Tropical Cyclone Ita’s trail of damage

Why keeping QSL benefits all growers
Farmers are a pretty handy bunch when it comes to repairing, modifying and improving existing machinery. But wouldn’t it be nice to stick with the task at hand, and not be repairing poorly designed and manufactured equipment.

Gessner Agriculture has made some changes recently. No, our equipment will continue to be robust, reliable, functional, generational and Australian made. Even our warranty and back-up service will continue to outperform farmer's expectations.

Then what’s changed? ...PRICE $$$$. Buying direct from the manufacturer means significant savings for you. We’ve always strived to provide the best quality and service at Gessner Industries. Now we have an added objective – SETTING THE BENCHMARK ON PRICE $$. $$
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28.04.2014

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More details are now available on the planned Wilmar proposal. It is CANEGROWERS’ firm view that Wilmar mill region growers would not enjoy the same level of transparency under that proposed company than is being provided for the industry by QSL. It is important that the growing sector unites to protect the future of all sugarcane farmers.

Paul Schembri
CANEGROWERS Chairman

Cover: Flattened cane at Arriga on the Tableland. Photo by Bronwyn Dwyer

Contents: Flood damage at Kelsey Creek in Prosperpine. Photo by Doug Lee

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EDITOR’S DESK

How quickly things can change. Just weeks from the start of the 2014 sugarcane crush, a late season cyclone has literally blown some plans and prospects to pieces. Quick repair work is now needed to railways and roads if cane is to get to mills on time, not to mention the complications of harvesting plants which have been washed or blown over. From page 4 read a district by district account of the mess and losses that Tropical Cyclone Ita has left in her wake.

Wilmar’s proposal for a new sugar marketing company is causing angst – and not without justification. This edition CANEGROWERS outlines the key differences between what this milling company plans and QSL, the industry-owned company which works for all growers. Details are on page 8.

Our advertising feature this edition is on Crop Protection. While everyone wants to do the best for their crop, page 15 carries an interesting story warning against the over use of a key cane grub chemical, imidacloprid. In the past fortnight, SRA has committed more funds to yellow canopy syndrome research, details of what will be funded are on page 10. Kids who are interested in bugs (and what kid isn’t?) can read about a project on page 20 that they might like to get their class to undertake. It’s aimed at inspiring students to consider science and agriculture as a future career.

And an important anniversary is coming up. 20 years ago in the midst of a terrible drought, sugar industry women sought to tell politicians of the impact the dry conditions were having on their farms, families and communities. Read the story of the CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District in Ron Mullins’ Spotlight column on page 14.

Our media releases for the last month:

27 March: First cane farmer in Australia gets Smartcane BMP accredited
3 April: Growers mount fight of their lives to keep profits transparent
8 April: Bitter pill as sugar sacrificed in Japan trade deal
14 April: Steamrolled by Ita: Sugarcane down, but not out

Happy reading
Neroli

Sugar’s $1.5 million month

It’s been a huge month for the Australian sugarcane industry and that story has been streamed to TVs, radios, newspapers and online around Australia. At one end, the news for our industry was good as the industry celebrated its first cane farmer in Australia to be accredited in a module of the new Smartcane BMP. At the other end of the spectrum was CANEGROWERS response to the perfect storms that followed Wilmar’s announcement that they planned to leave QSL followed by the impact of Cyclone Ita on cane growers.

CANEGROWERS media releases in the last month

27 March: First cane farmer in Australia gets Smartcane BMP accredited
3 April: Growers mount fight of their lives to keep profits transparent
8 April: Bitter pill as sugar sacrificed in Japan trade deal
14 April: Steamrolled by Ita: Sugarcane down, but not out

Study scholarships OPEN

For up to 25 Australian farmers, 2015 could be a life-changing year. Applications are now open for next year’s Nuffield Australia scholarships program.

The scholarship program is run in two phases. First a Global Focus Program takes participants on a six week tour of some of the powerhouses of world agriculture.

Travelling in a group of scholars, the program can include destinations as diverse as Europe, north America, Brazil, China, Kenya, India and the Philippines.

Scholars then travel for a further 10 weeks by themselves to drill down into a research topic of interest to them and of value to industry.

Topics covered by recent Australian scholars include farm machinery manufacturing, harvest residue management, supply chain management and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

While a lot of technical knowledge is gained by scholars, and that is significant, the networking opportunities within Nuffield globally are great. Member countries include the UK, Ireland, France, Zimbabwe, Canada and New Zealand.

A number of cane farmers have participated in the past, and Marian grower Simon Mattsson is a 2014 scholar supported by Sugar Research Australia.

He is in the midst of his study program looking at soil health and particularly the beneficial and predatory microbial activities that support productive soils.

There will be up to 25 scholarships offered by Nuffield Australia in 2015. Applications close 30 June.

For more information, visit: www.nuffield.com.au
Industry shaken by Wilmar announcement, then by Ita

Wilmars decision to sever its ties with QSL and undertake its own marketing has been met by much angst and disappointment by growers.

CANEGROWERS believes that the manner in which this has been done, with no consultation with its farmer producers, rightly causes growers to be suspicious of the motivation of Wilmar.

The miller waited until after its public announcement to inform Wilmar grower leaders of what it was intending to do at a gathering in Townsville, followed by district meetings to which they invited the largest farmers in the area.

Wilmars decision to exit QSL has been based on its view that it has claims to the ownership of two million tonnes of sugar. The history of the sugar industry is that growers and millers have jointly owned the sugar and shared in the rewards and risks of marketing.

While Wilmars is saying there will be equal grower miller representation on the Board of the new company it is planning to set up, it is important to recognise that the plans actually contract marketing to another entity, Wilmar Sugar Trading. It will be this body which markets the crop and obtains realisation of sale proceeds – and it appears there is no open access to the books of that entity.

It is CANEGROWERS firm view that Wilmars growers will not enjoy the same level of transparency that QSL has provided for the industry.

Wilmars announcement will impact on all producers. Their decision to leave QSL, potentially taking away two million tonnes from QSLs marketing pool, will cut the scale of operation of the company.

CANEGROWERS has worked with ACFA to continue to achieve stable marketing arrangements. The potential exit of Wilmar is a major setback to the goal. At the heart of this dispute are the rights surrounding Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar. We believe that growers have a claim to two-thirds - currently two million tonnes - of Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar. Growers want the right to determine how the value of their GEI sugar is determined - how it is sold and priced. We have had discussions with the State and Federal Governments and have expressed concerns that growers are being denied choice by monopoly miller companies.

While the proposed model being put forward looks similar on face value, CANEGROWERS is cautioning that it is important to look closely at the detail or we as an industry may lose the transparency of our marketing systems we have fought so hard for.

We are advising members that the model we currently have with QSL is by far the preferable model, and we will be working together with as many of the other industry players to develop an option which keeps QSL in play. Once an agreed industry position is formulated, it can then be taken back to Wilmars as the preferred grower position.

It is especially important that at times like these, the entire growing sector unites to protect the long term for all Australian sugarcane growers.

Growers are entitled to fair and transparent returns for the sugarcane they produce. Anything less than that is not acceptable to cane growers.

