

Sugarcane BMP

SUGARCANE BMP UPDATE

MARCH 2013

CANEGROWERS Sugarcane Best Management Practice (BMP) Project Milestone Update

The Sugarcane BMP project officially started on 29 January 2013 with the commencement of the Project Director, Mr Malcolm Petrie.

Since that time the following outcomes in support of the project milestones have been delivered:

1. Communication Plan completed and circulated to EHP for review.

2. Communication and Engagement Strategy completed and circulated to EHP for review.

3. Regular updates published:

- *Australian Canegrower* magazine (21 January 2013 edition): Advertised Sugarcane BMP Project Director position including candidate experience required and outlining the Sugarcane BMP consultation process to be developed.
- *Australian Canegrower* magazine (4 February 2013 edition): Announced successful candidate for the Sugarcane BMP Project Director role.
- *Australian Canegrower* magazine (18 February 2013): Profiled new Project Director's previous employment history and announced establishment of a Sugarcane BMP grower engagement schedule.
- *Australian Canegrower* magazine (4 March 2013 edition): BMP consultation schedule for all districts outlined.
- *Australian Canegrower* magazine (18 March 2013 edition): BMP district consultation process to date outlined, including links to future District Working group meetings.



4. Awareness presentations delivered:

- Delivered 5 shed awareness and feedback sessions in Mossman, Herbert River, Plane Creek, Mulgrave and Babinda with over 200 growers in attendance.
- Delivered BMP overview presentation to the Terrain Industry Advisory Group.

5. Working groups establishment:

- Finalised Project Committee, Industry, Regional and District Working Groups Terms of Reference.
- Delivered 2 Regional Working Group meetings in Mackay and Burdekin.
- Delivered all 14 District Working Group workshops (Proserpine, Mossman, Rocky Point, Mackay, Tully, Herbert River, Innisfail, Burdekin (Incl. Pioneer/Kalamia), Tablelands, Bundaberg, Isis, Maryborough, Babinda and Mulgrave).

Key messages from the workshops included:

Strong support for a CANEGROWER led, industry driven BMP program:

- Support an industry based assessment and third party auditing process eg. ISO 14001 to achieve industry rigour, credibility and consistency.
- Support a BMP focus that delivers profitability, productivity and sustainability.
- Support the following seven modules for inclusion in the BMP: business management; landscape and biodiversity management; workplace health and safety; crop production and harvest management; integrated water management; pest, disease and weed management and soil health and plant nutrition.
- Acknowledge the importance and need for improved data collection to support grower, industry and government data requirements.

Future updates will be provided in a quarterly Sugarcane BMP newsletter commencing in April 2013.

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