The Meal Standard

A new, fairer system of value. A proposal to explore, from The Perth Agreement

A new system of value and trade, measured in meals. One nutritious meal is one unit. The same for every person, everywhere.

You are not asked to wait for the old system to change. It is too slow, and it has not fed everyone. The Meal Standard is built from scratch, on a simple base: every person can count on at least one meal every day.

This is a proposal for you to explore, test and build. Nothing has been issued, and no one is selling anything.

The idea

- **One unit, one meal.** One unit equals one basic, nutritious meal where you live: rice and vegetables, or the local equivalent.
- **Fair everywhere.** A meal is a meal, in Perth or in Lagos. Value is measured in what feeds you, not in any one nation's money.
- **Equal from day one.** One unit per person per day, regardless of race, income, place or belief. Everyone starts with the same.
- **A long horizon.** The original proposal imagines 21 years: 7,665 meals per person.
- **Voluntary.** No nation or person is compelled to join.
- **Open records.** Every unit can be audited, without exposing anyone's personal data.

Clear starting rules

Earlier versions left two tensions open: whether units could be traded, and whether they could be saved forever. This version proposes clear rules to test:

- **Use, share or trade fairly.** You can eat your meal, give it, or exchange it. It is never used to profit from someone's hunger.
- **Saving has a limit.** Unused meals can be saved for a set period, then lapse. The total promised always stays known and real.
- **Value is a meal, not a price.** A unit always buys one local meal, wherever you are.

Better rules are welcome. That is what testing is for.

What backs it

A promise of a meal is only as strong as the food behind it. Food must be grown, cooked and delivered. So the system needs real backing: farmers, kitchens and vendors who accept the unit and are fairly rewarded for it.

The Meal Standard rests on shared agreement. Money is valuable because people agree it is. If enough people and communities agree that one meal is one unit, the system runs on that collective will, not on someone

paying for it upfront.

Bitcoin showed that a new form of value can arise when people choose to agree on it, without permission from the old system. The Meal Standard goes further. Each unit stands for something real that everyone needs: a meal. Its success depends on the will of the many.

The real food still has to be grown, cooked and shared. So the people who grow and cook it must be fairly rewarded within the system.

The scale it could one day carry is large. At A$4 a meal, one meal a day for everyone is about A$12 trillion of food a year. That is the size of the food the system would carry, not a bill someone must pay. It grows step by step: it starts small, with one local pilot, and scales as more food is backed.

How to grow it, step by step, is the central design question for you to work on.

What we would need to build

- **Trust.** A unit people believe in because it always turns into a meal.
- **Governance.** Open, accountable rules that no single person, company or nation controls.
- **Regulation.** Proper licensing before any unit is issued or traded. In Australia, ASIC treats many value-holding digital assets as financial products (INFO 225), and new licensing for digital asset platforms starts on 9 April 2027.[1]
- **Privacy.** No one hands over biometric or personal data to eat. Kenya's High Court ruled the Worldcoin project's iris collection unlawful.[2]
- **Protection from scams.** Lookalike "Perth Agreement" or "Meal Standard" tokens will appear. The Perth Agreement does not sell, issue or ask for money for any token.
- **Reach.** It works for people without phones, bank accounts or ID, and it lifts local farmers and vendors.

What already shows it can be done

Food assistance already reaches millions of people. The World Food Programme's Building Blocks system coordinates assistance on a private, permissioned blockchain, with no cryptocurrency.[3] Hunger is solvable: Ceres2030 estimated ending hunger needs about US$33 billion a year more.[4] The tools exist. What is missing is a fair standard.

Open questions

- The Meal Standard is the best idea I have so far. How would you improve it? If you have a better approach, put it forward.
- What would make it worth accepting for farmers, kitchens and local businesses?
- What rules for saving, sharing and trading would be fair to everyone?
- How do we protect people’s privacy, prevent scams and make it accessible to everyone?

Everyone starts with the same. What they do with it is up to them. Whether this can work is for you to test.

An easy next step

Choose one question and share your answer, even a short one, at circle.theperthagreement.com.

The custodian, The Perth Agreement

Perth, Western Australia

References

1. ASIC, INFO 225 Digital assets: Financial products and services (asic.gov.au); Corporations Amendment (Digital Assets Framework) Act 2026 (legislation.gov.au/C2026A00038). This paper is not legal advice.
2. High Court of Kenya (5 May 2025), [2025] KEHC 5629. kenyalaw.org
3. WFP Innovation, Building Blocks. innovation.wfp.org/project/building-blocks
4. Ceres2030 / IISD (2020). iisd.org/publications/ending-hunger-cost