

# WA FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND



WEST AUSTRALIAN  
FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

The West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) has teamed with the AFL to launch the new WA Football Facilities Fund, to create safer and more inclusive spaces for community sport venues where football is played. From elite to local grassroots venues, the fund will enhance facilities for all ages and all abilities.

The WAFC considers unisex amenities (change room and umpires rooms), improved lighting and playing surface upgrades as high strategic priorities to accommodate the exponential growth and changing landscape of participation in sport. This priority is highlighted across our strategic documents including the *All Abilities & Inclusion Strategy*, the *Women's Footy Vision Strategy 2021-2030*, and the *WAFC Facilities Strategy 2020-2030*.

According to the AFL Infrastructure Plan Towards 2030, the AFL recognises that partnering with government, not only with major projects but also at a grassroots level is critical to ensuring our facilities provide the basic requirement for modern day participants. As such, all applications to this fund must be discussed with the relevant Local Government Authority prior to application.



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# 1. ABOUT THE WA FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND

## 1.1 What is the WA Football Facilities Fund?

The **WA Football Facilities Fund** provides funding to assist local governments, grassroots community Australian Rules football clubs and umpiring organisations to develop AFL facilities across Western Australia.

The aim of the program is to:

- Maximise available carrying capacity of existing venues and the quality/functionality of supporting infrastructure.
- Develop increased supply through construction of new ovals, especially in growing communities, in a variety of traditional or innovative settings.
- Provide inclusive and accessible facilities that cater for the diversity of participants, particularly all genders and all-ability participants, that wish to participate in our game.
- Develop venues to support the elite game and the sport's complete talent pathway, umpiring, staff, landmark heritage sites and people working and volunteering within the game.
- Enable planning and project partnerships to form with a range of government and non-government bodies to result in an improved quantity, quality, and welcoming venue network for Australian football.

## 1.2 Objectives of this fund

The AFL's commitment is part of the 2021 AFL Grand Final Legacy and the increasing proactivity within the WAFC. The AFL, through the Australian Football Facilities Fund, has committed to matching the WAFC's investment to improve the experience of participants who play AFL across Western Australia.

Our aim for football facilities across the nation is to enable the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support our growing game's strategic priorities.

Key priorities:

1. Building the capacity and sustainability of community football.
2. Enhancing elite, state league and talent infrastructure.
3. Driving innovation and growth to enable us to help create the additional grounds needed in coming years.

## 2. WHO CAN APPLY?

Clubs who are affiliated and play in WAFC affiliated competitions, local governments and umpire associations can apply for funding. Eligible organisations are referred to throughout the guidelines as Applicants.

It is important to engage with WAFC in the development of your project to determine how your proposal aligns with the level of the club, standard of facility and **WAFC's Strategic Facilities Plan 2020 – 2030**.

The **WA Football Commission's Facilities Fund Steering Committee** will assess received applications that meet the eligibility criteria in section 3.

Applications will be used to build on a pipeline of priority projects over the term of the Program. It is anticipated funding applicants will secure additional funding through other grant programs or independent fundraising activities to support the delivery of their projects. Clubs remain eligible to apply for other WA Government grants to support project delivery.

If clubs are applying directly for funding, they are encouraged to work with their local government or educational institution regarding their project and submit a letter of support as part of the Expression of Interest. For further information and to apply, contact WAFC Manager Facilities and Government Relations Steven Rose on [srose@wafc.com.au](mailto:srose@wafc.com.au).



## 3. WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE FUNDED?

The **WA Football Facilities Fund** will provide funding to applicants that support the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit for purpose football facilities that support our game's growing participation base.

**Proposals should demonstrate how the projects will achieve some or all the following strategic priorities:**

- an increase or maintenance in participation
- encouragement of participation by all genders, all ability participants, juniors, people living in growth areas and communities experiencing disadvantage
- Improved privacy and safety for all participants
- an improvement in the health and wellbeing of the community
- assistance with the development of site master plans or facility development plans
- development of multi-use, shared and co-located facilities
- implementation of Environmentally Sustainable Design which applies or demonstrates principles of Universal Design
- delivery of new facilities on school sites.

