

Topic 1

EMERGE
Supporting Farmer Led Groups

A collaborative project between
TAS FARM INNOVATION HUB
RMCG

What is a Farmer Group or Farmer-Led Group?

'Farmer Groups' or 'Farmer-Led Groups' vary in the issues that bring them together, their intent (e.g. action, learning, social) and size. Some groups are centred around a common location, others a shared topic of interest (commodity type, focus of their business [e.g. regenerative farming, soil health, productivity], property size, location, farmer age, gender, hobbies and more) and some are mates. The terms 'Farmer Group' and 'Farmer-Led Group' are used semi-interchangeably, but they highlight that the group is either intended for farmers (Farmer Group), or is run and directed primarily by farmers (Farmer-Led Group), recognising that regional communities benefit from connection.

The Emerge project was funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund to support new, emerging and informal farmer groups to develop their skills and knowledge, and to create this set of resources for use by groups into the future. Groups participating in 2026 received coaching and additional learning opportunities to supplement the content of these resources.

This information is not legal advice, and the circumstances of every group will have its own complexities to consider. Some useful contacts and additional resources can be found at the bottom of each factsheet.

Questions to ask your group

- ☑ Do we have a regular group of people that like to come together to address common topics? (Can also be electronically or online)
- ○ Would we like to think of ourselves as a group? (May start as a group message or regular email chain)
- ○ Could we identify a common purpose or aim? (e.g. having social time off farm, learning from one another, bringing experts to share knowledge with our group, making improvements to our farms, local environment or advocating for change)
- ○ Do we have someone who could offer to lead or administer the group? Could we identify a few to represent the broader group as a committee?
- ○ What might we want to do together or achieve, in the immediate, short and long term? (See '**Emerge Topic 3: Purpose, Values and Goal Setting**')
- ○ Will we need to manage money for these activities?
- ○ Is there risk in our activities? (e.g. could someone get injured during an activity, have financial or legal harm from applying things they learnt from our activities, or could another organisation feel we've copied them/have reason to sue).

Emerge Resources

Table 1 - Resource number and topic

Resource number	Topic and links
Topic 1	What is a Farmer Group or Farmer-Led Group? Link
Topic 2	Why Formalise our Farmer-Focused Group Link
Topic 3	Planning - Purpose, Values & Goal Setting Link
Topic 4	Governance Structures Link
Topic 5	Roles and Responsibilities Link
Topic 6	Inducting Members and Planning for Succession Link
Topic 7	Documents and Knowledge Management Link
Topic 8	Agendas and Minutes (including AGM) Link
Topic 9	Running Effective Meetings Link
Topic 10	Decision Making Link
Topic 11	Communicating and Advocating Link
Topic 12	Planning and Running Events Link
Topic 13	Grants and Funding Link
Topic 14	Developing or Updating a Constitution Link
Topic 15	Developing or Updating an Auspice Agreement Link

Questions to ask your group

- ◯ Would it be beneficial to become a formalised entity? Considering whether it could be beneficial to become a formal legal entity may be useful to review periodically (e.g. annually). (See '**Emerge Topic 2: Why Formalise our Farmer-Focused Group**')
- ◯ Could our activities be suitable for grants or funding? (See '**Emerge Topic 13: Grants and Funding**')

Contact us

If you ticked some of the questions, you might like to contact us for coaching support or review our additional resources.

How this resource came about

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