APPLICATION FORM

An application for AFFF funding must include a completed application form. The application process is set out below. Use the Checklist to help assess whether your application meets the AFFF funding criteria. Once completed, send the form to the AFFF Secretary, secretary@afff.com.au.

| **AFFF Checklist** | **Yes** | **No***.* | **Unsure** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AFFF Application |  |  |  |
| Supporting Documentation |  |  |  |
| Prospects of Success Advice – Legal cases only |  |  |  |
| Issue of importance to the rural community |  |  |  |
| Likely to establish a national or other significant precedent (if legal case) |  |  |  |
| In the interests of Australian agriculture |  |  |  |
| Affects economic wellbeing of applicant / farming community  |  |  |  |
| Affects the environment  |  |  |  |
| Affects social wellbeing of applicant and neighbouring communities |  |  |  |
| Success will create financial benefits for the agricultural community |  |  |  |
| Business plan for social or agricultural community benefit |  |  |  |
| Funds requested |  |  |  |

**Who is eligible for AFFF funding?**

To qualify for funding from the AFFF, applicants must be associated with the NFF in some way, either as the NFF itself, or a member of one of the NFF’s members, or an AFFF Trustee. A full list of NFF members is available on their website: www.nff.org.au.

The AFFF exists to support Australian farmers in times of need, by providing the resources to do what farm representative bodies cannot: funding significant legal cases, or securing expert advice, on matters of importance to the broader farming community. The AFFF gives priority to legal cases of national or regional significance, and preferably in the higher Courts. The AFFF will generally not fund exploratory legal advice, or proceedings that do not have reasonable prospects of success.

If the AFFF agrees to fund a legal case which is ultimately unsuccessful, the applicant or the party to legal proceedings (not the AFFF) is responsible for any orders to pay the other party’s costs. For this reason, it is important to seek advice at an early stage about the likely prospects of success.

Applications for funding are submitted through the NFF, an NFF member or an AFFF Trustee. Once this happens, applications are reviewed by an NFF subcommittee and then submitted to the NFF Members’ Council with a recommendation on whether funding should be sought from the AFFF.

When considering whether the application should be funded, the following criteria will be applied:

1. Whether the issue is important to rural, regional and remote Australia;
2. Whether the issue is in the interests of Australian agriculture;
3. If it is a legal case, whether successful pursuit of the case will result in national precedent;
4. Whether the case affects the economic wellbeing of the applicant or the farming community;
5. Whether the case affects the environment in which farmers operate;
6. Whether the case affects the social wellbeing of the applicant and neighbouring communities;
7. Whether success will improve the financial position of Australian farmers.

The NFF Members’ Council considers applications and approves their referral to the AFFF. If an application is made, but not enough information is provided in support of the application, the AFFF Secretary will contact the application to seek any further information required before it is submitted to the NFF Members’ Council.

Once received, the AFFF Trustees will consider the application and will decide either to approve or reject the application, or to approve the application in principle pending further steps, advice or information.

Once applications are approved in principle, the AFFF may seek independent legal advice before making a final decision.

For matters where the AFFF approves funding, applicants will be asked to sign a financial assistance agreement setting out the terms on which funding is provided. No funding will be provided until a financial assistance agreement has been reached. All matters are overseen by the AFFF Secretary.

**Application details**

1. Name of applicant (NFF, NFF member, NFF committee, AFFF Trustee)

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1. If the applicant is a member of an NFF member, date they joined the organisation.

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1. Description of matter (eg case name or name of research proposal)

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1. Current status of application (eg level of court etc)

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1. Brief factual outline of application (full description should be an attachment), addressing the following matters:
	1. Whether the issue is important to rural, regional and remote Australia;
	2. Whether the issue is in the interests of Australian agriculture;
	3. If a legal case, whether it could set a national or other significant precedent;
	4. Effect on the environment, the social or economic wellbeing of the applicant or the farming community;
	5. Other benefits for the farm community of pursuing the matter.

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1. What resources have been invested in the case to date? Include contributions from the applicant and/or their networks, as well as any pro-bono or in kind support.

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1. Is a third party helping with your case (eg law firm, consultant, friend)? Please provide details (name, area of expertise, services or other help being provided) and attach relevant documents, including any legal costs agreements and copies of any advice, reports etc.

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1. Are any third parties providing financial support for your case? If so what is the value of this assistance?

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1. How much money are you seeking from the AFFF? Please include a full breakdown of costs and outline any efforts made to keep costs to a minimum.

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1. Is the application urgent? Please explain any important timing issues that affect your case (for example, an appeal must be lodged within 2 months from X date).

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1. Is there anything else that the AFFF Trustees should know?

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**Signed on behalf of the applicant:**

Signature: ………………………………..

Print Name: ………………………………..

Position: ………………………………..

Date: ………………………………..

**List of attachments**

1. ……………………………………………………………………………………………….
2. ……………………………………………………………………………………………….
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NFF Referral — Case Checklist

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| --- | --- |
| **Applicant:** |  |
| **Case name:** |  |
| **NFF Referral Member:** |  |
| **Date referred from NFF Member:** |  |
| **Date Applicant joined Member** |  |
| **Checklist Completed by** |  |

| **AFFF Checklist** | **Yes** | **No***.* | **Unsure** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AFFF Application |  |  |  |  |
| Supporting Documentation |  |  |  |  |
| Possibility of Success Opinion |  |  |  |  |
| National or significant precedent  |  |  |  |  |
| Rural or Regional Significant Issue |  |  |  |  |
| In the interests of Australian agriculture |  |  |  |  |
| Affects economic wellbeing of applicant  |  |  |  |  |
| Affects the environment  |  |  |  |  |
| Affects social wellbeing of applicant and neighbouring communities |  |  |  |  |
| Success will create financial benefits for the agricultural community |  |  |  |  |
| Business plan for social or agricultural community benefit |  |  |  |  |
| Funds requested |  |  |  |  |
| General Comments |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **NFF Recommendation**  |  |
| **Date** |  |