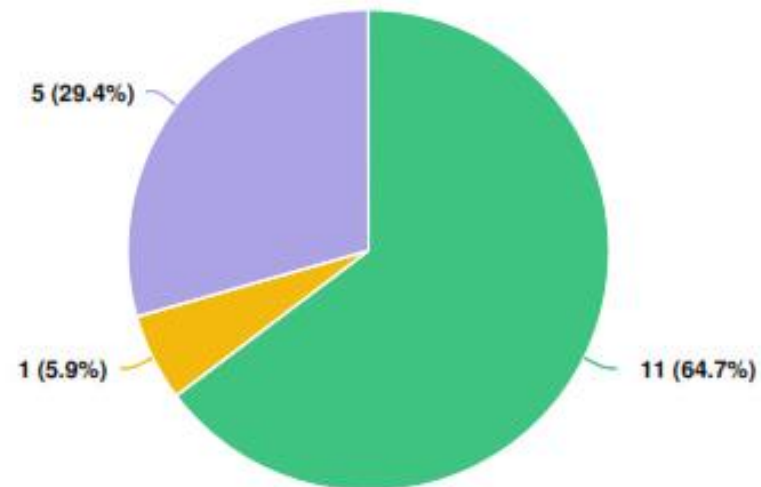


Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy

Healthy Food and Drink Policy  
Community consultation comments  
February and March 2024

Q1 | Are you supportive of the new Healthy Food and Drink Policy?



**Question options**

● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Mandatory Question (17 response(s))  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

**Q2: Please take a few moments to tell us why/why not you are supportive of the new Healthy Food and Drink Policy?**

	Participant comments	Administrations comments
<b>Supporting Comments</b>		
1	With the rising rates of obesity, the limiting of unhealthy food choice is essential to encourage healthy eating whenever possible. Having a policy in place that prioritises healthy eating is to be applauded.	Noted
2	Support a consistent approach to availability and promotion of healthy food and drinks at City facilities, events etc.	
3	Yes! Healthy food should always be the default. Minimally processed, Whole Foods, with a focus on fruit and vegetables.	
4	As a parent of young children living in the City of Vincent, who are unable to understand the selling intent behind advertising and how it shapes their food preferences, I am pleased to see the City of Vincent taking an active role in providing and promoting environments that support healthy eating. It is great to see this policy placing priority on providing and promoting foods and drinks across the City, that consider health as well as cultural, religious and dietary needs of the community, in addition to limiting the impact of commercial advertisements across City facilities at that promote unhealthy foods or drinks. I look forward to seeing this policy implemented and greater alignment between the provision and promotion of foods and drinks, at City venues (such as those listed in the policy - Beatty Park and the Loftus Center) and the reasons for which I attend these venues with my children, to be healthy and active.	
<b>General Comments</b>		
5	Why wouldn't you be? I do question how much you can actually do, given some of the poor execution you have over a large number of initiatives. I'd love if you'd make a policy and do the thing well.	Noted
6	Need more options.	

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

	Participant comments	Administrations comments
<b>Comments that the Policy is too broad and overreaching.</b>		
7	This seems a bit broad and overreach/unnecessary in principle. Compostable packaging, sure, this is good and should be implemented everywhere the council can control or influence. It's a direct link to the built environment health and waste which are clearly local council mandates. Beyond that, we're talking the food available at Beatty Park? Unclear what the public facing aspect of the rest of it is.	The purpose and objectives of the Policy have been developed using best practice examples from the research and consultation carried out. Research has included National and State strategies that place the provision and promotion of healthy food and drink in our community as a priority, other Local Government Healthy Food and Drink policies and good practice guidelines.
8	In my opinion, I believe that your policy objectives 3 and 4 are rather 'over-stepping' the parameters of the role of a local council. I feel that the COV is better off focusing on matters that can directly improve the lives of the COV community, and not using rate payers money on such policies and pie in the sky initiatives.	The Policy is designed to exert strong positive influence over spaces owned or operated by the City. The Policy also includes provisions to 'encourage' and 'support' change in the wider community, but Administration understand the Policy is not designed to control this space.
<b>Providing more healthier options at café's at City facilities</b>		
9	Eating well is really important but it can be hard to do. The more help you can offer the public the easier it will be. Hopefully this will mean more vegan options available/promoted. Places like Beatty Park really need a push to provide healthier food options and some vegan options.	Administration has been in conversations with café operators a City facilities and will encourage them to rebalance the proportion of food and drink options towards healthier choices. A tailored approach is required to consider the unique needs, challenges, and environment of each premises, to support the businesses to achieve the Policy provisions.
<b>Education to enable people to make informed choices.</b>		
10	It depends on any restrictions to other foods that may come about. I'm all for good health and preventative medicine, however the responsibility should be the individual's, otherwise behaviour change won't come about. Education is best.	Administration will organise workshops for community members and employees on healthy food and drink choices. Information will be provided on the City's website and resources will be developed to complement the Policy.

