

THE FOODIE CITY WE NEED TO BECOME: GREATER MELBOURNE'S SYSTEMIC OPPORTUNITY

September 2024



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CONTENTS

- 3 Executive summary
- 5 Introduction
- 6 Is our food system broken?
- 11 Transforming systemic challenges
- 13 Melbourne: the Foodie City
- 20 The Path Forward



About Regen Melbourne

Regen Melbourne is an engine for collaboration, in service to the regeneration of our city. Founded in the wake of the Black Summer fires and in the midst of COVID-19 lockdowns, our co-created social infrastructure is designed to raise our collective ambitions and deepen our systemic impact.

Regen Melbourne acknowledges the traditional custodians of Greater Melbourne, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our deep respect to Elders, past and present, and we acknowledge their living connections to land and waterways, including Birrarung Yarra River and Nairn Port Phillip Bay. Their traditional ways of being and doing have nourished their communities and these unceded lands. We commit to walking alongside First Nations people on the path to Treaty for Victoria.

Our thanks go to the Morris Family Foundation for providing funding to support the sensemaking of Greater Melbourne's Food System.



We would also like to thank Moving Feast for being invaluable partners on this work. Moving Feast is a collective of social enterprises working towards a more fair, regenerative and connected food system for Victoria



The primary author on this report was Dheepa Jeyapalan.

Our many thanks to the individuals and organisations who shared their perspectives on the food system for their frankness, deep wisdom and collaborative posture.

Any errors or omissions included in this report are RM's alone.

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SUMMARY

Our food system presents the ultimate systemic challenge for transformation—one we cannot ignore as it impacts our health, wellbeing, ecosystems, and determines our future on this planet.

While we hold dear our city's reputation as the foodie capital of the country, Greater Melbourne's food system grapples with deeply rooted, systemic issues:

1. Our system perpetuates long-standing inequalities, with past injustices continuing to shape our current system
2. Rapid environmental changes are testing the resilience of our food supply, exposing it to unprecedented shocks and stresses
3. Current food production methods are taking a toll on our ecosystems, threatening biodiversity and the delicate balance of our natural world.
4. Existing governance, regulations, and investment patterns reinforce fragmented approaches, hindering our ability to enact meaningful collective change.

Despite these challenges, incredible work is happening across Greater Melbourne to transform the food system. These place-based innovations, while often struggling to disrupt the status quo, form the backbone of Greater Melbourne's identity as Australia's foodie capital. Think of public markets, vibrant restaurants and cafes, food hubs, and community gardens.



Now is the time to harness these pillars of our foodie city to transform our food system for people and planet. Here are the four pathways that we believe can get us there.

1. Purpose-Driven Purchasing: Transforming Values into Action



Melbourne, home to over three-quarters of Victoria's population, is the state's primary food consumer. Numerous institutions across the city are significant food buyers. By collaborating across organisations and sectors, we can establish unified criteria for food procurement aligned with shared values. This approach allows for strategic investment in infrastructure and networks supporting local, values-aligned producers and suppliers, ultimately strengthening our food supply chain and enhancing resilience to potential stressors and shocks.



2. Adaptive Organising: A Relational Approach to Navigating Complexity

To disrupt the current system, we need diverse individuals from across the system to engage with messy complexities, negotiate and create solutions together. We propose a new organising model for Greater Melbourne that encourages representatives to emerge from their silos and engage with those outside their usual circles. This structure will embody values that enable effective local food system action, evolving to address new challenges and facilitating a collective mission invested in by all stakeholders.

3. Unlocking Value: Surfacing and Embracing the Potential of Food

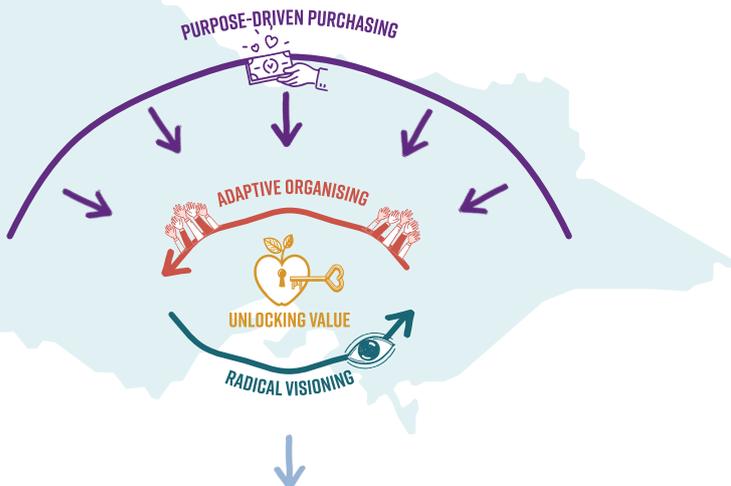


Our current food system is predominantly driven by profit, overlooking its vast potential to serve both people and planet in more meaningful ways. We envision a food system that acts as a catalyst for regenerating nature, drives more equitable economies, and upholds the self-determination of First Nations communities. This approach recognises food's power to nourish not just our bodies, but our communities, environment, and cultural heritages.



4. Radical Visioning: Celebrating the Innate Beauty of Food

Food intrinsically connects us to nature and to each other. By creating spaces that remind us of this fundamental truth, we can see beyond the corporatised, profit-driven system that currently dominates. This perspective allows us to resist quick fixes and open our minds to profound, transformative changes. We aim to carve out spaces where we can shed organisational labels, gather around a common table, and rediscover our shared identity as part of our beautiful food system.



THE PATH FORWARD

We are embarking on building out the four pathways, through the SOIL methodology to drive collective action towards transformation. We invite you—whether you're an artist, chef, gardener, or food enthusiast—to join us in this regenerative journey. Together, we can create a more equitable, sustainable, and nourishing food system for all of Greater Melbourne.

REIMAGINING GREATER MELBOURNE'S FOOD SYSTEM

This Paper, prepared by Regen Melbourne, aims to provide a snapshot of the current state of Greater Melbourne's food system. Rather than critiquing past interventions, policy actions, or organisational models, this document serves as a testament to the passionate and meaningful efforts of those working within the sector to advocate for and implement change.

By immersing ourselves through conversations with a range of food system actors, delving into the literature and observing public discourse, our objective is twofold:

- Firstly, to reflect back the various strategies and initiatives that have been employed to address food system challenges across Greater Melbourne.
- Secondly, we seek to identify areas that require further attention and deeper exploration. This paper highlights the critical need for collaboration among stakeholders, even among those with seemingly divergent views on the food system.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, our vision is to establish a new paradigm for those operating within the sector. Our ultimate goal is to collectively create and define a 'north star' – a guiding principle that will steer us towards a more equitable, just, and ecologically regenerative food system for our city.