Ita

Cyclones in April are rare but I would suggest it will take many years for us to forget Cyclone Ita. It has had an impact on 90% of the crop grown in Queensland and its not been often that one cyclone has managed to weave a trail of destruction on so many districts.

From Mossman in the far north to Mackay in the south, the work of Cyclone Ita can be seen everywhere.

A lot of cane has been knocked flat. Most that will recover to be able to be harvested but there will be clearly productivity losses and substantial losses of sugar content.

As with most major weather events, there will be some regions and some farmers who will carry a disproportionate burden of the damage.

Some of the flooding has hit farmers hard. I have heard one farmer claim that in one district, one of his prime cane producing paddocks has literally disappeared as the cane was uprooted and the paddock was laid bare.

On a positive note, it appears that there has been minor damage to farm sheds and other infrastructure.

CANEGROWERS has been liaising with the Queensland Government and where assistance to farmers can be provided, we will pursue it.

“Growers are entitled to fair and transparent returns for the sugarcane they produce. Anything less than that is not acceptable to cane growers.”

Paul Schembri CANEGROWERS Chairman
TC Ita leaves her mark

By Neroli Roocke

With a three day April trip down the coast, Tropical Cyclone Ita has up-ended plans for the 2014 sugarcane crush, scheduled to start next month.

90% of Queensland’s crop (27.5 million tonnes) was in TC Ita’s path and in her wake she has left hundreds of hectares of flattened cane. Some blocks look like a steamroller has pushed the plants all in one direction, others have been through a fierce, windy blender while along water courses fast-moving floods have ripped up and washed roots clean.

Not only will harvesters have to pick up from the ground the cane that doesn’t stand up of its own accord over the coming weeks, the process will be complicated in many areas by roads and railways damaged by flooding.

District by district, CANEGROWERS offices are now assessing and tallying up the damage and the losses. Work is being done to secure government assistance for those areas that will need it for clean-up and recovery work. CANEGROWERS is also working closely with insurance companies, banks and financial institutions.

Below is a summary of the situation as it was at the time of printing.

Mossman

Almost three quarters of the farms in the Mossman district have been impacted by Cyclone Ita with up to 30% suffering significant damage with tangled and lodged cane or snapped tops. Flooding occurred in main rivers such as the Daintree River, Saltwater, Mossman and South Mossman Rivers and Bushy Creek in Julatten.

The cane near hillsides and in valleys bore the brunt of wind shifts.

The harvest was due to start 5 May but talk at the moment is to delay it at least one week to 12 May. If more rain falls on the coast this may need to go back at least another week.

It’s expected more farms will burn this season to try and clean tangled cane and to see what debris has been left in paddocks. This will be difficult though in flooded paddocks if silt and dirt are still sitting throughout the lodged cane. There will be a definite impact on district and individual CCS levels with the Coast and Julatten likely to struggle to get their normal average CCS range of 12.6 to 12.7 CCS. With the earlier start scheduled, tonnages were already expected to be affected but now it is fairly certain tonnage will be down to some extent.

There are trees down across headlands and in paddocks which will need clearing and considerable river bank, headland, drainage and farm road erosion which will also need repair.

Tablelands

Cyclone Ita’s rain has lifted the level of the Tinaroo Falls dam by around 10%, to 83%. The gusty winds that reached inland have caused plant and early ratoon crops to lay over but it does not appear to have snapped the cane. ▶

Babinda grower Steve Destro clears debris from his paddock. Photo by Sandra Heinrich
Cairns Region

While no damage to sheds or homes has been reported, the turbulent and silty floodwaters and the strong wind have left a mark on cane crops with up to 70% in the Mulgrave Babinda area receiving some damage, varying from minor through to major lodging and stool tipping.

Harvesting will be a challenge as the wind changed direction in some paddocks meaning stools are not lying flat in a uniform direction.

“Some of it has the potential to stand up again in the next week or two if the sun comes out, but some will not. While it is too early to really tell, we know that it will stop growing for 3-6 weeks,” says grower Jeff Day.

“The big teller will be how much damage has been down below the surface if the stool has shifted, and in the area along the river whether the cane laid down before the flooding.”

Rubbish and dirt going into the harvest bins will incur cane quality scheme penalties to those within the MSF Mulgrave Cane Supply Contract and the 5-year average CCS across the region is unlikely to be reached.

As well, haulage roads, crossings and drainage pipes have been affected by erosion and will need repair.

Tully

Prior to TC Ita, Tully was set to harvest a record crop but additional trash, tops and soil as a result of sprawled and flattened paddocks will reduce the CCS content of the cane and is likely to extend the crushing season.

Grower Tom Harney says Cyclone Ita’s eye passed over the top of Tully.

“Advanced crops were flattened from the north west, then the south east strong winds tore it back in the opposite direction leaving some with minor breakage but we consider ourselves the lucky ones. It appears building infrastructure has escaped damage this time with few reports in on this to date.”

Washouts along roads will need to be repaired before the crush starts in the district in June.

Innisfail

There is mixed impact to the crop. An estimated 30% of the cane has been flattened, 30% has some level of impact with the rest appearing to be knocked around but relatively okay. There are no obvious signs of a lot of cane being snapped and no immediate indication that cane has been up-rooted, but further inspection inside blocks will need to be done to make a full assessment.

Growers are expecting water logging to be a big issue. There is some infrastructure damage to creek crossings and washouts along creeks and headlands. Grower Joe Marano says it appears that most of the affected cane is plant or first ratoon on former tree or banana land. “When this cane is harvested it will have increased extraneous matter and a lower CCS. The cane does not look as if has snapped as in Larry and Yasi. The wind looks as if has only come in a single direction,” he says. Some stool loss may occur during harvest.

Mackay

Torrential rainfall of 100mm - 230mm left advanced sugarcane crops vulnerable to TC Ita’s winds and there is severe lodging, while the less advanced cane has either remained standing or has minor to moderate sprawling. Grower Kevin Borg says the lodging will make harvesting harder and slower.

“It will also impact on sugar content as there will be a lot more extraneous matter going in with the cane to the mills.

“We’re hoping to see much of the minor and moderately lodged or sprawled cane stand back up again with some good weather over the next couple of weeks.”

The lodged cane will prove less ideal as planting material due to the damage.

Burdekin

The impact on the cane crop remains hard to assess but there is flattened cane everywhere through the region. Until the ground dries out sufficiently to allow growers to get close to have a look it is not known if the cane has just been blown over or if the cane has been snapped.

The rain and wet conditions will delay planting by a minimum of one week. Some growers have expressed concern that the stool on the cane that is down has been exposed. This may result in the stool being picked up at harvest and will negatively impact on next year’s crop.

Proserpine

Flooding, more than wind, has caused the most damage. Some areas are relatively unscathed, while others have whole blocks that have been flattened or washed out completely.

There is direct flood damage in Kelsey and flood debris throughout the plains areas and river flats. Most areas have heavy to moderate lodging, but its most obvious to Q232 through the valley (Gregory, Strathdickie, Cannonvalley and Preston).