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

	<b>Participant comments</b>	<b>Administrations comments</b>
<b>Compliance of policy.</b>		
11	I imagine it will be like other policies; long winded, full of buzz words and good intentions and then no enforcement. Just like pedestrian amenity and no smoking in town centres.	This Policy is not designed for the purposes of taking 'enforcement action'.
12	How are you going to police it?	<p>The Public Health team will monitor compliance against the Policy provisions and will provide information and education to all stakeholders affected by the Policy, to ensure they are well informed of their role in its implementation.</p> <p>Administration will apply a flexible and tailored approach to transitioning stakeholders over to the Policy.</p> <p>Feedback sought or received in relation to compliance with the Policy will be investigated by Administration.</p>
<b>Education.</b>		
12	It depends on any restrictions to other foods that may come about. I'm all for good health and preventative medicine, however the responsibility should be the individual's, otherwise behaviour change won't come about. Education is best.	Administration will organise workshops for community members and employees on healthy food and drink choices. Information will be provided on the City's website and resources will be developed to complement the Policy.
<b>Reduce food waste.</b>		
13	To reduce food wastage, could arrangements be made to donate food to local charity organisations?	Administration will work towards minimal waste from catering and encourage participants to take home any leftover food items.
14	Only because item 5 states that the city is to consider the impacts of food waste on the environment.	

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

	Participant comments	Administrations comments
<b>Objection.</b>		
15	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Healthy Food and Drink Policy. While I acknowledge the importance of promoting healthy lifestyles, I believe that this policy is primarily symbolic in nature, lacking substantial strategies to effectively address public health issues and inadvertently impacting venues that do not inherently offer healthy options.</p> <p>My primary concern with the policy lies in its practicality and necessity within our community. As a local government entity, we must recognize the limitations of implementing restrictive measures to influence public health outcomes. For example, similar initiatives like the Smoke-Free campaign have proven largely unenforceable and ignored more than a year later. Prioritizing the promotion of healthy options and discouraging unhealthy choices through this policy may lead to a false sense of accomplishment without addressing the root causes of poor dietary habits and lifestyle choices. Simply restricting access to certain foods and drinks fails to address the multifaceted factors contributing to overall health and wellbeing.</p> <p>From a personal perspective, I am vegan, which is commonly associated with healthier food options, and I would love more plant-based options in Vincent. However, two of my favourite places to go for vegan food are the Hyde Park Hotel and The Moon, both of which are pubs. According to this policy's guidelines on discouraging unhealthy food and drink options, I don't believe a pub would fall within the "Healthy" category. Consequently, these venues are automatically at risk of any sponsorship or promotion by the city due to their association with "unhealthy food and drink options." This raises questions about the potential unintended consequences this policy could have on businesses that provide alternative dietary choices.</p> <p>Overall, I believe these policies may, at best, achieve little, but at worst, they could unfairly burden businesses and limit consumer choice based on symbolism rather than evidence. Instead, I urge the city to consider alternative approaches that prioritize education and support services to enable individuals to make informed choices about their diet and lifestyle, which would empower rather than impose.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective :)</p>	<p><b>Supporting business</b> There will be an emphasis on swapping some unhealthy items to healthier options which will not limit customer choice and could attract new customers, improve the health of the customer and improve business.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> YMCA Victoria introduced a healthy food and beverage policy for kiosks, cafes and catering services at aquatic and recreation centres. They initiated a <a href="#">campaign</a> to phase out regular soft drinks and replace with healthier choices such as water, sparkling water, milk and diet soft drinks. The campaign showed no negative impact to drink sales overall, while providing healthier options for customers.</p> <p><b>Education</b> The implementation of the Policy will be supported through educational initiatives. Administration will organise workshops for community members and employees on healthy food and drink choices. Information will be provided on the City's website and resources will be developed to complement the Policy.</p> <p><b>Sponsorship</b> The intent of this policy provision is for the City not to benefit from receiving sponsorship from unhealthy food and drink businesses. This does not affect sponsorship the City may offer local businesses.</p> <p>Policy provision No. 6 has been updated to reflect the desired intent.</p>
<b>No set targets in the Policy</b>		

