

## OUR AGRIBUSINESS EXPERTISE

Fox and Thomas has an unrivalled reputation for providing legal services to agribusiness. With a history of staying the distance in regional Queensland and New South Wales, no other firm has the depth of expertise, developed over many years, to service the industry as well as Fox and Thomas. With offices in Goondiwindi, St George and Brisbane, we have staked our reputation on helping your agribusiness to flourish. When you choose Fox and Thomas, you get the attention of key people, with access to the firm's directors and senior people from the beginning. It's a complex legal landscape in agricultural business, and Fox and Thomas knows it like no other.

### OUR SERVICES

#### ■ PROPERTY

For many people involved in agribusiness, their rural property is their most significant asset. Our experience can help you avoid the common pitfalls when selling or purchasing rural property. Fox and Thomas understands the care required to facilitate timely contracts, hassle-free settlements and maximum returns.

#### ■ SUCCESSION PLANNING

Fox and Thomas advises on all aspects of rural property law including dealing with complex estate planning and family succession issues. Our in-depth understanding of the laws surrounding rural properties, water rights, intensive livestock operations and taxation means our clients get the best result possible when assets move from one generation to the next. Fox and Thomas can assist you to maximise the concessions available on the intergenerational transfer of primary production property.

## ■ STRUCTURING

Fox and Thomas has the expertise to advise you on alternative structures for all types of agribusiness ventures. Our involvement in the restructuring of some of the country's largest irrigated property enterprises has enabled us to develop a suite of structures which address agribusiness' key concerns of asset protection, tax management, flexibility and succession planning.

## ■ WATER

The management of water is becoming increasingly regulated and complex, impacting heavily on the businesses of our clients. Our experience over many years means you can rely on our water entitlement expertise. Fox and Thomas understands the intricacies of water entitlements, particularly in light of the ongoing conversion of water licences to tradable water rights. Having made submissions to the State Government in relation to the conversion of water rights in two different catchments, Fox and Thomas has a unique insight into water licensing issues.

## ■ RURAL FAMILIES

Fox and Thomas brings an agribusiness focus to its specialist family law services to rural clients. We understand the financial and seasonal impacts of estate and family law disputes, which often involve land and businesses, and have developed strategies for ensuring the survival of the family farming unit, while achieving appropriate outcomes.

## ■ BUY-OUTS AND CAPITAL RAISING

Fox and Thomas has extensive experience in managing buy-outs, raising external capital to fund management buy-outs and also the release of equity in large-scale primary production exercises.

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## OUR PEOPLE



### ■ NORMAN FOX, DIRECTOR

Norman Fox heads the Fox and Thomas agribusiness team. Norman has more than 20 years experience practising in the areas of rural property, succession planning and business law. His in-depth understanding of rural property law, including water rights, is much sought after, as is his ability to clarify the diverse and complex issues inherent in agribusiness succession planning.

Norman brings to his client relationships strong leadership, concise and prompt service delivery and a genuine willingness to better understand the client's situation. In recent years, Norman has acted for many major farming enterprises,

providing advice on water rights matters, property transfers, taxation and business issues and asset protection. His clients include major cotton, wheat and livestock producers throughout southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Recent matters involved restructuring and sales of some of the country's largest irrigated property enterprises.



### ■ MICHAEL COWLEY, DIRECTOR

Michael is the director of our St George office. Michael's practice covers a wide area of agribusiness legal issues, with his particular expertise being in the areas of rural property, business structuring and succession planning. A local of the St George area, with more than 11 years experience in rural practice, Michael

understands and appreciates the legal issues which arise among his agribusiness client base. Practising within a major irrigation region, Michael has a thorough understanding of the burgeoning area of water rights and entitlements. Michael's broad range of practice experience means that he recognises the unique and particular challenges faced by agribusiness clients.



■ **KAY RHODES, DIRECTOR**

Kay Rhodes heads the Fox and Thomas family law section and is a Qld Law Society Accredited Family Law Specialist. She works closely with people involved in the breakdown of a relationship, assisting them to reach agreement or, as a last resort, a court order.

Kay is committed to using a less confrontational approach, avoiding the need for litigation wherever possible. Her aim is to preserve the dignity and integrity of the client and, if possible, to encourage a mature and civil relationship between the parties.



■ **PAUL PAXTON-HALL, DIRECTOR**

Paul Paxton-Hall has extensive experience in corporate law, management buy-outs and capital raising in relation to a variety of large scale management buy-outs and publicly listed floats. Paul has practised in the corporate, commercial and tax areas of business services for close to 20 years. Paul heads the Fox and Thomas Brisbane office team and is supported by Senior Associate Melissa Fitzpatrick and lawyer Dianna Henry.



■ **JOHN GRAY, LAWYER**

John works with Norman Fox in the firm's business, property and succession planning practice areas. His experience includes rural and commercial property transactions, leasing, corporate and trust matters and wills and estate planning. John is a local of the Goondiwindi district with a rural family background and has a particular interest in the issues surrounding cross-generational farming enterprises and businesses.



■ **JO THOMPSON, CONVEYANCING MANAGER**

Jo manages the smooth flow of the firm's many property transfer matters, including residential houses and land, and rural and commercial properties. Jo has 10 years of experience in efficiently stepping through the many processes involved in ensuring a successful completion of our clients' carefully thought out property transactions. Jo's familiarity with the property market of Goondiwindi and district means she can quickly identify and overcome potential hurdles in local transactions.

■ **CONTACT US AT**

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BUSINESS LAWYERS

