



MEDIA RELEASE

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Huon Valley Council's Food Hub Project wins prestigious National Economic Development Award

The Huon Valley Council has been honored with the *Award for Sustainable Initiatives in Economic Development* at the 2023 National Economic Development Awards for Excellence.

These awards recognize professionals in Australia who are using the best and most innovative ideas to make communities better all over the country.

The Huon Valley Food Hub project was chosen as this year's winner, competing with other significant projects that are also working to improve the environment and society in various parts of the country.

The Huon Valley Food Hub project has focused on addressing challenges that face the community, including food insecurity, workforce and skills shortages in the horticulture sector, and poor health outcomes.

The project provides the opportunity to improve collaboration and coordination, influence policy change and take advantage of the increased demand for locally grown produce. The key to making this change has been the strong connection and relationship between local and state government, growers, businesses, and most importantly, the opportunity to work hand in hand with community in responding to our unique needs and challenges.

Regional food hubs have been used internationally to build resilient regional economies that support locals to eat well, create more local jobs and increase economic activity.



“Congratulations to Council’s project team, Manager of Economic Development Michelle Gledhill and former Food Hub Project Officer Dr Emily Samuels-Ballantyne, on this excellent achievement and for putting our Valley on the national stage,” Huon Valley Mayor Sally Doyle said.

For more information: Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300