

Embargoed until: Thursday 10 April 2025

## **OZHARVEST EXPANDS FOOD RESCUE OPERATIONS TO TASMANIA TO COMBAT RISING FOOD INSECURITY**

***Official media launch and media opportunity: Thursday 10 April***

OzHarvest is excited to announce a significant expansion of its national operations to Tasmania, providing essential food relief to vulnerable Tasmanians at a time when need has never been greater.

OzHarvest's entry into Tasmania has been undertaken in close partnership with Loaves and Fishes, with an initial focus in Launceston. Beginning with a borrowed van from Melbourne, the effort has rapidly evolved into a robust operation rescuing and redistributing over six tonnes of food weekly to over 25 local charities across the region.

Jenn Heggarty, OzHarvest Tasmania State Manager says the expansion couldn't come at a more critical time. "The level of food insecurity we're seeing in Tasmania, particularly in Launceston's Northern Suburbs, is among the highest in Australia. Since beginning food rescue operations in November last year, we've already provided 150,000 meals to Tasmanians in need, but we know there's much more work to be done."

The expansion has been made possible through the continued support of Woolworths, OzHarvest's National Food Rescue Partner, with all six Greater Launceston Woolworths stores contributing quality surplus food. "Woolworths' commitment as our National Food Rescue Partner has been instrumental in getting this operation off the ground," added Heggarty. "Their support, along with other local partners, ensures good nutritious food reaches those who need it most."

Nannette Rose, Woolworths Operations Manager in Tasmania said "We're proud to expand our support for National Food Rescue Partner OzHarvest in Tasmania. Currently, six of our Greater Launceston stores are redirecting quality surplus food to bolster their local operations, and we want to thank these team members for the effort they put in week in, week out to make this food rescue possible. Together, as partners with OzHarvest, we're committed to taking meaningful action to address food waste and support Tasmanians in need."

Patricia O'Duffy from Northern Suburbs Community Centre is one of the 25 local charities already receiving food. "OzHarvest donations provide a consistent supply of nutritious food to our community, uplifting vulnerable families and individuals while fostering dignity and hope. Thanks to the increased availability of rescued food, local charities are empowered to serve even more people in need"

Since starting operations in June 2024, OzHarvest has rescued over 75,000 kilograms of food and hired two part-time drivers. A new dedicated truck will arrive soon to help create a sustainable foundation for ongoing food rescue operations throughout Tasmania.



## Media release

Nourishing Our Country “The next step is to build the team - we're seeking passionate volunteers to help with food rescue, delivery, admin and engagement. We also encourage any local businesses with surplus food to become food donors and are keen to chat to organisations interested in partnering with us to expand our reach. We're already collaborating with Loaves and Fishes on the ground in Launceston to strengthen our local operations. With food insecurity continuing to rise across the state, every contribution makes a meaningful difference,’ said Heggarty.

OzHarvest Tasmania's strategic partnerships with Woolworths, Loaves and Fishes, and local food donors form the backbone of a collaborative network tackling food insecurity and building long-term community resilience action across the state. The goal is to expand operations beyond Launceston in the coming months, with initiatives already underway to reach Tasmania's most vulnerable regions where food relief remains critically undersupplied.

**END**

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### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> April 10–11.30 AM**

Woolworths Mowbray, 262 Invermay Road, Mowbray followed by Northern Suburbs Community Centre 49 George Town Road, Newnham

#### **Vision:**

10.00 – 10.30 Yellow OzHarvest van at Woolworths, driver loading food into vans,  
10.45 – 11.30 OzHarvest van and driver deliver food to Northern Suburbs Community Centre, volunteers set up food for distribution to community

#### **Interviews:**

Jenn Heggarty	OzHarvest State Manager, Tasmania
Wes Polden	Woolworths Mowbray Store Manager
Patricia O'Duffy	Northern Suburbs Community Centre

#### **ABOUT OZHARVEST:**

Founded by Ronni Kahn AO in 2004, OzHarvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation, collecting quality surplus food from more than 2,600 businesses, including supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, hotels, retailers, airports and retail food outlets. Every week over 300 tonnes of food is saved from going to landfill and delivered to 1,500+ charitable agencies, helping to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people across Australia. OzHarvest's education programs include: NEST - tailor made workshops that support people in need with nutrition education and life skills, Nourish - a hospitality training program for 'at risk' youth, FEAST – a curriculum aligned program for primary and high school student. To inspire behavioural change and make it easy to waste less at home, OzHarvest launched their Use It Up tape and campaign. OzHarvest operates nationally in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, NT, Tasmania and in regional communities and to date has delivered over 290 million meals and saved over 90,000 tonnes of food from landfill. Every \$1 donated allows OzHarvest to deliver two meals to people in need [www.ozharvest.org](http://www.ozharvest.org)



National Food Rescue Partner