



# AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund

2021 – 2024



Queensland  
Government

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# 1. About the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund

## 1.1 What is the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund?

The AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund provides funding to assist local governments, grassroots community Australian football clubs, umpiring organisations and schools to develop AFL facilities across Queensland.

The aim of the program is to:

- Maximise available carrying capacity of existing venues and the quality/functionality of field of play 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 female 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 Queensland Government's commitment is part of the 2020 AFL Grand Final Legacy that saw the majority of AFL games held in Queensland as a result of the impact of COVID-19 across Australia.

The AFL, through the Australian Football Facilities Fund, has committed to matching this Government investment to improve the experience of participants who play AFL across Queensland.

Improving football and active spaces is a key priority of the Queensland Government to get Queenslanders healthy and active by applying social infrastructure best-practice planning and design principles in the development of sport and recreation places and spaces, through an integrated approach.

## 2. Who can apply?

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

It is important to engage with AFL Queensland in the development of your project to determine how your proposal aligns with the level of the club, standard of facility and **AFL Queensland's Facilities Plan 2020 – 2025**.

The AFL will form a steering committee to assess received applications that meet the eligibility criteria in section 3.

Applications will be used to develop a pipeline of priority projects over the term of the Program through until 2024. 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 Queensland 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.



# 3. What types of activities might be funded?

The AFL Queensland Grand Final 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 females, juniors, people living in growth areas and communities experiencing disadvantage
- 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 not limited to:

- modification of existing football facilities to improve usage and access such as unisex 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:

- local governments must make timely contact with AFL Queensland representatives to discuss project ideas, seek their input into the planning and design of facilities and participation/programming initiatives.
- projects must meet the AFL's Preferred Facilities Guidelines
- Applicants are encouraged to explore funding models that demonstrate stakeholder engagement and commitment to the project
- facilities planned in functional, self-contained stages are eligible

- projects on school land are eligible subject to a completed Community Joint Use Proposal
- local governments 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
- local governments 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).
- community football clubs must demonstrate current right to occupy/ lease arrangements for a minimum of three years from 1 July 2021 (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)
- community football clubs must demonstrate landowner's permission to undertake the proposed project



## 3.1 What will not be funded?

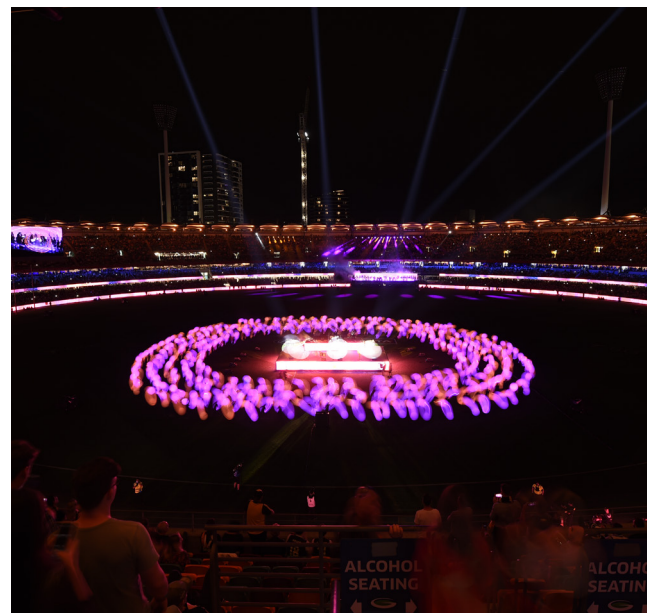
The AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund will not fund the following activities:

### 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, where projects have commenced construction or are completed prior to the execution of a funding agreement (construction includes, but is not limited to, site clearing, earthworks, building works and any form of early works)
- 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
- 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, coaches boxes 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 **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

### 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 AFL Queensland 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.



## 5. What are the funding details?

Generally, the amount requested from this fund would not exceed **10%** of the anticipated total project cost, with a maximum grant of **\$100,000** (excl. GST) for club applications/projects.

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 demonstratable need.

Applicants will need to demonstrate other funding sources to assist with the delivery of the project if required.



# 6. How to Apply?

There are some important steps to consider before submitting an Expression of Interest.

The AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund will assess projects in a two phased approach.

## 6.1. Phase One: Expressions of Interest

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.

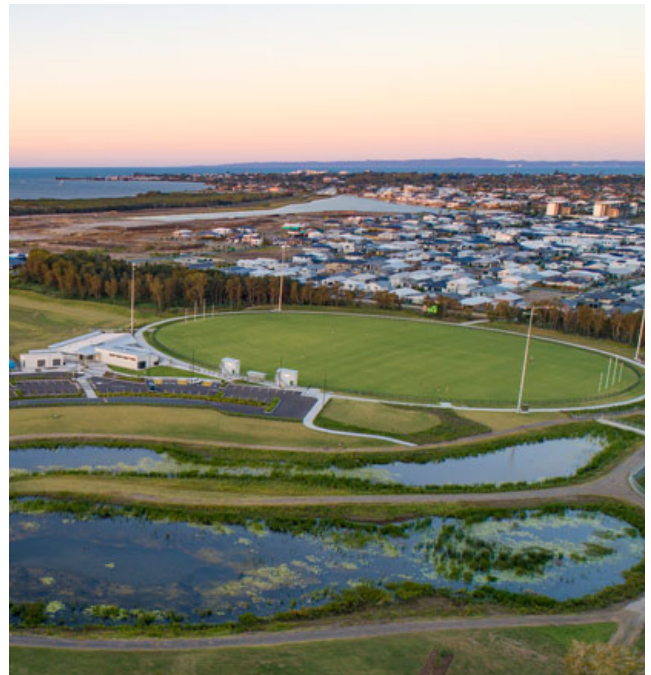
To apply, go to [https://aflqld.smartygrants.com.au/AFLQ\\_GFFF](https://aflqld.smartygrants.com.au/AFLQ_GFFF)

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.

## 6.2. Phase Two: Full Application

Once the Steering Committee have assessed your application, an AFL Queensland representative will be in touch to advise the outcome of your application.

Should your project align with the funds objectives and **AFL Queensland Facilities Plan 2020 – 2025** 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 AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund Steering Committee and will be scored against the Assessment Criteria below.

Applicants must provide all the relevant supporting documentation to secure grant funding.

## 7.1 Assessment Criteria

30%

### Project Development

- 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

10%

### Strategic Justification

- 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 **AFL Queensland Facilities Plan 2020 – 2025**.

20%

### Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

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

40%

### Participation Outcomes

- Describe how the project improves (or sustains) participation in Queensland 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.

## 7.2 Information you will need to provide as part of your application

Please submit the following mandatory documentation with your application.

### All applications

- Detailed area schedule for prefabricated/modular construction projects rather than schematic plans (although plans can be submitted if available)
- Lighting Plans 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 only over \$500,000 (excluding GST)
- Evidence of confirmation of funding sources (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 AFL Queensland 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 AFL Queensland and the relevant Local Government Authority and/or football club prior to preparing their submission.

### 8.1 Acknowledging the Queensland Government's support and promoting success

Successful applicants need to acknowledge the support of the Queensland Government and AFL 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 Government/AFL endorsed sign/plaque at the site during construction and upon completion of the project. The Queensland Government 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 AFL Queensland to allow for Government and AFL representation.

#### For further information:

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