

Keeping an eye on runoff this wet season - CANEGROWERS policy updates

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voice fears  
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dispute



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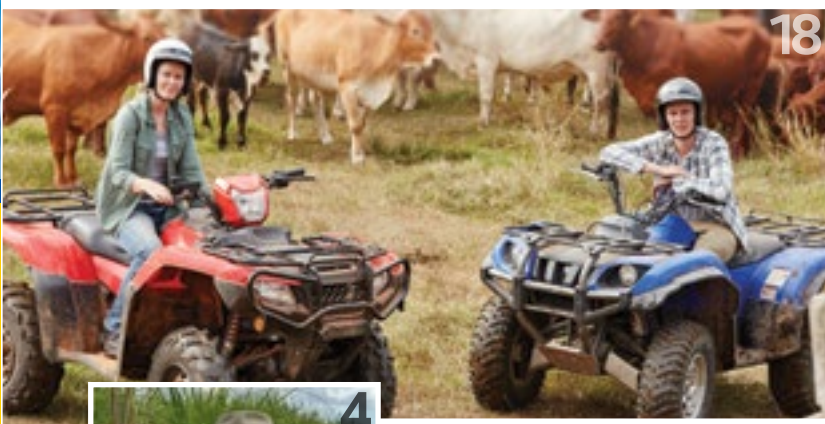
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*COVER IMAGE: Bundaberg growers Dean Cayley and his father Neville are impressed with the benefits flowing from their newly installed low pressure irrigator. Read more on page 14.*

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# 14 weeks and counting down!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

In less than 14 weeks the 2017 cane harvest will come to life. Unfortunately, for growers representing around 40% of Queensland's sugar production, this harvest is in jeopardy.

These cane-growing families, who have up to \$8 billion invested in the industry, are facing economic ruin unless Wilmar can conclude an On-Supply Agreement with QSL.

Let me set the record straight on this dispute – growers did not start it. Wilmar, without reference to its grower partners, sought to walk away from a longstanding marketing system that growers had confidence in.

Queensland cane growers are a strong-willed community and have collectively stated that they will not become economic feedstock to large corporations.

Why should they? For decades, cane growers have been envied for their ongoing stake in the sugar produced from their cane, from the farm gate to the market place. Wilmar chose to end that, not growers.

The Real Choice in Marketing legislation reinstated the rights of growers to determine their pathway to the market.

This legislation was necessary because the deregulation of Queensland's sugar industry, which should have provided for competition in marketing, left growers at the mercy of regional milling monopolies.

Since the passage of the Real Choice legislation, six of Queensland's seven milling companies have reached agreements with QSL and growers, with little difficulty.

Clearly these companies value their partnership with growers as being the heartbeat of their business and have decided to honour it, over any perceived shortcomings in the legislation.

The positive attitude of these six millers has got the job done, allowing growers and mills to move on.

Wilmar, as the only miller yet to reach an agreement with QSL, is putting the industry in peril.

As a grower recently said to me - the damage done to growers is not just the immediate angst of no contracts and loss of pricing opportunities, but the trust between growers and Wilmar is broken, perhaps for a long, long time.

It is time for Wilmar to stop the posturing and bring an end to this dispute now.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

The environmental performance of our industry has been the subject of intense scrutiny by government and other vested interest groups.

At times the industry is cast in an unfavourable light, which saps the morale of growers.

That said, I never cease to be amazed at the resilience and leadership of growers who continue to passionately showcase the great improvements in our environmental credentials.

This work may not command as many headlines as alleged environmental failures, but it is essential nonetheless.

Recently, I attended the CANEGROWERS Cairns Region AGM, where we heard details of Project 25 - this sees growers working proactively with scientists on water quality.

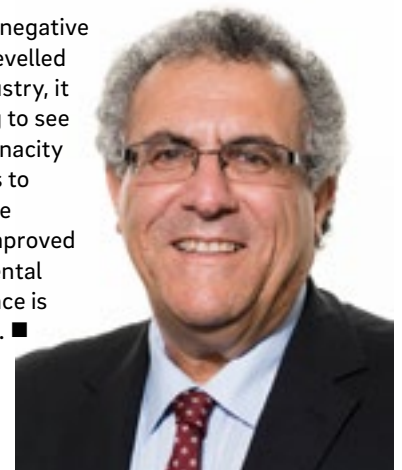
Often one of the difficulties in assessing water quality is that water samples can't be tied to specific clusters of farms, making it difficult to interpret the results and modify practices.

