When is a Project Application required?

Please answer the following questions:

1. Are live animals to be used?
   Animal: The Code defines an ‘animal’ as any live non-human vertebrates, that is fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, encompassing domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, livestock, wildlife, and also cephalopods such as octopus and squid. This does not include, for instance, a tissue culture.
   Use: ‘Use’ includes using parts of live or dead animals, as defined above. It includes the observation of animals in the field. It also includes the use of animal tissue in the instance where the tissue is recovered from an animal that has been killed for the purpose of the Project.

   If Yes: Proceed to question 3.
   If No: Proceed to question 2.
   If Unsure: Contact the AWO or Executive Officer of the AWC for further clarification

2. If you are NOT planning to use LIVE animals which of the following applies?

   a) Is the animal tissue that you will use no longer recognizable as part of an animal?
      Where animal tissue is no longer grossly recognizable as part of an animal, such as in the instance of a histological sample on a slide or a tissue culture in a vial, NO APPLICATION WILL BE REQUIRED. The AWC does not currently need to be advised of the importation of this material.

   b) Is the animal tissue that you will use still grossly recognizable as part of an animal?
Where animal tissue is still grossly recognizable as part of an animal, (e.g. a whole dead animal or harvested organs), the AWC requires you to advise it of the intended source of the tissue.

In cases where tissue samples will be obtained from an abattoir or fish farm, the Committee merely needs to be informed of the name and address of the abattoir/fish farm and the details of the tissue sample(s).

If samples are being received from other institutions, such as a University, the Committee should be given any additional information that is available, such as the Ethics Approval Number for the Project in which the animal was killed.

In both instances, as much relevant detail as possible should be forwarded to the AWC. In the instance where the tissue is to be sourced from an Approved Project(s) within Flinders University, Ethics Approval and Project Number(s) must be included.

Note: Where a creature that falls outside the Code definition of an ‘animal’ (for example, a species of insect) is to be used and such use may incidentally or necessarily impact on ‘animals’ as defined in the Code, or their environment, an application must be submitted.

3 Does the project methodology only include observation...?

a) Does the project methodology only include observation, counting or other involvement of live animals that does NOT require researchers to interact directly in any way with the ‘target’ species?

YES: go to questions 3 (b) i,ii, iii, below.
NO: direct interaction is anticipated: an Application will be required.

b) Does the methodology impact on the ‘target’ animal’s environment or on any ‘non-target’ species of animal?

i. Is the ‘target’ species/animal removed from its ‘usual’ environment? The ‘usual’ environment does not have to be its ‘natural’ environment. For example it may be the Royal Zoological Gardens or a National Park. However, ‘usual environment’ does NOT include an environment that has been in any way modified by the researcher, for example where the researcher has added artificial prey animals, feed sources, nesting sites or other additional cover from predators.

ii Will the researchers ‘presence’ have an effect on the animal, the animal’s environment or ‘non-target’ species of animal that is appreciably greater than that which would be considered as the ‘norm’ for the environment in question?
For instance, a researcher filming animal behavior at the Royal Zoological Gardens might be considered to have negligible impact, however, the same researcher filming animals in a remote region of a National Park is likely to have higher impact.

iii Will the researcher be responsible for any effect on the animal, the animal’s environment or ‘non-target’ species of animal that is appreciably greater than that which would be considered as the ‘norm’ for the environment in question?

For instance, within the Royal Zoological Gardens setting, a researcher may provide information to an animal keeper which subsequently affects the management of an animal and thus affects the animal, however, the information may have been available from other sources, and importantly, the animal keeper was under no obligation to modify the management of the animal following receipt of information from the researcher.

If any of these 3 questions (3(b) i,ii or iii) is answered ‘YES’, an Application will be required.

If all of them are answered ‘NO’: no application is necessary but the AWC should be informed of the work.

Unsure: Contact the AWO or Executive Officer of the AWC for further clarification.

4 Where live animals are to be used, under whose jurisdiction is the site at which the animal use will occur?

This jurisdiction will determine at which institution or institutions that the Project AEC Application will need to be submitted.

a) If the Project is to be conducted at any site under the jurisdiction of Flinders University an Application will need to be submitted to Flinders University.

b) If the Project is to be conducted at any site under the jurisdiction of Flinders University and also at any site or sites under the jurisdiction of any other institution or institutions that are also governed by the Code, Applications will need to be submitted both to Flinders University and to all other institutions. It is important that Applications clearly define where the responsibility of one institution stops and another starts, such as would occur where live animals are transported between institutions.

c) If the Project is to be conducted only at a site or sites under the jurisdiction of another institution or institutions governed by the Code, (and not at any site under the jurisdiction of Flinders University) Applications will need to be submitted to all other institutions involved. Where live animal use is conducted by Flinders University staff or students it is required that they be named in the Application or
Applications and advice provided to the Flinders University AWC by letter. The letter should detail Project details including Approval number or numbers and their intended involvement.

d) If the Project is to be conducted at any site under the jurisdiction of Flinders University and also at any site or sites under the jurisdiction of any other institutions or industries that are NOT governed by the Code, an Application will need to be submitted to Flinders University. It is important that the Application VERY clearly defines where the responsibility of Flinders University starts and stops. If live animal use is also conducted by Flinders University staff or students at the site or sites under the jurisdiction of other institutions or industries that are NOT governed by the Code, this use will need to be detailed in the Application AND the detailed live animal use will need to be consistent with the Code.

e) If a Project is conducted exclusively at any site or sites under the jurisdiction of any other institutions or industries that are NOT governed by the Code and involves the use of live animals by Flinders University staff or students, an Application will still need to be submitted to Flinders University. It is important that the Application VERY clearly details the animal use by Flinders University staff and students AND that this live animal use is consistent with the Code.

Where an Application is required, the AWC Application Process is as described on the AWC website: http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/info-for-researchers/ethics/committees/animal/animal_home.cfm