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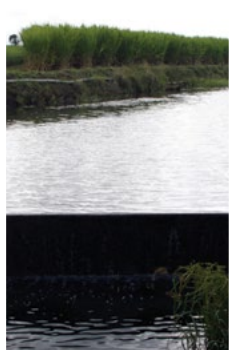
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**Union backs  
Code to stop  
exploitation  
of farmers**



**Industry  
push for  
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY



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11 September 2017



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*COVER IMAGE: Tully grower Ray Zamora has been enjoying record productivity on his Euramo cane farm, despite cutting his commercial fertiliser inputs by over 20%.*

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# National power policy still lacks any spark of innovation

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Just how furious do we need to get? For the best part of a decade CANEGROWERS has been ramping up calls for government to tackle the growing energy crisis enveloping Australia.

Irrigators nationwide have been treated like the proverbial canary in the mine shaft, as power-price increases of 130% in 10 years were passed off as somebody else's fault.

For a time, it was claimed that price rises were a result of 'gold plating' the networks, as overly sensitive policymakers sought to build redundancy into the network to ensure reliability.

The impact of this over-capitalisation was compounded by the fact that more than 50% of the bill is based on the network costs.

Then, it was cost reflective pricing policies and related tariff reforms that were the problem. A policy that dictated consumers should pay the real costs of power generation and delivery.

Coupled with a tariff modernisation strategy, this largely left irrigators without the flexibility or capacity to find options to mitigate price rises.

It was argued that these changes were needed for a network that was supposedly straining as it stretched across this vast State.

*"Solutions exist to this savage problem and CANEGROWERS is ready to present them in the best interests of our industry's future."*

CANEGROWERS has invested heavily in meeting each of these arguments head on and through the diligent contribution of farmers sharing their real-world stresses and strains, the issue has been repeatedly elevated to the State and National agendas.

Successive State Government Ministers have claimed they were powerless to change the price trajectory, as it was set in place by national rules.

Then, miraculously, the current State Government stepped in and instructed its state-owned networks to change their electricity bidding practices in the national market.

In a demonstration of just how powerfully they influence the market – the wholesale price of electricity dropped almost instantly, as did retail prices in southeast Queensland, but not in the regions.

Apparently, the State Government can do something about prices – it has just chosen not to.

No prizes for guessing why. Every power socket in the state has been transformed into a tax pipeline running directly to the Queensland Government, who reaped in over \$1.5bn last year.

Our frustrations have peaked again recently with Commonwealth interventions.

The Prime Minister stepped into the debate weeks ago, promising strong and decisive action to drive down prices.

Twice now Malcolm Turnbull has dragged energy company CEOs in for a meeting and dressed them down, arguing for reform. The outcome – letters. The solution – competition.

Retail competition should drive down prices, and the argument is that consumers should demand a better result from their suppliers.

Well, we all know just how poor this outcome is for farmers. Retail competition does not exist in the Ergon (regional) areas of Queensland.

Yet again, farmers have been thrown a useless solution that speaks as much to the breadth of the rural-urban divide as it does to the issue itself.

It is breathtakingly disappointing that on the verge of a long, hot and possibly drought-stricken summer, the much-needed national reform of the electricity market continues to lack sophistication and innovation.

I have said it before, and I will say it again – on behalf of our members, we refuse to give up. Where policymakers lack innovation and creative thinking, we will redouble our efforts and continue to present policy and market-based solutions to government.

We are doing this creatively, as part of a coalition of like-minded groups. Just as importantly we are working with industry and government investment groups to promote programs for farmers to reduce their reliance on the network.

Many farmers have shown great initiative to both lead the debate and adapt their businesses. The stories are empowering and it is their efforts shared with us all that assist us to continue this fight.

Of course, the ballot box awaits and this too will be a great opportunity for demonstrating leadership on this issue.

Solutions exist to this savage problem and CANEGROWERS is ready to present them in the best interests of our industry's future. ■







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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## CANEGROWERS fights to keep grower safety net

The Sugar Industry Code of Conduct, launched in April this year, is in danger of being disallowed unless a motion introduced by NSW Senator David Leyonhjelm is withdrawn or voted down in the Senate.

CANEGROWERS is sending a delegation to Canberra to meet with key Senators as it defends the Code and its protections for growers in future negotiations with mills.

"We know there has been wide support for the Code in Federal Parliament," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said. "The Labor Party, Liberals, Nationals and Greens acknowledged the need for a Code through their roles in a Senate Committee investigation into arrangements for the marketing of Australian sugar.

**"This Code doesn't kick in until there is a problem – it is a safety net in a situation where one side of the negotiating table holds a lot more power than the other."**

"It was the sole and unanimous recommendation in 2015 of the Rural and Regional Affairs Committee, chaired by WA ALP Senator **Glenn Sterle**, that a Code be developed and implemented for the sugar industry.

"The Code became a reality earlier this year and now we need all parties to reinforce their support.

"We are urging Senators to defeat Senator Leyonhjelm's misinformed attempt to knock it down by putting misguided ideology ahead of what is needed in the real world."

The Code prevents millers from abusing their regional monopoly power in supply contract negotiations with growers and their collectives.

It requires negotiations to be conducted in good faith with each party acting reasonably, fairly and honestly, without intimidation. It also provides a vital mechanism for independent arbitration should there be a deadlock.

"This Code doesn't kick in until there is a problem – it is a safety net in a situation where one side of the negotiating table holds a lot more power than the other," Mr Schembri said.

"We've written to Senator Leyonhjelm inviting him to Queensland to meet with growers to hear how important this Code is to us and we are urging Senators to reject this attempt to destabilise the sugar industry." ■

## TRANSPORT UNION SAYS CODE STOPS EXPLOITATION

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the strong support of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) for the Sugar Industry Code of Conduct which is under threat in the Federal Parliament.

The TWU says removing the Code, through a disallowance motion brought by NSW Senator David Leyonhjelm, would allow working families and small businesses to be exploited by wealthy companies.

"The knock-on effect of abolishing this code will be devastating for communities whose livelihoods depend on the sugar industry," National Secretary **Tony Sheldon** said.

**"This will not just affect sugar farmers but also their employees, their transport contractors, owner drivers and other small businesses linked to this industry."**

"The code allows fairness and equity in an industry dominated by wealthy mills at the top of the supply chain. Removing it allows their dominance to prevail entirely over the community. This is about sustainability for family businesses and rural communities."

Mr Sheldon said the transport industry was all too aware of what happens when protections are removed.

"Last year the Federal Government abolished an independent tribunal which was investigating the effect of low rates on safety in transport.

"Since then we have seen an increase in deaths among transport workers and other road users from truck crashes.

"Wealthy retailers and manufacturers are financially squeezing the industry and more people are dying as a result. I would appeal against any rash move to abolish this code which keeps clients in the sugar industry in check," Mr Sheldon said. ■



# Maryborough water woes - industry calls for action

**CANEGROWERS** Maryborough and local mill owner MSF Sugar will take the region's water security concerns to the Queensland Government Community Cabinet when it meets in the Wide Bay region this month.

The combined industry is supporting a SunWater proposal for a 6,000 megalitre capacity storage facility adjacent to the Mary River along the ponded area of Mary River Barrage.

**CANEGROWERS** Maryborough chairman **Jeff Atkinson** grows 220 hectares of cane at St Helen's and says the current situation in the district is dire.