Water has spilled over levee banks, something locals say has not occurred in nearly 40 years.
Herbert River

95% of the crop has been flattened but not quite as badly twisted and shredded as was the case after Cyclone Yasi. The Herbert River flood ranks as second highest on record at the Gairloch gauging station. The swift current has caused extensive washouts and infrastructure damage notably around cane rail and siding facilities. Gowrie Creek bridge damage was severe. Whilst an overall a loss of at least 10% of income is expected there are some far more extreme cases.

Apart from farm clean up and repairs, the main concern is the damage to quality of the cane with the river carrying load of fine sludge. CCS reduction in lodged cane is expected and the harvest will present special problems.

Other significant issues are the challenge to find seed cane for newly approved varieties which have been severely damaged also clean seed plots have been hit hard, and debris removal from waterways, paddocks and around cane rail ballast blowouts.

The mills

The Australian Sugar Milling Council says no major to mills has been reported.

Inspections are underway along the cane railway networks as washouts will need to be repaired ahead of the crushing season which is scheduled to get underway in 6 to 8 weeks. Many of the railway bridges in the far north are covered in debris and will need to pass inspection.

The ASMC is urging growers with crops that have been blown or washed over to liaise closely with their harvesting contractors to ensure that damage to the sugarcane stools is minimised and that as much of the dirt, leaves and trash as possible is removed.
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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Why CANEGROWERS is working hard to keep QSL for growers**

The proposal which has been put up by Wilmar might look similar to what we have through QSL on face value, but CANEGROWERS cautions growers that it is important to look closely at the detail. There are major differences between the proposal on the table and what we currently have through QSL:

- **No real say & no assurance that share of income to growers will be protected into the future** - we would be turning over greater say to a large monopoly processor of cane in each of its mill districts – the ‘equal grower/miller representation’ being put forward is as part of a joint-venture company which would have an exclusive long term contract (15 years) with Wilmar Sugar Trading (WST) to market the crop and obtain realisation of sale proceeds. It appears there is no open access to the books of that entity.

- **No transparency**
  - No real say & no assurance that share of income to growers will be protected into the future
  - We would be turning over greater say to a large monopoly processor of cane in each of its mill districts – the ‘equal grower/miller representation’ being put forward is as part of a joint-venture company which would have an exclusive long term contract (15 years) with Wilmar Sugar Trading (WST) to market the crop and obtain realisation of sale proceeds. It appears there is no open access to the books of that entity.

- **No choice** - by coupling cane milling and sugar marketing activities under its proposed model, Wilmar is denying its growers the ability to determine who prices and sells their economic-interest (2/3rd) sugar. Wilmar is exercising regional milling monopoly and market powers. It would appear that a consequence of such conduct could be substantial damage to QSL and potentially its elimination as a competitor and therefore be unavailable to other growers.

---

**MODEL BEING PROPOSED BY CANEGROWERS**

- GROWERS
  - SELL CANE
  - CSA (cane supply agreement)
    - Define GEI (Grower Economic Interest) sugar as in RSSA & establish grower rights and clear links to the RSSA
    - Include reference to RSSA
  - RSSA (raw sugar supply agreement)
    - GEI sugar defined in RSSA & grower rights confirmed
    - Growers party to RSSA
    - Include reference to CSA / Pricing Agreement
    - Growers can nominate their GEI sugar to either QSL or Mill Co.
  - Rolling contract
    - Notice, significantly longer than current
  - Unchanged sugar delivery logistics & raw sugar quality arrangements

- MILL CO.
  - SUPPLY SUGAR
  - QSL
    - SELL SUGAR
  - QSL Marketing Arrangements
    - FOB Sales Contracts
      - To mills who market their own EI Sugar
  - QSL Sales Contracts
    - To export customers
      - GEI Sugar
      - MEI (Millers Economic Interest)

- CANEGROWERS
  - INDEPENDENT BOARD
  - Selected by committee of 2 grower reps, 2 miller reps
  - Manages 3 key pillars:
    - Pricing
    - Logistics
    - Financing
    - Sales
  - (For nominated Mill EI & Grower EI Sugar)

- EXPORT CUSTOMERS
  - SELL SUGAR
  - QSL Export Sales

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**MODEL BEING PROPOSED BY WILMAR**

- GROWERS
  - SELL CANE
  - WILMAR SUGAR AUSTRALIA
    - SELL SUGAR
    - WILMAR SUGAR TRADING
      - SELL SUGAR
  - JOINT MARKETING COMPANY
    - 50/50 Wilmar/Cane Growers
      - Store sugar in terminals
      - Overseas marketing
      - Grower pooling & pricing
      - Grower advances
  - Joint Marketing Company 50/50 Wilmar/Cane Growers
    - WEI Sugar Trading pays on FOB basis including transparent premiums
  - Customers (overseas refineries)
    - Customers pay on delivery
  - Other non-Australian millers
    - Processes cane and makes sugar
  - WILMAR SUGAR AUSTRALIA
    - Processes cane and makes sugar
    - WILMAR SUGAR TRADING
      - SELL SUGAR
      - 50/50 Wilmar/Cane Growers
  - JOINT MARKETING COMPANY
    - 50/50 Wilmar/Cane Growers
      - Store sugar in terminals
      - Overseas marketing
      - Grower pooling & pricing
      - Grower advances
  - Joint Marketing Company 50/50 Wilmar/Cane Growers
    - WEI Sugar Trading pays on FOB basis including transparent premiums
  - Customers (overseas refineries)
    - Customers pay on delivery
  - Other non-Australian millers
    - Processes cane and makes sugar

---

*Australian Canegrower | 28 April 2014*
Australian players. This would have ramifications for the whole industry.

- **No mechanism to protect growers** - in the long term there will be less security for growers, because the institutional arrangements introduced in 1923 so that mills could not misuse their regional milling monopoly powers, will be done away with under this deal.

- **No industry-focussed body protecting growers from a large monopoly player** - QSL is set up to operate in the best interests of the industry (growers and millers) whereas it is not clear that Wilmar’s proposal carries the same assurances.

- **No long term focus** - all of this adds to a loss of transparency. It is the ownership and transparency which growers currently get under the QSL model that gives them the confidence to invest for the long term.

CANEGROWERS is advising its members that the model we currently have with QSL is by far the preferable model, and that they will be working with the other industry players to develop an option which keeps QSL in play which can be taken back to Wilmar.

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**Fuel tax credits helping primary producers cut costs**

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is urging primary producers and associated businesses to take advantage of assistance it’s offering to get their fuel tax credit (FTC) claims right.

The ATO’s Pauline Zdjelar says online tools and information on the Tax Office’s website can help get fuel tax credits claims right and avoid costly mistakes, such as claiming for fuel used in light vehicles (4.5 tonne GVM or less) when they travel on public roads.

“And any fuel used for private purposes regardless of the GVM of the vehicle is not eligible for fuel tax credits,” Pauline says.

She says some primary producers are also making errors calculating their claim, which they can easily avoid.

“FTC rates do change, so I’d urge everyone to use our online Fuel tax credit calculator every time they do their BAS to get their calculations right. This can help you avoid mistakes, saving time and money.