This paper puts forth an ambition and an invitation about what is possible for Greater Melbourne's food system. It is offered as a foundation for future discussions, policy-making, and action planning and will evolve as the food system shifts in an ever changing world. And, this paper sets the scene for how we at Regen Melbourne intend to support a systemic approach to engaging in constructive dialogue and action for the potential of Greater Melbourne's food system – recognising that all our collective wisdom and efforts are essential for the meaningful transformation ahead.

IS OUR FOOD SYSTEM BROKEN?

There are countless statements in governmental reports, academic literature and in the media that describe the food system as broken (1, 2, 3). Some advocates say that our food system is simply doing what it was designed to (4). We agree with this sentiment and will examine the reasons why our current food system, the mandate it was founded on, and the way it is organised, is unable to support healthy communities and regenerative ecosystems.

Why transforming our current food system is the ultimate systemic challenge?

1. A Persistent and Unequal System: Legacies and Societal Shifts

The current food system isn't the result of coincidences or isolated events. Instead, it represents a scaffolding of global and local decisions, often rooted in pursuits of power, domination, and profit. This stands in stark contrast to the pre-colonial food system practised by the traditional owners of this land, which emphasised farming in tune with nature and a philosophy of "take only what you need."

Colonisation and industrialisation vastly disrupted this balance. Food became a commodity, with each step of the supply chain commercialised. In Victoria, crops and foods that were nourishing for both the land and people, such as kangaroo grass and murnongs, fell victim to colonial harm (5, 6). First Nations communities had their land stolen, traditional food practices erased and the priority for food moved from nourishment to profits (7). The colonial legacy of our food system still exists, with the concentration of money and benefit from our food system lying with CEOs in Western countries, with workers and farmers coming from low and middle income countries bearing the brunt of the risk of growing food and being at the forefront of the effects of climate change (8).

These inequalities translate to ongoing community disparities in agency, access to and interactions with the food system. In Melbourne's city centre, those with decent incomes and who haven't experienced discrimination or marginalisation have ample opportunities to eat delicious, healthy food that reduces their risk of chronic disease. However, in Melbourne's public housing and outer suburbs, residents often find themselves surrounded by fast food outlets, with minimal opportunities to buy fresh food and limited household budgets for food purchases (9, 10). In Melbourne, eating well has become a privilege rather than a universal right.



Above: roots of murnong, a food source widespread in Victoria prior to colonisation.

In Melbourne, eating well has become a privilege rather than a universal right.

1. Global food system is broken, say world's science academics. 2018. *The Guardian*.
2. The global food system is broken. 2023. *IPS*.
3. The economics of the food system transformation. 2024. Food Systems Economics Commission (FSEC), *Global Policy Report*.
4. Parity and farm justice: recipe for a resilient food system. 2018. *Food First*.
5. Understanding food insecurity in Australia. 2020. *Australian Institute of Family Studies*.
6. Food retail environments in Greater Melbourne 2008-2016: Longitudinal analysis of intra-city variation in density and healthiness of food outlets. Needham et al.
7. FoodPATH Community Report. 2023. Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
8. Murnong on Maar Country. 2022. *Yumi Sabe Indigenous Research Exchange*.
9. Food and Agriculture. 2024. *Deadly Stories*.
10. Profiting from Hunger. 2023. *War on Want*.

2. Adapting to New Realities: The System's Struggle with Emerging Challenges

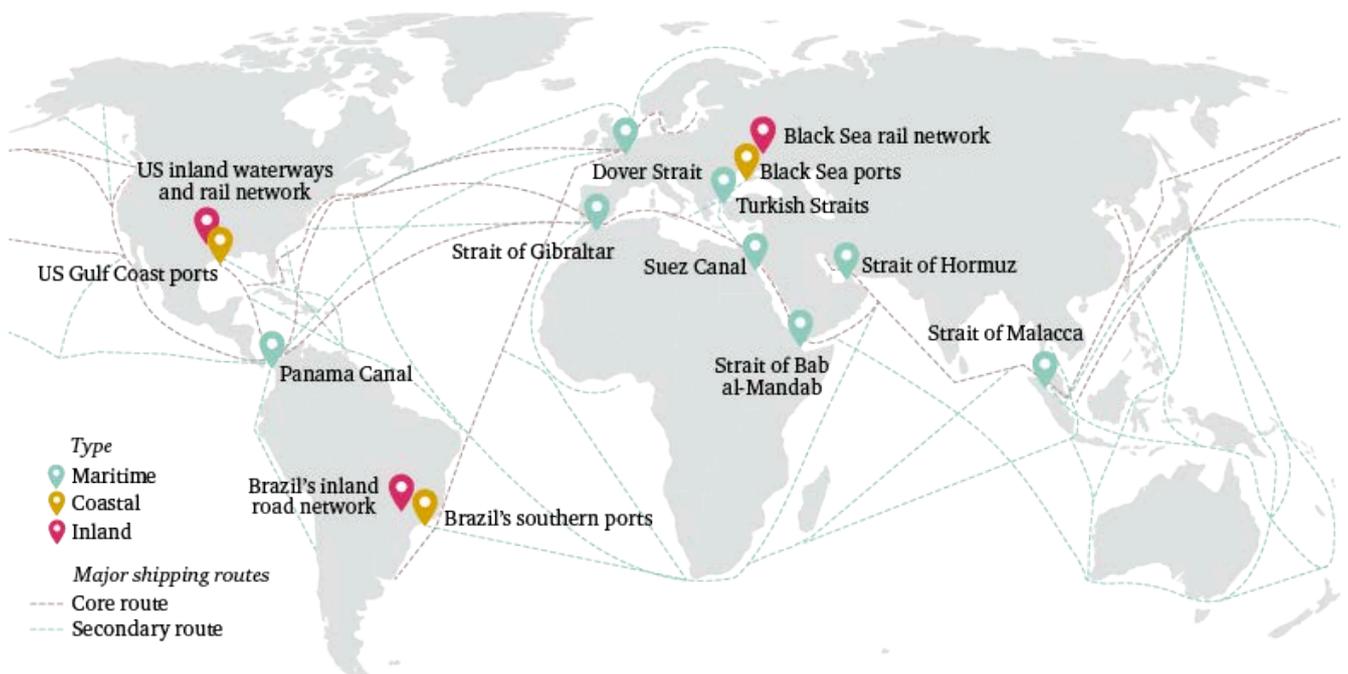
The current globalised food system is not equipped to handle the increasing shocks and stresses, such as climate events and global pandemics. Although Australia imports only 11% of its food, in 2015, only 41% of Melbourne's food needs were met by the surrounding city fringe area (1, 2). This percentage has likely decreased significantly as the city grows and urban sprawl continues (3). This reliance on food sources outside our local food bowl is concerning, given the prediction of more frequent climate-related events and our dependence on rail and road freight distribution models dominated by a small number of retailers (4).

The Australian economy relies heavily on food exports, with about 72% of the country's agricultural production being exported, valued at \$80 billion (5). While it is important for our food producers to be financially successful, their livelihoods are entangled in the delicate global movement of food and associated inputs like biocides and fertilisers through chokepoints—critical points on transport routes where large volumes of trade pass.

