

**GUIDELINES**

# **Farmer Group Sponsorships**

**June 2026 - February 2027**

**Empowering farmer groups to thrive in a changing climate**



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



Future  
Drought  
Fund



**TAS FARM**  
INNOVATION HUB

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA  
**TIA**  
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture



## Sponsorship Overview

The Farmer Group Sponsorship Round is designed to support established farmer-led groups in delivering activities that build their capacity to manage climate and drought challenges.

The Hub recognises that farmer groups play an important role in our communities, supporting the learning, innovation and connection which helps farmers to grow and adapt in changing environments.

This sponsorship round aims to enable well-established farmer groups to achieve greater impact and to deliver targeted activities that strengthen their resilience, build group capability, and provide practical value to members.

This round offers flexible funding for groups to design and implement initiatives that align with climate and drought resilience priorities while also fostering broader group development.

## About the TAS Farm Innovation Hub and its priorities

The Hub works with Tasmanian farmers, advisors, and the agricultural industry to help make Tasmanian farms more resilient to drought and climate risks. The Hub is part of a network of eight hubs established across Australia by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and sits within the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) at the University of Tasmania.

Our priorities are:

- **Farm planning and preparedness:** Helping farmers understand their options and develop and implement plans to reduce drought risk, based on locally relevant and accessible data and information.
- **Water:** Contributing to a better understanding of catchment-scale water availability, allocations and demand, and farm-scale issues of reliable access and efficient use of water.
- **Landscapes:** Building knowledge and skills to increase the health of soil, vegetation and waterways, and measure on-farm natural capital to support drought resilience.
- **Climate:** Supporting an improved understanding of changes in climate and using this information to guide drought preparedness (cross cutting theme).
- **Community:** Building social connections, community leadership and wellbeing of people and communities (cross cutting theme).

You can read more about the Hub at: [www.tasfarmhub.com.au](http://www.tasfarmhub.com.au)



## Program Objectives

The Farmer Group Sponsorship aims to:

- Support farmer groups to deliver activities that help members be more prepared for drought and climate variability (either through a single event, or a series)
- Enable groups to strengthen their member engagement, leadership, and co-ordination in the context of climate resilience.
- Provide practical, hands-on opportunities for groups to plan and deliver initiatives that create tangible benefits for members.
- Encourage groups to trial new approaches that enhance their role in supporting on-farm adaptation and community resilience.
- Provide access to diversified delivery styles which support maximum engagement in activity/s and an increase in applied learning

## Funding Available

Farmer Groups (or delivery partners on behalf of groups) can apply for funding of \$2,500-\$5,000 (ex gst) per activity.

Groups may apply for multiple activities if well-justified and funding allows, but priority will be given to ensuring broad group participation. Where a learning series has been developed, a maximum of up to \$15,000 (ex gst) can be applied for.

## Eligible Activities

Activities must have a clear connection to building climate and drought resilience at the group or farm level. This can be through:

- Direct focus on climate or drought preparedness – for example, workshops or field days on different drought and climate-smart practices, decision support tools, or risk management.
- Strengthening the group's capacity to engage members and facilitate knowledge-sharing around climate and drought challenges – for example, climate communication, facilitation and engagement.
- Leadership development, planning sessions, or member engagement activities - where the purpose is to support the group's role in helping members manage climate variability and resilience.
- Trialling innovative approaches to extension, engagement, or peer-to-peer learning with a resilience lens.

The activity's primary intent may be capacity-building, member engagement, or leadership - however it must be clearly linked to improving the group's ability to support its members in managing climate and drought risks.



## Expectations & Deliverables

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Deliver the approved activity in line with their proposal.
- Provide a short activity report, including:
  - What was delivered
  - Participation and feedback
  - Key outcomes or learnings related to climate/drought resilience.
- Share any resources (such as fact sheets, field day notes, handouts, video, podcast) with the Hub for us share on our website or social media.
- Participate in media about the activity at the request of the Hub, for example, providing a quote for a press release, or sharing images for social media promotion.
- Participate in a brief post-activity debrief with the Hub team to discuss outcomes and opportunities for future collaboration.

Farmer Groups can commence their sponsored activities from 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Sponsored activities should be completed by the relevant dates outlined on page 4.

Where a series of activities have been sponsored, there is flexibility to deliver across rounds - please get in touch with Lauren to discuss.

No sponsorship activities are to be delivered past 1<sup>st</sup> May 2027.

## Who Can Apply?

- Farmer groups.
- Delivery partners (on behalf of a farmer group) who are directly supporting the group to deliver the activity.