“And our Fuel tax credit eligibility tool is a must to make sure they can claim the fuel they use in their business.”

Pauline also urges everyone to look at Fuel tax credits for business, which is a complete guide to who can claim and how to do it.

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SRA Board backs YCS program

By Neil Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Sugar Research Australia

Investing in a three-year integrated research program to combat YCS

The SRA Board recently made the decision to invest nearly $4 million from reserves to fund a three-year integrated research program as part of its ongoing resolve to identify and develop management strategies for Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS).

In early April, the Board hit the road and over three days travelled from Cairns, south to Ingham. During this time Board members met with SRA Members, visited YCS-affected farms and listened to grower’s and miller’s research needs.

Hearing and seeing first-hand the impact YCS is having on the communities that produce more than 80% of Australia’s sugar affirmed the Board’s decision that using reserves to fund further YCS research was a solid investment decision.

The Solving the Sugarcane Yellow Canopy Syndrome research project which was funded by DAFF, SRDC and BSES in 2013 is due to finish at the end of June.

This project has delivered a wealth of knowledge about the effects of the condition and has helped to narrow down the large number of possible causes of YCS. It will continue in a revised form after input from the independent Scientific Research Panel.

The funding will also be invested in two new projects that are expected to complement the continuing project, and will possibly steer our research direction into new avenues as we progress.

The first new project will be undertaken by the University of Western Sydney over a period of two years and will compare the health of the soil that healthy and YCS-affected plants grow in, in an attempt to identify if differences exist. This knowledge may lead to the identification of soil health management strategies that growers can put into place to manage YCS.

The second new project will be conducted by SRA over one year.

Through a range of biochemical and physiological approaches it will seek to understand how YCS affects the internal behaviour of the sugarcane plant.

The SRA research team will collaborate on the collection of data and the complex analysis of results with world-renowned experts from institutes in Australia, Canada, Germany, the United States of America and South Africa in the course of this project.

The independent YCS Scientific Reference Panel, appointed under the original project, will closely monitor the investment program over the three-year period to ensure that the research effort remains focused and outcomes are communicated to SRA Members.

The SRA Board’s visit to the north

As mentioned above, the SRA Board travelled to north Queensland at the beginning of the month.

The trip was all about the Board meeting SRA Members–both growers and millers–and listening to where they believe we can invest in research and development to increase their profitability.

The Board also visited the SRA teams in Meringa, Tully and Ingham to see first-hand the specialist research and trial work we do at these sites.

The personal stories of our northern SRA Members and levy payers were heard at a series of BBQs, where our Members confirmed the Board’s views on the importance of variety improvement, extension/adoption and solving the YCS puzzle.

The Board remains committed to connecting with SRA Members and levy payers so that SRA’s research efforts meet our Members’ needs.

In August the Board will visit the Burdekin and Central cane-growing regions and I urge all SRA Members to come and meet our Board. 

Paul Wright, SRA Chairman, talks to growers at Ingham
**Water meter reading trial**

The Queensland Government says irrigators are set to save up to $120 a year by reading their own water meters.

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Andrew Cripps says self-reading will be available to irrigators within ‘metered entitlement areas’ who take water directly from a bore or watercourse.

A pilot program will take place in the Bowen Groundwater Management area. The government says single meter readings cost irrigators $60 and some farmers have one or more meter.

“In October 2012, we began the process of handing the control of water meters used to measure supplemented water back into the hands of irrigators,” he says.

“So far the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has transferred its ownership of more than 5000 water meters to irrigators. We are providing an opportunity to irrigators to save money by reading their own water meters.”

Mr Cripps said water meter readings could be submitted via a new online service, which is also compatible with iPhones and Android smartphones.

“The online service is part of the Newman Government’s commitment to improving service delivery for the community, making it quick and easy to submit water meter readings through a user-friendly online service,” he says.

Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Farmer’s Federation CEO Dan Galligan says the pilot should reduce costs and encourage irrigators to manage their water use.

“QFF looks forward to this initiative being extended to other irrigation areas across the state administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.”


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**End of Year Water Trading**

Trading for seasonal assignments in the Bundaberg WSS active market will be closing on Monday 23 June 2014. To allow appropriate processing and payment times, the last day to trade water on the Waterfind system for most SunWater regions will be Thursday 19 June 2014.

Waterfind provides canegrowers with access to a comprehensive range of seasonal allocation and permanent water opportunities. Our range of services includes:

- fully integrated water brokerage service
- contract documentation
- conveyancing
- settlement

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**MetEye weather for farmers**

Queensland has joined other parts of the country in being able to access an interactive and comprehensive weather data service.


CEO of QFF, Dan Galligan, says it is now easier for farmers to access information relevant to their specific location and break it down into three hour segments.

“All farmers, almost every month of the year, make management decisions based on the weather and forecasts. These decisions have a huge impact on their livelihood and profitability, so having data such as this readily accessible is welcome for industry.”

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www.waterfind.com.au
Market Update

Ginette Barrett, Liquidity Manager
Current as of 22 April 2014

Market Commentary

Sugar

The raw sugar market continued to trend downwards during the last fortnight, trading in the 16.50-17.25 c/lb. range, in a holiday shortened period. Prices in the white sugar market are weak, driving the refining premium lower and now weighing on raw sugar prices.

The 2014 season is currently pricing A$440 dollars per tonne for the Australian sugar producers. With little new fundamental news to influence the market, the recent low volume daily ranges look set to continue in the short-term. Pressure on the front contracts and spreads will continue until we clear the physical surplus still in play.

Brazil experienced some rain, however it had limited impact and continued hot and dry weather is predicted. UNICA are due to release their first estimate of the current harvest this week, which will provide insight into the impacts of the dry weather in Brazil. Analysts now suggest the sucrose impact of the dry weather will not be felt until later in the crush, when cane impacted by the lack of moisture finds its way to the Brazilian mills. A weather premium will remain priced into sugar futures as the El Niño weather event later this year is now seen as a ‘probability’. Currency movements seem to be less on the market radar at present, with the London whites expiry and soft physical premiums more influential in price behaviour.

In India, producers await news from the Government regarding extending export subsidies. However, domestic prices so far have been more attractive with very little additional Indian sugar finding its way to the export market.

Of some concern is the lack of physical uptake as producers discount sugar for spot delivery, suggesting spreads may need move further into carry to incentivise storage.

QSL’s core view is for continued weakness in physical premiums and further steepening of the futures curve as a mechanism to clear the current sugar surplus. The outlook however, remains more positive with stronger sugar currencies and a probable El Niño likely to move us toward a tighter global balance into 2015.

Currency

The Australian dollar has also been relatively subdued in market trading leading up to the Easter holiday period. Recent strength was capped at 94.5 US cents with some improvement in US economic data causing a profit taking move back toward 93 US cents as markets closed for the Easter break.

Recent corporate activity has seen a number of large assets sold to US interests, increasing the demand for Australian dollars to pay for the acquisitions. Further, Japanese investor appetite for Australian dollar bonds remains quite strong, frustrating local exporters who appear underweight in their currency cover.

