

# Update on Good Food Nation Act

Stephanie Mander

Senior Policy Officer

Nourish Scotland + Scottish Food Coalition

# Nourish Scotland



Nourish Scotland is a charity focusing on food policy and practice. We work for a fair, healthy and sustainable food system that values nature and people.

We take a systems approach to food. This means we work across a wide range of issues and levels:

- ▶ from production to consumption
- ▶ from practice to policy
- ▶ from grassroots to national

# Scottish Food Coalition



# Good Food Nation Act

Went through Parliament from Autumn 2021 – Summer 2022

- ▣ Received Royal Assent in July

*Act to require the Scottish Ministers to prepare and publish national good food nation plan; to require certain authorities to prepare and publish their own plans and to provide as to the effect of these plans*



Diet-related illness  
Heart Disease,  
Diabetes,  
Cancer

International  
impacts of food  
we import e.g.  
deforestation

Tonnes of  
of food waste

Malnutrition

In-work  
Poverty

Biodiversity  
loss

Reliance on  
Food banks

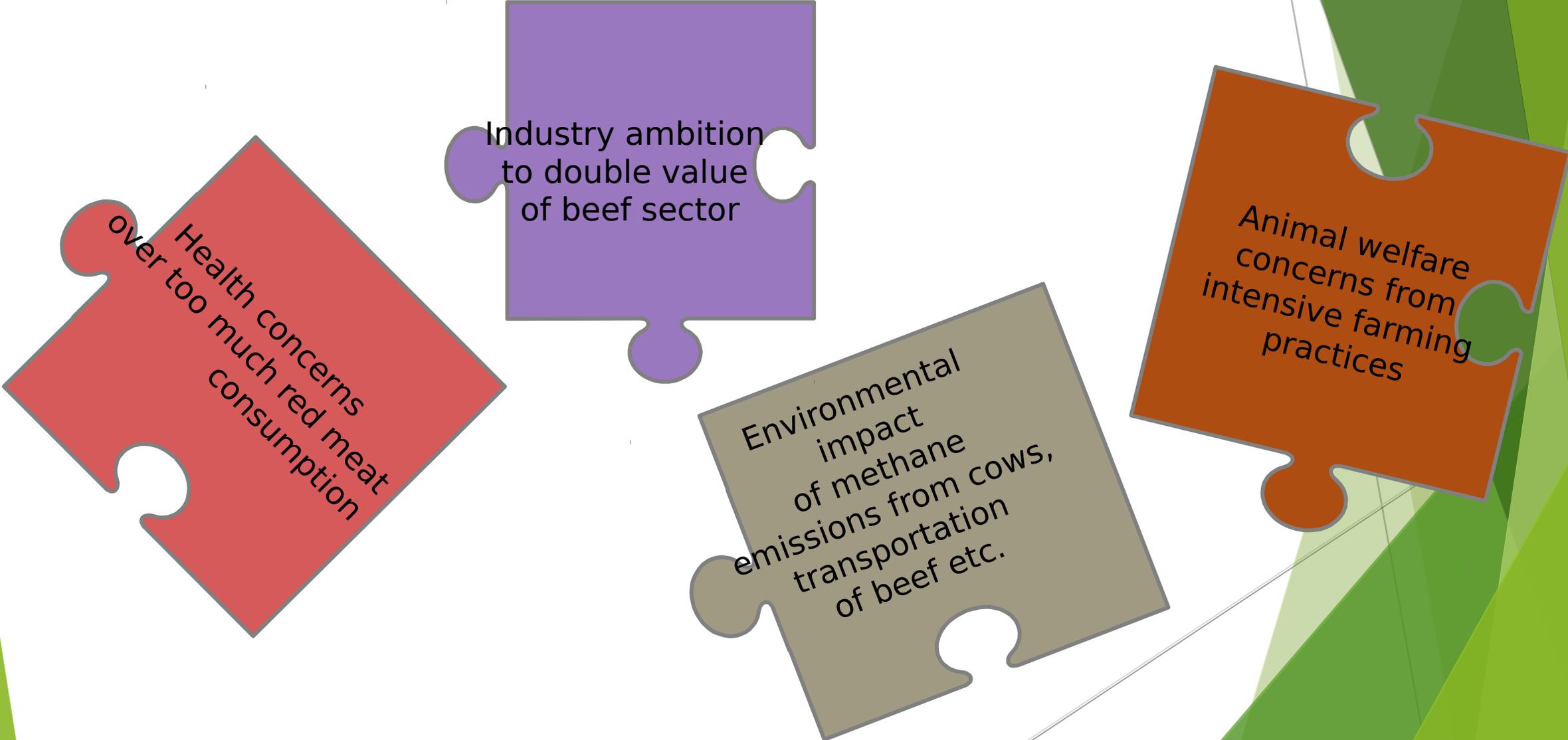
Poor  
Working  
Conditions

Climate  
Change

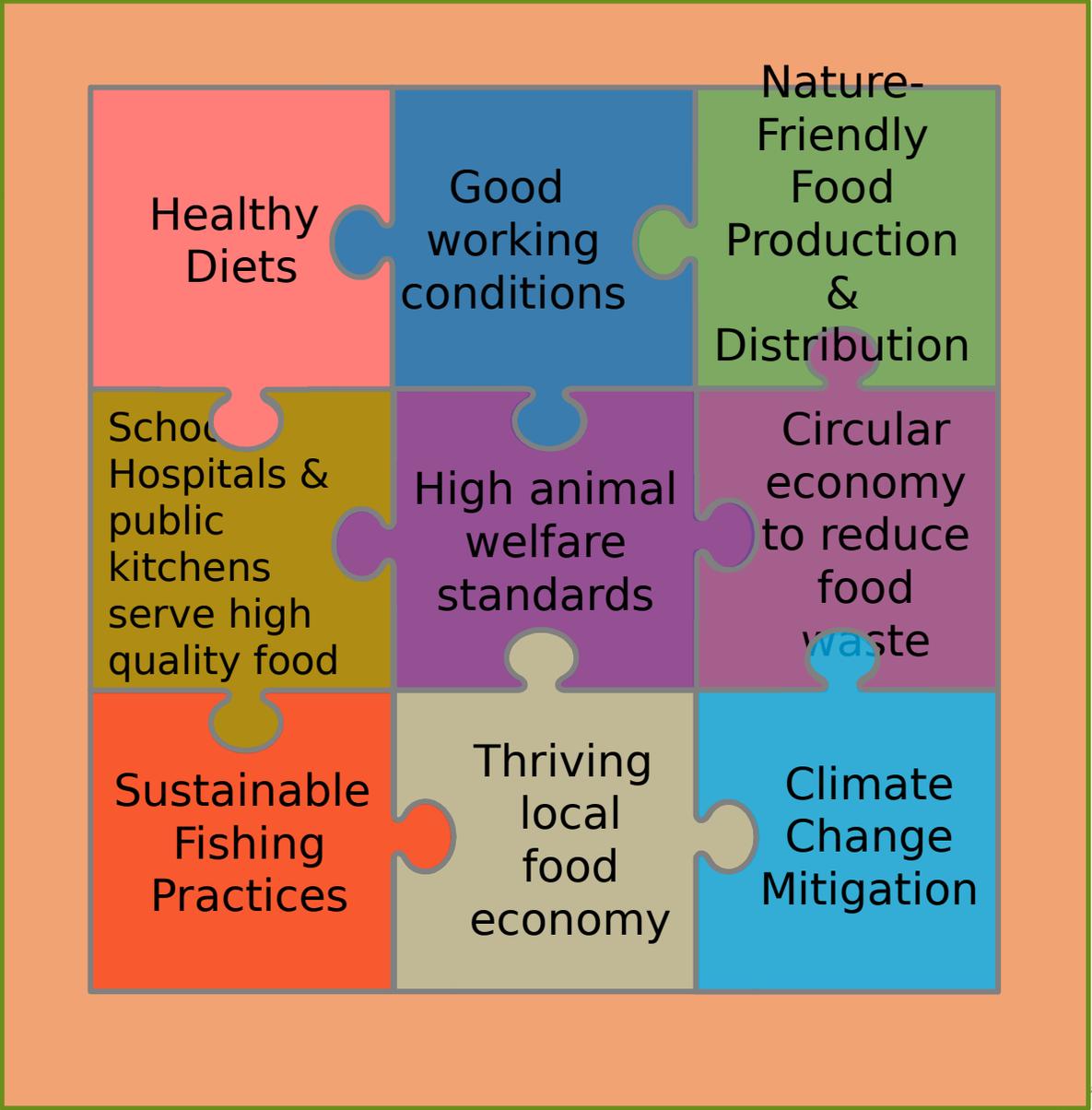
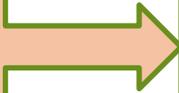
Poor animal  
welfare

Poor  
Educational  
Attainment

Food Policy is fragmented - with different Government departments creating separate strategies according to diverse policy goals



