



Australian Government



Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
Deakin, ACT, 2600

Dear Ms de Chastel,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Food and Grocery Sector Group (FGSG) to outline how we can work with local government to ensure continuity of food supply in times of crisis.

The FGSG consists of, and represents, Australia's food, grocery and beverage industry Associations and companies, directly or indirectly involved, in the nation's food supply chain – from paddock to plate. It also includes key state and federal government representatives.

The FGSG is part of the Trusted Information Sharing Network, or TISN, which is an engagement forum for industry and federal, state and territory governments to enhance the security and resilience of critical infrastructure in the face of all potential hazards. A strong and effective industry – government partnership is central to achieving security and supply chain resilience. Primarily, it identifies and manages risks, addresses security gaps within sectors and implements risk mitigation strategies. TISN is an Australian Government initiative administered by the Department of Home Affairs.

The FGSG was formed under the umbrella of the TISN in recognition that the food and grocery supply chain is a critical component of our national infrastructure. The group seeks to enhance capacity across food and grocery supply chains to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, foreseeable and unforeseen disruptions to continuity of supply in the face of all hazards.

Critically, the Forum's primary aim is to help safeguard the Australian community's ability to access food, beverages and groceries which is why 'food and grocery are acknowledged as part of Australia's critical infrastructure. Food, beverage, and grocery security is defined as "all people, at all times, having physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life".

For some years critical weather events have imposed stress on Australia's food, beverage, and grocery supply chains. These are a persistent feature of our economy. COVID-19 exacerbated existing pressures and Chinese trade bans and the Russia-Ukraine war continue to frustrate the resumption of normal supply chain flows. A recent example of this was the response to flooding in East Kimberly in early 2023. Freight corridors in the region were temporarily cut off when flooding closed the Victoria Highway and Fitzroy Crossing.

Risk management practices and resilience approaches must evolve to address continued threats and hazards.



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Considering the alignment of the FGSG's work with emergency management, I would be grateful if you can share the attached information about our group with your members and encourage them to draw on our information and resources during emergency situations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through email at foodsecretariat@aff.gov.au.

Sincerely,

David Stout
Chair of the TISN Food and Grocery Sector Group