This week, all eyes will be on the release of first quarter consumer spending data (CPI), which drive expectations for the next interest rate move by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The Australian dollar looks set to continue to trade at the upper end of exporter comfort zones at 92-95 US cents until we see more evidence of a recovering US economy.

While all care is taken in the preparation of this report the reliability or accuracy of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.
QSL Update

By CEO Greg Beashel

Since Wilmar announced its intention to break away from the export sugar industry’s collaborative approach through QSL, we have spent a lot of time talking with grower organisation representatives, millers and individual growers.

Overwhelmingly, growers and millers are telling us they want to retain the system that provides unrivalled price transparency and marketing strength – a system that works for the benefit of growers and millers, offers a range of pricing options for different risk appetites, and delivers results for the entire industry.

To provide additional clarity, I thought it would be useful to share some of the common questions being asked and QSL’s responses (below).

Commonly asked questions

Is QSL able to continue to provide a value-adding service to the industry beyond 2017, if Wilmar provides notice?

With the remaining export sugar (about 1.5Mt), significant value can be achieved for the industry. We will work with our members to ensure we have the right model in place to achieve this. This may involve exploring other business development opportunities, such as domestic market services, to raise additional revenue as well as reducing operating costs.

Why can’t Wilmar do what they want to do within the QSL system?

Wilmar could do almost everything they are offering to their growers under QSL’s current system, except sell their growers’ economic interest sugar. Any aspect of the QSL system can be changed with the agreement of members.

If Wilmar provided notice, would it be able to leave before 2017?

Not without the consent of other milling members and our banking partners and QSL would not allow it under our Constitution as it would not be in the best interests of growers and millers.

What happens with the sugar terminals if Wilmar leaves?

Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) would have the right to terminate or change the lease for the bulk sugar terminals from 1 July 2017. We believe it is likely QSL would remain the manager of all of the terminals.

What changes will occur if Wilmar leaves?

For the next three years there would be very little change. Beyond that, there would be some changes reflective of the lower tonnage being exported through QSL. Taking each of the four parts of the business in turn:

Financing: QSL would provide an Advances Program through access to a credit facility. While there may be some impact on financing limits and costs at the margin, QSL would still be able to obtain financing at very low rates.

Pricing: QSL would continue to offer pricing options tailored to the industry’s needs. There may be an impact on the number of pooling options available.

Logistics: QSL would intend to continue to operate the terminals on a pooled-cost basis for RSSA participants and provide Wilmar with the option to undertake a storage and handling agreement. Based on 2014 season volumes and costs. This would reduce the overall costs for the remaining pooled participants by around $4/tonne.

Selling: Millers would continue to have the option to sell their economic interest sugar. QSL would continue to sell sugar to our long-standing customers who are prepared to pay a premium to a producer seller over a trader.

How does QSL provide transparency?

The structure of QSL as a not-for-profit, tax-free company owned by the industry is a robust and transparent model that has no other motivation than to act in the best interests of the industry and maximise pool returns. QSL is owned by its members and is required to disclose all costs and returns to its members.

How is Wilmar’s proposed joint marketing company model different to QSL?

The main difference that industry participants have raised is the contracting model with Wilmar trading and the transparency issues this creates. There are other obvious differences such as it handling a lower tonnage than QSL currently does and it not being a tax free entity.

Will Queensland’s quality brand be at risk?

The reduced pooling of raw sugar will compromise our flexibility in managing quality that matches our customers’ needs.

Our position

Greater economies of scale are achieved if all of Queensland’s export sugar is kept together and moved through QSL’s four value offerings: financing, pricing, selling and logistics.

No matter what happens, QSL will continue as a major force in raw sugar marketing and export, delivering ongoing value to its members and advancing the industry.

The industry now has the opportunity to come together to assess all potential options for the future and decide what is best collectively for the Queensland sugar industry.

We will work with our members to ensure we have a model in place that delivers value and provides our loyal customers, with quality Queensland sugar that is delivered on-time and in-full.

Please visit www.qsl.com.au for further frequently asked questions and answers.
A lasting legacy from a natural disaster

By Ron Mullins, CANEGROWERS Chief Operational Officer

It was the extreme drought of the early 1990’s that highlighted the importance and status of women in the sugar industry and that triggered the birth of the CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District. In early May 2014 this group celebrates not only celebrates its 20th anniversary but more importantly, recognises the contribution that the sugarcane industry women are making to the industry.

At the height of the 90’s drought CANEGROWERS was desperate to grab the attention of the Queensland and Federal Governments and to explain the impact the dry seasons were having on the sugarcane industry and more importantly on families and regional communities.

The drought ravaged the sugar industry. Its devastation impacted on many growers who had little or no crop to harvest for several years and regional production was a mere shadow of its capability.

To get the attention of government at that time was problematic because drought was a national issue which most politicians saw as a repetitive problem. The initiative was therefore taken to engage with Senators Margaret Reynolds and Cheryl Kernot through our industry women. The Senators were invited to the region to meet women of the industry to discuss the impacts, especially those issues confronting families and communities. The media attention at the time was overwhelming.

The experience of the drought was the catalyst for a life changing experience for many of the women involved, the effects of which cannot be measured in the year it happened but over the lifetime of that person or that group of people. Some, if not most, of the women involved have gone on to higher and greater things in leadership roles that they may not have otherwise have undertaken.

The formation of the CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District was the start of the formation of many women’s groups throughout the sugar industry and globally across rural and regional Queensland such as the Queensland Rural Regional and Remote Women’s Network (QRRRWN).

This year, the Network’s 20th anniversary, is also a milestone for the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Limited with the appointment of its first female director in its 88 year history. While women have been directors of regional CANEGROWERS companies for the majority of the previous 20 years, this latest achievement has not happened by accident.

Michelle Fisher, the newly appointed director to QCGO Ltd has been an active participant in the family farming business in the Rocky Point mill area and a participant in various women in agriculture leadership programs.

While this appointment is one to be celebrated, as is the 20th anniversary of the Network, let us not forget the daily commitment and generally unacknowledged contribution of women to the sugar industry, the community and most importantly to the family and the family farm.

We recently celebrated International Women’s Day - with “opportunity knocks” as the theme.

The involvement of women in farming business management and leadership within the community and industry organisations results in improved economic outcomes and quality of life for those businesses and the communities in regional and rural Australia.

All industry women are to be congratulated for their contribution to industry sustainability and on this occasion to the women of the CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District who have participated as members, office holders and those who have provided sound leadership to CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District over its first 20 years.

Many organisations that are not funded usually wither on the vine unless they have the commitment of many. CANEGROWERS Network Mackay District is a stayer due to the commitment of so many over these past 20 years.

I have every confidence in the future of the Network as I have with the future of family farming in Australia.
Now is the time to monitor cane grubs...
Sugar Research Australia says this season’s beetle flights in many areas appear to be comparable if not larger than last season. While it may be too late to treat the current season crop, now is the time to begin sampling and monitoring so that you can decide whether or not to treat next season’s crop. However any management must be targeted and strategic as you will read in this Crop Protection advertising feature.

