

The Greens (WA) 2017 policy

Food

The Greens (WA) believe that:

- prime agricultural land should be protected to ensure food security
- food production should be sustainable
- agricultural land should not be used to produce biofuel crops
- alley farming and other practices that improve soil quality or reduce salinity by mixing food and tree crops are preferable to monocultural food production
- labelling of food products should be truthful and comprehensive so that consumers have enough information to enable them to make informed choices about food purchase
- junk food advertising on children's TV programs and other children's media such as video games and children's internet sites should be phased out
- Western Australian farmers should be paid a fair price for their produce
- producers should be paid a fair price when food is produced in undeveloped countries

Aims

The Greens (WA) want:

- to ensure that the social, health and environmental issues associated with food production are fully considered in agricultural policy (see also The Greens (WA) [Agriculture](#) policy)
- a reduction in food miles between the point of production and point of sale
- people to have access to local and seasonal food
- to promote the labelling of the place of origin for fresh foods
- to promote the labelling of processed food to indicate the amounts of trans fat¹ and genetically modified (GM) ingredients it contains (see also The Greens (WA) [Genetic Modification](#) policy)
- a moratorium on GM food production in Western Australia
- a moratorium on the sale of all food containing nanotech² materials until a proper regulatory scheme is in place
- a more diverse, flexible and resilient food production system
- humane treatment of animals used for food (see also The Greens (WA) [Animals](#) policy)
- increased benefits to rural communities from food production in their region
- zoning that prevents further residential development of peri-urban agricultural land
- to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, pesticides and artificial fertilisers in agricultural production
- to phase out use of growth hormones and antibiotics in food production
- to promote free-range food production with the establishment of clear production and labelling standards
- a review of National Competition Policy legislation to favour local production close to final markets due to rising transport costs and carbon emissions

Measures

The Greens (WA) will support legislation and actions that:

- make advice about how to cultivate home vegetable gardens freely available to the public
- enhance the availability of soil testing for people wishing to convert household gardens to food production
- encourage the saving of heritage seeds and animals
- encourage the slow food movement.³
- promote the humane treatment of animals used for food in a humane manner by:
 - banning intensive production systems for meat, dairy and egg products
 - banning mutilation practices
 - phasing out feed lotting
 - reducing long distance transport of animals from farm to abattoir (see also The Greens (WA) [Animals](#) policy)
- regulate the sale of foods containing trans fats¹ by banning partially hydrogenated oils used in food production to below 2% of trans fat (as has been done in Denmark)
- phase out the use of artificial additives and preservatives in products aimed at or likely to be consumed by children

Glossary

1. **Trans fat** is the common name for a type of unsaturated fat. Scientific evidence shows that consumption of saturated fat, trans fat, and dietary cholesterol raises low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or "bad cholesterol," levels, which increases the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD)
2. **Nanotech** – Nanotechnology is a powerful new technology for taking apart and reconstructing food at the atomic and molecular level
3. **Slow food movement** – is a movement to counteract fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions, people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how our food choices affect the rest of the world – people, communities, animals, plants and the environment.

Food policy ratified by The Greens (WA) in 2017