



INVITING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR  
**Industry Auditors for the Smartcane BMP Program**

CANEGROWERS is seeking expressions of interest from individuals and organisations to conduct certification audits for the grower best management practices program, Smartcane BMP.

The Smartcane BMP Program wishes to establish a small pool of industry auditors who can meet the demand for audits on a fee-for-audit basis. Audits will be conducted both on farm and remotely.

**BACKGROUND**

The Smartcane BMP Program provides a benchmarking and accreditation pathway for growers to demonstrate their environmental stewardship. Three of the modules (Soil health and nutrition; Pests, diseases and weeds; and Irrigation and drainage) are considered core to the Program's focus on stewardship and sustainable production, and accreditation in the Program is defined as meeting the level of 'industry standard' or 'above industry standard' in at least these three core modules.

Participation in the Smartcane BMP program occurs through three stages:

1. Benchmarking through self-assessment (completion is defined as self-assessment in at least the core modules);
2. Working towards accreditation (collating and/or acquiring the required records and other evidence for at least the 3 core modules); and
3. Accreditation through independent audit.

Interaction in the program occurs via district facilitators and a web interface. The database associated with the latter reports participation rates and practice standards for each of the 13 cane-producing districts. As at 4 April 2016, 1,261 businesses had completed benchmarking through self-assessment and 77 businesses had received accreditation. Several hundred more are working towards accreditation.

The program expects the demand for audits to grow to 200-300 audits per year.

The Program was developed in 2012-13 and has been available to growers since the beginning of 2014. Development and delivery has been supported by the Queensland Government.

CANEGROWERS Queensland manages the Smartcane Best Management Practices (BMP) Program on behalf of all Queensland cane growers.

**SUITABLE CANDIDATES**

Candidates for becoming BMP Accreditation Auditors should possess the following:

- Effective communication skills, both verbal and written
- Personal integrity and ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality
- Computer literacy with demonstrated proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word
- Experience working in agriculture or related sectors
- Ability to quickly and effectively assess information
- Available to travel, including overnight

- Current Queensland driver's licence
- Qualifications and experience in auditing (desirable)

Auditors must comply with the Smartcane BMP Audit Procedures and adhere to the Smartcane BMP Code of Ethics. It is also important that Smartcane BMP Auditors are seen to be independent and hold no conflict of interest.

As necessary, the BMP Program will provide Smartcane BMP auditors with training in the requirements of the program, and with training in how to conduct an audit through a predefined auditing framework.

Successful applicants will be contracted to provide the audit services on an as-needed basis. Auditors will be responsible for their own office, IT and administrative needs including the capacity to keep information secure.

The amount of audit work will be dependent on grower demand and there is no guaranteed quota of work. Audits must be able to be conducted within a pre-determined timeframe.

#### **Expression of interest requirements**

The Expression of Interest should be no longer than 4 pages and address the criteria described above. The proposal should also include a daily rate.

#### **Selection criteria and process**

Expressions of interest will be assessed on the above criteria as well as value for money.

All expressions of interest will be treated in strict confidence.

#### **Further information**

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact:

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#### **Submission information**

Expressions of interest are to be submitted electronically to: Mick Quirk

E: [michael\\_quirk@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:michael_quirk@canegrowers.com.au)

**Expressions of Interest must be received by COB 29 April 2016.**