**Examples of potential projects include but are not limited to:**

- modification of existing football facilities to improve usage and access such as all genders change room facilities and amenities for players and umpires
- development or upgrading of a field of play for purposes of football
- development or upgrading of sports lighting to improve football participation and club sustainability.

**Other considerations:**

- Applicants must make timely contact with WAFC representatives to discuss project ideas, seek their input into the planning and design of facilities and participation/programming initiatives.
- projects must adhere to the ***AFL's Preferred Facilities Guidelines***
- Applicants are encouraged to explore funding models that demonstrate stakeholder engagement and commitment to the project
- Applicants are encouraged to explore funding and commercial models which demonstrate club sustainability. For example- provide proof of sponsorship for scoreboard
- Projects planned in functional, self-contained stages are eligible
- projects on school land are eligible subject to a completed Community Joint Use Proposal
- Applicants wanting to undertake detailed Design and Construct projects are eligible but will need to demonstrate appropriate levels of planning and are still required to submit schematic designs and costings with full application
- Applicants wanting to undertake Prefabricated Design and Construct projects are eligible. However, local governments are required to submit a detailed area schedule for prefabricated/modular construction projects rather than schematic plans (although plans can be submitted if available).
- Applicants must demonstrate current right to occupy/lease arrangements for a minimum of three years from 1 July 2022 (if arrangements are for less than three years, right to occupy/lease renewal confirmation must indicate a minimum three-year commitment to use the land for sport/recreation activities)
- Applicants must demonstrate landowner's permission to undertake the proposed project (unless the applicant owns the land).

### 3.1 What will not be funded?

#### Project Types

- projects that do not align with objectives of the program
- the purchase of land (in general, the land on which the facility development is proposed will be municipal property, a Crown reserve, land owned by a public authority, or land held for public purposes by trustees)
- Requests for retrospective funding without sufficient prior engagement and approval by the WAFC
- requests for ongoing operational costs such as, but not limited to, salaries, electricity, water, asset maintenance and other utilities
- upgrading or redeveloping kitchen or public toilet facilities, except as part of a larger project that meets the objectives of the funding program - unless proof of club sustainability and increased club user access is provided in writing.
- routine or cyclical maintenance works
- purchasing or maintaining recreation, entertainment, sporting, lifesaving, or any other equipment (except as part of facility fit out)
- purchasing of scoreboards or fencing, except as part of a larger project that meets the objectives of the funding program
- projects that do not meet relevant Australian standards (e.g. lighting projects) and do not closely adhere to **AFL's Preferred Facilities Guidelines**
- repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the damage can be fully covered by insurance
- facilities where little or no public access is available

**NB: The Steering Committee reserves the right to approve funding to any project it deems to be a benefit to Australian Rules Football**

#### Financial Management

- projects where contributions from funding partners are not confirmed in writing or underwritten by local government





## 4. PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

To strengthen the potential outcomes from the Fund for communities, applicants are required to engage with the WAFC as early as possible to develop proposals that strongly align with the key objectives.

All project applications will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria. Clubs will be required to secure the support of their local government / landowner and seek additional funding through a range of grants to secure full funding if required.

## 5. WHAT ARE THE FUNDING DETAILS?

The level of funding for each project is at the complete discretion of the Steering Committee and in exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to providing funding above these thresholds where there is a clear and demonstrated need. Applicants will need to demonstrate other funding sources to assist with the delivery of the project if required.

## 6. HOW TO APPLY?

The **WA Football Commission's Facilities Steering Committee** will assess projects in a two phased approach.

### 6.1. Phase One: Expressions of Interest

All applicants are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest via the SmartyGrants portal.

This process asks for a range of information relating to your initial concept, including applicant details, project need, funding request and documentation such as funding approvals, scope of works, designs, and full building plans.

To Apply, go to the WAFC website or contact the Manager Facilities and Government Relations.

Make sure you have the information you need to apply on hand, including required documents, and click on 'Apply online' to submit your Expression of Interest through SmartyGrants. You will receive an Application Number when you submit an Expression of Interest.

The Steering Committee will meet on a quarterly basis to assess these requests.

### 6.2. Phase Two: Full Application

Once the Steering Committee have assessed your application, a WAFC representative will be in touch to advise the outcome of your application.