"We have a storage system that was built many years ago but as the industry has grown, irrigation methods have improved and more people are wanting to irrigate, the storage capacity is not there," he said.

"Growers are not going to keep battling against drought and the crippling effects of dry conditions unless we find a solution."

He says this year's are some of the worst growing conditions seen in 100 years.

"Cane is our region's biggest commodity, so any negative impact on it would have far-reaching impacts on our town and the hundreds of jobs the industry supports," he said.

**"Cane is our region's biggest commodity, so any negative impact on it would have far-reaching impacts on our town and the hundreds of jobs the industry supports."**

"Growers were unable to forward price their cane last year, as they could not commit to deliver the crop without a secure and sustainable water supply."

He's also worried that any planned expansion plans by MSF Sugar will not go ahead unless there is investment in water storage infrastructure.

MSF Sugar's General Manager Maryborough **Stewart Norton** said parent company, Mitr Phol, had major expansion plans earmarked for Maryborough Mill worth around \$100 million.

"But it is highly dependent on an increase in cane production, which means water

security through additional storage capacity is a priority," he said.

Mr Norton said the proposed SunWater storage would provide enough water security to produce an additional 60,000 to 100,000 tonnes of cane per year, meaning more certainty, more jobs and more economic benefits for the region.

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Maryborough chairman Jeff Atkinson is worried industry investment won't go ahead without a secure and sustainable water supply.*



NFF President **Fiona Simson**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, **Barnaby Joyce** MP and NFF Chief Executive Officer, **Tony Mahar**, officially launch National Agriculture and Related Industries Day in Canberra this month.

"All Australians can feel a sense of pride in our nation's contribution to feeding and clothing the world," Barnaby Joyce said.

"Australian produce is renowned and enjoyed the world over – from our chickpeas in India, our lamb in Saudi Arabia, Aussie beef in fine Japanese restaurants and Australian wine across the globe."

Ms Simson said there are many ways to "rejoice in our primary production prowess" on 21 November.

"Why not host a lunch with all-Aussie produce making up the menu, fire up a community barbecue and raise money for a good cause or simply share a pic of fabulous food or fibre on your social media networks."

Visit [agday.org.au](http://agday.org.au) for more great ideas on how to host your own AgDay celebrations.



# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

## Mossman

Mossman Mill processed 35,271 tonnes of cane for Week 12 (ending 26/8), bringing the total crushed to-date for the season to 465,091 tonnes for a mill average of 12.55 CCS.

As at 26 August, Mossman Mill had crushed 51.5% of the total crop. While CCS levels are steadily building, the estimate is falling.

Ideal harvesting conditions have continued around the district. However, mill plant availability was below budget for Week 12 due to issues with the boilers, repairs to a leaking juice tank and a chain failure on No.1 mill pressure feeder.

## Cairns region

Fine conditions have prevailed over the region in recent weeks, allowing planting and other farming activities to progress without wet weather interruptions.

However, the dry conditions have forced some growers in the Mulgrave area to start irrigating plant crops.

The Mulgrave area has also experienced two arson attacks in recent weeks, with the burning of standing crops on two different farms.

This is a timely reminder to farmers to remain vigilant during these dry conditions, especially with school holidays approaching.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region welcomed the appointment of the first of the two WTSIP extension officers, which the organisation is to host under the Reef Trust III program.

The organisation, on behalf of members, has lodged a submission against the proposed Cairns South State Development Area and continues to lobby wherever possible to prevent the SDA progressing in its current form and location.

The loss of this agriculture land if the SDA were to go ahead would have serious impacts on the long-term viability of Mulgrave Mill.

## Innisfail

Continuing fine weather has allowed for harvesting operations to proceed unhindered. As a consequence of the dry weather, the crop is now cutting out at the level indicated in the pre-season estimate.

CCS levels have improved but will not achieve any significant levels this year. The estimated finish date is 22 November with an allowance for a further seven days lost to wet weather later in the season.

## Tully

Tully had an ideal crushing month in August with only 10mm of rain recorded. This was only slightly above the district's lowest-ever recorded rainfall for the month of 4mm.

With the crop drying out, CCS is rising steadily, while the low rainfall is also suppressing weed growth. Planting is nearing completion across the district, with most planting being carried out under ideal conditions.

The strong weekly crushing rates were interrupted in the last week of August by a spike in Ergon's power supply to the mill, which resulted in a blackout and more than a day in lost time. Only 73,000 tonnes were crushed for the week.

SRA harvest trials started in Tully in the first week of September, with seven harvest groups participating.

## Mackay

The three Mackay Sugar mills crushed a total of 209,611 tonnes with PRS at 14.93 for week ending 3 September. PRS season to date is 12.72.

Throughput was impacted at Farleigh Mill by necessary repairs to the primary juice tank, and at Marian Mill by a failed shredder control card. Mackay Sugar has now crushed 2,496,369 tonnes or

## Burdekin

A season best 412,232 tonnes was crushed in Week 12 (ending 2/9), partly due to no scheduled cleaning stops at Burdekin mills. Invicta also had a season best throughput.

The Burdekin mills have now crushed a total of 4,184,114 tonnes of cane, meaning more than 50% of the forecast crop has now been processed. If current estimate and weather trends continue, the 2017 crush could finish in the second week of November.

All mills are planning cleaning and maintenance stops this week. Pioneer and Kalamia will stop on Tuesday while Inkerman and Invicta's B side will stop on Thursday.

Average weekly CCS levels were 14.78 units in Week 12, with season to date at 13.82. The best performing variety on a regional basis is still Q183 with 22% of supply and 15.31 CCS. Q240 was the highest variety supplied at 30% and 14.69 CCS.

Wilmar Burdekin Cane Supply and Mill Operations Managers conducted three Mid-Season Grower Information Sessions.

The Wilmar managers presented season to date performance and production figures for all Burdekin mills, estimate trends and finish dates, as well as capital and maintenance plans for the next maintenance season. Safety issues and incidents encountered season to date were also highlighted.

48% of the current crop estimate of 5,200,000.

The focus going forward will continue to be on achieving rate, throughput and availability.

### Individual mill throughput:

Farleigh: 57,532 tonnes  
Marian: 89,057 tonnes  
Racecourse: 63,022 tonnes



## Herbert River

It has been another two weeks of ideal harvesting weather. But as the Herbert approaches the half way mark for the 2017 season, the question on everybody's mind is what area and tonnage actually remains to be harvested and how accurately has it been estimated?

We rely on Wilmar to prepare an estimate and to use that as the basis for calculating daily quotas for harvesting groups, but problems persist with the mill's harvest management system. It is struggling to provide all the information required by the Operations Review Committee to ensure equitable outcomes for each harvesting group.

Difficulties installing a replacement roller shaft at Victoria's B4 mill caused some unexpected delays with the harvest. That mill has been bypassed since 20 August when its top roller shaft broke. It is hoped we can remain on track to process the current official estimate of 4.9 million tonnes of cane by end of November.

We are well ahead of the corresponding period last year thanks to the very beneficial weather and a seemingly more consistent effort from our milling partners.

Just over 213,940 tonnes of cane were crushed in Week 12 (ending 2 September), bringing the season total to date to 2,352,503 tonnes. Average weekly CCS was 13.91 units, with the season to date average at 12.8 units.

