

## Community gardens and greening my LGA

I committed to take action on revegetating in my community.

The actions I've taken so far:

- I contacted my local LC member and spokesman on education for the Opposition, Josh Willie. I asked him if there was a state education policy on **school veggie gardens**. (no answer as yet)
- I searched the State Government's website where I found "Healthy Tasmania", a Commonwealth/State partnership that includes the "Student Health Initiative" as part of a five-year strategic plan. A further subset of this is the "Move Well Eat Well" Health Promoting Schools initiative. Partnerships are promoted and funding is available upon application, with four areas of emphasis:
  - Nutrition, food and agriculture
  - Physical activity
  - Drug Education
  - Emotional Health and WellbeingUnder these rubrics, many schools had established food gardens while others had funded programs addressing others of the concerns.
- I investigated my LGA, Glenorchy City Council. Disappointingly I found no mention of **community gardens** or of '**greening Glenorchy**' as a head in the Budget for 2020-2021.. It was not entirely clear whether I could raise concerns about these omissions under the provided heading "Community Engagement Opportunities". It was also disappointing to find no mention of Indigenous burning practices as part of the bushfire mitigation strategy.
- I'm aware of a member of the northern suburbs Extinction Rebellion group who has been active in this space in Glenorchy, and I intend to contact her to see how we can campaign on these matters together.

In regard to composting in my LGA, I'm tremendously pleased with Council's implementation of Green Bins, which accept composting materials unsuitable for home composting, such as chicken bones, fat, paper, cardboard, weeds such as Twitch! The rationale is to reduce landfill, and I have certainly found that I only put out both my rubbish bin and my recycle bin about once a month or less often! The process with the Green Bin is that the materials are subjected to high heat, apparently, reduced to a mulch, and sold to farmers for fertiliser. A virtuous circle. I must find out if the heating process uses methane from landfill. Obviously a collection like this isn't suitable for country kerbside collections, sadly. But any municipal LGA should adopt this!