These chokepoints are vulnerable to disruptions from climate events, conflicts, instability, and political actions by institutional authorities (6). As climate change exacerbates these vulnerabilities, it poses a significant threat to Australia's food exports, which underpin our entire food system and influence market prices.

1. Analysis of Australia's food security and the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020. Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
2. Melbourne's foodbowl: Now and at seven million. 2015. Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab.
3. Will Melbourne's growing urban sprawl impact food security? 2020. ABC News.
4. 20204's climate crisis: Extreme weather around the globe signals the urgent need for action. 2024. Climate Council.
5. Snapshot of Australian agriculture 2024. 2024. Australian Department of Fisheries and Forestry.
6. Chokepoints and vulnerabilities in global food trade. 2023. Chatham House.

Figure 1: Maritime, coastal and inland chokepoints and major shipping routes

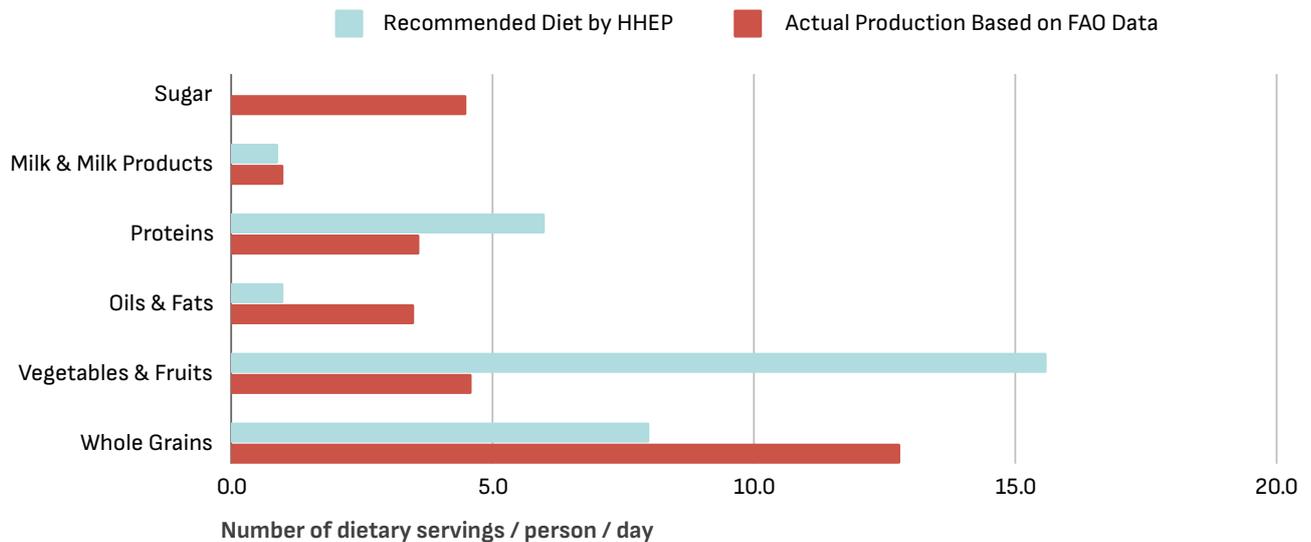


3. Ripple Effects: How a Struggling Food System Impacts Other Systems

Our dominant mental models have forced us to view natural systems in silos rather than recognising their true interconnected and delicate nature. With a growing population there has been a greater burden placed on our environment to produce more food. The actions we take in farming have a domino effect on land, waterways, air, and all that sustains our lives.

The way we have been feeding our global population has accounted for 80% of global deforestation, 70% of freshwater withdrawals, a third of greenhouse gas emissions, loss of marine life and a declining bee population (1, 2, 3, 4). The ecological impact of our food system extends beyond production methods to encompass the very choices we make about which foods to cultivate (5). The graph below demonstrates a striking disparity between recommended dietary patterns and actual global food production. By comparing the Harvard University Healthy Eating Plate Model with data from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), it becomes evident that we are producing food in quantities and proportions that deviate significantly from what is necessary for our health.

Figure 2: Global production versus recommended consumption



[KC, Krishna Bahadur et al. "When too much isn't enough: Does current food production meet global nutritional needs?" PLoS one vol. 13,10 e0205683. 23 Oct. 2018, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0205683](#)

Beyond natural systems the food system also impacts other systems that Melbourne relies on, such as healthcare. An already fragile healthcare system is being further overburdened by diseases associated with low quality nutritional intake. As our natural systems are further impacted by the way we grow food, the nutritional quality of our fruits and vegetables is also reducing, as demonstrated by data from the U.S. Researchers have shown that the average antioxidant content in a carrot can vary by 40 times (6). As the foods we know are needed to prevent disease become less nutritious due to our growing methods, we must consider how this will impact our healthcare system and drive further inequality between those who can and cannot be selective with their produce.

1. Water and food: How, when and why water imperils global food security. 2023. Centre for Strategic and International Studies.
2. Impacts of the global food system on terrestrial biodiversity from land use and climate change. 2024. Boakes et al.
3. Overfishing. 2024. Marine Stewardship Council.
4. Why bees are essential to people and planet. 2022. United Nations Environment Programme.
5. When too much isn't enough: Does current food production meet global nutritional needs? 2018. Bahadur et al.
6. 2018 RFC Final Report. 2018. The Bionutrient Institute.

4. Structural Disconnect: The Gap Between Institutional Frameworks and Systemic Transformation Requirements

The current governance and regulation in Victoria struggles to encompass and embody the complexity of our food system. Food intersects with many ministerial portfolios and government departments at local, State, and Federal levels. As demonstrated by the University of Melbourne's Foodprint team, who have mapped the intersecting portfolios for food system resilience, the policy actions and investments designed within the silos of this organisational architecture result in a host of distinct and disparate actions that struggle to align or work towards a collective mission (1).

Figure 3: Key policy portfolios that influence food system resilience



Carey, R., Murphy, M. and Behen, T. (2024) Planning a resilient food system for Victoria. The University of Melbourne. <https://doi.org/10.46580/124375>

Even at the local government level, food system action is scattered throughout portfolios and policies, resulting in missed opportunities for local collective action and impact (2).

With increasing concern about our food system's impact on the natural world, various forms of investment beyond public funds are entering the food system, from philanthropy to impact investors. As stated in this year's Food and Agriculture Organisation report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, the current financing architecture for food security and nutrition is highly fragmented, with a lack of consensus about priority areas and a variety of objectives being funded, resulting in a non-collaborative environment (3). Through our research, we've found a lack of data in the Victorian and Greater Melbourne context, leaving actors struggling to see the full picture of what is being funded, who the funders are, and what their collective objectives are—impeding our ability for coherence towards transformation.

The current financing architecture for food security and nutrition is highly fragmented, with a lack of consensus about priority areas and a variety of objectives being funded, resulting in a non-collaborative environment.