Should your project align with the fund's objectives and **WAFC Strategic Facilities Plan 2020 – 2030** you will be resent your EOI application via SmartyGrants to develop it into a full application and address the Assessment Criteria below.



# 7. HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE ASSESSED?

Full Applications will be assessed by the **WA Football Commission's Facilities Steering Committee** and will be scored against the Assessment Criteria below.

Applicants must provide all the relevant supporting documentation to be considered for grant funding.

## 7.1 Assessment Criteria

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### Project Development

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30%

- Clearly identify the project scope, methodology and how proposed outcomes will be completed within a prescribed timeframe.
- Include site specific schematic plans
- Evidence land tenure & landowner's permission
- Include evidence of project costing, quotations/internal cost estimates
- Include confirmation of funding sources and contributions (both financial and in-kind) with evidence detailing level and type of in-kind contribution provided.
- Quotes, cost estimates or Quantity Surveyor estimates required to undertake the project

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### Strategic Justification

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20%

- Why is this project required? Describe how it responds to identified community needs, issues and addresses a gap in local facilities.
- Provide evidence of how the project is strategically supported by local or regional planning or the **WAFC Strategic Facilities Plan 2020 – 2030**.

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### Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

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10%

- What are the outcomes of the consultation undertaken with project stakeholders including WAFC, Sport and Recreation, local governments/clubs and/or community groups?
- Will the project be managed by an appropriately qualified team?

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### Participation Outcomes

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40%

- Describe how the project improves (or sustains) participation in Western Australian football. As a result of the project, what will be the additional participation and programming outcomes? Provide support letters that clearly state how each partner will benefit from the project.
  - How does the project encourage the broadest possible community participation in football, social connection and health and wellbeing?
  - Describe how the project considers multi-use and improves the quality and range of football opportunities.
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## 7.2 Information to provide as part of your application

- Detailed area schedule for prefabricated/modular construction projects rather than schematic plans (although plans can be submitted if available)
- Shower retrofitting projects are to include details of changing area space with number of current changing, shower and toilet facilities. Specify if showers are open.
- Lighting Plans, if applicable, including lux charts that are site specific (for projects incorporating lighting)
- Quotes and/or internal cost estimates
- Quantity survey, tender price or independent qualified expert report for projects with total project value over \$500,000 (excluding GST)
- Evidence of confirmation of funding sources if required (e.g. local government report confirming contribution, letter from local government CEO or club bank statements)
- Letters of support from organisations that clearly indicate how the group will either support or benefit from the project (as described in the 'What' section of the assessment criteria)
- Project Management Framework
- Relevant sections of local government reports/plans/strategies/community consultation to support the project (please do not attach entire documents).
- Technical and/or Access Audits (where available).
- For those projects located on school land, a completed Joint User Agreement is required
- landowner documentation required to demonstrate land tenure is a current title search that details the relevant land tenure and the owner(s) or controller(s) of the land.
- If the applicant is not the landowner, a copy of an occupancy arrangement with the owner/controller of the land is required. There are a range of agreement types, but the most common types are either a lease agreement or a permit/right to occupy the land. The occupancy arrangement must be for a minimum of three years with a commitment to use the land for sport and recreation activities. Should the occupancy agreement expire within the three-year minimum timeframe, then an additional letter from the landowner is required stating a commitment to renew the occupancy agreement.



## 8. CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement with the WAFC that will detail funding obligations and conditions, including future tenancy arrangements. Funding Agreements establish the parties and outline their commitments and obligations to each other, as well as setting out the general funding terms and conditions.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with the WAFC and the relevant Local Government and/or football club prior to preparing their submission.

### 8.1 Acknowledging the AFL and WAFC's support and promoting success

Successful applicants need to acknowledge the support of the AFL and WAFC to assist the delivery of the Project through the fund by logo presentation on any activity-related publications, media releases, promotional material, and placement of a permanent AFL/WAFC endorsed sign/plaque at the site during construction and upon completion of the project.

The Western Australian Minister for Sport is to be given the opportunity to participate in any formal activity associated with the progress or completion of a project including an official opening or launch. A sufficient notice period of four – eight weeks should be provided to the WAFC to allow for WA Government and AFL representation.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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