



winchester young + maddern

S O L I C I T O R S

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“In Brief”

Newsletter

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The information in this newsletter is current as at December 2005

Agribusiness: Queensland Ethanol Conversion Initiative

On 12 April 2005 the Queensland Government announced the AU\$7.3m *Queensland Ethanol Industry Strategy*. With the Queensland sugar industry facing significant challenges to remain competitive, diversification into ethanol production is becoming an appealing investment that promises to create new jobs and help maintain the State's sugar and grain regions.

Government schemes such as the *Queensland Industry Development Scheme* and the *Sugar Industry Innovation Fund* have been implemented to support and provide funding for organisations wanting to diversify into higher value added markets.

Ethanol cooperatives are a form of business structure being adopted by investors to allow relatively small independent farmers, through alliance, to have the same high quality product, management expertise, and marketing coordination as much larger operations.

The establishment of such cooperatives requires consideration of many complex legal issues. To establish an appropriate business structure, obtain finance and seek government assistance, cooperatives must give careful consideration to the content of documents including supply agreements, process and equipment guarantees, risk mitigation strategies and equity agreements. Consideration must also be given to the relevant tax implications for members and the requirements that must be met to qualify to receive government funding, finance and permits.

Winchester, Young & Maddern solicitors have experience in a diverse range of Commercial law transactions and are able to provide the professional help and legal support required by cooperatives and their members seeking long term profitable operations.

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Winchester, Young and Maddern have extensive experience in a diverse range of commercial law transactions.

Our team is lead by Glendon Young supported by Rajesh Gopal and Shanna Seamark who deal with commercial, corporate and contract law areas.

If you require advice regarding agribusiness or any commercial transactions please make an appointment to see Glendon Young of our office.

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