



Regional Futures Institute
SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

**Southern Cross University and Industry and
Investment NSW: 9 February 2011**

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http://www.scu.edu.au/regionalfutures/

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about us
research themes
consultancy
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news
events
downloads
our team
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The Regional Futures Institute is committed to producing innovative, interdisciplinary research on key developments in the enterprises, economics, societies, and cultures of regional Australia.

By promoting knowledge of changes within the regions of Australia and their importance to our future, Regional Futures Institute seeks to inform and foster academic scholarship, public awareness and considered and responsive policy making.

prospect

The latest issue of our newsletter, [Prospect](#) is now available.

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Updated: 03 February 2011

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By promoting knowledge of changes within the regions of Australia and their importance to our future, Regional Futures Institute seeks to inform and foster academic scholarship, public awareness and *considered and responsive policy making*.

Key research themes are: Regional Development, Indigenous Economic Development, *Public Policy*, Health e-Regions, Regional Social Development and *Climate Change and Sustainability*.

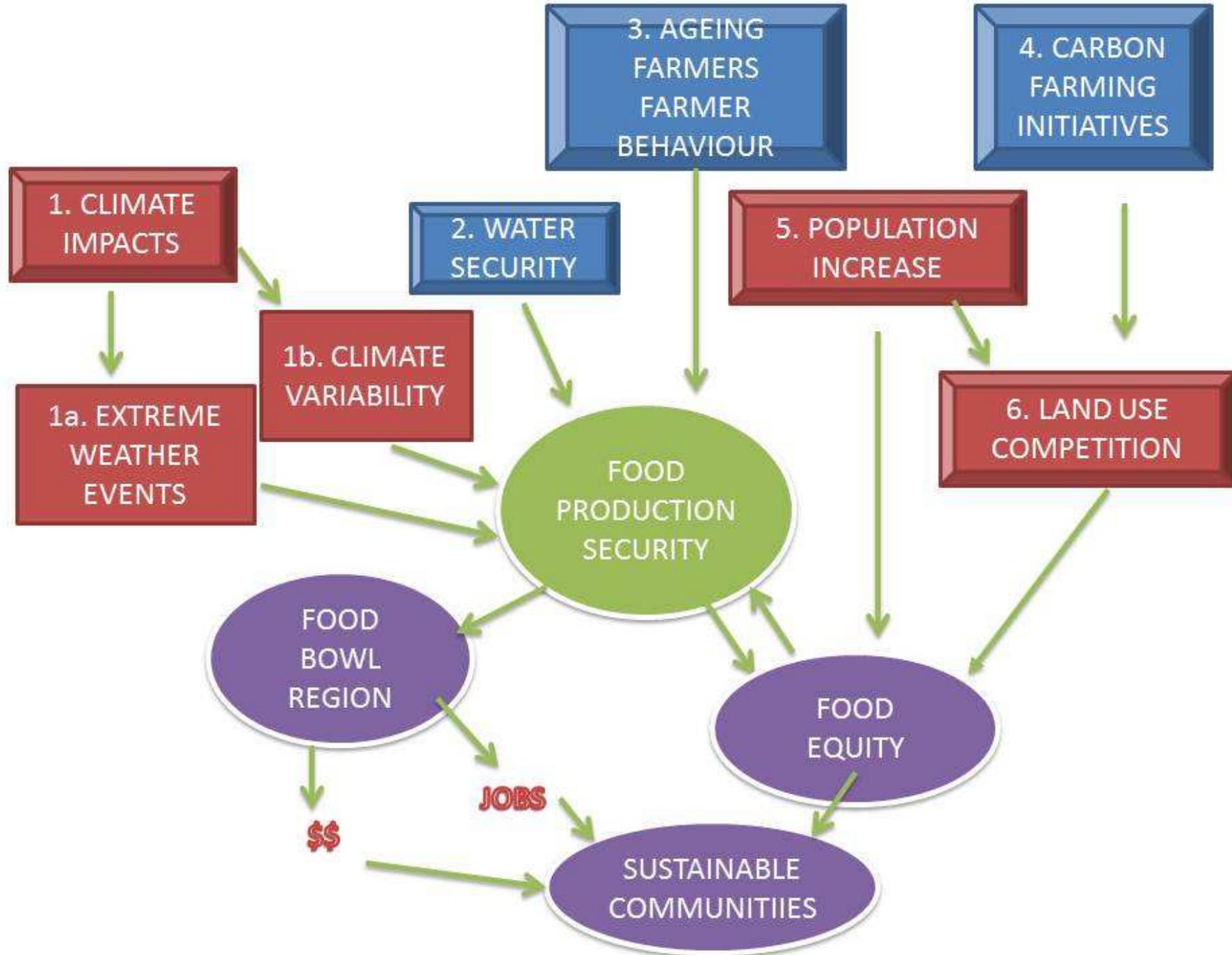




Why is food security important for our region?