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

	<b>Participant comments</b>	<b>Administrations comments</b>
16	<p>Cancer Council Western Australia (Cancer Council WA) commends the City of Vincent's dedication to promoting and enabling the health and wellbeing of residents, notably via the City's Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032 and Public Health Plan 2020-2025</p> <p>Cancer Council WA is a leading health promotion charity in Western Australia. Our vision is a cancer-free future for all Western Australians and over the last 60 years, we have strived to achieve this vision through cancer research, advocacy, education, and support. We are highly regarded in the community and work closely with a diverse range of stakeholders to help deliver outstanding, client-centred customer service and health equity throughout our communities.</p> <p>In the spirit of deepening relationships, Cancer Council WA acknowledge all the traditional custodians and owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal peoples living and working in this area.</p> <p>Increasing healthy eating is a priority for Western Australian families to live in the best possible health and prevent chronic disease. We support all the objectives of the draft policy, each objective an important aspect to supporting residents, families, visitors and staff to eat well. The current environment in which Western Australian children and families go about their day is bombarded by the availability and marketing of highly processed, unhealthy food and drinks. This is a major contributor to current poor diets. Therefore action is required across many levels to shift to an environment where healthy food and drinks are those that are valued, available, promoted and advertised.</p> <p>Cancer Council WA particularly supports the draft policy's focus on reducing provision and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks simultaneously to increasing provision and promotion of healthy food and drinks. In addition to providing environments free from marketing and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks. Previous research conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute in Western Australia found on average, Perth schools have over 20 food and drink advertisements within 500m, three quarters for unhealthy food and drinks, mostly fast-food meals and sugary drinks. Almost half (44 percent) of all advertisements along Perth school commute routes are for food and drinks, 80 per cent is for unhealthy food. This is just a minor glimpse into the unhealthy food and drink advertising children are exposed to every day so any action the City can take to protect children from exposure is commendable and supported by Cancer Council WA.</p>	<p>The policy will be supported by an implementation plan that monitors the baseline availability and tracks any progress made against the policy objectives.</p> <p>Policy provision 4 has been updated as suggested by Cancer Council WA to ensure unhealthy food and drink brand names within City Facilities are discouraged.</p>

**Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy**

	<b>Participant comments</b>	<b>Administrations comments</b>
	<p>We suggest that under the policy parameters, point 4. Promotion of unhealthy food and drink at City facilities will be discouraged. That this be amended to include unhealthy food and drinks, and their associated brands, as per policy parameter 6. This is to ensure that for example, fridges are not branded with a sugar drink brand.</p> <p>We note also that there is not set targets for the availability of healthy food and drinks within the policy parameters. The policy we suggest will be supported by an implementation plan that monitors the baseline availability and tracks any progress made against the policy objectives.</p> <p>Cancer Council WA welcomes further discussion and support to the City of Vincent in this work.</p>	

## Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy

### 17 - Support letter from North Metropolitan Health Service



One team, many dreams.  
Care / Respect / Innovation / Teamwork / Integrity



Caroline Dewey  
Senior Public Health Officer  
City of Vincent  
244 Vincent Street  
LEEDERVILLE WA 6007

Email: [mail@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@vincent.wa.gov.au)

Dear Caroline

#### **DRAFT HEALTHY FOOD AND DRINK POLICY**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Vincent's draft Healthy Food and Drink Policy. The Public Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) welcomes and supports the Policy, which will provide and promote healthy and supportive environments where healthy food and drink is valued and encouraged.

NMHS aims to promote and improve the health of our communities, which includes more than 729,000 people in north metropolitan Perth. The Public Health Service collaborates with local governments and other agencies to reduce lifestyle risk factors such as poor nutrition. We are a supportive partner and strong advocate of the City's Draft Healthy Food and Drink Policy, which will help to create and maintain environments within the City that promote the recommendations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines<sup>1</sup>.

It is pleasing to note that the Policy aligns to the City's Public Health Plan 2020-2025<sup>2</sup> as well as state strategic plans such as the State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2019-2024<sup>3</sup>, the WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026<sup>4</sup>, which recommend creating supportive environments to encourage healthy eating patterns within the community.

Unhealthy diets, overweight and obesity are the leading risk factor for death, disease and disability in Western Australia, after tobacco use<sup>5</sup>, with a majority (71%) of adults either overweight or obese. Being overweight is closely linked to the environment in which people are born, live, work, learn, play and age. Current food environments promote discretionary food and drinks, items that are energy-dense and/or high in salt, saturated fat or added sugar, which should be limited in a healthy diet.

The City of Vincent's public health leadership in prioritising both increasing the provision of healthy food and drink and reducing the promotion of unhealthy food and drinks, as set out in the draft healthy food and drink policy, is to be commended.



## Attachment 2 – Community consultation comments – Healthy Food and Drink Policy

2

Should you have any queries or require additional information, please contact Krista Coward, Manager Health Promotion on (08) 9380 7767 or via email [Krista.Coward@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Krista.Coward@health.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Maree Hose  
**A/DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

20 March 2024

3

### References

- <sup>1</sup> National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Eat for health: Australian Dietary Guidelines. Providing the scientific evidence for healthier Australian diets.2013. Canberra: NHMRC. Available from: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/n20>
- <sup>2</sup> City of Vincent. Public Health Plan 2020-2025. Perth: City of Vincent, 2020.
- <sup>3</sup> Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health of Western Australia. State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2019-2024. Perth: Department of Health Western Australia.
- <sup>4</sup> Chronic Disease Prevention Directorate, Department of Health Western Australia. Western Australian Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017–2021. Perth: Department of Health, Western Australia, 2017.
- <sup>5</sup> Chronic Disease Prevention Directorate, Department of Health of Western Australia. Evidence Brief: Food, Built environments and obesity. Perth: Department of Health Western Australia, 2022 <https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Evidence-brief-food-built-environments-and-obesity>