There has been considerable interest in SRA's **Harvest Optimisation Trial**, which was carried out earlier this month with the support of local harvesting groups and teams from SRA, HCPSL and Wilmar. CANEGROWERS Herbert River congratulates and thanks all participants and support teams for their contribution to this research effort and we look forward to the release of the data by SRA. There have been many observations made during the trial.

A very visual exhibit was on display last week at the SRA/HCPSL site on Fairford Road (pictured), which showed two different results from the same harvester working at optimal and then sub-optimal settings for a block of variety Q208. The two very different piles of contents separated into sound cane, damaged billets, tops, roots and extraneous matter tell their own story about what can potentially go into the cane supply under the different work settings.

## Bundaberg

The Bundaberg sugar mills have passed the season halfway mark, processing 94,450 tonnes of cane in Week 11 (ending 2 September).

This brings the season to date total to 920,900 tonnes crushed, or approximately 54% of the crop.

The average CCS to date is 13.78 units. The major varieties supplied in Week 11 were Q240 (15.35 CCS), Q242 (14.51 CCS), Q208 (14.91 CCS) and KQ228 (15.06 CCS).



## Proserpine

By the end of Week 9 (2 September) the Proserpine harvest had inched a step closer to the halfway mark. Throughput for the week totalled 83,584 tonnes, which brought the year-to-date total to 746,564 tonnes. Overall mill performance was exceptional considering more than 21 hours were lost due to an extended cleaning stop.

Average CCS jumped to 14.41 for the week, bringing the season-to-date average to just over 13.20. Highest CCS for the week was 16.66 from a rake of fourth ratoon Q238 from the Elaroo Productivity District.

The mill is experiencing a high level of incomplete cane consignment notes from the field. Correct completion ensures the accurate collection of valuable productivity data and assists with your harvest group's bin allocation.

Growers are also reminded that applications for Cat C Disaster Recovery Grants close on 13 October. Please contact the Proserpine office if you require assistance.



## Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill processed 59,405 tonnes of cane in the week ending 2 September. This brings the season total to 619,549 tonnes, just past the 50% mark.

Around 3300 tonnes of standover were crushed this week, with an average CCS of 12.97 units.

A major cause of lost time for the week was an issue with the No.1 mill turbine governor on the Friday.

Average weekly CCS was 14.87 units, up from 14.61 the previous week. Season to date CCS is 13.30. Average bin weight for the week was 3.83 tonnes.

*Continues page 8...*



## CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

### Isis

Crushing has been progressing well at Isis Central Sugar Mill, with well over half of the 2017 estimate passing through the rollers. 666,379 tonnes had been crushed as at Monday, 4 September.

Harvesting groups have been supplying between 10,000 and 11,000 bins per week at an average weight of 6.30 tonnes. The target crushing rate of 430 tonnes per hour has been surpassed on many occasions, with some weeks averaging a crushing rate of 450 t/ph.

Q240 continues to saturate the cane supply. The highest individual CCS result for Week 9 came from a Bucca grower who supplied Q240/1R for a very sweet 17.04 units of CCS.

While the cane variety Q240 has a lot going for it, the dominance of the variety was discussed recently. Early indications are that some growers are nearing 50% of available area planted to Q240. This has raised concerns and growers are being cautioned about relying heavily on one variety and are urged to consider spreading their risk by choosing other varieties to plant.

Information and advice on suitable varieties can be obtained from Isis Productivity Limited or the SRA QCANEselect program on the SRA website.

Rain would be more than welcome at this time, as growers are commencing their spring planting.

## Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

### PLAN TO SAVE AND SPEND IN RETIREMENT

One of the greatest fears many of us have in retirement is whether or not we'll have enough money to live comfortably.

Surprisingly though, research from the CSIRO suggests that a majority of retirees are being so conservative with their spending that they are compromising their quality of life and leaving behind healthy super balances [1].

### Why would this be happening?

We are often getting messages to save as much as we can, but the CSIRO believe that decisions about spending and saving for the future are so complicated and difficult for retirees, that they're only selecting the minimum pension payment to be on the safe side.

### Having a solid plan

Having sufficient retirement savings is one thing, but there's a real need for people to really think about and plan how they'll spend their retirement savings, not just withdraw the minimum pension amount and live within it.

After all, you've worked hard so that you can enjoy your retirement, it makes sense to ensure you have a high quality of life.

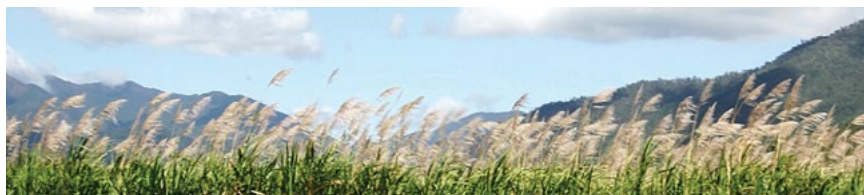
At AustSafe Super, we understand that financial education at every stage of life is essential, which is why we have a range of resources to help our members.

Members have access to our online financial literacy program – MoneyTree which includes a module on retirement basics. Visit [austsafe.com.au/MoneyTree](http://austsafe.com.au/MoneyTree) to find out more.

As an AustSafe Super member you have access to both general and personal advice. Give us a call on **1300 131 293** to find out more.

[1] Source: Based on data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and super funds, 2004

For more information, please visit [austsafe.com.au](http://austsafe.com.au)



### Maryborough

Week 6 of the season has been completed with no weather delays experienced. The mill has also been having a very good run, with no time lost outside of planned maintenance.

In a sign of how well the mill is travelling, Week 5 saw the highest throughput for a seven-day period since 2009, with just over 49,500 tonnes of cane processed. Figures to 3 September put cane crushed at 236,940 tonnes, which is 39% of expected crop.

We'd like to remind all harvesting crews and haulage drivers to take the time to ensure the removal any loose billets around the trailers before proceeding onto public roads. Safety is paramount for all road users and a little care and attention will go a long way.

With many growers moving into planting mode for next season, we could really do with a decent drop of rain very soon!

### Rocky Point

The Rocky Point Mill has had a good couple of days crushing after various Cogen breakdowns.

As of Week 10, the total crushed to date was 140,713 tonnes with a season average CCS of 12.56 and rising.

Weather conditions are perfect for harvesting, however, rain is needed for the plant cane. ■



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AND PHOTOS?

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# Applications open for **SRA RESEARCH PROJECT CALL**

By Neil Fisher, CEO, SRA

Sugar Research Australia is calling for Preliminary Research Proposals (PRPs) that address the sugar industry goals, desired outcomes and impacts identified in the new SRA Strategic Plan 2017/18 - 2021/22.

The strategic plan identifies nine Key Focus Areas (KFAs) of which the first eight are the focal points for research, development and adoption (RD&A) investment.

**Key Focus Area 1:** Optimally-adapted varieties, plant breeding and release

**Key Focus Area 2:** Soil health, nutrient management and environmental sustainability

**Key Focus Area 3:** Pest, disease and weed management

**Key Focus Area 4:** Farming systems and harvesting

**Key Focus Area 5:** Milling efficiency and technology

**Key Focus Area 6:** Product diversification and value addition

**Key Focus Area 7:** Knowledge and technology transfer and adoption

**Key Focus Area 8:** Collaboration and capability development

**Key Focus Area 9:** Organisational effectiveness

A detailed RD&A Plan has been developed to deliver on our goals and can be found within the strategic plan.