1. Planning a resilient food system for Victoria. 2024. Carey et al.
2. The role of Australian local governments in creating a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system: Results of a policy mapping study in New South Wales and Victoria. 2021. Carrad et al.
3. The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2024. 2024. Food and Agriculture Organisation.



How do we materialise a new system characterised by health, abundance, and harmony with nature, fundamentally reshaping our relationship with food and each other?



TRANSFORMING SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES INTO SYSTEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

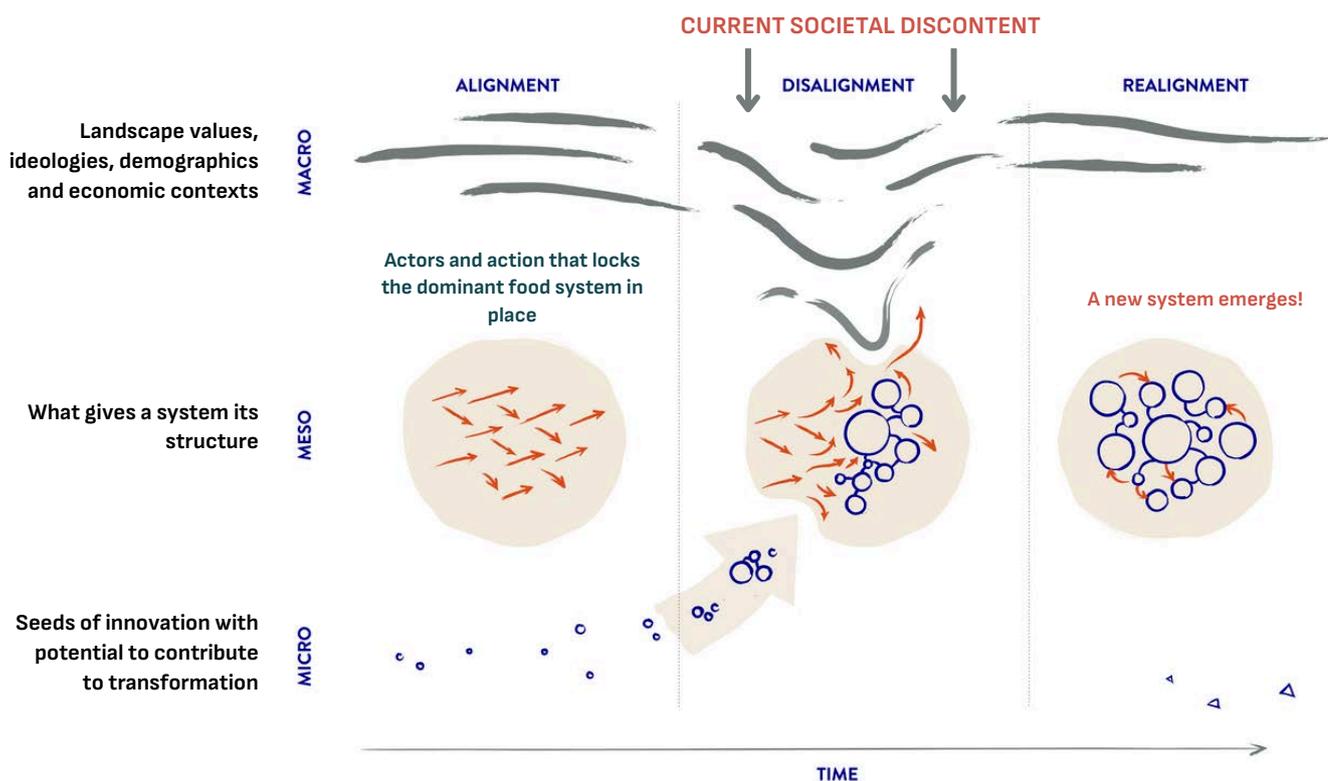
The systemic challenges outlined previously present opportunities for transforming the food system. Each challenge serves as a potential lever for coordinated action. We find ourselves at a critical juncture, marked by widespread societal discontent with the current paradigm. This dissatisfaction is evident in various parliamentary inquiries into the supermarket duopoly and the growing frustration expressed in social media discourse, causing disalignment and disillusion with the status quo.

At the local level, we witness remarkable innovation from place-based actors challenging the profit-driven food industry – farmers markets, food hubs, community gardens, and food co-ops are emerging across the state. However, these initiatives struggle to compete with the dominant food system comprised of corporations, financiers, and other actors working to maintain the status quo. Their actions keep the current structures locked in place. While local innovators create significant positive impact in their communities, their ability to effect large-scale change remains limited due to the stronghold of the current system.

The path to transformation lies in disrupting this self-perpetuating cycle. Our strategy harnesses the power of inspiring micro-level innovations, supporting their aggregation and collaboration to challenge the dominant approaches. Simultaneously, engaging with actors within food corporations who are willing to agitate from within, disrupting the status quo from inside organisations that have historically upheld these approaches.

By fostering collaboration between place-based innovators and internal agitators, we create openings for fundamental change. A new system emerges as diverse stakeholder groups find common ground and work together effectively, catalysing the evolution of Melbourne and Victoria's food system.

The results of this transformation are far-reaching: communities gain access to more affordable, nutritious food; new spaces emerge for people to connect over shared meals; nature regenerates; the food supply chain becomes more resilient; and each neighbourhood is a thriving local food economy. What materialises is a new reality characterised by health, abundance, and harmony with nature, fundamentally reshaping our relationship with food and each other.





At Regen Melbourne we see a future for Greater Melbourne where systemic transformation can be a reality.

Let's explore how we could get there.



MELBOURNE THE FOODIE CITY: A MOMENT FOR REIMAGINATION

Melbourne's identity as Australia's "foodie capital" is central to our local culture, economy, and urban appeal. This reputation drives tourism, bolsters neighbourhood economies, and enhances our city's livability. As we embark on a journey to transform our food system, we face a crucial challenge: how do we evolve this cherished cultural identity to support a scenario where people and planet can thrive.

Here are four interconnected pathways we believe are necessary to achieving this ambition.



