

# Food policy for future generations: integrating public health and environmental goals

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## Research question

How well does Australian food policy integrate public health and environmental goals?

## Research aim

Describe Australian food policy, and identify:

- The content in relation to public health and environmental goals.
- The factors that led to the decision for that content.

## Why is this important?

Concerns have been raised for the human and environmental capacity to achieve and maintain global food security.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, ongoing human pressures could change our ecosystems. If this occurs human health could be harmed, due to less food and clean freshwater.<sup>3</sup> The integration of public health and environmental goals, into food policy may help address these concerns.

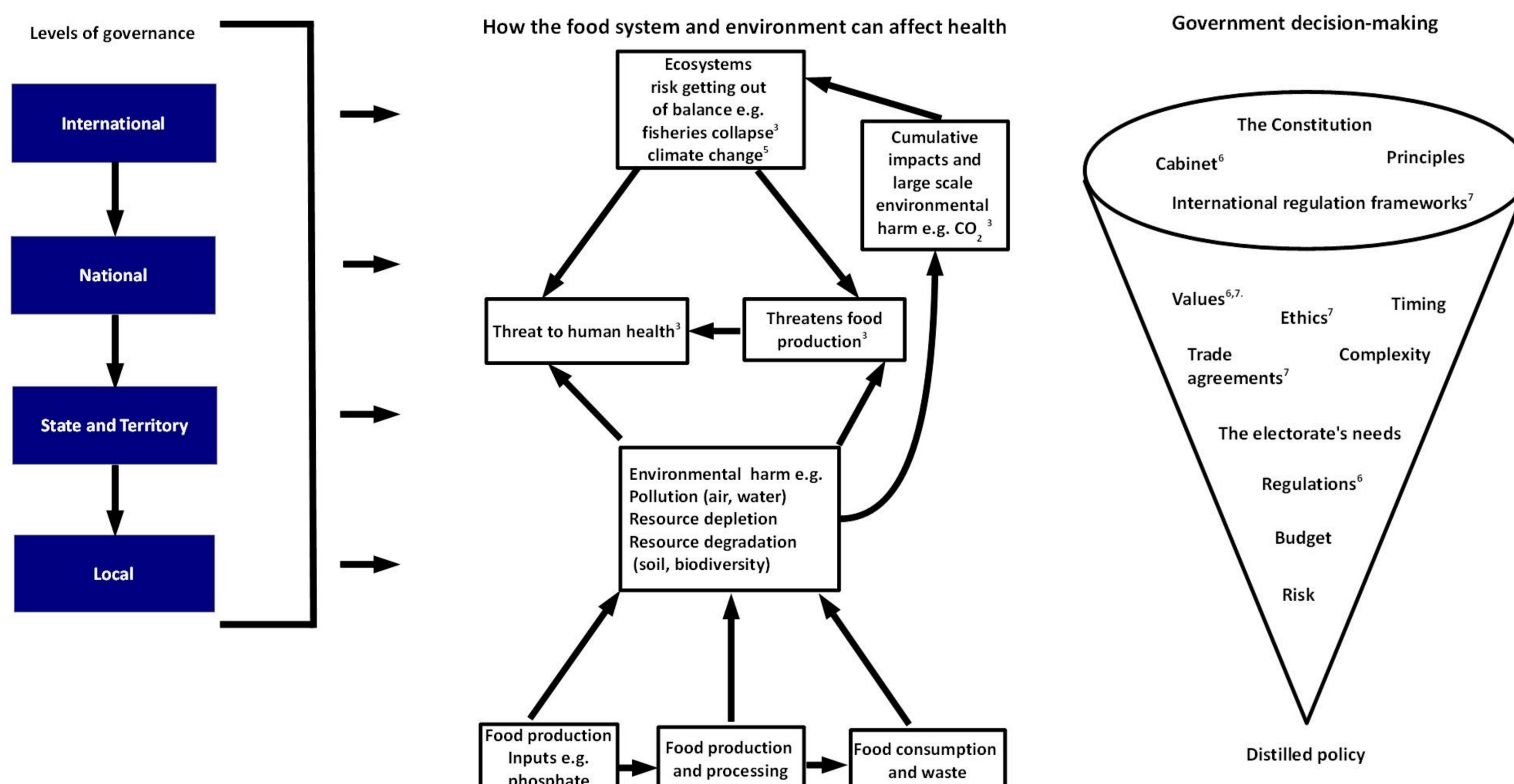


A model of health and the community ecosystem Source: Hancock 1993<sup>4</sup>

## Research objectives

1. Review international good practice of food policy approaches that integrate public health and environmental goals.
2. Describe a theoretical ideal Australian food policy that integrates public health and environmental goals.
3. Describe the extent to which current Australian food policy integrates public health and environmental goals.
4. Identify the barriers and opportunities for Australian food policy integrating public health and environmental goals.

## The likelihood of policy coherence...



## The likelihood of policy coherence...

- There is a gap in the research concerning the processes of developing Australian food policy in relation to public health and environmental goals.
- There are many considerations when developing policy, including: regulation, governance, electorate needs, the electoral cycle and other government departments.
- What is unknown is how competing values and paradigms are managed when making policy decisions.

## Research Methods

### Objective 1

International literature review, Content analysis.

### Objective 2

Concept mapping<sup>8</sup>, Literature review, Causal loop diagrams<sup>9</sup>, 'Testing' the ideal with senior public servants.

### Objective 3

Food policy mapping, Content analysis.

### Objective 4

Case studies of Federal, State and Local Government food policies.

## Research Methods

### Objective 4

- Semi structured key informant interviews of senior public servants, retired elected representatives, CEO's of Non Government Organisations).
- Thematic analysis, value-critical analysis, and discourse analysis of key informant transcripts.
- Soft systems methodology<sup>10</sup>, to develop a model of the complex policy system, test the model by comparing it to multiple perspectives and finding actions to address the issue of concern.

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