This plan maps out for each KFA, the key RD&A priorities, stratified programs, outputs, short and longer-term outcomes, key performance indicators (KPIs) and impacts contributing to our organisational goals.

Applicants are encouraged to examine the RD&A plan in detail to ensure that proposed research projects align strongly with SRA research priorities, outcomes and impacts.

In conjunction with the re-development of KFA outcomes and impacts, SRA has assessed its existing research portfolio and has defined opportunities for prioritised research investment. More information on this is available from the SRA website under 'Research Investment'.

However, for research investment arising from this project call, a clear preference will be given to research proposals that address:

- Linking knowledge on the impacts of pests, diseases and weeds to appropriate precision agriculture methods;
- Remote sensing, detection, monitoring and decision support systems to allow precision application of control solutions;
- Improving aspects of soil health;

- Addressing crop constraints with precision methods;
- Improving mill efficiency;
- Building industry skills and capability in modern data applications (including GIS and precision agriculture related information); and
- Building industry skills and capability in the milling sector.

PRPs are to be completed using the SRA online application software SugarNet (available at [grants.sugarresearch.com.au](http://grants.sugarresearch.com.au)).

SugarNet opened for PRP applications on **August 28, 2017** and project applications need to be finalised no later than COB on **October 9, 2017**. The system will not accept late applications.

In order to maximise the likelihood of success, applications should clearly align with relevant research priorities as defined in the SRA Strategic Plan.

Applications must specify the industry need for the proposed research, reference previous and current research relevant to this specific industry need, provide a clear description of strong outputs and outcomes, and describe plans for their subsequent adoption.

Successful projects are expected to demonstrate a significant industry return and contribute to triple bottom line benefits.

SRA will run a two-stage assessment process for research projects, with a

shortlisted selection of PRP applicants invited to submit a Full Research Proposal (FRP).

Successful applicants will be contracted to begin project activities from **July 1, 2018** onwards.

Outside of this project call, SRA also provides financial support for research applications to other external research grant schemes where significant industry benefit can be delivered.

For applications to other grant schemes to be considered by SRA, they must be received in a PRP format within SugarNet – this provides the Research Funding Panel with an appropriate depth of knowledge from which a recommendation can be made to the SRA Board to support or not support the application.

As examples, SRA has previously supported research applications to schemes such as Advance Queensland, Rural R&D for Profit and ARC Linkage.

It is important that potential applications to external grant schemes are discussed with the SRA Research Funding Unit well in advance of the scheme deadline.

Applications will not be considered for investment if insufficient time is provided for appropriate scrutiny and assessment.

For further information on the SRA project call, contact the SRA Research Funding Unit via [funding@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:funding@sugarresearch.com.au) or (07) 3331 3333. ■



# Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

## Follow the road rules or risk the farm

For more than two years, CANEGROWERS has worked closely with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and numerous regional councils to secure road access for Class 1 agricultural vehicles and combinations over 3.5m in width, without the need for individual permits.

These organisations, under the National Heavy Vehicle Law, are clearly exposed to the consequences of their decisions. This makes them risk averse, which is why the process took so long to finalise.

On the other hand, we have 3,500 grower members and 13 CANEGROWERS district offices, all of whom have their own needs, wants and understanding of risk for road access.

As such, it was always going to be impossible to make everyone completely happy. Despite this, the following conditions have been put in place for the movement of agricultural vehicles.

Provided they meet all the conditions, cane growers can move agricultural vehicle as follows:

- 2.5m to 3.5m width under "FORM14"
- 3.5m to 4.0m width under the "Coastal Notice"
- 3.5m to 5.00m width under the "Northern Notice" - north of Rockhampton on major and minor roads only
- 3.5m to 5.0m width under the "Bundaberg Notice" - on the Bundaberg Regional Council roads only
- If you do not fall into one of these then you need a permit

## Don't lose the farm!

No matter how stupid or difficult to understand growers may find these conditions, it is important to ensure that everyone is travelling legally at all times.

If a grower is not traveling legally with a large piece of machinery and becomes involved in a serious accident, they may find that their (public liability) insurance will not pay out. This could result in losing the farm to cover the liability! .



CANEGROWERS will continue to fight for the sensible and safe movement of agricultural vehicles, but I urge growers to understand what is required now.

Contact your local CANEGROWERS office or CANEGROWERS Queensland if you need assistance.

Don't risk losing the farm! ■

## Marketing Choice – Spring into action for 2018

Spring is in the air, which means it is time to think about 2018 and the decisions that need to be made around marketing for the season ahead.

Cane Supply Agreements (CSA) provide growers an opportunity to choose how their grower economic interest (GEI) sugar is sold.

The related pricing agreements provide an opportunity for growers to choose, from the pricing options offered by their marketer, how that sugar is priced.

Although the steps are linked, it is a two-step process.

The first step is choosing a marketer. For the 2018 season, the choice is between the mill marketer and QSL. Growers may choose to direct all their GEI sugar to one or split it.

Growers supplying Wilmar mills and the Tully mill have until the end of next month, 31 October 2017, to make this decision or, where pricing has not been set, to change existing marketing nominations for the 2018 season.

Growers supplying MSF mills have until 31 December to make their decision for 2018 season.

The second step is to consider pricing choices. For many growers, this means selecting from a range of pools offered by the chosen GEI marketer.

The deadline for step-two is usually early in the new year, in accordance with the price decision process offered by your marketer. These deadlines will be upon us quickly and there is much to consider.

It's all about risk "management", not "she'll be right".

A good place to start is to review your farm and family needs.

- Cost of production – planting, fuel, fertiliser, chemicals, electricity, water, labour, harvesting, interest payments, etc.
- Production risk – to assess how much cane is likely to be produced and its sugar content.
- Family needs – assess family circumstances and commitments like education costs, housing, the family holiday etc. Perhaps you have off-farm income?

Armed with this information and your individual risk appetite, have look at what is being offered.

Not all offerings are the same. For example, some marketers include all of the costs in their shared pool. Others make adjustments for the cost of financing advance payments.

Decide which marketing and pricing offering best suits your needs.

If in doubt, ask questions and seek direct answers. Take control, it's your choice and it's your income!

We're not financial advisers, but CANEGROWERS will assist where we can. ■



CANEGROWERS' Environment and Sustainability portfolio will be busy over the coming months with the release of four key documents that will influence Queensland and Australian Government Reef-related policy and programs over the next five years. These documents are:

### Draft 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement

This report is a review of the significant advances in scientific knowledge of water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef and supports the development of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017–2022. The overarching consensus is that,

*Key Great Barrier Reef ecosystems continue to be in poor condition. This is largely due to the collective impact of land run-off associated with past and ongoing catchment development, coastal development activities, extreme weather events and climate change impacts such as the 2016 and 2017 coral bleaching events.*

*Current initiatives will not meet the water quality targets. To accelerate the change in on-ground management, improvements to governance, program design, delivery and evaluation systems are urgently needed. This will require greater incorporation of social and economic factors, better targeting and prioritisation, exploration of alternative management options and increased support and resources.*

### Draft Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

This draft plan guides how industry, government and the community will work together to improve the quality of water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef.

The draft plan is an update of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013 and supports delivery of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.



Comment on the plan will close on 10 October 2017 and CANEGROWERS will be making a submission.