The Border Rivers/ Gwydir and neighbouring Northern Rivers region are the second and third most productive regions in NSW contributing over 20% of NSW's total agriculture gross value in 2008/09.

It is likely that these regions will continue to prosper in light of climate change with continuing high precipitation rates, in contrast with other major food production regions in Australia. It is essential, however, in light of climate change and projected population increases that adaptation strategies to climatic extremes and variability are well informed.





Northern Rivers Food Equity Project

PROJECT SUMMARY: Food security is essentially having readily accessible food at all times. At a minimum, food should be nutritionally adequate for a healthy and active life and be affordable, safe and culturally acceptable. Factors like food supply and food access directly affect food security.

In the Northern Rivers region, fresh local produce may be abundant due to climate and soil fertility but may still be inaccessible to people without a means of transport or simply inaccessible due to expense. The following study aims to identify the ability of the wider Northern Rivers community to access a nutritional diet.



Northern Rivers Food Equity Project

3 family groups:

- Pensioner (living alone)
- Family of four (2 kids)
- Single parent and 2 teenagers

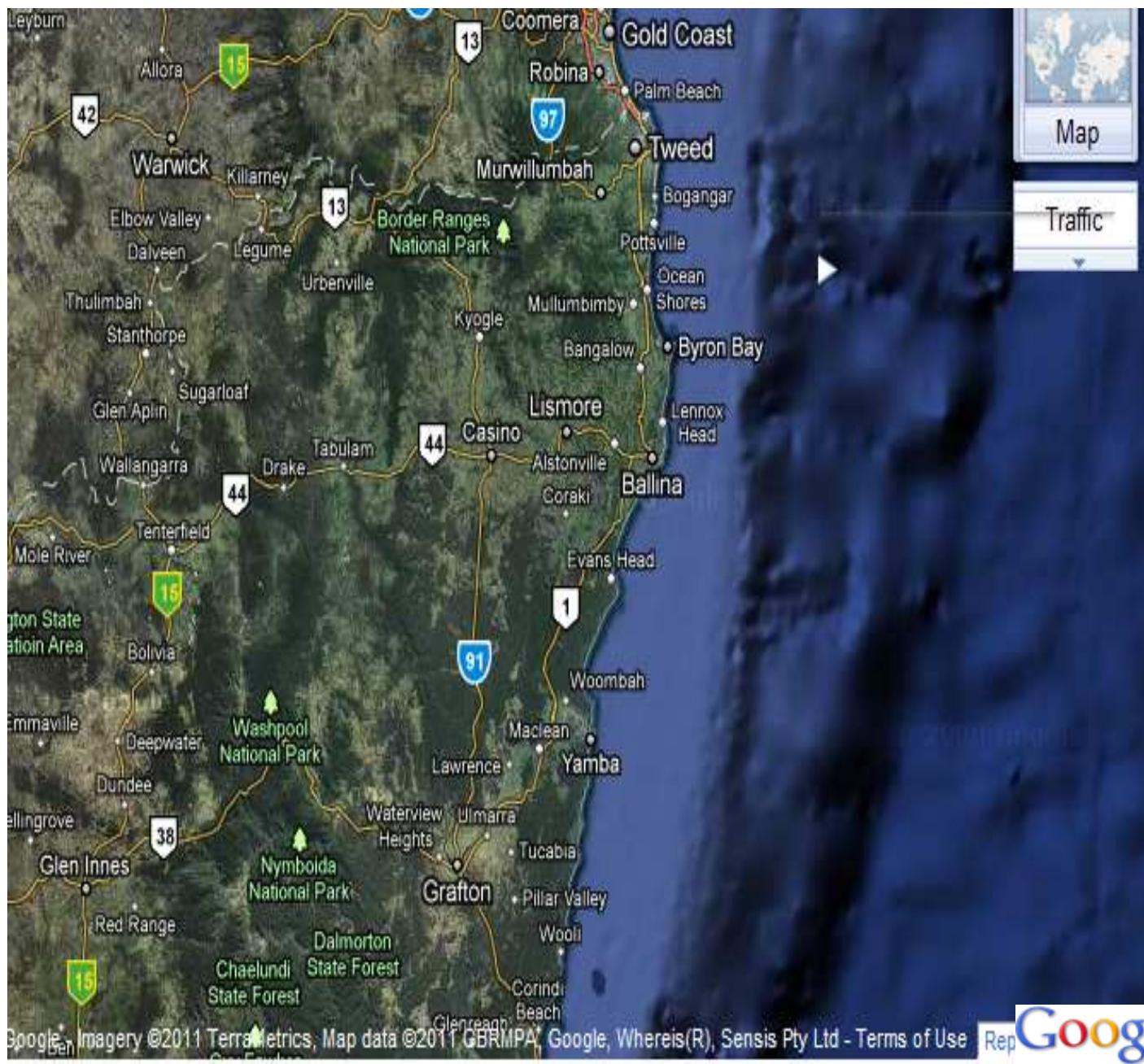
Nutritious menu planned for a week which has been designed to be least cost.

