensure Australia continues to meet food system challenges through evidence-based action

Section 1 Recommendations

- Section 1.1: Include a fifth strategic principle *1.5: Evidence-led* to ensure all actions are grounded in robust, independent research and data. This principle will support more effective, measurable, and accountable food security outcomes, building on the demonstrated success of evidence-based programs such as The Great Unwaste and the Australian Food Pact.
- Section 1.2: We recommend that the strategy adopt a long-term outlook of 10 years or more, underpinned by tangible and actionable short and medium-term milestones to ensure progress is measurable and accountability is maintained.
- Section 1.3: We recommend that the Feeding Australia Strategy include provisions to extend and expand funding for collaborative research, involving industry and government partners, to ensure our food system remains a strategic national asset in the face of future shocks.

²¹ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/horticulture/>

²² Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), 2023, Snapshot of Australian Agriculture.

²³ FIAL, 2021. National Food Waste Strategy Feasibility Study

²⁴ Akbar, D., Babacan, H., Marty, M., Rahman, A., Chhetri, P., Lau, C., Li, Y., & De Valck, J. (2024). Banana Industry Sector Action Plan for Food Waste Reduction 2024: Final technical report. End Food Waste Australia, pp. 75.

Section 2: Recommendations linked to key priority areas

What actions could the strategy take to address challenges under each key priority area?

Reducing food waste is a powerful and cost-effective way to improve food security, environmental sustainability, and supply chain resilience. Below are our key recommendations under the relevant priority areas of the *Feeding Australia: National Food Security Strategy*.

2.1 Resilient supply chains

Introduce Shipment Temperature Monitoring Decision Tools

Australia's road transport and cold chain infrastructure has critical gaps that contribute to food loss, particularly during shipment.

- **Action:** Support the development and adoption of shipment temperature monitoring tools across the supply chain²⁵.
- **Rationale:** These tools can help identify weak points in transport and handling practices, enabling corrective action to improve food quality and minimise spoilage en-route to market.
- **Outcome:** Reduced food loss during transit and enhanced reliability of perishable food delivery across domestic supply chains.

2.2 Productivity, innovation and economic growth

Implement Mandatory Food Waste Reporting

Reliable data is essential to drive innovation, identify inefficiencies, and scale effective food waste interventions.

- **Action:** Introduce mandatory food waste tracking and reporting for large food businesses and key supply chain sectors.
- **Rationale:** Mandatory reporting has been shown in the European Union to drive industry-led change and foster accountability. It enables innovation-sharing, benchmarking, and evidence-informed investment²⁶.
- **Outcome:** More efficient food systems, less waste, and reduced environmental impact. Surplus food can be redirected to higher value uses, including food relief.

Note: The NSW Government's recent food separation mandates for FOGO offer a strong precedent and could serve as a blueprint for national implementation²⁷.

²⁵ <https://endfoodwaste.com.au/supply-chain-monitoring-and-improvement-to-reduce-banana-quality-loss/>

²⁶ https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/food-waste/eu-actions-against-food-waste_en

²⁷ <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Recycling-and-reuse/business-food-waste>

Incentivise Food Donations to Charitable Organisations

The charitable food relief system relies heavily on voluntary donations from food producers, manufacturers, and retailers, yet current tax settings provide little to no incentive for donation over disposal.

- **Action:** Reform tax legislation and guidance to provide a clear, nationally consistent tax incentive framework that encourages food donations to registered charities.
- **Rationale:** At present, donating food provides no greater tax benefit than sending it to landfill. Donations of critical food supplies and infrastructure investments (such as transportation, packaging, and cold storage) are not incentivised. Targeted tax offsets or deductions would make it financially viable for businesses to donate safe, surplus food.
- **Outcome:** Increased donations of surplus food to food relief organisations, reduction in edible food sent to landfill, and improved food access for Australians experiencing food insecurity.

Note: While the Tax Laws Amendment (Incentivising Food Donations to Charitable Organisations) Bill 2024, introduced by Senator Dean Smith, was not passed, the intent remains valid and should be revisited through consultation with Treasury and stakeholders²⁸.

2.3 Competition and cost of living

Trade Practices Reform to Reduce Food Waste and Improve Food Security

Research conducted in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) has identified that common supply chain practices such as overproduction, lack of data transparency, and imbalanced contracting arrangements are contributing significantly to food loss and waste across Australia.

These practices often result in:

- Unnecessary overproduction that cannot be absorbed by the market.
- Late-stage cancellations of orders.
- Inflexible or unfair contracting terms, disproportionately affecting small and medium enterprises.
- Limited visibility over surplus and near-expiry food volumes.

This dynamic creates inefficiencies across the supply chain that inflate costs and limit the amount of edible food available for consumers, driving up food insecurity and the cost of living.

- **Action:** Undertake trade practices reform to improve transparency, fairness, and efficiency in food supply chains.
- **Rationale:** If implemented, these reforms could reduce Australia's food waste by up to 470,000 tonnes over the next 10 years, while helping to lower food prices and increase the availability of edible food across the supply chain²⁹.

²⁸ https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_LEGislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=s1421

²⁹ FIAL, 2021. National Food Waste Strategy Feasibility Study

- **Outcome:** Fairer and more efficient supply chains that improve competition, reduce unnecessary food loss, and enhance national food security by increasing the volume of food available for human consumption.