### The Reef Regulatory Impact Statement

The Queensland Government has flagged additional reef regulations to help meet the new water quality targets for the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposals will be released in the coming weeks and will outline proposed regulations which will affect the Queensland sugarcane industry.

CANEGROWERS expects that regulations will be extended to the southern growing region and will contain additional regulations on fertiliser. CANEGROWERS will be making a submission once the document is released.

### 2016 Reef Report Card

The report card is due for public release in late September 2017 and will be released in online format only.

The report card will outline activity and report against the current water quality targets.

CANEGROWERS will have an opportunity to preview the report card. ■



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## QSL launches 2018-Season products

While the 2017 Season is well and truly dominating most growers' thoughts, Wilmar and Tully Sugar growers are already closing in on their GEI Sugar Marketer deadline for the 2018 Season, with nominations due by 31 October 2017.

In preparation for this important cut-off date, QSL has finalised the pricing products it intends to offer for the 2018 Season.

### QSL-MANAGED POOLS

The QSL-Managed Pools available for the 2018 Season will include:

- The Harvest Pool
- The Actively Managed Pool
- The Guaranteed Floor Pool
- The 2019 2-Season Forward Pool

All of these pools have been operated previously by QSL and have no significant changes for the new season, with the exception of the Guaranteed Floor Pool, which will offer Accelerated Advances as an option rather than as standard from the 2018 Season.

As in previous years, participation in QSL's 2018 **Harvest Pool** will again be mandatory for production risk purposes and 35% of any participant's pricing allocation will automatically be designated to this pool. The QSL Harvest Pool is also QSL's default pool, meaning that supplying growers who do not make a pricing nomination or do not price their full QSL pricing tonnage allocation will have any unallocated tonnages default to the 2018 QSL Harvest Pool.

In addition to the pools noted above, QSL will also again operate a **US Quota Pool** in the 2018 Season. Participation in this pool is automatic for any grower marketing with QSL, with a mandatory tonnage allocation of up to 5%.

### GROWER-MANAGED PRICING OPTIONS

While our range of QSL-managed pool options has remained largely unchanged, QSL's grower-managed pricing products for the 2018 Season have been simplified to the following two products and made more flexible, with longer pricing windows and smaller price increments.

#### THE QSL TARGET PRICE POOL

Just like the current Target Price Contract, the 2018 Season version of this product will enable growers to price their GEI Sugar up to three seasons ahead.

Orders must be in a minimum of 10-metric-tonne lots, with pricing targets in \$5 increments (e.g. \$405, \$410, \$415).

Pricing is to be completed by 20 April in the year after crushing commences for the relevant season.

Growers using QSL's Target Price Contract Pool can choose an Accelerated Advances program (receiving up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crush) or the standard QSL Advances program once they have completed their pricing for the season.

#### THE INDIVIDUAL FUTURES CONTRACT POOL

The QSL Individual Futures Contract is a new pricing product that enables growers to price GEI Sugar incrementally during the current season and up to three seasons forward.

This product requires pricing allocations in minimums and multiples of 60 metric tonnes, with individual pricing orders in a minimum of 10 metric tonnes and \$5 pricing increments.

Participating growers must make separate pricing decisions for each individual futures position, with all pricing to be completed by 20 April in the year after crushing commences. ■

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about QSL's 2018-Season products, please read the Pricing Pool Terms available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au) or contact your local QSL Grower Services Team representative:

#### Far North Queensland:

Daniel Messina 0429 660 238 / [daniel.messina@qsl.com.au](mailto:daniel.messina@qsl.com.au)

#### Herbert River:

Jonathan Pavetto 0428 664 057 / [jonathan.pavetto@qsl.com.au](mailto:jonathan.pavetto@qsl.com.au)

#### Burdekin:

Rebecca Love 0429 054 330 / [rebecca.love@qsl.com.au](mailto:rebecca.love@qsl.com.au)

Carla Keith 0409 372 305 / [carla.keith@qsl.com.au](mailto:carla.keith@qsl.com.au)

#### Proserpine & Plane Creek:

Emma Sammon 0418 978 120 / [emma.sammon@qsl.com.au](mailto:emma.sammon@qsl.com.au)

#### Central & Southern districts:

Cathy Kelly 0409 285 074 / [cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au](mailto:cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au)



## QSL Grower Representative Members announced

The results of the 2017 QSL Grower Representative Member elections have been declared, with a tie in the Burdekin Region election necessitating a second round of voting to decide the final available position in that region.

While most milling regions had the same number of candidates as available positions, votes were required in the Northern (South Johnstone Mill), Southern (Bingera and Millaquin mills) and Burdekin (Invicta, Pioneer, Kalamia and Inkerman mills) regions.

In the Burdekin Region, Mark Vass, Owen Menkens and Russell Jordan secured three of the four available positions, with Roger Piva and Denis Pozzebon tying for the fourth position. As a result, a second round of voting was required in the Burdekin Region to obtain a definitive result for this fourth position only. Voting in this second ballot closed at 5pm Friday 7 September and the successful candidate will be announced shortly.

The following Grower Representative Members were appointed effective midnight Friday 25 August 2017 and will hold office for a three-year term:

| Mill Area                               | Mills in Mill Area                     | Grower Representative Members (Elected Holders)  |
|---|--|--|
| Mossman                                 | Mossman                                | Gerard Puglisi   |
| Tableland                               | Tableland                              | Nirmal Chohan  |
| Mulgrave                                | Mulgrave                               | Jeffrey Day  |
| Northern Region<br><b>ELECTION HELD</b> | South Johnstone                        | Barry Stubbs   |
| Tully                                   | Tully                                  | Thomas Harney  |
| Herbert River                           | Victoria and Macknade                  | Michael Pisano<br>Vince Russo  |
| Burdekin<br><b>ELECTION HELD</b>        | Kalamia, Invicta, Pioneer and Inkerman | Mark Vass<br>Owen Menkens<br>Russell Jordan<br><i>* Fourth rep yet to be appointed</i> |
| Proserpine                              | Proserpine                             | Mark Blair   |
| Central                                 | Farleigh, Marian and Racecourse        | Francis Perna<br>Anthony Ross<br>Gregory Plath   |
| Plane Creek                             | Plane Creek                            | Kevin Borg   |
| Southern<br><b>ELECTION HELD</b>        | Bingera and Millaquin                  | Kelvin Griffin<br>Allan Dingle   |
| Isis                                    | Isis                                   | Joe Russo  |
| Maryborough                             | Maryborough                            | Jeffrey Atkinson   |
| Rocky Point                             | Rocky Point                            | Richard Skopp  |

### DISCLAIMER:

*This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment or product advice or a risk management strategy. You should seek your own financial advice. This report should not be taken to include representations as to future matters, and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. 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 Managing Director and CEO Greg Beashel thanked all those growers who nominated for one of the available positions or participated in the election process.

"There was keen interest in these positions, which I think reflects an appreciation of the importance the role plays within QSL and our service to the wider Queensland sugar industry," he said.

Mr Beashel congratulated the new appointments and thanked those not continuing on in their positions for their contributions to date.

"We realise that growers are already busy with their farms and other industry commitments, so it's no small ask to take on the role of QSL Grower Representative Member," Mr Beashel said.