To enable sponsorship payments, the TAS Farm Innovation Hub requires funds to be paid to an organisation with a registered ABN. For groups that do not have their own ABN, an auspicing arrangement can be used.

## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

- Alignment with the Farmer Group Sponsorship Round focus on climate and drought preparedness.
- Relevance and value of the proposed activity to the group's capacity-building and engagement goals.
- Meets identified local needs, related to drought and climate preparedness.
- Potential for practical, on-ground impact.
- A sound and deliverable activity plan.
- Demonstrated capability of the group/applicant to deliver the activity.



## Key Dates

	Assessment	Applicants notified by	Activity/ Event completion*	Feedback on sponsored activities due
Round 1	<i>Complete</i>			
Round 2	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
Round 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2026	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
Round 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2027	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2027	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2027

\*Where possible sponsored activities should be completed by this date. Where a series of activities have been sponsored, greater flexibility in delivery times is available. No sponsorship activities are to be delivered past 1<sup>st</sup> May 2027

## How to apply

To apply complete the Application Form available at [tasfarmhub.com.au/sponsorship](https://tasfarmhub.com.au/sponsorship) and email to [fd.f.tas.hub@utas.edu.au](mailto:fd.f.tas.hub@utas.edu.au)

Upon receiving an application, applicants will be allocated to the closest assessment round and will be notified of the outcome by the notification date associated with that round, as outlined in the 'Key Dates' section above.

## Contact:

For more information, please contact:

**Lauren Harper**  
 TAS Farm Innovation Hub  
 Knowledge Broker  
 P. 0477 017 656  
 E. [fd.f.tas.hub@utas.edu.au](mailto:fd.f.tas.hub@utas.edu.au)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## About the sponsorship

### “Why is the Hub running the sponsorship round?”

The TAS Farm Innovation Hub recognises the important role farmer groups play in bringing producers together to learn from one another, explore new ideas, and address shared challenges and opportunities. The Farmer Group Sponsorship Round has been established to support these farmer-led activities by providing funding for initiatives that strengthen collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation across Tasmania's agricultural sector.

Through this investment, the Hub aims to support practical outcomes for producers while helping build the greater drought preparedness and climate resilience within Tasmania's farming communities.

### “Do you have examples of what you mean by ‘activity’?”

Examples of activities could include:

- Group meetings/workshops with invited guest speakers.
- On-farm demonstration of a management practice(s) which is proven to support drought and climate preparedness.
- Facilitated workshops where the focus is sharing information and experience between group members.
- Seminars/webinars where the focus is sharing knowledge and experience on a particular topic.
- Farm visits or field trips.

### “What do you mean by ‘activity plan’?”

An activity plan is a simple outline that explains what you are planning to do, who will do it and key timeframes.

It needs to be completed as part of the application and helps the Hub understand whether the planned activities are realistic and achievable. If your group is applying for funding for a series of activities, your plan should include a high level overview of the broader learning plan, and learning outcomes for each activity.

The application form includes sections titled ‘Activity Outline’ and ‘Activity Budget’ to capture this information. While additional documents can be attached if required, applicants are encouraged to use the space provided where possible.





## Groups and eligibility

### “How do you define a ‘farmer group’?”

Farmer groups come in many different forms. We are looking for groups that are farmer managed organisations that bring peers together to address local challenges, share ideas and information related to agriculture.

### “What if our group isn’t incorporated?”

To facilitate sponsorship payments, the Tas Farm Innovation Hub is required to make payments by invoice to an organisation with a registered ABN.

We recognise that many farmer groups operate informally and may not have their own incorporated structure or ABN. Where this is the case, an auspicing arrangement can be used to receive and administer sponsorship funding on behalf of the group.

If your group does not already have an auspicing arrangement in place, we encourage you to explore this with the delivery partner(s) you intend to engage as part of your proposed activities.

Where a sponsorship application includes a series of activities delivered by multiple providers, applicants will need to nominate a single organisation to receive and administer the sponsorship funding. To help keep administration simple for all parties, sponsorship payments will be processed through a single invoice, and multiple invoices from different delivery partners cannot be accepted.

## Assessments

### “Who will be assessing the applications ”

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising industry professionals with a strong understanding of Tasmania's agricultural sector. The panel will bring a diverse range of expertise across areas such as drought and climate variability, agricultural extension, and farmer group development to ensure applications are considered from a range of perspectives.





# TAS FARM

INNOVATION HUB



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This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.