

Food for Thought: Courageous Leadership in a Climate Emergency to build healthy, resilient and regional food and agricultural systems

1-day forum featuring Jake Claro, Director of Vermont Farm to Plate Plan

9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Thursday 26th March, 2020
University of Wollongong Innovation Campus (iAccelerate Building)

Goals of the Forum:

- Showcase a world-leading approach in establishing a whole of system policy and practice framework, with an emphasis on lessons learned from both successes and failures
- Foster food system stakeholder cooperation, information and best-practice exchange, and enhance confidence in actors' capacity to effect significant changes
- Identify the types of partnerships, skills, experience and capacity, infrastructure, governance options, funding requirements and financing options that are necessary in order to develop and implement a regional food and farming strategy
- Communicate about current research on role of local government and other stakeholders in developing sustainable food systems

Intended audience: Regional food system stakeholders: policymakers from all tiers of government, health professionals, producers, business owners, researchers, community members

Outcomes:

- Detailed understanding for participants of the challenges facing southern New South Wales' food and farming system
- Detailed understanding for participants of the benefits of a system-wide and state-wide approach to food and agriculture, with particular focus on associations with climate change
- Detailed understanding for participants of the mechanisms and success factors required to initiate and sustain such an approach
- New relationships, networks and ideas for concrete actions and next steps to strengthen food and farming systems in the region
- Explore potential actions that would facilitate an Illawarra Shoalhaven Farm to Plate initiative that includes agribusiness members

Forum outline:

9:00	Participant arrival, tea and coffee. Informal networking.	
09:30	Welcome to Country	<i>Jade Kennedy</i>
09:40	Welcome and purpose of the Forum	<i>Prof Karen Charlton, UOW Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbury, City of Wollongong Lisa Brooke, Eve project</i>
09:55	Keynote address – Vermont Farm to Plate Plan – Lessons of the first 10 years	<i>Jake Claro</i>
10:35	Facilitated Q & A	<i>Dr Nick Rose, SUSTAIN and Jake Claro</i>

11:00	Morning tea	<i>Balcony, Level 1, iAccelerate Building</i>
11:30	Regenerative agriculture in a rapidly changing climate: Making and staying with the Change	<i>A/Prof Nick Gill, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, UOW</i>
11:50	Building a healthy, sustainable, fair and delicious food system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of Cardinia Food Circles (VIC) – the first three years • Example of Food Fairness Illawarra 	<i>Dr Nick Rose, SUSTAIN and Berbel Franse, Healthy Cities Illawarra</i>
12:10	Barriers to the scaling of sustainable agriculture and food enterprises	<i>Dr Pia Winberg Venus Shell Systems Pty Ltd</i>
12:30	Role of local government in strengthening local food systems: Findings from an ARC project	<i>Dr Belinda Reeve, University of Sydney and Dr Amy Carrad, UOW</i>
12.45	Q & A / Panel – Nick Gill/ Nick Rose / Berbel Franse / Pia Winberg / Belinda Reeve	<i>Prof Karen Charlton, Facilitator</i>
13:00	Lunch provided by the Eve Project	<i>Rooftop, iAccelerate Building</i>
	Afternoon Workshops (separate registration required on Eventbrite link)	
13:30 – 14:15	Mapping existing food and farming policies and actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming what participant’s organisations are doing in relation to agriculture / planning / health / community development / economic development / food manufacturing / retail / waste / environmental sustainability / climate change • Report back from each table – 2 mins max 	<i>Table facilitator: Jake Claro No more than 10 people at each table</i>
14:15 - 15:00	Identifying key challenges and key gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the information presented in the morning session, what is not being done (locally or elsewhere) that needs to be done? What are the top priorities? Who are the stakeholders? • Report back from each table – 2 mins max 	<i>Table facilitator: Nick Rose No more than 10 people at each table</i>
15:00 - 15:45	Strengthening food systems at the regional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming at each table what are the top three actions / initiatives required at the regional level • What resources / support is required to coordinate a regional approach? • What are the next steps? • Report back from each table – 2 mins max 	<i>Table facilitator: Berbel Franse No more than 10 people at each table</i>
15:45- 16:00	Thankyou & Evaluations Reflection on workshop objectives and follow up	<i>Dr Nick Rose, SUSTAIN</i>