"But the insight these individuals provide us and the local issues they bring to our attention really do help to shape our products and activities, driving innovation and helping us to maximise the value we deliver to the industry we serve." ■



# PRACTISING CHANGE

## BOOSTING PRODUCTIVITY WHILE IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH

By Wayne Griffin

It's been a good few years for Tully grower Ray Zamora. In 2016 he averaged 118 tonnes of cane per hectare at his Euramo farm, one of his best growing seasons to date. The previous year he topped the district's dollar per hectare productivity chart.

But what's most impressive about Ray's success is not his tonnage, but that he's achieved it while reducing commercial nitrogen inputs by more than 20%.

Since taking over the family's 110 ha farm about a decade ago, Ray has been doing things a little differently - from brewing his own compost tea to moving the entire farm to zonal tillage.

"We try to do different things, change and improve our practices where we can," Ray said when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Zamora family farm recently

"The ultimate aim is always to lower growing costs, while maintaining or improving productivity," he said.

"But if we can improve environmental outcomes along the way, that's great."

Ray's father Ron bought the farm near the upper reaches of the Murray River in 1964.

He took an interest in practice change, moving to a controlled traffic system in 2003.

When Ron died in 2007, Ray took over the business and immediately ramped up the innovation process.

"We went to 1.9m dual rows in around 2007 and moved to GPS controlled traffic in 2008," Ray said.

"A few years later, around 2012, we moved to zonal tillage."

In recent years that Ray has discovered his true passion - improving soil health.

"It kind of dawned on me one day when I was out in the paddock spraying or something, I realised I didn't know anything about the soil," he said.

"I followed it up on Google and I didn't see anything that said synthetic fertilisers make the soil better in any way.

"So I started researching ways to improve soil health and it just grew from there."

In 2014, Ray undertook a course with the agricultural education and training consultancy RegenAG.







*"We still a long way down the track from not using conventional fertilisers. But I'm lowering rates all the time. I'm only using 100 units of nitrogen now and getting 118 tonnes per hectare, so that's a good figure."*

He learned how to brew up a range of carbon-fixing biological and mineral fertilisers from weird and wonderful ingredients such as cow paunch, fish frames, milk and molasses.

"The soil had been depleted over decades and decades of farming but I knew adding more synthetic fertilisers wasn't going to fix the problem," Ray said. "So I decided to do this course on brewing up your own bio-fertilisers."

While the recipes are something of a trade secret, with RegenAG asking growers to complete a course or have a tailored on-farm consultancy to ensure they receive the proper training and information, Ray is adamant most growers could make their own bio-fert.

"It's a pretty simple process, it's just a recipe – you add a bit of this and a bit of that. It's just like home-brew beer, it's a fermentation process, it bubbles away, then in a month to six weeks you have a batch ready to go.

"You can make what they call a mother brew and you can just keep tapping off that, taking out a little bit of biology to start another brew.

*Continues page 18...*



*Pictured: (above) Ray Zamora installed his own bio-fertiliser brewing and storage system; (left) Ray is also undertaking mixed species fallow trials.*





*"I have five different species in the mixed fallow – a grass, a legume, a brassica, a cereal and a chenopod. It just puts more diversity into the soil and helps build up the carbon levels."*

*Pictured: The Zamora family farm butts up against the croc-infested upper reaches of the Murray River, which drains into the Great Barrier Reef.*

"I'd definitely encourage people to think about it, maybe do a course with RegenAG and try it for themselves."

Surprised with the positive results from his brew, Ray accessed an innovation grant to build his own, almost industrial scale, brewing and storage system.

Overall, he says, it's proved to be a rewarding experience, both financially and environmentally.

"Last year we had some of the biggest crops I've ever cut, we were averaging over 118 tonnes per ha," Ray said.

"The year before that I topped the productivity for dollars returned per hectare and this year I'm hoping I'll be right up there again.

"I'm not saying that's all a direct result of using the bio-fertilisers, but it definitely doesn't hurt.

"We're still a long way down the track from not using conventional fertilisers. We've been wrecking the soil for years, so we can't just fix it overnight.

"But I'm lowering rates all the time. I'm only using 100 units of nitrogen now and getting 118 tonnes per hectare, so that's a good figure.

"Prior to using this mix I would have been using 120-130 units of N, which is what's recommended on my soil test.

"I've also cut my K inputs to 120 units and I try to always use minimal herbicides."

As well as "putting out a few bugs", Ray has been planting mixed species cover crops as part of a Terrain-Project Catalyst trial.

"I have five different species in the mixed fallow - a grass, a legume, a brassica, a cereal and a chenopod," he said.

"It just puts more diversity into the soil and helps build up the carbon levels.

"You've got to pump the sugars down into the soil. The liquid carbon goes down in there and feeds the bugs and then the bugs feed the roots.

"The more mixes (of cover crops) you've got the more diversity there is in the soil and the better the outcome for soil health and crop production.

"I'm very proud to be a Catalyst grower and proud of what the project has achieved. I'd also like to thank Terrain for all the assistance they've provided over the years," Ray said.

With such an innovative and positive approach to farming, it's hardly surprising that Ray is on the cusp of achieving accreditation in the industry's Smartcane BMP program.

"We've got a number of fantastic growers in the region and Ray is up there among the best," local Smartcane BMP facilitator Nick Stipis said.

"He's a real innovator, which is great to see and his dad was like that as well. He was in my harvest group years ago and he was always the first to try things.

"The farm is on a flood plain on the Murray River, so it's very fertile, but it's a double-edged sword, because if you get an early wet or you're late finishing the harvest, you can be in big trouble.

"You have to be a real good farmer to farm that area and that's what Ray is." ■



# Reef alliance awards

## Nominations open...

Do you know any outstanding farmers or extension officers?

Outstanding land managers and their advisors have the opportunity to be recognised through the 2017 Reef Alliance Reef Awards.

The Reef Alliance is seeking nominations of farmers and extension officers who are working to reduce off-farm impacts on the iconic Great Barrier Reef, with entries open until **2 October 2017**.

*"The awards provide industry and the broader community the opportunity to celebrate farmers (and), for the first time, extension officers who work to change practices for the better."*

Chair of the Reef Alliance **Joanne Grainger** said that farmers play an essential role as land managers and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate those who are excelling as environmental stewards.

"The awards provide industry and the broader community the opportunity to celebrate farmers and, for the first time, extension officers who work to change practices for the better," said Ms Grainger.

"The Australian Government's Reef Programmes have been very successful in supporting and delivering mutually beneficial outcomes for farmers and the environment. The government should be commended for investing in the collaborative and productive partnerships forged between industry and Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups."

**NOMINATIONS are being sought for the following awards:**

- Reef Nutrient Management Award
- Reef Sediment Management Award
- Reef Pesticide Management Award
- Reef Conservation Award
- Reef Extension Officer's Award
- Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership – Reef Sustainability Award

"The Reef Alliance is excited to be partnering with The Prince's Trust Australia to offer the Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership – Reef Sustainability Award," Ms Grainger said.

"This award will recognise an individual or group's exemplary efforts to raise awareness, foster knowledge-sharing and engage local communities in sustainable natural resource management to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef.

"Farmers continue to change their farming practices, improve on-farm infrastructure and implement best management environmental practices.

"These positive actions are making huge improvements to the quality of the water leaving the farm, significantly contributing to the health of the Reef."