Smart grub control for lasting effectiveness

_Supplied by Crop Care_

Overuse of any one active ingredient, no matter how effective, can ultimately lead to problems such as pest resistance.

At the moment there is one very effective active ingredient, imidacloprid, being used extensively by the cane industry for cane grub control either as a sprayed liquid under a range of commercial names including Confidor Guard®, Senator 700WG® and Nuprid®, or as the sustained-release granules suSCon Maxi®.

Even though there is currently no evidence that resistance has developed in cane grubs in Australia, continuous use of any one active increases that risk. Repeated application of the same active may also speed up insecticide degradation in the soil, due to the build-up of soil microbes that utilise insecticides as a food source. The sugar industry also actively promotes minimising potential accumulation of farm inputs and runoff in the environment.

**Imidacloprid – does it have other effects on cane growth?**

With these resistance, product failure and environmental risks in mind, sugar industry researchers are concerned about claims that in the absence of cane grubs, liquid imidacloprid may still have positive growth effects on sugarcane via protection from other non-living stress factors such as soil conditions, salinity, temperature extremes, drought or waterlogging.

Also of concern are claims that these positive effects would not be seen from the sustained-release granules suSCon Maxi – due to there being insufficient imidacloprid in the soil at any one time, compared with annually applied liquid imidacloprid.

Due to their serious economic impact, cane grub management has been the major focus of sugarcane pest research undertaken by Sugar Research Australia (formerly BSES) over many years including the continued development of controlled-release insecticides to extend the time that active ingredients are available in the soil, to suppress cane grub populations, and to save on annual application costs.

**Testing the imidacloprid growth-effect claims**

To provide advice to growers about any possible positive growth effects from imidacloprid in sugarcane (in the absence of cane grubs) field research has been undertaken since 2012 in Queensland by the SRA entomology research group in conjunction with Crop Care.

Technical consultant to Crop Care, Glen Tucker said seven field trials had been established on cane farms from Bundaberg north to Gordonvale, in seven different cane varieties, with either controlled-release suSCon Maxi granules (at two different rates) or sprayed Senator 700WG (at two different rates) applied at drill fill-in in the plant crop. These rates corresponded to the registered rates of all liquid imidacloprid products for the target cane grub species, and the rates for which positive crop effects have been claimed.

**2013 trial results**

Mr Tucker says cane grub infestation in trial control plots was either absent or very low, and was unlikely to affect cane growth or yield.

“In the absence of cane grubs in the plant crop, there was no significant difference in yield (tonnes/ha) between cane treated with suSCon Maxi, Senator 700WG or untreated cane.

“There was also no difference in the vigour of young first ratoon cane as a result of imidacloprid treatments in the absence of cane grubs – measured as primary ratoon shoot numbers and the number of gaps between shoots.”

“Neither was there any difference in plant cane response between the liquid and controlled-release granular imidacloprid formulations at registered rates of application.”

**Continuing trial work**

Mr Tucker says liquid imidacloprid treatments had been re-applied to young first ratoons at all existing trial sites and further trials have been established to continue the work.

He says it is essential for everyone in the industry to maximise the life of imidacloprid.

“We all need to do what we can to prolong the life of such a product through strategic application. Using a liquid imidacloprid in blocks with low or non-existent grub risk actually increases the risk of failure.

“suSCon Maxi provides excellent grub control and yield increases for up to four years. The reported application of liquid imidacloprid products within the first year of application of suSCon Maxi to the plant crop is unnecessary and contrary to label directions.”

Mr Tucker recommends that growers refer to the industry’s GrubPlan program for information on whole-farm management of cane grubs, and strategic, economical use of treatments.
Controlled release increases nitrogen efficiency

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True controlled release fertilisers such as Agrocote® allow cane farmers to increase the efficiency of nitrogen applied in plant and ratoon crops. Agrocote evenly releases its nutrients over a number of months effectively reducing the loss of nitrogen due to leaching from irrigation and rain, as well as denitrification in wet soils.

Impact Fertilisers is in its second year of commercial sales of Agrocote to the cane market. Many farmers last season tried Agrocote blends against conventional programs and indications are that for 2014 many of these growers will implement Agrocote blends as standard fertiliser practice.

Agrocote offers growers the ability to increase farm profits by simply converting a portion of their current nitrogen requirement to controlled release technology.

The product has been available in overseas commercial agriculture for some years. In Australia, Agrocote is available exclusively from Impact Fertilisers. We invite growers to contact their Impact Fertilisers dealer to discuss Agrocote options for the 2014 season.

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*suSCon Maxi is now registered for 4 year control of childers cane grub. suSCon Maxi is a registered trademark of Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd. ABN 80 061 362 347
Tree nursery tries tissue culture cane

By Amy Claireton

Skills and experience are never wasted as nurseryman and cane grower Jim Webster has discovered after growing 2–3 million seedlings each year from tissue culture for the teak industry in north Queensland. When this industry collapsed a few years ago the team at Forrest Nursery, outside of Bundaberg, looked for opportunities to diversify. With all the necessary skills and infrastructure already in place, tissue cultured sugarcane was a natural addition to their business.

“We now have a contract with Bundaberg Sugar Services to raise the seedlings ordered for the two planting seasons,” says Jim. “There are nine new varieties in the tissue culture program this year,” he says. “Bundaberg growers place their order with Bundaberg Sugar Services and we fill the bulk order using tissue culture mother stock material supplied by Sugar Research Australia.”

Forrest Nursery began sugarcane seedling propagation in November 2013 to fill orders for the current 2014 autumn planting. Around 20,000 plants are being grown.

Seedlings for the 2014 spring planting are now in the lab to be delivered to growers in September.

“The tissue sub-culture supplied to us consists of 3,000 tiny plants that have leaves but no roots. We transfer the individual plantlets into multiplication agar in the laboratory. As each plantlet grows two shoots, we divide them to make two separate plants.”

The agar used to grow the tissue culture during the multiplication stage is made in the nursery’s laboratory using the required nutrients and sterile water. The agar is mixed in a laminar flow cabinet to ensure everything is kept sterile and then the tubs are placed in the autoclave to set the agar.

This multiplication process continues every three to six weeks, depending on the temperature, until the order is filled. Then the plants are ‘deflasked’.
and transferred into seedling trays where they continue to grow until they are ready for planting out.

The seedlings are kept in a climate controlled hothouse environment for about two weeks, in which time they develop a robust root system.

“We control the humidity and temperature using sensors to trigger the automated misting system. They are then moved outdoors under an automated overhead irrigation boom that keeps them moist and fertilised until they are fully grown and ready for planting out,” Jim explains.

Seedlings produced through a tissue culture program are guaranteed disease-free and the program enables growers to access new varieties sooner and assess their productivity on their own farms.

“Our facilities have the capacity to produce 25,000 seedlings at a time but we can easily expand to 100,000 seedlings if the demand grows,” says Jim.

Lindsay and Sue Forrest, owners of four Forrest Nursery sites, including the Bundaberg nursery, began their business on their farm in Western Australia in 1993. They purchased a 39 ha farm near Bundaberg in 2006 primarily to produce eucalypt and vegetable seedlings closer to the markets in the eastern states.

