

















Grow a competitive and prosperous sugarcane industry

Queensland's sugarcane growers need a competitive sugar marketing environment and continuous development and improvement within the industry to prosper and plan for the future. To facilitate industry growth, the Queensland Government should ensure growers have access to a choice of sugar marketing services, fund industry Research & Development, encourage renewable energy projects and use and invest in rural infrastructure.

MARKETING CHOICE

Current situation

- The Sugar Industry Act provides for grower choice of sugar marketing services.
- Competition among sugar marketing service providers promotes performance improvement and lowers cost.

ACTIONS

- Maintain the legislation that supports grower choice in marketing.
- · Amend the SIA to:
 - Ensure the arbitration decisions provided for in the SIA can be referred to judicial review.
 - Reflect the breadth of the ACCC collective bargaining authorisations.

INDUSTRY R&D

Current situation

- The Queensland Government reduced annual funding to Sugar Research Australia (SRA) from \$4.05 million to \$2.85 million after the 2015 election.
- Queensland Government and SRA research priorities are not fully aligned.

ACTIONS

- Reinstate 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.

BIOFUTURES

Current situation

- The Queensland Government has provided a mandate for biofuels and is encouraging investment in the biofutures industry.
- The majority of sugarcane growers have limited ability to benefit from developments in biofutures that utilise cane.

ACTIONS

- Commit to increase the biofuel mandate to 10% to encourage further investment.
- Ensure the longevity of the mandate by supporting opportunities for growers to benefit from biofutures development such as funding a feasibility study ethanol plant suitability based off sugarcane feedstock.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current situation

- There has been limited infrastructure development to directly support the sugarcane industry for more than a decade.
- The Queensland Agricultural Land Audit identified that the largest potential for industry expansion exists in Northern Queensland, however there is no current development strategy for sugarcane.

ACTIONS

- Ensure water security by investing in water infrastructure for the sugarcane industry in regional Queensland, such as funding for water storage or a pipeline for Maryborough cane farmers.
- Invest in road infrastructure to improve safe access for oversize agricultural vehicles.
- Support the development of new sugarcane production in Queensland.
- Establish regional innovation summits to identify opportunities to expand Queensland's sugarcane industry.

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