The awards are sponsored by the 'Reef Trust: Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef' project, which is funded by the Australian Government Reef Trust. ■

Details and nominations at [www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/awards/](http://www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/awards/)



## IN PICTURES: DRONES, GPS AND SUGARCANE YIELD MONITORING AMONG THE TOPICS COVERED ON PRECISION AG FIELD TRIP

Almost 60 inquisitive cane growers and industry reps from the Bundaberg-Isis Cane Supply Region took part in a *Farmers Teaching Farmers* precision ag bus tour recently, visiting some of the district's most innovative growers.



Recent developments in sugarcane yield monitoring technology will provide growers with decision support tools that will further enhance farm management planning.



## FARMERS TEACHING FARMERS

The tour was facilitated by Isis Productivity Ltd (IPL), with assistance from CANEGROWERS Isis.

Isis productivity officer **Andrew Jakins** said it aimed to give growers a better understanding of the innovative practices being undertaken in the region.

"It was a very successful bus trip and the feedback we got from growers was very positive," he said.

"It was a great opportunity to demonstrate and talk about just a few of the precision agriculture concepts and practices occurring in the Isis and Bundaberg region."

First stop on the group's itinerary was **Jason Loeskow's** Relmay Farms, where growers were given a presentation on the mapping of Real Time Kinematic (RTK) elevation data to create drainage designs and cut-fill maps.

From there they moved on to **Mark Hedke's** farm to learn about sugarcane yield monitoring technology and the recent trials conducted by VNET, the precision ag arm of John Deere.

At the Department of Agriculture research station outside Bundaberg growers were given a demonstration on the practical uses of drone technology in agriculture.

They also learned about fertiliser trial work currently underway, examining the use of smart blended enhanced efficiency fertilisers to maximise sugarcane profitability.

Over lunch, Vanderfield Machinery's **Steven Fraham** gave a presentation of some of the latest precision ag tools available to growers. Vanderfield also helped sponsor the tour.



**Australian Government**

*This article is brought to you by the  
Australian Government Reef Programme*



Utilising RTK elevation data and precision ag levelling software is saving time and money and improving crop productivity on "Relmay Farms" Bundaberg.



*Drainage and drones were among the topics covered on this Bundaberg-Isis grower bus trip.*

This was followed by the final stop of the day at **Graham and Sandra Webb's** cane farm. Growers inspected the IPL variety plot, where two varieties are currently under evaluation.

IPL director and cane grower **Jeff Plath** said the tour covered an interesting range of topics.

"It was a great day and very interesting to see the variety of technologies and practices being used throughout the region," Jeff said.

"Everyone I spoke to was very positive about the trip."



Drone technology and its application in agriculture was presented by researchers from Central Qld University.





# Less nitrogen lost is more gain in cane

Supplied by Incitec Pivot

Nathan Kay, agronomist with BGA AgriServices, Bundaberg, recommended ENTEC to Glenn Robertson three years ago for his cane. He's used it ever since.

On the Kolan River north of Bundaberg, cane farmers **Glenn** and **Susy Robertson** are taking steps to change their fertiliser management for the better.

In addition to long-standing best management practices like soil testing, trash blanket farming and banding fertiliser into the soil, they have recently started using ENTEC and split fertiliser applications.

They're finding the changes especially good for protecting against leaching losses and keeping nitrogen available to the crop for longer on their lighter soils.

The farm has a mix of soil types, with river loam, grey forest country and sandy soils.

According to Glenn, the most difficult soils to manage are sands, with leaching a real problem.

"To get yields to lift on the sandy soils normally takes a wet year or a lot of watering, but with that comes leaching," he said.

That's why three years ago, they trialled ENTEC with their cane fertiliser blend on half a block of sandy soil. At the same time, they cut the fertiliser rate by about 20%.

ENTEC was recommended to the Robertsons by **Nathan Kay**, an agronomist with BGA AgriServices in Bundaberg.

He explained that it worked to stabilise nitrogen as ammonium in the soil for a period of time after application, protecting it from leaching and denitrification losses.

"I figured I could cut rates because I would be getting more than 20% extra from the

fertiliser if it wasn't leaching away," Glenn said.

The result was a difference of around 35 cm of cane growth and around 15% extra yield, which was enough to see him adopt ENTEC on all the sandy country.

"I use it on all the sandy soils now and have started using it in the grey forest country as well with similar results," he said.

"It just holds the nitrogen better in the lighter country, so that if you get a major rain event, you haven't lost everything."

While rainfall is unpredictable, Glenn generally receives his heaviest falls in summer, a month or so after the year's fertiliser is applied.

"This year I was irrigating until March, but then we had 410 mm in three days," he said.

"If you're going to have rain like that, you've got to have protection for the fertiliser."

Glenn also splits his fertiliser applications on the lighter country to further reduce the potential for losses.

In the first pass, one third of the total fertiliser requirement is applied.

"I let it go for about two months, until the cane gets to be about a metre high and then sidedress it with the balance of its fertiliser, treated with ENTEC so it holds on for as long as possible," he said.

This season, he's planning to reduce fertiliser rates again.

"I'm already using less than the local cane board's recommended fertiliser rates and I'll be going further this year," he said. "With ENTEC we're getting better use of the nitrogen, so I don't have to put as much on."

Cane is usually grown on at least 40 ha of the farm at any time, with the rest of the ground given over to a long fallow.

As well as giving him time to eradicate any problem weeds, the fallow is also used to improve the soil health with a range of green manure crops such as mungbeans and soybeans.

"I've found one of the most important things that you can do is to spell the ground," Glenn said.

"You can't afford not to fallow if you want to get good yields, and we're seeing that again this harvest with a 95 t/ha average so far."

Glenn arranges for each block to be soil tested before planting, giving him solid soil test records across the whole farm, dating back no longer than four years.

"I'm not a big cane farmer," he said. "I'm growing somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 tonnes each year. We have our costs and challenges the same as everyone, but it's a sustainable family business and we're in charge of our own destiny." ■



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Next deadline is **18 September 2017**.

\* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

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Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325

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## Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

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**PLANT CUTTER! 1991 AUSTOFT 7000 Wheel Harvester, Komatsu 240 HP.**  
Engine rebuild 2017. Leg basecutter, STD Topper, 12" x 6 blade choppers. Good Condition For Age.

**NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500**  
Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

**NEW 18" CURVED GROUSER PLATES**  
suit D5 Case 8800 type chain, full set.

Used as new 10,000 series  
**CHAR-LYNN MOTORS** 40 cubic inch.

**WHOLE TOPPERS 2 x CASE**  
as new one is complete.

**OMNITRAC Full Track walking gear**  
complete with 24" rubber belts. Hi-Track drive. 5 roller suit Case or JD.

**Used Big Ernie** or walk down front roller suit Case or JD as used in NSW.

**NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS**  
Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

**1996 CAMECO Harvester parts.**  
Crop lifters, 8 blade diff chopper drums, various hydraulic valves & hydraulic motors.

**IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS**  
Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.

*Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas.*  
New seal plates, clamping bars & dowels with kit.