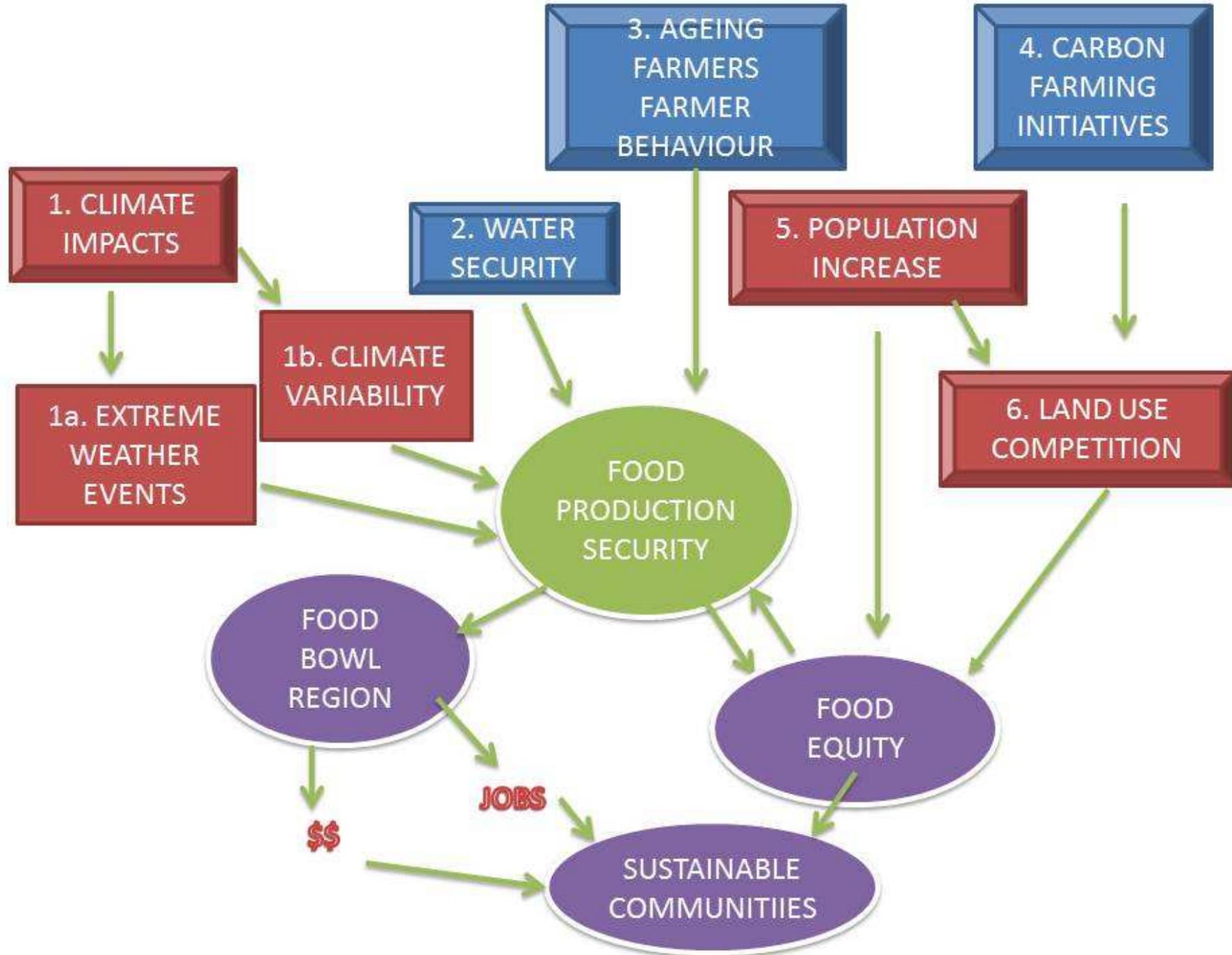
Transport options

GIS

Comparison of \$weekly shop to median household incomes









Food Security / Adaptive Capacity Project

This project will determine how much of an influence climate impacts, projected population patterns and local government's settlement planning will impact on food production and therefore on the regions' economies in 2012, 2020 and 2035.

A risk assessment of the regions' food security will be informed by climate impact modelling, case study analysis of extreme weather events and a workshop for local producers. This process will also identify what information is required, but unavailable which is an important issue for the development of realistic food security risk adaptation strategies to follow.

The economic impact analysis can be considered as an indicator of potential adaptive capacity.



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Thankyou

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