Pathway 1. Purpose-Driven Purchasing: Transforming Values into Action

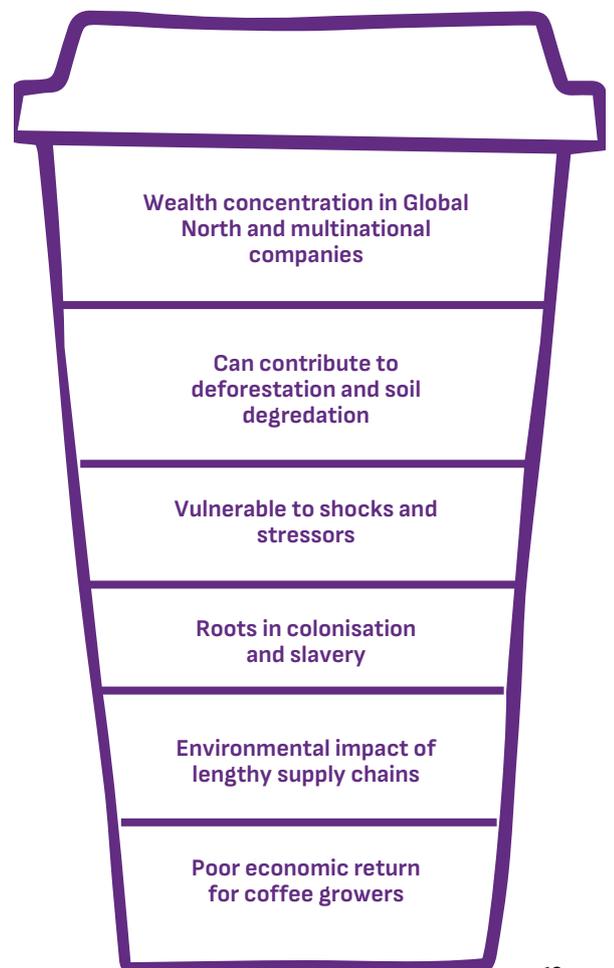
Melbourne, home to over three-quarters of Victoria's population, stands as the State's primary food consumer, despite most of its food being produced beyond city limits. This unique position presents both challenges and opportunities for our food system.

One significant challenge lies in the inefficient distribution of food. Consider, for instance, an orange grown in Mildura. It might embark on a six-hour journey to Melbourne, only to be redirected back to Mildura for sale in a local supermarket. This circuitous route exemplifies the complexities and inefficiencies within our current food distribution network.

Moreover, we often struggle to comprehend the intricacies of the food system we're all part of, and what truly underpins the cultural values of our city. Melburnians pride themselves on having the best coffee in Australia, if not the world. But if we were to delve deeper into the journey of our everyday flat white, would we truly understand how that cup of coffee reached our hands? The reality is, most of us wouldn't, given the immense complexity involved.

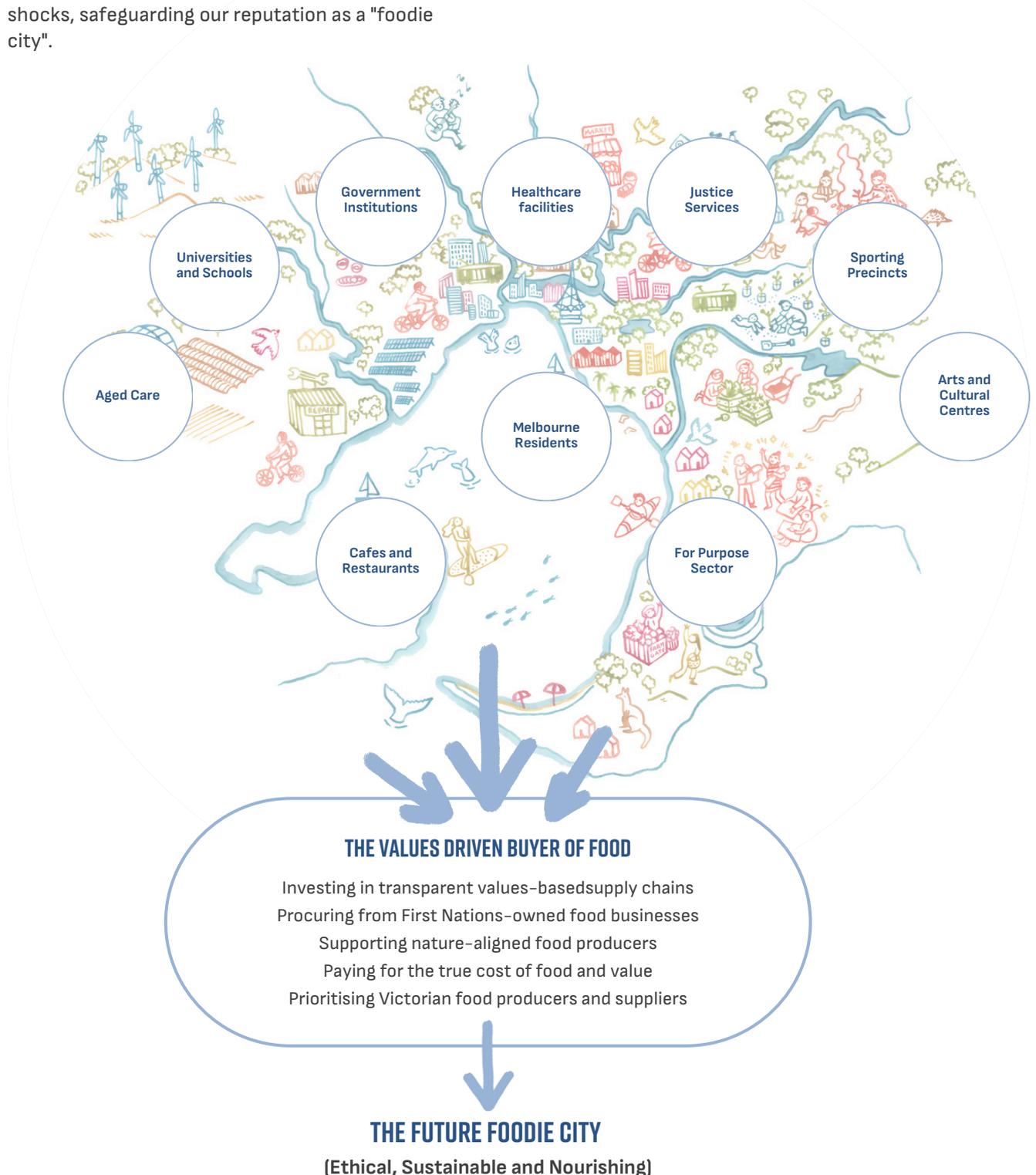
It's crucial to confront some uncomfortable truths about our coffee and food culture. This isn't meant to induce guilt or encourage a boycott of your morning café ritual. Rather, it's an invitation to reflect on what sustains the aspects of our city we hold dear while imagining pathways for transformation.

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By collaborating across organisations and sectors, we can establish unified criteria for food procurement that align with shared values. This collective approach allows us to invest strategically in infrastructure, distribution networks, and platforms that support local, values-aligned producers and suppliers. Such coordination strengthens Greater Melbourne's food supply chain, enhancing our resilience to potential stressors and shocks, safeguarding our reputation as a "foodie city".

In essence, reimagining Melbourne's role in the food system isn't just about maintaining our culinary reputation. It's about fostering a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food network that benefits all Victorians, from producers to consumers. By understanding and addressing the complexities of our food system, we can ensure that Melbourne's identity as a foodie city is built on a foundation of responsibility, sustainability, and inclusivity.