**Graham Twyford**  
48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay  
Mobile: 0418 742 696  
[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)  
[www.gtmachinerysales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinerysales.com.au)





## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

1960 Fiat 411R, completely restored to immaculate condition. Can be put into high clearance. \$6,000 + gst, negotiable. Ph. 0488 522 773

Track walking gear, telescopic lift ram for carter bin. Ph. 0427 163 748

Planting Equipment: 8240 Ford Tractor with a HBM Billet Planter, Toft Harvester swing knives, 4 ton Tipper the lot for \$38,000. Ph. 0409 271 016

3.3Lt 70hp Yanmar Diesel Engine. Ph. 0418 824 085

Toft 4000 track machine been harvesting own cane, new engine 3yrs.ago. 4-tonne tipper bin HBM. Price on application. Ph. 0401 281 262

3 x JCB 2135 with 6-tonne HBM tippers, Good condition, \$44,000 each inc GST. Can separate. Ph. 0437 932 489 or 0427 337 601

3 Row board-Rinaudo Canecleaner with fertiliser boxes. Napier bumper disc, 24 plate-new hoses and tyres. Ph. 0400 634 141

6T Self-Elevating Bin for Billet Planting c/- own Oil Tank, Telescopic Hoist & Ram to tilt hydraulically driven Elevator (1.4m wide), G.C. \$4,400 ono (incl GST) 0409 831 284

### Herbert River-Burdekin

HBM Fertiliser Box, Linkage mounted, 2 compartments, Hungry boards and frame over the box. \$1,500 ono. 60 inch Howard Rotary Hoe in working order, fair condition with steel land wheel \$1,200 ono. Ph. 0428 394 004

60LB Rail in GC, 1km available; cement sleepers are available if needed. Suitable for shed or strainer posts etc. Ph. 0428 761 549

2200L fuel storage tank on tripod stand, 2750 clearance from ground. GC. \$2,500 plus GST. Ph. 0468 439 182

JD 6700 high clearance application broad acre spray boom. JD 6500 high clearance duel application broad acre spray boom. 2003 Isuzu 15,000 water tank 400L diesel tank. Ph. 0418 790 337

1991 Mercedes truck with rock tipper body & 15,000L fiberglass tank. 4 tipper bins Chamberlain 4290 tractor with 4 tipper bins Ph. 0418 790 337

### Mackay-Proserpine

2003 Toft tracked cane harvester - 10,000 hours. Currently operating in Kuttatbul, north of Mackay. \$150,000 +gst. Phone Luke on 0428 155 456

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS  
AND PHOTOS?

Find CANEGROWERS on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia)

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

##### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
All bath bearings  
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)  
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.  
3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

**Johnny Farming Company**  
Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

| Location          | Recorded rainfall (mm) |              | Average rainfall (mm) |      |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------|
|                   | 7 days to 9am          | Year to date | January–September     |      |
|                   | 28.08.17               | 04.09.17     |                       |      |
| Mossman           | 0                      | 0            | 1624                  | 1834 |
| Mareeba AP        | 0                      | 0            | 600                   | 736  |
| Cairns            | 0                      | 0            | 1322                  | 1689 |
| Mt Sophia         | 0                      | 0            | 2490                  | 2800 |
| Babinda           | 0                      | 0            | 1250                  | 3641 |
| Innisfail         | 0.2                    | 1            | 2592                  | 3052 |
| Tully             | 0                      | 1            | 1866                  | 3548 |
| Cardwell          | 0                      | 3            | 1366                  | 1754 |
| Lucinda           | 0                      | 1            | 1470                  | 1790 |
| Ingham            | 0.8                    | 4            | 1179                  | 1671 |
| Abergowrie        | 0                      | 0            | 789                   | 1522 |
| Townsville        | 0                      | 0            | 643                   | 908  |
| Ayr DPI           | 0                      | 0            | 770                   | 752  |
| Proserpine        | 0                      | 0            | 1265                  | 1098 |
| Mirani            | 0                      | 0            | 1102                  | 1211 |
| Mackay            | 0                      | 0            | 1833                  | 1256 |
| Sarina (Plane Ck) | 0                      | 0            | 2433                  | 1368 |
| Bundaberg         | 0                      | 0            | 456                   | 722  |
| Childers South    | 0.2                    | 0            | 630                   | 618  |
| Maryborough       | 0.2                    | 0            | 426                   | 865  |
| Tewantin          | 0.4                    | 0            | 889                   | 1334 |
| Eumundi           | 0                      | 0            | 756                   | 1288 |
| Nambour           | 2                      | 0            | 677                   | 1270 |
| Woongoolba        | 0                      | 0            | 707                   | 1006 |
| Murwillumbah      | 2                      | 0            | 1219                  | 1196 |
| Ballina           | 8                      | 0            | 1387                  | 1411 |
| Woodburn          | 8                      | 0            | 1357                  | 1088 |
|                   |                        |              |                       |      |



**AustSafe  
Super**



The industry super  
fund for rural and  
regional Australia.

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.



1996 diesel Landcruiser tray back, needs attention. Ph. 0417 628 044

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)

80" Howard rotary hoe, good condition. Ph. 0417 628 044

Ford 7600 100hp with dual power trans, 18.4x34 tyres. VGC \$12,000 ono Ph. 0438 981 167

Howard Crumble Roller, HO-CROLLCH365DT, brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT, 2 rollers each@2M. \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428 236 165  
2T FARVIEW Fertiliser Bin, trailing machine in good condition. Coulters and legs hardfaced, ready to go. \$5,000 incl ono. Ph. 0409 221 601

## Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Brand new elevator slew cable for '91 model 7000 harvester - \$145 inc GST. Ph. 0427 598 333

3 furrow Howard swing plow. Good condition. Isis area. Ph. 0427 115 152

1 Bowder shredder topper drum as new POA. One used Caterpillar 3126E engine with engine management display screen and some spare parts POA. Ph. 0427 577 256

## Wanted

3-row fert box, 2 to 4 tonne, stool splitters. Must be able to do 6ft centres. Ph. 0412 008 189

1 x 200m long 4" flexi irrigation hose plus 1 x hose reel. Ph. 0458 598 445 or 0459 350 689

115 HP to 140 HP FWA tractor, in good condition. Ph. 0427 327 279

Holden Rodeo 4WD diesel, pre-common rail in good condition or 6cyl Nissan 4WD diesel. Ph. 0407 638 381 after hours 4954 0190

3" and 4" irrigator hose, any condition. Ph. 0407 638 381 after hours 4954 0190

S Series Howard Rotary Hoe for parts. Requiring gear box case & pinion gear 13T. Ph. 0417 719 139 or 5546 1481

Gessner ripper - coulter or similar Ph. 0408 562 046

Massey Ferguson 188 tractor or parts. Ph. 0409 598 398

Massey Ferguson drawbar to suit 185 -188. Ph. 0409 598 398

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815  
Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

## Positions Vacant

2x Haulout driver positions available, currently 3-day roster Sat, Sun, Mon Mirani areas, experience with hauling cane preferred, must have own transport and accommodation Ph. 4959 1008

## Property

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407 635 175

Cane farm in MARIAN area - not irrigated - approx. 190 hectares. Ph: 0424 032 751







# DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DAY FOR 175 YEARS. THAT'S INNOVATION.

Since 1842, we've been in an endless cycle of innovation. Fuelled by a desire to help you squeeze every ounce of productivity out of every hectare you farm. After every breakthrough — from the first Farmall® to our new Early Riser® planters — we've gotten up every day since with a mission to make them better. More efficient. And more productive for you.

Which is why, for the next 175 years, we intend to continue doing the same thing every day.



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THE HEART OF FARMING BEATS RED

