

# Embedding Sustainability in Asphalt Procurement

## 1.0 Background

The role of the bituminous product industry in promoting sustainability and reducing our environmental impacts has been advanced by the development of the principles for the AfPA Sustainability Framework for Asphalt (SF4A). The SF4A is a key pillar of a broader Sustainability Strategy that enables Road Authorities and other stakeholders to define best practice, quantify sustainability achievements, embed sustainability metrics into procurement, and reward the industry for continuous improvement initiatives and investment they undertake.

The AfPA Sustainability Framework for Asphalt has been developed through consultation across the industry and is now available for use by industry members and stakeholders. The framework is based on Circular Economy concepts, including life cycle thinking and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approaches, considers the UN Sustainability Development goals and recognises the role the industry plays in society's key waste reduction requirements.

The AfPA SF4A also permits individual members to assess their operations in terms of their sustainability across *Asphalt Production | Organisation | Project Delivery*

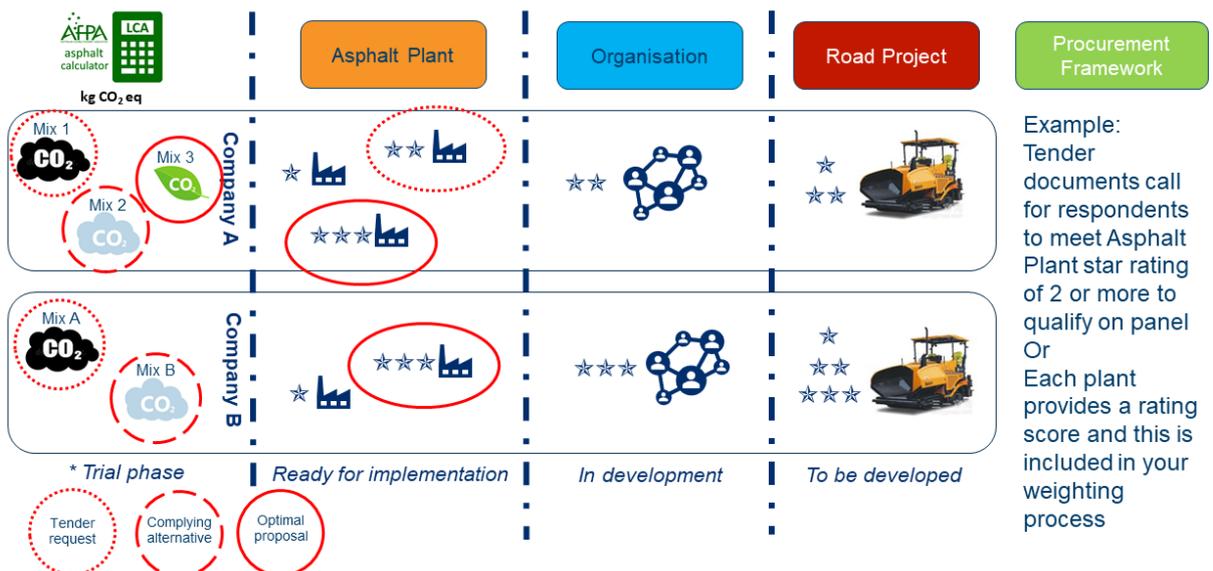
## 2.0 Objectives of the Framework

AfPA encourages procurement agencies to adopt the SF4A to set quantifiable metrics and benchmarks for the reduction in environmental impacts (e.g., greenhouse gases, energy, waste, etc.) associated with asphalt production and operations as part of their normal tendering processes.

The Framework for Asphalt has demonstrated that it is possible to assist procurers of asphalt solutions to select from organisations demonstrating sustainable production processes leading to reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and maximising the use of RAP and other secondary materials (i.e., suitable "waste" products such as glass cullet, crumb rubber, plastics).

It is envisaged that in adopting the framework, procurement agencies will be able to uniformly and transparently evaluate and select from suppliers who demonstrate a willingness to invest in their infrastructure and technology to deliver these services more efficiently and to reward where more sustainable options exist, such as incorporation of suitable 'waste' products within accepted solutions.

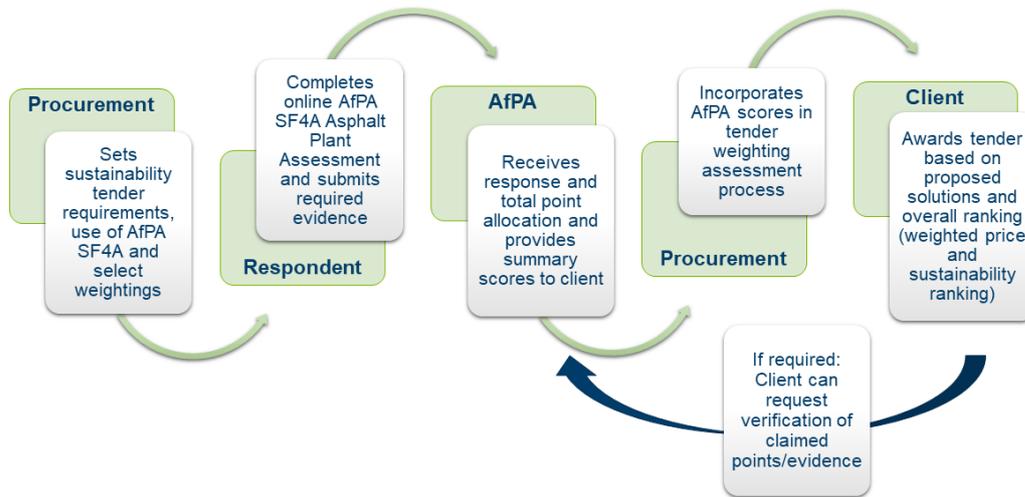
## 3.0 Conceptual procurement application