Pathway 2. Adaptive Organising: A Relational Approach to Navigating Complexity

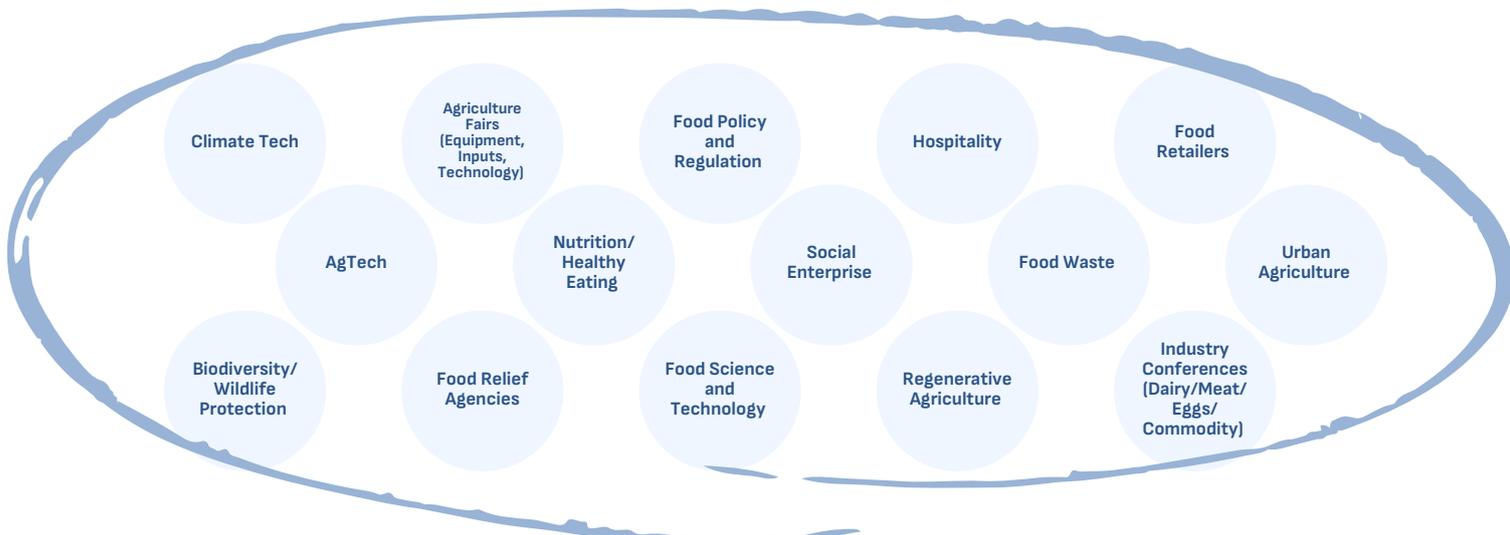
It will truly be a team effort for Greater Melbourne to reimagine its role as a “foodie city”, requiring a different way of coming together, collaborating and designing solutions. Currently, there are formal and informal organising structures around food happening across our city. At the grassroots level, neighbours share backyard produce and community members mobilise to protect public assets like Preston Market or resist the encroachment of fast-food chains (1, 2). More formally, many local governments throughout Greater Melbourne have established food councils, complete with governance structures, regular meetings, and shared projects, to shape their community's food system vision (3).

The localised nature of these groups fosters strong relationships. Participants often know each other beyond their professional roles – their children might attend the same schools or they might play on the same local sports teams. This relational foundation facilitates nuanced conversations, allowing people with diverse food perspectives to engage productively despite their differences and collaboratively navigate the complexities of the food system.

However, as we scale up to bioregional, regional, and state-wide organising, we risk becoming siloed, organising around pre-existing solutions. While it's crucial to build expertise and connect with like-minded professionals to develop sector-specific strategies, this approach can create blind spots. We may lose sight of the system's full scope, generating solutions within our echo chambers and working only with those in our immediate circles to challenge the status quo. The exclusive nature of these organising structures often alienate voices of those who have first hand, lived experiences of the challenges of the current system.

1. Preston market traders win five-year less after stampede of stress. 2023. The Age.
2. How McDonald's lost Yarra Ranges bun fight. 2024. Herald Sun.
3. Food Leadership Action Group. 2024. Merri-bek City Council.

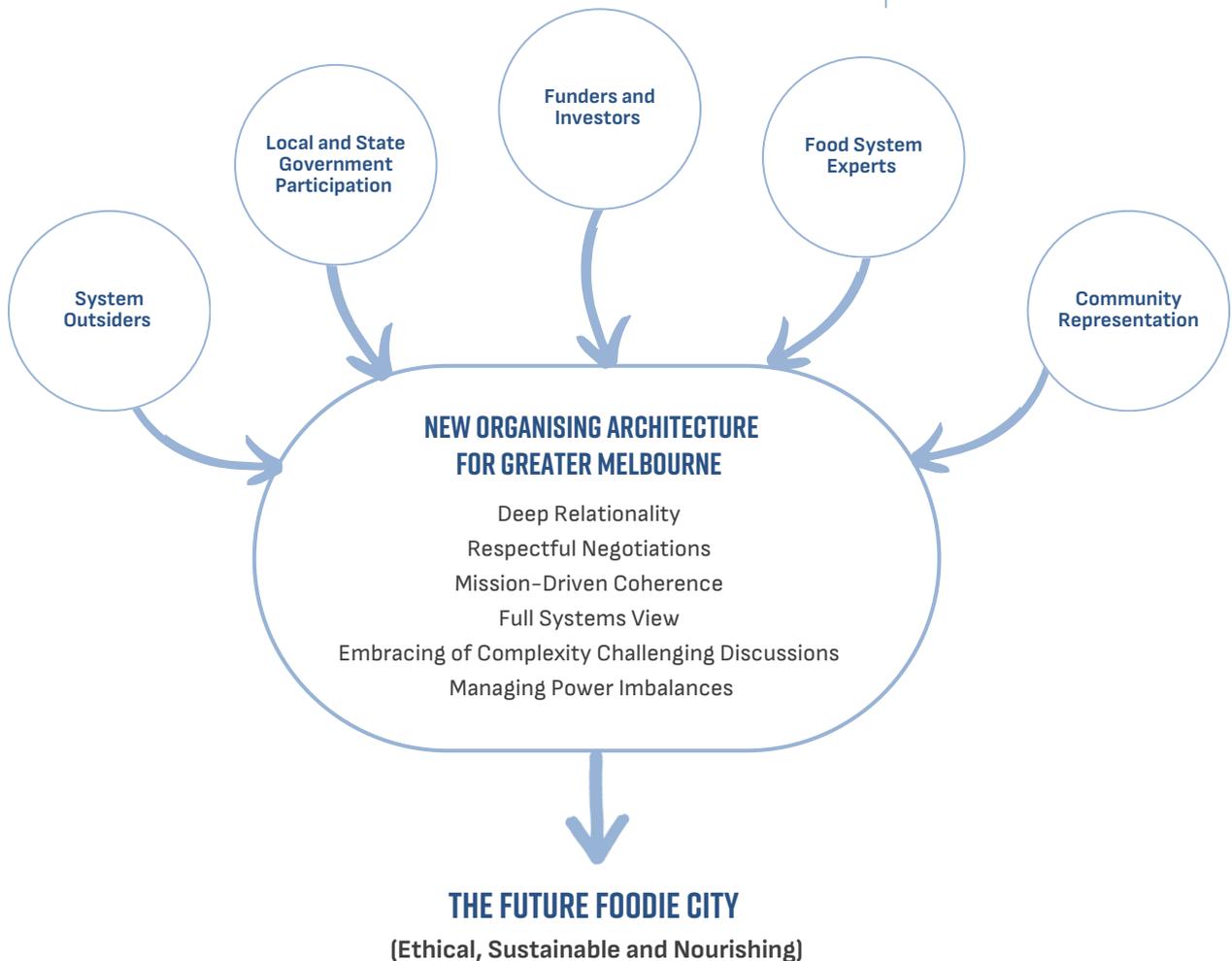
ACTORS ORGANISED BASED ON COMMON “SILVER BULLETS”:



To truly disrupt the current system, we need individuals from various parts of the system – insiders, outsiders and those with lived experience of the systemic challenges– to engage with the messy complexities, negotiate, and create solutions together, acknowledging that some attempts will succeed while others may not.

We propose a new organising model for Greater Melbourne that encourages representatives to emerge from their silos and engage with those outside their usual circles. This structure will embody the values that enable effective local food system action, including deep relationality, and will evolve to address new and emerging food system challenges. Individuals will be equipped with essential skills, resources, and networks, supporting them to drive transformation within their respective organisations, institutions, and communities. This approach will facilitate the setting of a collective mission, invested in by all stakeholders, and enable collaborative solution design for a path forward.

To truly disrupt the current system, we need individuals from various parts of the system – insiders, outsiders and those with lived experience of the systemic challenges– to engage with the messy complexities, negotiate, and create solutions together, acknowledging that some attempts will succeed while others may not.





Pathway 3. Unlocking Value: Surfacing and Embracing the Potential of Food

Organising to reach different, more impactful and transformative outcomes, from food, requires us to name what we value. The current values we have for our food system and the ones we would like the system to embody. Our current food system is predominantly driven by a singular, simplistic value: profit. Its primary purpose has been narrowed to generating financial gains, often benefiting only a select few ⁽¹⁾. This reductive approach overlooks the vast potential of our food system to serve both people and planet in more meaningful ways.

Imagine if we were to recognise, embrace and operationalise the true and multifaceted value of our food system. How might this shift the decision-making processes of policymakers, funders, and bureaucrats? The potential is immense.

Our food system could be a catalyst for regenerating nature, a driver for more equitable economies, and a platform for upholding the self-determination of First Nations communities. It has the power to nourish not just our bodies, but our communities, our environment, and our cultural heritages.

Imagine if we were to recognise, embrace and operationalise the true and multifaceted value of our food system. How might this shift the decision-making processes of policymakers, funders, and bureaucrats?

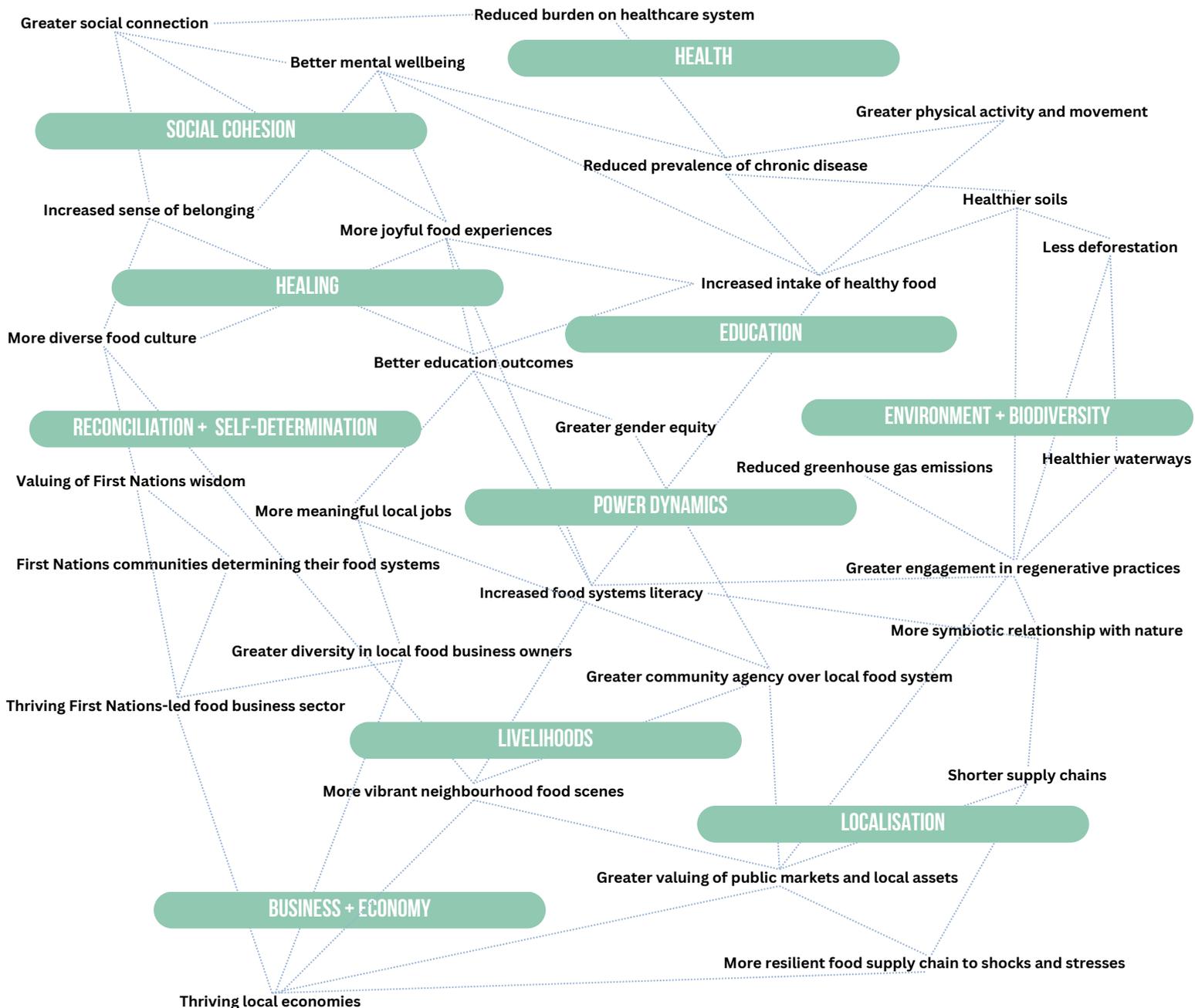
1. Who's tipping the scales? The growing influence of corporations on the governance of food systems, and how to counter it. 2023. IPES-Food.



