



NFF Horticulture Council Chair

Position Description

About the NFF Horticulture Council

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) purpose is to lead Australian Agriculture. It plays a unique leadership role as the national representative body for Australian Farmers.

The NFF Horticulture Council is the preeminent forum for deliberating and influencing policy as it affects the national horticulture industry.

The Council has been established to benefit the horticulture industry and has substantially enhanced and supported policy efforts that have led to a more efficient, effective, cohesive horticulture policy and advocacy capability at the national level.

National Farmers Federation Horticulture Council Strategy	
Vision	A trusted and influential voice providing efficient, effective, cohesive national horticulture policy and advocacy capability.
Mission	Represent horticulture on industry wide issues to decision makers, to improve and protect producers' economic, social and environmental interests
Values	Act in interest of horticulture industry, collective accountability, respectful, courteous, collaborative and inclusive.

About the role

The Chair will be expected to work toward the vision and objectives of the Council as determined by its Strategic Plan, and the wider NFF, and in ways consistent with its mission and values.

The specific priorities for the Council and therefore its Chair will be identified through its strategic and operational plans, which are endorsed and reviewed regularly by the Council.

The Chair will have an initial term of three (3) years, concluding 30 June 2029, with the ability to extend for an additional three (3) year term, subject to the mutual agreement of the Council and the incumbent.

Duties and responsibilities

- The Chair will act in an independent manner – taking Council views into account and seeking the best public policy outcome for the Australian horticulture industry which is in the interest of Council members, collectively and individually.
- The Chair can use their discretion, to direct a subset of the Council be tasked to explore a specific issue in detail to provide the Council with the robust analysis to inform policy making.

- The Chair must ensure members treat one another with respect and courtesy. The Chair must facilitate a forum where member representatives can participate in discussions in an active and constructive manner.
- Council meetings must be chaired in a professional open manner and participants must not seek to intimidate or stifle discussion.
- The Chair should conduct meetings in a way that ensures members of the Council feel free to express views of the organisation they are representing – (not their own personal opinion) and engage in an open and objective discussion on policy issues.
 - There is a balanced opportunity for each member to ask questions, express ideas, and offer opinions.
- The Chair will ensure meetings, including teleconferences, are minuted.
 - Video and Tele-conferences will be recorded for minute taking purposes only in line with NFF policy.
- The Chair will be available to make public comment on issues and policy impacting the horticulture industry, including as part of proactive media releases and in response to requests from journalists.
- The Chair, together with the NFF CEO, will provide advice, guidance and direction to the Executive Officer in the execution of their responsibilities.
- The Chair, with the support of Council members, will ensure that an annual work plan is agreed and executed.
- The Chair will ensure that a report on Council activities, and its position with respect to policy positions are delivered at the NFF Members' Council.
- The Chair will be accountable to Council members and the NFF CEO.

Commitment

- The Chair is a flexible, part-time role with a commitment of time and attention driven primarily by Council meetings, and also the extent to which Council interests are part of public debate.
- Council meetings will take place at a minimum four times a year, with ad hoc meetings held as required. Face to face meetings will be held at least twice per year, unless specific need arises for more frequent meetings. Otherwise, meetings will be held via teleconference.
 - The Chair should endeavour to attend all meetings of the Council, and in-person for face-to-face meetings.
- The Chair should also attend other NFF events where possible on behalf of the Council, including the NFF AGM and Members' Council meetings.
- NFF will provide the Council and Chair with secretariat and administrative support.

Compensation

- The Chair will receive an annual bursary in recognition of the time and commitment required to fulfil the responsibilities of the role, intended as

an important gesture of appreciation and does not represent a salary or full remuneration for services provided. In addition, all travel and other costs associated with fulfilling duties of the role will be covered.

About you

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following qualities and characteristics:

- Experience in chairing governing or policy-setting bodies, creating space for productive, respectful, inclusive debate leading to outcomes that are mutually beneficial.
- Existing, or capacity to build new connections and networks among key stakeholders through which the mission and objectives of the Council can be pursued.
- Experience in publicly conveying, including with media, positions taken collectively by a governing or policy-setting bodies on potentially contentious matters.
- A demonstrable passion for Australian agriculture and food industries and an appreciation for their contribution to the economy, society and natural environment.

How to apply

Candidates are required to submit an application, including a short response to each of the four (4) qualities and characteristics of the successful candidate, through an online form, found here: [Application Form - Chair of the NFF Horticulture Council - 2026 – Fill out form](#).

Candidates are encouraged through the application to identify up to two (2) referees, able to comment on their claims against the selection criteria.

Applications close **5pm AEST Friday 22 May**.

For further information about the role or for a confidential discussion, please contact Jolyon Burnett, outgoing Chair of the Council at jolyon@ozemail.com.au or on 0416 224 935.