

# Co-operative Governance



Farming together.

## Course Outline

### Who is this course for?

Founding board members and business managers of existing, and newly formed co-operatives.

**Why?** Incorporated businesses have responsibilities: for financial and tax related accountability and audits, and to stay accountable to their members. Boards and managers need to know *what* they have to do and *how* to ensure the business remains both legal and viable, to avoid risk.



## Content

### Preliminary

1. International Co-op Principles
2. Aligning principles with business strategy
3. Co-operative core purpose, primary activity and membership rules
4. Financial participation: Member, Customer and Social Value Propositions

### Core

1. Director Roles (founding Directors vs ongoing)
2. Responsibilities – eg solvency, revenue models and Return on Investment, risk management
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Legal and moral care (volunteers, workers and employees)
5. Introduction to share structuring
6. Reporting responsibilities

### Course delivery modes

**At a location that suits your group – or at a Southern Cross University venue in Sydney, Lismore, Coffs Harbour or the Gold Coast.**

- face time with a co-operative governance expert
- small group activities to share with and learn from each other
- micro-learning updates, quizzes and reporting templates
- discounts on *Farming Together's* 1-on-1 mentoring service

### Timing and locations

This full-day (plus 4 week follow-up micro-learn) course is offered quarterly, when a group (or several smaller groups) can gather at a NSW community or Southern Cross University venue (Sydney, Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast). **Minimum number to run course = 25.**

**Costs:** \$2500/person [less 50% subsidy from NSW Rural Assistance Authority (NSWRAA)]. Cost covers expert presenter, catering, materials, 4 micro-learning updates and certification to enable reimbursement. Venues must have reliable large screen internet access and participants are encouraged to BYO mobile device (smart phone/ipad). No software needed.

**Eligibility:** Any NSW primary producer with more than 50% of gross income from primary production. The NSWRAA also allows participants to claim travel (fuel, accommodation, meals) and child/respite care, but not wages relief.

To make a booking, contact Farming Together, 02 6620 3489, [info@farmingtogether.com.au](mailto:info@farmingtogether.com.au)

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