Section 2 Recommendations:

We recommend that the strategy consider four key, scalable actions that can address supply chain issues at the system level. These are:

1. Implementation of shipment temperature monitoring tools to reduce spoilage and maintain food quality during transport, safeguarding national food availability.
2. Introduction of mandatory food waste reporting to improve transparency and accountability across the supply chain. This data is essential for crisis preparedness and long-term planning.
3. Introduction of tax incentives to encourage increased food donations by businesses. In times of crisis, well-established food rescue and donation systems can act as a critical safety net, reinforcing social cohesion and reducing pressure on emergency relief systems.
4. Reform of trade practices to address unfair trading conditions that are currently contributing to systemic inefficiency and waste across the supply chain.

Section 3: Recommendations linked to whole of system considerations

What actions could the strategy take to address challenges under these whole-of-system considerations?

3.1 Climate change and sustainability

Food waste is not just a sustainability issue, it is a national climate and adaptation risk. As identified in the National Climate Risk Assessment³⁰, Australia's food system is increasingly vulnerable to climate-related disruptions, including extreme weather, supply chain shocks, and resource scarcity. Addressing food loss and waste is one of the most immediate, impactful, and under-recognised levers for reducing emissions and building a climate-adaptive food system.

Wasted food represents wasted land, water, energy, labour, and capital, and contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane from landfill. Reducing food waste directly supports Australia's commitment to:

- Reduce national emissions by 62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035, as per the Net Zero Plan³¹;
- Address climate risks to primary industries “*that decrease productivity, quality and profitability and increase biosecurity pressures*” as outlined in the National Adaptation Plan³²; and
- Improve the sustainability and resilience of critical systems, including agriculture, infrastructure, and social services, as per the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy³³.

To effectively integrate food waste reduction into Australia’s climate response, the *Feeding Australia Strategy* must therefore include a consistent and long-term commitment to national food waste data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Establishing a Robust National Food Waste Data Framework

We recommend that the strategy embed a whole-of-system approach to food waste data, which would include the following.

- Updating the national food waste baseline:
 - The original baseline published by Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL) has been a valuable reference for government and industry but is now outdated. It does not reflect recent progress, current waste volumes, or updated cost estimates required to meet the 2030 target. A new baseline is urgently needed to reflect current volumes, economic costs, and emissions data aligned with Australia's 2030 and 2035 targets.
- Committing to biennial reporting:
 - The baseline should be updated every two years, providing government, industry, and community stakeholders with timely, relevant, and actionable data to track progress, adjust policies, and direct resources where they are most needed.

³⁰ <https://www.acs.gov.au/pages/national-climate-risk-assessment>

³¹ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/setting-2035-target-path-net-zero>

³² <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-adaptation-plan.pdf> (p43)

³³ <https://www.cisc.gov.au/resources-subsite/Documents/critical-infrastructure-resilience-strategy-2023.pdf>

- Appointing a lead agency for delivery:
 - With FIAL no longer operational, End Food Waste Australia is uniquely positioned to lead this work, given our national remit, sectoral partnerships, delivery of the End Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre, and proven capacity for data-driven action.
- Allocating ongoing funding:
 - A dedicated funding stream is essential to support high-quality, independent data collection, analysis, and public reporting, underpinning Australia’s ability to meet its national food waste reduction and climate adaptation targets.
- Why this matters to national resilience:
 - Informs evidence-based decision-making across climate, food security, and sustainability portfolios;
 - Supports reporting against Australia’s international commitments on food loss, emissions, and sustainability (as per Australia’s commitment to align with United Nations Sustainability Development Goal 12.3³⁴);
 - Helps measure impact and progress under the National Food Waste Strategy and the Feeding Australia Strategy; and
 - Enhances risk planning for food system disruptions, improving Australia’s resilience and disaster preparedness.

Accurate, up-to-date data is essential for tracking progress under the Feeding Australia Strategy and enabling evidence-based decision-making.

As climate impacts intensify, Australia must treat food waste reduction not simply as an efficiency measure, but as a strategic imperative for national security, sustainability, and resilience.

We therefore recommend that baseline food waste reporting be embedded as a core component of the strategy, with implementation scheduled to commence in 2026 to support and inform delivery of the strategic plan while ensuring alignment with the National Adaptation Plan, National Food Waste Strategy, and Australia’s 2035 emissions targets.

Section 3 Recommendations:

1. Establish biennial updates to the national food waste baseline, led by End Food Waste Australia, with dedicated funding to ensure consistent, high-quality data collection, analysis, and public reporting. Reliable national data is essential for risk management, investment planning, and policy alignment across governments and sectors

³⁴ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/food-waste>

Conclusion

As the organisation leading delivery of the National Food Waste Strategy, End Food Waste Australia works in close partnership with Federal, State, and Territory Governments to drive policy reform that supports Australia's climate targets, national resilience, and food security objectives.

Our work is central to advancing the transition to a circular, adaptive, and more secure food system, one that is capable of withstanding future shocks while delivering long-term environmental, economic, and social value.

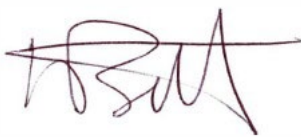
We recognise that lasting, system-wide change requires research, industry and government to work together. By amplifying the voices of our industry and research partners, we are committed to delivering solutions that are both commercially viable and socially responsible.

As you define the priorities that will shape the *Feeding Australia: National Food Security Strategy*, we urge you to consider the insights and recommendations outlined in this submission. Food waste reduction is not just a matter of efficiency, it is a strategic lever for strengthening Australia's climate resilience, food system stability, and national preparedness.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Australian Government to deliver a more resilient, productive, and food-secure future for all Australians.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact our Director Policy, Communications and Strategic Engagement, Wendy Hughes via wendy@endfoodwaste.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Tristan Butt
Chief Executive Officer