The Bundaberg site was set up with a 16 ha nursery, 14 ha for cropping and the remaining 9 ha is native bushland. Two years ago the cropping area was changed from small crop production to sugarcane with sub-surface trickle irrigation.

Jim is convinced of the benefit of trickle but has decided to change to surface application.

“The whole area of cane is one block with eight irrigation sub-blocks,” says Jim. “All the water and nutrients are supplied through the tape meaning that we can deliver nutrients late in the season and can apply water whenever it’s required, even when it’s windy.

“Trickle irrigation has saved us from having winch tracks through the block and is cost effective, particularly with increasing water and electricity costs.”

Jim runs the trickle system using mains pressure of 15 psi and supplements the scheme water with water from their on-farm storage. Being able to water two sub-blocks at a time for 24 hours enables Jim to water the whole cane block every 4 to 8 days, as required.

A soil moisture probe is connected to the Bundaberg Sugar Services website to schedule irrigation applications.

Two staff members from the nursery also work in the cane, taking care of all the spraying and managing the water and nutrients, and contractors do the planting and harvesting operations.

The farm was all planted up in 2011 to KQ228, an early variety, on half the block and Q240 and Q208 on the rest of the block. Jim says they plan to take out some sub-blocks earlier to stagger their plant cane into the future.
A conversation on sugar and health

Dr Mary Harrington, nutrition communications manager at Sugar Australia, is addressing 10 common myths in the ‘war on sugar’ in a campaign being funded by industry for the next two years. This is the first of a series of articles she is writing for Australian Canegrower.

Is sugar fattening?

By Dr Mary Harrington
Sugar Australia

Sugar is not particularly fattening. Eating too much of anything can cause body weight to build up and it’s nothing specific to sugar.

Contrary to what we might believe, sugar is not especially high in kilojoules (energy or calories). For example one gram of sugar provides 17 kilojoules of energy to the body when eaten. Compare this to fat which provides a much larger 37 kilojoules of energy per gram. You can therefore eat just over twice the amount of sugar as you can of fat, and still only get less than half the kilojoules of energy per gram. As well as this, carbohydrates (sugars and starches) are often more bulky, for example rice or pasta, and so you would probably fill up on them easier and just eat less, that you would eating fatty foods.

Let’s not forget alcohol, which provides a sizeable 29 kilojoules of energy per gram when consumed. In comparison to sugar, this is quite a lot. We know it is relatively easy to consume kilojoules from alcohol, so this is one source of energy not to forget!

If sugar does not make you fat, then what does? The answer to this question is too many kilojoules of energy from any food or drink can cause weight gain. This is especially true if the kilojoules are not burned off during physical activity and daily exercise.

Our behaviour around eating food is actually quite complex and involves biological, social, psychological (emotional) and cultural factors. The rise in obesity is an example of where modern, affluent lifestyles have allowed us to be less physically active but able to have as much food and drink as we want. We can easily have more energy (kilojoules or calories) from food and drinks than we expend in our daily activities, which results in weight gain. In short, it is not a reflection of how much of a certain food ingredient we eat, like sugar, but of how many calories from food and drinks, we consume overall, and whether we use up the calories they produce or not. If we do not use up the calories, we will get fat.

This is the advice that is provided by the Australian Government in its dietary guidelines. It says that in order to achieve and maintain a healthy weight you should be physically active and choose amounts of nutritious food and drinks to meet your energy needs. It also says that sugary drinks should be limited in the context of reducing overall kilojoule intake. A healthy balanced diet can therefore contain all foods within moderation, and this includes sugar.

Competition builds the bug for ag-science

Kids often love bugs as much as farmers are wary of them and a new schools-based competition is hoping to build on that fascination.

Bug Attack aims to encourage classes to undertake hands-on experiments and study insect pests in kitchen pantries. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister John McVeigh says the competition will hopefully ignite a love of agricultural science and research.

“‘Agriculture underpins tens of thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars to our economy. It’s the lifeblood of our regional communities, so it’s vital we foster an interest in science and agriculture among school students so they take up careers in the sector,’” Mr McVeigh says.

DAFF competition organiser Kerrie Rubie says the Hermitage Research Facility Schools Plant Science Competition is linked to the new Australian school curriculum, making it easy for teachers to incorporate into learning programs.

“The competition has so far helped more than 70,000 students increase their knowledge of agriculture and crop science,” Ms Rubie said.

Prizes include: trophies, medallions and certificates, digital microscopes/cameras, science books, gardening packs, art packs, science kits and educational DVDs, a 12-month subscription to a science journal worth $500, a $250 gift certificate and $1,000 towards tertiary education materials.

Entries close on Friday June 27. For more information, visit:
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This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.

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Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325
Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

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Standard Topper, 8 Blade Chopper, SI A1 Chopper Motors, Good Tracks New Grouser Plates. Good Condition!


CAMECO CHW 2500 Wheel 95 Model.
CAT Eng. 325 HP Recent Overhaul.
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2 x Kubota M9540 4wd aircohs 95hp 2007 model tractors. 3700/3500 hrs in good working condition. $34k ea ono including gst. 0409 271 016 (Silkwood area)

Massey Harris Ferguson TE-20 1955 model diesel vintage tractor $3k Ono. 0409 271 016 (Silkwood area)

2 x heavy duty 4 tonne tippers. Silkwood area 15k +gst for pair. 0407 144 637

Perkins 6/354 motor on trailer with Kelly and Lewis 2” to 3” pump. $7k +gst ono. 0407 144 637 (Silkwood area)

2 x Ford 5000 tractors. $8k +gst ea ono. 0407 144 637 (Silkwood area)

Caterpillar D2 3J crawler with blade and canopy. Comes with original manual and Lewis 2” to 3” pump. $7k +gst ono. 0419 826 251

Caterpillar D2 4U crawler. Comes with original grease gun. $7500 +gst. 0407 144 637 (Silkwood area)

Massey 102/105 harvester parts chopper shafts, blades, hitch, various bolts, base cutter disc etc. $3k +gst. 0407 144 637 (Silkwood area)

Brand new never used ROPS for Massey Ferguson 65, 178, 185 tractors $800 ea +gst. 0407 144 637

International AACO 180 8 tonne truck sold as is $1500 Ono. 0407 144 637

2 x Industrial packing scales $1000 ea +gst. 0407 144 637

Maschio 120" rotary hoe near new condition $9500+gst Ono. 0407 177 637

Herbert River - Burdekin

Floatation tanks 2m x 1.2m x 0.8 fully foam filled 3 of, electric flange mount 20 hp teco motor, grinding pumps 3 phase perfect for sewage, 40hp teco motor coupled to a Kelly Lewis 5/6. 0419 826 251

GPS controlled laser levelling controller, Farm Scan Ag Level Guide, VGC, Still in Full time work, Selling to upgrade. Farm Scan Ag 2cm auto steer, traded on with new, Authorised dealer installation and training available. 0439 556 234

