

Mr Andrew Carstens
Cognitus

5 May 2022

Dear Andrew,

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL CITY-REGION SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM EVENT

We value your past support for creation of a sustainable City Region Food system for the ACT through the Canberra Region Food Collaborative (CRFC).

If climate change will transform how we produce food at scale, then Covid, floods and bushfire showed us where to produce more food: close to market/cities with shorter supply chains. This is not an easy task, but cities and regions with well-developed local food systems weathered covid and major weather events much better than those elsewhere. We need to also need to be prepared for what is coming as disruptions to national and international supply chains seem set to continue.

Keeping this in mind we invite you to consider supporting Food in the Capital (FIC3) to be held on 25-26 October 2023 incorporating the highly successful Victualis dinner. This unique event is focusing cities' food futures with a combination of innovation, imagination and systems thinking.

FIC3 is now Australia's only food conference exclusively focused on City-Region food systems with a growing national and international following. FIC3 will focus skills, technology and nutrition. This is a template for building local food buffers across Australia and called for by the UN. It is also a means of focusing resources in support of inclusion and equity in food access – a key theme for 2023.

We estimate that this pathway will create more than 3,000 new jobs and an increase in over \$400 m in purchase of local food per annum. Fresher, cheaper and more abundant food, especially for the most food insecure. This will be backed in by an estimated \$550 million in revenue possible from the direct to door local food sales market estimated by Food Innovation Australia Ltd.

Interest in this opportunity is strong. Despite Covid, we staged events in November 2020 (FIC1) and again on 18-19 May 2021 (FIC2) and on 27 September 2022. All were over subscribed, drawing 600 registrations of whom around 60% were food businesses and social enterprises.

A range of **sponsorship** opportunities are available. Alternatively we are accepting **donations** for meeting the considerable cost of running the Canberra Region Food Collaborative. Our website is [Regional Development Australia \(ACT\)](#) The event website is at [Food in the Capital 3](#) and [Victualis](#) More information on the [CRFC here](#). A small prospectus is available on request.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Best regards



Michael Claessens

ED Canberra Region Food Collaborative
CEO Regional development Australia (ACT)