

## **Q&As**

### **Q. How were the eight licences determined?**

A. An Assessment Panel, comprised of an independent chair, subject matter experts and FFV staff was appointed by the FFV Board. The Panel reviewed all applications and made recommendations to the FFV Board. The FFV Board accepted the Panel's recommendations.

### **Q. What consultation was undertaken?**

The WNPL consultation process leading up to and including the application window was extensive, transparent and inclusive. It included open forums, 'question and answer' sessions, working groups and ongoing access to and discussion with FFV staff. Consultation involved all stakeholders from the women's game in Victoria including clubs, officials, players, industry experts and the women and junior standing committees.

### **Q. Was help offered to and/or provided to clubs?**

Yes, clubs had access to FFV staff right up until applications closed. They were free to raise any issues and were encouraged to speak to, write to and meet with relevant FFV staff members (as members of the Assessment Support Team) to clarify issues, answer questions and obtain information, as required. A number of clubs took up this opportunity and spoke with FFV, either by phone, email or in person, to discuss the application process and their applications.

### **Q. Why are there only eight licenses?**

A. In order to have a high quality and sustainable competition, the FFV Board determined that WNPL should start with eight clubs. This position was made clear to clubs well before the application period opened and was widely supported by stakeholders throughout the consultation process.

The FFV is prepared to offer additional licences in the future, the timing for which will depend on applicant clubs meeting criteria set by the FFV, requisite player talent existing and player numbers being at a level to support any expansion.

### **Q. Why didn't X club get a license?**

A. The top eight applications were awarded licences.

All 22 applications were assessed against an extensive FFV Board approved assessment criteria. This was a highly competitive application process, with almost threefold over subscription of applications.

### **Q. Will there be other opportunities for clubs to apply?**

- A. Yes, there will be opportunities for additional clubs to apply in the future provided the awarding of additional licences is considered in the best interests of both the WNPL competition and community football competitions.

This will depend on applicant clubs meeting criteria set by the FFV, requisite player talent existing and player numbers being at a level to support any expansion.

### **Q. Do clubs receive feedback on their application?**

A. Yes, unsuccessful applicants have the option of requesting feedback in relation to their Applications.

**Q. The Assessment Panel did not interview anyone. Were interviews required?**

A. The Panel was comfortable with the information provided as part of the application process, and as such had no reason for additional clarification through an interview process.

In addition, there were no ties following the review and scoring process, tied scores being the specific outcome which provided for the Panel to interview Applicants if required.

**Q. Why did three of the top four teams on the current WPL ladder miss out?**

A. The top eight applications were awarded licences.

If an Applicant missed out on a participation licence offer it is because, when reviewed and scored against all Assessment Criteria, it did not rank in the top eight. The current position or success of an Applicant club's senior women's team was taken into consideration when assessing an applicant's 'Track Record in Women and Girls Football' as part of the review and scoring process.

**Q. What happens to players and coaches whose clubs have missed out?**

A. The aim of the WNPL is to establish clubs and teams representing women's football at the highest level – which is the main reason licences have been initially limited to eight. It is envisaged that WNPL clubs will be the preferred destination for not just the best players, but many of the best coaches, as has been the experience with men's NPL in Victoria.

**Q. What is the FFV's position for NTC participation in the WNPL?**

A. Eventually the NTC squads will be phased out and replaced by both WNPL and National Development Centre Squads in accordance with the Whole of Football Plan. We will look at the opportunity for Victorian NTC teams (Under 15s and Under 17s) to participate in Under 18 and Senior Women's competitions respectively in 2016.