



# Water-Energy-Productivity Nexus

## OBJECTIVE

To improve the resilience and productivity of Queensland's irrigated sugarcane growers.

## POSITION

Addressing the nexus between water use efficiency, power use efficiency, and productivity will build on previous successful government investments (e.g. Energy savers and Rural Water Use Efficiency) and effectively support the resilience of Queensland sugarcane irrigators.

The critical issue with optimising water and power use efficiency is mostly around the economics of the system required to deliver the right amount at the right time in the right place. All of which increases grower resilience to external factors such as drought and climate change.

Reducing runoff and deep drainage reduces the ability for nutrients and chemicals to enter the waterway, and addresses rising ground water issues. Optimising irrigation management control and being able to irrigate after nutrient and/or chemical application, ensures efficiency and reduces potential for off-farm movement of chemicals and fertiliser.

## Practices have been improved through:

- On-farm irrigation system assessments,
- Incentivising irrigation system upgrades, and
- Investment in and extension of irrigation decision tools

## ISSUES

- Adoption of practices under the RWUE program has momentum, however irrigation technology and practices are changing and require further investment.
- Funding for the program expires in June 2018, and is confined to priority areas around the State.

## ACTIONS

- Commit \$9.6m to a four-year program addressing the water use efficiency, power use efficiency and productivity nexus.
- Ensure on-farm incentives in future programs are extended to all irrigated sugarcane areas. ■

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Australia is the world's second largest exporter of raw sugar



80% of Australia's raw sugar production is exported



\$2.5 billion value to the Australian economy



17,400 direct jobs, and 80,800 indirect jobs supported by the sugar industry



**CANEGROWERS** is the peak representative body for Australian sugarcane growers. Representing some 80% of growers, **CANEGROWERS** ensures growers needs are represented at the highest possible level of industry and government decision making. For more information visit [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au)