Good Food Nation Act



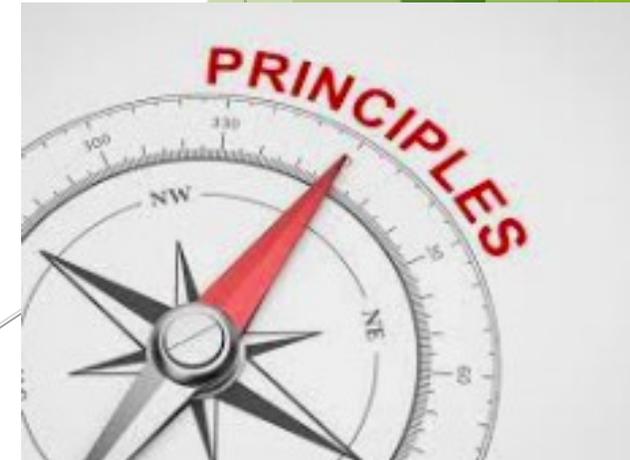
Our Asks	The final Act
<p>Cross-cutting National Food Plans: Scottish Ministers consult on and, across different sectors, collectively agree a plan for food, farming and fishing in Scotland. This will help to ensure effective action through strategic, joined-up policy making</p>	<p>National Good Food Nation plans will be written and implemented; these plans will be cross-cutting</p>
<p>Duties on Public Bodies: local authorities, health boards and other public bodies incorporate the priorities established in the National Good Food Plan into their strategic decision-making and service provision</p>	<p>Local authorities and health boards will write and implement their own good food nation plans</p>
<p>Independent Statutory Body: a Statutory Food Commission would provide expertise; scrutinise relevant policies; report on the state of the food system, and ensure coherence across Govt</p>	<p>An independent Food Commission will be established to "provide oversight and to help us to continue on the path of being a Good Food Nation"</p>
<p>Incorporate the right to food into Scots Law: to ensure these rights shape policy or practice, and can be enforced in Scotland</p>	<p>Ministers, Local Authorities and health boards have to have regard to the right to food in the preparation of their food plans</p>
<p>Sectoral Measures and Targets: legislation should include specific programmatic measures and targets to stimulate immediate action – e.g. halving childhood</p>	<p>Scottish Government have stated that targets or objectives will be set out in the plans, rather than the Act</p>

# Content of the Food Plans

1. Social and economic wellbeing
2. The environment, including in particular relation to –
  - a) Climate change
  - b) Wildlife and the natural environment
3. Health and physical and mental wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services)
4. Economic development
5. Animal welfare
6. Education
7. Child poverty

# Principles of the Food Plans:

- 1) **Each part** of food system / supply chain plays an important role in provision of food
- 2) Food system / supply chain plays role in
  - ▶ Mitigating climate change; Halting / reversing biodiversity loss; Improvement of animal welfare
- 3) Ability of high quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people
- 4) Adequate food is a human right and essential to the realisation of other rights
- 5) Importance of food business sector –
  - ▣ Continuing to to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy
  - ▣ Having resilient supply chains
  - ▣ Operating with fair work standards
  - ▣ Contributing to resilient local economies across Scotland



# Establishment of Food Commission

Chair + at least 2 but no more than 4 other members

Functions:

a) To keep under review:

- ▶ Progress in achieving the outcomes in the national and local food plans
- ▶ The effectiveness of those plans in addressing food-related issues

b) Advise, inform and assist the Ministers / Health boards / Local Authorities to

- ▶ Promote and support progress in achieving outcomes
- ▶ Improve the effectiveness of plans in addressing food-related issues

# Estimated timeline:

GFN Act has not been commenced yet

- ▶ End of 2022 / Early 2023 – draft food plan, co-produced with civil servants in food-related areas; informal consultation with 2-3 key stakeholders (like SFC)
- ▶ Early 2023 / Spring 2023 – Commencement for Act, and consultation for National Food Plan
- ▶ Spring 2024 – Lay National Food Plan before parliament. Food Commission comes into existence to coincide with publication of National Good Food Nation Plan

# Next steps

- ▶ Strengthening communication with civil servants
- ▶ Pushing for ambitious targets in Plans
- ▶ Local food plans and national food plans must be created in parallel, rather than a top-down approach
  - ▶ Building off of work / expertise exists in local authorities across Scotland
- ▶ Inclusive consultation - particularly with lived-experience of food system issues
- ▶ Food Commissioners will take a cross-cutting approach, rather than promoting their individual agendas



# Thank you!

Stephanie Mander

[stephanie@nourishscotland.org.uk](mailto:stephanie@nourishscotland.org.uk)

[www.foodcoalition.scot](http://www.foodcoalition.scot)