



Food and agribusiness

Primary producers are vital to the Australian economy. At Cooper Grace Ward, we have a dedicated agribusiness team that has specialist expertise and a genuine understanding of the unique needs of businesses in this sector. We are a Queensland based law firm with a major focus on all aspects of the agribusiness supply chain, from the farm to production, marketing and sales.

We understand that business enterprises in the agribusiness sector have unique legal issues, in addition to those of other commercial clients. We have the experience and expertise necessary to handle these issues. Our clients benefit from our ability to establish mutually beneficial contacts for them within their sector, which adds value to their business.

We are experienced in a broad range of agribusiness sectors including cotton, sugar, horticulture, poultry, grain, sheep, dairy and beef. We have acted for many large organisations including producers, processors, transporters, exporters, industry representative bodies, research and development organisations and government bodies. We have also advised the state's leading agribusiness companies in relation to capital raisings, trade documentation and agreements.

Our agribusiness clients include government bodies, family businesses, individuals and publicly listed and unlisted companies.

Our key services

We provide legal services to clients in agribusiness and primary production clients in relation to:

- rural property acquisitions and sales
- easements, licences and tenure management
- share farming and agistment agreements
- biosecurity, vegetation and water management
- property development and planning and environment compliance
- native title and cultural heritage
- environmental management and contaminated land compliance issues
- diversification of income streams including renewable energy projects on farming land
- business succession
- wills and estate planning
- revenue, tax and superannuation
- royalty agreements

- trade agreements for distribution, marketing and licensing, including preparing terms of trade and distribution for exporters and domestic use, advising in relation to agreements for use in Australia and overseas, including anti-corruption provisions
- corporate and commercial advice and agreements
- breeding, feedlot and transport agreements
- capital raisings and initial public offerings (IPOs)
- mergers and acquisitions
- industry restructuring
- banking, finance and securities
- Foreign Investment Review Board advice
- employment and workplace relations
- system audits for legal compliance, including addressing anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and foreign corruption legislative requirements
- litigation and dispute resolution.

Key team contacts



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Our track record

We have a long and proud history of assisting agribusiness and primary production clients with their legal and business needs.

We have acted for major agribusiness companies over more than 30 years, including OBE Beef Limited, Golden Circle, Queensland Cotton, Queensland Dairy Authority, Sugar Research and Development Corporation, Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority, Integrated Bio Energy, Bioglobal, Tableland Canegrowers and Suncoast Gold Macadamia. We have also acted for many buyers and sellers of grazing properties across northern and central Australia, as well New South Wales.

In addition, we have been involved in the privatisation and corporatisation of several industry sectors including cotton and horticultural industries, and with post-privatisation issues in the egg industry. Our corporatisation involvements extend from large manufacturers to co-operative enterprises and from processors to growers and producers.

About Cooper Grace Ward

With more than 20 partners and 200 team members, Cooper Grace Ward is a leading Australian law firm based in Brisbane, servicing clients with a local, national and international presence. As a full service firm, we are known for providing commercial and practical advice, outstanding service and excellence in all practice areas.

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