#### 4.0 What are the key details for the SF4A rating tools:

Item	Asphalt Plant	Organisation	Project
Developed and available to be used	Yes	Yes	No
Link to the online form	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	N/A
<b>Voluntary Assessment Process:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member elects to undertake an initial assessment of their operations.</li> <li>Member fills in online form and submits all required evidence for each indicator.</li> <li>AfPA administers submission and allocates to independent assessor to validate claimed levels for each category and indicators.</li> <li>Assessor undertakes a desktop audit and confirms validity of claimed scores and issues approval/recommendations to AfPA</li> <li>If approved by assessor, AfPA provides member with certification of the claimed sustainability levels and issues certificate with allocated star rating</li> <li>Member can use certification in marketing and promotional collateral to promote their operations to prospective clients</li> <li>Star rating system for marketing purposes yet to be determined and agreed upon</li> <li>AfPA could provide a summary report outlining possible areas for improvement in their operations for an additional fee – TBC.</li> </ul>	<b>Member</b> \$2.5K/plant*	<b>Member</b> \$2.5K/org*	<b>Member</b> TBA
	<b>Non-Member</b> \$5K/plant*	<b>Non-Member</b> \$5K/org*	<b>Non-Member</b> TBA
	*costs cover independent assessment and administration of certification		
<b>Voluntary re-assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same process as defined above for the initial assessment</li> <li>Changes made to initial assessment are verified and validated by independent assessor through desktop audit of changed indicator levels.</li> <li>Auditor advises of approval of claimed improvements to initial assessment</li> <li>Updated certification provided to member by AfPA with revised certificate and updated Star allocation (if this has occurred)</li> </ul>	<b>Member</b> Estimated between \$400 and \$1K*	<b>Member</b> Estimated between \$400 and \$1K*	<b>Member</b> TBA
	<b>Non-Member</b> Estimated between \$800 and \$2K*	<b>Non-Member</b> Estimated between \$800 and \$2K*	<b>Non-Member</b> TBA
	*depending on number of changes proposed to indicator levels from initial assessment		
<b>Voluntary assessment detailed on-site audit requirement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If assessor determines that a claimed level of achievement on any one or more indicator is not able to be verified by a desktop assessment or through further consultation/request for information with the member, then an onsite audit will need to be undertaken and agreed to with the member</li> </ul>	To be agreed with member	To be agreed with member	TBA
<b>Tender assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AfPA provides permission to client to use the AfPA SF4A framework in their tender process</li> <li>Refer to schematic below for complete process</li> <li>AfPA compares claimed points in tender submission matches voluntary assessment – this is the validation that the tenderer has not purported to do anything more than that which has been already validated by the independent assessor.</li> <li>AfPA validates that the correct weighting has been applied by all tenderers for all indicators</li> <li>AfPA generates summary report to issue to procurement for this to be used in their assessment processes – refer to example reports below.</li> <li>Benefit to members is that once they have undertaken the voluntary assessment, completion of assessments as part of a tender submission are the same, as the evidence required is already gathered and the process is consistent between tenders – this will streamline submission time requirements for each tender. Finally, with a consistent – where the intent is to harmonise nationally.</li> </ul>	<b>Member</b> \$150/ plant submission/ tender	<b>Member</b> \$150/ org submission/ tender	<b>Member</b> TBA
	<b>Non-Member</b> \$300/ plant submission/ tender	<b>Non-Member</b> \$300/ org submission/ tender	<b>Non-Member</b> TBA

## 5.0 Tender Assessment Process



## 6.0 Example Tender Summary Reports:

### 6.1 Organisation assessment

Submission Name	Organisation Name	Organisation office primarily delivering services for tender submissions	Total Points Achieved	Total Weighting Applied
City of XXX Tender	Respondent A	Suburb A	32	19
City of XXX Tender	Respondent B	Suburb B	30	19

### 6.2 Asphalt Plant assessment

Submission Name	Organisation Name	Plant Name	Plant Type	Plant Suburb/GPS Location	Total Points Achieved	Total ADDITIONAL Capacity Points Achieved	Total Weighting Applied
City of XXX Tender	Respondent A	ABC Plant	Fixed	Suburb A	40	4	19
City of XXX Tender	Respondent B	XYZ Plant	Mobile	Suburb B	42	1	19

## 7.0 Notes to tender assessment process:

- Procurement to advise tenderers (as part of tender documents) if any of the indicators are to have a weighting other than 1. The system has a default weighting of 1 (which is recommended by AfPA), unless the Client has cause for preferencing any one or more of the available indicators, then the Client would advise tenderers of the weighting they should apply for those indicators (i.e., 0, 1 or 2)
- The provision of the field “Total Weighting Applied” in the summary report is to provide Procurement with assurance that the total scores reported are all based on the same total weighting applied i.e., if no changes to the weightings are proposed by the client, then all tenderers should leave the default values in the systems and therefore report a total of 19 – hence verifying that the total points are calculated from the same weighting for all tenderers.
- Refer to accompanying documents for details on the assessment categories, indicators and points included in the SF4A.