To illustrate this potential, we've outlined several ways in which a reimagined food system could add value to Melbourne, aligning with the elements of the Greater Melbourne City Portrait [\(1\)](#). This list is by no means exhaustive; rather, it's an invitation to expand our collective vision. We encourage ongoing contributions to this values model, believing that as we grow our understanding of the food system's potential, we can create more holistic and impactful policies and practices.

By broadening our perspective on the food system's value, we can develop a shared language that guides our decisions on energy and investment allocation. This expanded view allows us to channel resources more effectively, directing capital towards assets, activities, and strategies that unlock food's full potential. Simultaneously, we can critically examine actions, organisations and approaches that make food complicit in damaging human and ecological wellbeing.

1. Greater Melbourne City Portrait. 2023. Regen Melbourne.





Pathway 4. Radical Visioning: Celebrating the Innate Beauty of Food

Throughout this report, we've explored the idea that modern society has strayed from the fundamental nature of food. Our proposed values model offers ways to map, define, and interconnect food's various dimensions. While we could continue to create countless maps, frameworks, and academic papers in our quest to reimagine our food system, relying solely on rational, cerebral approaches may ultimately leave us unfulfilled.

When asked about their most memorable food experiences, people rarely offer logical explanations. Instead, they recall moments deeply intertwined with loved ones, the passing down of cherished family recipes, profound connections with nature, or instances where food's inherent beauty revealed itself. These emotional, sensory, and spiritual aspects of food deserve our full attention.

Food intrinsically connects us to nature; it is nature's expression. By intentionally creating spaces that remind us of this fundamental truth, we can see beyond the corporatised, profit-driven system that currently dominates. This perspective allows us to resist the allure of quick fixes and incremental steps, opening our minds to more profound, transformative changes.

To achieve this deeper understanding, we must listen to and learn from the First Nations people of this land, and advocate for their self-determination. Their wisdom can guide us in opening our current system to meaningful change, making it receptive to transformations that honour food's true essence and its multifaceted role in our lives and ecosystems.

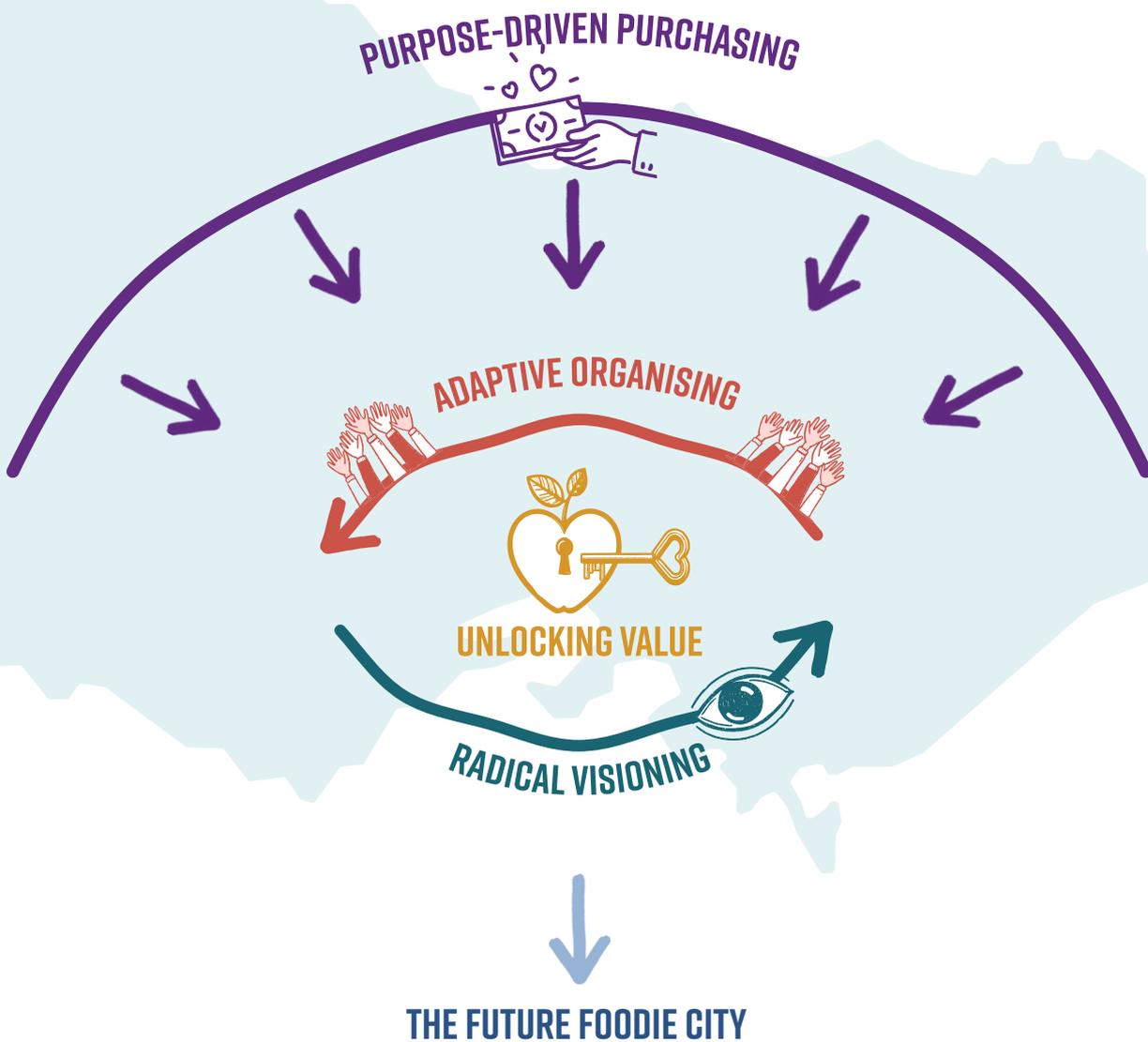
The journey ahead may challenge our comfort zones, presenting a radical departure from familiar approaches. It demands a fundamental shift in how we perceive our work, ourselves, and our relationship with food and nature. Let's carve out spaces where we can shed our organisational labels and sectoral priorities, gather around a common table, and rediscover our shared identity- that we are all part of our beautiful food system. While daunting, this paradigm shift is essential if we are to genuinely transform our food system. Such transformation is crucial not only for our collective humanity and individual wellbeing but also for the health of our planet and all its diverse forms of life.

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THE PATH FORWARD

This paper is not just a collection of words—it's an invitation to shape the future of Greater Melbourne's food system. We are embarking on building out the four pathways described through the SOIL methodology to progress collective ambitions and actions towards transformation. If these ideas have piqued your interest or fueled your passion for change, we invite you to join us in taking the next crucial steps. Whether you're an artist, chef, gardener, or food enthusiast, there's a place for you in this journey. Together, we can craft a food system that is more equitable, sustainable, and nourishing for all Melburnians.





REGEN
MELBOURNE