

POSITION STATEMENT

February 2018



CANEGROWERS



Industry Research, Development and Extension (RD&E)

OBJECTIVE

To maximise productivity, profitability, and sustainability in the Queensland sugar industry through continuous development and improvement.

POSITION

A high performing RD&E function in the sugarcane industry is vital to ensure continuous improvement and remain internationally competitive.

CANEGROWERS supports Sugar Research Australia (SRA) as the industry-owned RD&E organisation for the Australian sugar industry.

In 2015, funding from the Queensland Government was substantially reduced which restricted the scope of research within the industry. The potential flow on effect from not investing in the industry means that we become less competitive on the international stage.

The priorities of SRA and the Queensland Government need to be better aligned to ensure efficiencies and maximise the outcomes from RD&E spend.

ISSUES

- In 2015, the State Government reduced funding from \$4.05m to \$2.85m.
- Queensland Government and SRA research priorities are not fully aligned.

ACTIONS

- Reinstatement and maintain State Government funding to SRA, in real terms, to \$4.3 million.
- Align and coordinate government R&D to SRA and industry priorities. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dan Galligan

CEO, CANEGROWERS

m. 0429 707 809

e. dan_galligan@canegrowers.com.au



A BIG INDUSTRY DRIVEN BY GROWER CONFIDENCE



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