

MEDIA RELEASE – IMMEDIATE, 11th November 2020

Vermont Farm to Plate: Planning for Sustainable and Secure Food and Farming Systems

A three-part webinar series featuring Program Director Jake Claro and Network Manager Sarah Danly

This December, Australia will, for the first time, have the opportunity to learn directly from the leaders of the organisation responsible for the implementation of the [Vermont Farm to Plate](#) plan—by many accounts one of the most comprehensive and long-term food and farming system programs of its kind.

COVID-19 has highlighted the vulnerabilities and inequities of global and national food systems. Even as Australia was repeatedly reassured of the security of its food supply, in 2020 we've seen panic buying that emptied supermarket shelves, rising rates of unemployment and food insecurity, and a disproportionately affected migrant seasonal workforce. With the critical challenges of climate change at our doorstep, and rapidly rising costs of dietary-related ill-health, the integrity of our food and farming systems demands our attention.

Across three webinars, Farm to Plate Program Director **Jake Claro** and Network Manager Sarah Danly will discuss how the decade-old program, recently renewed for a further ten years, has successfully increased employment, business creation and food security through collaborative, whole-of-system actions and networking, aligned to a shared agenda of a better food and farming system for Vermont. They will be joined by practitioners and policy makers from across Australia who will share state and local initiatives, and discuss how the Vermont approach might be applied in our context. The online program will run as follows:

Vermont Farm to Plate Plan-from 2009 to 2020 and Beyond	Dec 2, 11am-1pm AEDT	Register for free
Planning for Sustainable Farming and Healthy Food Access	Dec 9, 11am-1pm AEDT	Purchase tickets
How the Public Purse Can Drive Food Systems Change: The Role of Institutional Procurement	Dec 16, 11am-1pm AEDT	Purchase tickets

Everyone involved in food systems communities of practice —including producers, policy-makers, food businesses, community organisations, statutory and strategic planners, health service professionals, sustainability professionals, food security organisations and networks, educators and researchers—is invited to attend.

Event Organisers

The webinar series is organised by Sustain: The Australian Food Network and supported by VicHealth, the Tasmanian Government, Commonland, University of Wollongong, SA Urban Food Network, Eat Well Tasmania, Gateway Health, RegenWA, Food for Thought, Community Food Events, Charles Sturt University, Cardinia Shire Council, Community Food for All, Plan-It Rural, Albury Wodonga Local Food Network, Gateway Health, City of Casey, and Leah Galvin Consulting.

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