



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: Inc 1200398

www.napfa.net

secretary@napfa.net

PO Box 4529

Dubbo NSW 2830

“Fights for fairer access to land in NSW and represents the interests of prospectors and fossickers”

NAPFA Policy for members impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires and the COVID-19 virus.

Introduction

NAPFA provides a service to the Prospectors and Fossickers of NSW and the ACT and represents them and their interests as a peak body at various levels.

The contribution by the associations members is essential to the running of, and effectiveness of the association. Maintaining membership levels is critical to the function of NAPFA.

The NAPFA committee has investigated the impacts that the 2019/20 bushfire disaster and the COVID-19 virus may have on our members and potentially their ability to pay their NAPFA membership fees.

The committee has determined the following:

- 45% of NAPFA members in 4 states live in postcodes deemed to have had a significant impact as per the Australian Tax Offices bushfire impacted regions.
- 27% of NAPFA members are at high risk of job loss due to COVID.
- 15% of NAPFA members are both bush fire affected and have high risk of job loss due to COVID.
- 57% of NAPFA members are either bush fire affected or have a high risk of job loss due to COVID.
- Of all our members 73% are either bush fire affected or have at least a medium risk of job loss due to COVID with 51% of these in the country.

The committee has concluded that these events will have a major widescale negative impact on our members, and potentially severe consequences to the association.

Objectives

This policy is to provide opportunities for the NAPFA committee to maintain NAPFA membership levels, and to support members and their communities in times of this widescale hardship.

To support members the policy allows the committee to award an Annual Honorary Membership for the 2020 year to members severely affected by these disasters, where payment of the annual membership fee is not required.

Granting of honorary memberships by NAPFA's elected committee is permitted in NAPFA's constitution Sec 3 (5) which states: *“The committee may grant honorary memberships in which case nomination and payment of annual fee would not be required.”*

To support members communities severely affected by bushfires, the policy allows the committee to award an Annual Honorary Membership for the 2020 year to members not directly impacted, where payment of the annual membership fee is not required and is donated by members into their local community.

The policy is supported by the objects of the Association that define what the association stands for, its prime purpose, and how it will act to achieve its aims. The NAPFA constitution Part 1 - Preliminary 1. Definitions (4): The objects of the Association are: Part (c) *“To obtain better conditions generally to stimulate and encourage prospecting and fossicking.”*

The policy considers that a donation to members communities is supported by Goal number five in NAPFA’s Mission Statement which is: *“5. To promote the image of prospecting and fossicking in NSW & the ACT.”*

This policy is intended to be implemented in addition to the NAPFA Policy for Awarding Honorary Memberships and follow it except where defined below.

Categories of NAPFA Honorary Memberships

Annual Honorary Memberships awarded under this policy:

- (a) Shall have a term of 1 membership year as per Part 2 NAPFA constitution;
- (b) Are for members who meet the criteria below;
- (c) Are for all membership categories, and in the case of family memberships all family members;
- (d) Are to be awarded from when the committee accepts an application; and
- (e) Automatically cease at the end of the 2020 membership year.

Honorary Members are bound by the NAPFA constitution and have the rights of a normal member, except where nomination and payment of the annual fee is not required as per the NAPFA constitution Part 3(5).

Nominations

Nominations for Annual Honorary Memberships under this policy:

- (a) May be made by any member of the association;
- (b) Are to be seconded by the committee of the association;
- (c) Must be in writing addressed to the committee;
- (d) Must be on the form supplied by the committee;
- (e) Must demonstrate on the form as set out by the committee how the individual meets the criteria; and
- (f) Can only be for the 2020 year, and no other years can be nominated for, or paid for.

All nominations received are to be assessed by the committee as to the merits of any nomination using the criteria below. In its decision whether or not to award an honorary membership, the committee:

- (a) Has no set time frame to make a decision; and
- (b) May decide not to make an award for any reason whatsoever, even if all criteria are met;

All aspects of the committee’s decisions, discussion and research into a nomination is to be kept confidential, and details are only released if a nominee is given an award.

Criteria

The criteria used to nominate and award honorary memberships under this policy are set out below.

Eligibility to receive bushfire options are:

- (a) To have been a 2019 financial member of NAPFA;

- (b) To reside in a significant impact area as per the Australian tax Offices assessed bushfire impacted regions across all states; and
- (c) To have received a form from the committee stating eligibility;

Eligibility to receive the COVID-19 option are:

- (a) To have been a 2019 financial member of NAPFA; and
- (b) To have had or likely to have severe financial impact from loss of income due to COVID-19 issues (includes job loss, business loss, reduced hours and income, and includes retirees who have family or investment severely affected).

In addition, it is expected that members will have self-assessed the following to be eligible:

- (a) To pay their NAPFA membership fee would constitute a financial hardship at this time; and
- (b) In the case of donation to local community members fully intend to commit to this promise.

The nomination form must be complete in support of the nomination. The NAPFA committee must be satisfied that these are correct, and that the nominee meets the eligibility.

In consideration of making an award the committee will see that:

- (a) The nomination is genuine;
- (b) There are no negative issues involving the nominee; and
- (c) NAPFA members would support the award overwhelmingly.

Members who have already paid for the 2020 year are generally not eligible and cannot nominate for a refund of the 2020 year. However, upon enquiry and demonstration that they would have met the criteria can be given an application at the committee's discretion, and if assessed as eligible under this policy will see the committee grant an additional year on their membership where payment of the annual membership fee for this extra year is not required.

Making an Award

In the event of an award being made the Committee will:

- (a) Record the details in the NAPFA register of members and note the waiver of the membership fee for the awardee as per Part 3 (5) of the constitution;
- (b) Issue a notice to the member confirming the award and that the annual fee is not required;
- (c) Arrange for the 2020 membership card(s) and sticker to be posted to the member(s), and
- (d) Enter the members details into the annual membership draw.

Confidentiality.

NAPFA will not release details of individual members who have nominated for or are awarded Annual Honorary Memberships under this policy.

However, the committee may use details of the number of members who nominate for and are awarded Annual Honorary Memberships under this policy in general statistics for the benefit of the association.