

Business structures and access to cash

RAPAD region policy solutions and business innovation for farmers and small businesses

Interviewing primary producers and small business owners

Showcasing business best practice

Frequently Asked Questions

The **TC Beirne School of Law** at The University of Queensland (**UQ**) and **RAPAD** have joined forces to conduct a three-year pilot study of the business structures of primary producers and small business owners in the region.

As part of the study, we want to **interview** primary producers, and participants in small businesses and small family firms. We want to **showcase business best practice** across the region.

What is in it for me and my business?

You will get a copy of the results findings. You will benefit from the business best practice that we showcase. You will benefit from the practical strategies for our region that the researchers will develop and publish.

Farm families and family firms will benefit from the study's practical approach to succession to keep future generations in the region.

What is in it for the RAPAD region?

- The research findings will help us to develop integrated business and policy solutions that fit the unique features of the RAPAD region.
- We can use the research evidence to state our case. This is very important as there is very little research about the business structures used across the RAPAD region. We want to use evidence from the study to show how primary producers and town businesses are integrated.
- As a region, we can add to the national debate about regional development, sustainable agriculture outcomes and small business and family business growth. This is very important as there is very little integrated research available into small firms and small family firms in Australia.

How do I know if I qualify to take part?

You qualify if your annual turnover is less than \$10 million.

You qualify if you are a sole trader, have a family trust for your business, operate in a partnership, or use a private company as part of your business structure.

Will I be interviewed in the RAPAD region?

Yes, at a time and place that you choose.

Dr Thea Voogt from UQ is already working with us in Longreach. She is committed to being present in our region to conduct the research. She is the person who will interview you.

What will the researchers ask me?

- Which factors you considered when you chose your business structure.
- Questions about cash flow, and how you and your family are able to benefit from the business.
- Your strategies to manage and take advantage of your business structure, to identify business best practice.
- Your views about tax, regional economic and small business policy relevant to **our region**.

What if I don't want to be identified? I want to take part, but I value my privacy

- You will not be identified in any publication or findings report, unless you give your consent in writing.
- Your business will not be identified in any publication or findings report, unless you give your consent in writing.

Has the study been independently approved?

Yes. This study was approved by an independent Ethics Committee. This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.



Is there an official ethics certificate for the project?

Yes. Institutional Human Research Ethics Approval Number 2019000030.

What can the researchers publish?

The researchers are allowed to include aggregate data in their research output. Aggregate data means overall results and totals. The researchers can only publish their findings if they comply with strict ethics rules and the ethics approval certificate. They can't disclose private or sensitive information about any person or their business.

What will I have to do to take part?

- Read the information sheet on the RAPAD website <https://www.rapad.com.au/research/>
- Complete the consent form and email a copy to the researchers.

What should I know about the university conducting the research?

The **TC Beirne School of Law** (UQ) is ranked among the world's top 40 law schools. Its research addresses national and global issues, making a significant and lasting contribution to the understanding and development of law, and its interaction with other fields, and within communities. The UQ Business School and UQ – a research intensive university – are ranked among the world's top 40 business schools and top 50 universities, respectively.

Who are the UQ researchers?

- Dr Thea Voogt, a senior lecturer in law.
- Prof Martie-Louise Verreynne, a senior professor at the UQ Business School.
- Prof Ross Grantham, a senior professor in law.

Where can I read more about the project?

Read the pilot study document, available on the RAPAD website <https://www.rapad.com.au/research/>

How can I contact the researchers if I have questions?

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