79 series Di Turbo white, steel tray, b/ bar, s/rails flares, mags,air/comp,aircon, UHF, cd, phone, c/control, rv seats, fine fuel filter, dual battery, led lights, RWC, 223,000 klm $37,000inc. 07 4784 0133 Mob 0418 840 166

CASE 770 Offset 56discs, Hydraulic fold for transport. John Deere 8400 with duals and 2cm G.P.S. John Deere 8970 400HP with Linkage. All good condition. 0417 765 044

Mackay - Proserpine

New Holland TM190 5500hrs good condition $66,000, Case MX180 6000 hrs $72,000 good condition, Massey Ferguson 6485 $55,000, Case CVX 1170 6000hrs fair condition $50,000, Kuhn 4.5m spike rotor $38,000. 0427 070 110

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev. infielder. VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4 row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

Excavator Kato 850g 24tonne $20,000 incl. GST. 07 4958 8248 after 6pm (Mackay)

Cameco shredder topper - suitable for parts or rebuild. 0427 186570

Celli hoe 100°; 7’slasher, both as new condition. Patroni hydraulic quick hitch. 0400 591 384

9t Trailhaul G/C $18,000 6t Ritchie Tipper $12,000 both incl 10.00 truck tyres $50 ea. 0438 585 294

102 Massey Cane Harvester $3600inc GST. Phone Jason 0417 272 424

5 foot EHD galvanized Howard slasher $1,250. Ford TW30 2WD as is $7,700 prices include GST. 0428 529 216

Weather report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Average rainfall (mm)</th>
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Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology’s Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later.

7 days to 9am Year to date
John Deere Cat3 heavy cast quick hitch $1,200+gst. JD 18.4x42 Duells complete, tyres as new $3,000+gst 0428 180 492
1994 Austof Powerhaul, elevated, good running order. $50,000 + GST ; ONO.

F1023 Tandum Volvo truck with tri-axle trailer, fits 3 5t Racecourse bins. Also spare
Volvo Prime Mover in good condition for parts. $35,000 + GST. 07 4956 5768 or 0458 565 768

2  Good Year Optitrac radial tractor tyres 420/70R 28 (as new). 2 BKT tractor tyres 8ply 16.9 - 28. 0427 811 898
1 x L&G 6 ton side tipper electric over hydraulic $12,000 incl. GST. Ford TW5 turbo coupled to Newton elevator bin good cond. for its age $40,000 incl. GST. 0419 759 359

Land Plane angle tilt 12’ grader blade $13,200 Inc GST. 07 4954 0931
International 766 tractor for sale good condition $8,800 neg. 0438 162 972 or 07 4959 5243
24ft Hart Carter pick up reel, as new. $5,500 inc GST. 07 4959 1098
2nd Hand Track Rollers: 42 x double, 6 x single and 6 x carrier rollers $110 each incl GST. Also 2 x front idlers $300 each Incl GST. All parts suit a 7700 D4 track harvester. 0419 473 364
Caterpillar D4 front track idlers X2. suit harvester, Part number 190 – 1551. new and still in crate. $900. 0488 541 660
Toft 7000 88 model. Underslung basemarker. 4’ plastic hood with ceiling fan. westhill chopper adjuster.Modified slew. Saws. Cab lifted.No rust. Always sheded. Suit Plant cutter or small tonnage. GC $45,000 ono plus GST. 0488 541 660
International 434 Bonnet.GC. no rust $500. 0488 541 660
Celli hoe 100’; 7’ slasher; both as new condition. Patroni hydraulic quick hitch. 0400 591 384
Cameco shredder topper - suitable for parts or rebuild. 0427 186 570
28 plate heavy duty John Shearer offsets. 0427 186 570
Fent 822 /200hp. 50klm P.H. $30,000. Chamberlain 4480 JD 160hp motor with double 4 tonne trailer, big tyres,6 inch axle.$15,000. 0417 636 828
Lister 25hp coupled to2.5 inch pump. New Holland 5 bag spreader$800. Fenner conveyor reduction gearboxes, 75hp & 90 hp electric motors Offers. 0417 636 828
Surplus 24/5 /32 rims, Used assorted tractor tyres. Offers ,MF65parts. 0417 636 828
3 row stool splitter 2 1/2 tonne galvanized box draw bar type $1,000 inc gst. 07 4959 1946 after 7pm
Mackay Sugar Shares - 80 cents. Ph 07 4958 8072
15 inch Harqup 8 blade chopper drums to suit 95mm blades. All new clamp bars. Good condition. 0428 541 197

Poplin Cane Planter $6,000 + GST. 150 X 125-315 30 HP (22kw) Electric Motor Pump w/- Star Deltar Starter, Starter & Lead on Trailer w/- Canopy $4,000 + GST. 0498 302 804

Bundaberg - Rocky Point
Drop-deck, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4139 8174 or 0417 004 717.
K Line Speedtillers for hire, efficient tillage implement, phone Ag Quip Hire 1300 859 869 (Bundaberg)
Howard heavy duty 90 inch rotary hoe with gear box and crumble roller, $6,000 + GST. 0448 034 046
Fiat 100-90 4WD $13,500. Inter 856 & loader $10,500. High lift 6T Side Tipper $6,000. Landcruiser wagon, 1992 $9,000.
Toyota Tip Truck DA115 $4,000. Poplan Billet Planter $7,000. Austin 460F Truck Cab Chasis $4,000. Elevator Tipper Bin $1,750, 1200 L Tank $2,500. Low Pressure Irrigator Bower Boom 50m on Avokah 410 water winch incl hose, excellent condition, $45,750. Prices include GST. 0419 577 110
4 x 8 stud Leyland rims to suit cane trailer. 3 x 445-65R 19.5 tyres to suit. Make offer.
Brennan Quick Hitch $100 + GST. Haaga Floor Sweeper $100+GST. 0427 769 086
1998 Powerhaul, good suspension, 5 speed, 1 x 6 ton and 4 ton side tipper bin. 0414 939 700
Toyota 80 series wagon 1hz 240km bull, tow bars, 2” lift straight, good condition $10,900. Komatsu 6D125-1 recon long engine $12,500 plus GST. 0438 139 636 or 0418 775 698
2 B-Double trailers with cane bins, I B-Double rated Kenworth prime mover. Will sell separately. POA. 0429 308 019 or 07 4121 2774 (Maryborough)
Austof Case 7700 Harvester, 98 model, M11 325 Hp Cummins, Approx 5,000 hrs, 2m centres, 4 bascutters (underslung box, leg each side), 8 blade chopper with blad saver, shredder topper, vortex fan, G/cond. $77,000 inc gst. 0428 212 792
Tractors: Massey Ferguson 7475 155hp $12,500 incl GST. 0438 139 636
For Sale - Isis Mill Shares. Phone: 0428 401 467
Case 7000 2005 4 blade chop, 4 new tyres, shredder topper vgc. 0417 155 304 (Bundaberg)

Wanted
Tractor tyres of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.
Wanted 3pl forklift or forklift not running. 0438 585 294
Wanted: Cummins QSM M11 prefer running and complete.0438 139 636
Wanted: Komatsu engine dead or alive. 0438 139 636

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