



Australian Research Council - Linkage Grant Project Outline

Project Title: Sustainable co-operative enterprise: an investigation into the factors influencing the sustainability and competitiveness of co-operative enterprises

Research Body The University of Western Australia Business School

Industry Participants Capricorn Society, CBH Group, Co-operatives WA and Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd

Research Questions

The key research questions in this study are summarized below:

1. What causes a Co-operative to abandon its co-operative principles, values and business model and transform into an investor-owned enterprise?
2. How does a Co-operative measure and communicate the true value of membership?
3. Are there best practice examples of co-operative management that provide lessons for future business models?
4. How does a Co-operative successfully participate in financial markets without compromising its principles, values and business model?

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