Project 25, which is funded by the Federal Government, uses new technology to carry out detailed sub-catchment scale monitoring in the Russell-Mulgrave River Catchment, south of Cairns.

What is important about this project is that it has been co-designed by cane farmers and scientists.

How refreshing that a project such as this sees farmers and land stewards acting in partnership in the scientific community!

For all the negative publicity levelled at our industry, it is inspiring to see that the tenacity of growers to tell the true story of improved environmental performance is unyielding. ■



*"It's time for Wilmar to stop the posturing and bring an end to this dispute now."*

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Wilmar must obey the law, says Deputy PM

In the clearest indication yet of the Federal Government's growing frustration with delays in on-supply negotiations between Wilmar Sugar and Queensland Sugar Limited, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, **Barnaby Joyce**, has issued a stark warning that failure to reach an agreement could result in a mandatory code of conduct for the industry.

During an interview on the ABC's Queensland Country Hour with **Charlie McKillop**, The Nationals leader said Wilmar was not above the law and must comply with Grower Choice legislation passed by Queensland's parliament in 2015 or face the "consequences".

*"There's a piece of legislation that's been passed by the Queensland Parliament and Wilmar has got to obey it. If they don't want to obey ... then there are consequences."*

Wilmar is the only one of Queensland's seven milling companies not to have reached an On-Supply Agreement enabling growers to choose QSL as their marketer for GEI sugar.

Mr Joyce accused Wilmar of trying 'white-ant' his position on the sugar marketing dispute with other member of the LNP, a tactic that has clearly rankled the straight-talking Minister, who suggested he would be willing to make government intervention a condition of the Liberal National Coalition.

"If they want things to become a process where we try and deal with it via other means in Canberra, sure, I'll do that," he said.

*(Read a full transcript of Barnaby Joyce's Queensland Country Hour interview below).*



### ABC Radio - Queensland Country Hour - 01/02/2-17

#### **Charlie McKillop:**

What do you say to growers who are listening, hoping that there will be a political solution?

#### **Barnaby Joyce:**

Well, what I would say to Wilmar - I had Wilmar in my office at the end of last year, trying to basically get this thing resolved, but Wilmar has got to obey the law. They have got to obey the law, they are not above the law.

There's a piece of legislation that's been passed by the Queensland Parliament and Wilmar has got to obey it. And if they don't want to obey it, then it's like any other individual or organisation that

doesn't want to obey the law, there are consequences for that.

#### **Charlie McKillop:**

I've interviewed many senior executives with that company who would maintain, and I've seen a letter written and signed by the chairman of Wilmar International maintaining, that they have acted entirely within the law. So, if that's not the case, what can you do?

#### **Barnaby Joyce:**

Well, I've already had that discussion with Wilmar and they went straight away and protested loudly to other of my colleagues to try and white-ant my position.

All that does is infuriate me.

So, know that I'm fair dinkum. If they want things to become a process where we try and deal with it via other means in Canberra, sure, I'll do that.

If people want to say, "Well, how serious are you about it?" - Well, you could almost say, I mean I don't care, we could make it a condition of the coalition, I don't care.

We can raise the bar if we want to, but we'll raise the bar way beyond - way beyond - where you would be if you actually fixed it up yourself.

They've had the discussion, they know how to do that.



# Weather woes

## Northern rivers in flood, southern growers pray for rain and models hint at another El Niño.

Flood warnings have been issued for far north Queensland rivers as the wet season hits its stride and delivers soaking rain to most areas north of Mackay.

The southern growing districts, however, are reporting minimal rain since the start of December and supplementary irrigation has been employed where it is available.

The Maryborough district is within a month of its main river supply for irrigation being exhausted.

Professor **Roger Stone**, from the International Centre for Applied Climate Sciences, says in his climate and weather update on sugar regions that the rain will continue north of Mackay with up to 250mm in the week starting 10 February for areas between the Whitsundays and Mossman including the Tableland.

However, he says there is no significant rain for the rest of the state for that period.

For the longer period, the seasonal climate forecast models are indicating the following:

- *The Southern Oscillation Index phase system indicates a 50% to 60% probability of exceeding median rainfall for all regions, increasing a little to 70% around the Collinsville area in NE Qld and 30%-40% around Bundaberg for the February to April total rainfall period.*
- *A number of models (especially US-based) are indicating an El Niño to develop mid-year, 2017.*
- *The Bureau of Meteorology POAMA model is indicating below average rainfall/low rainfall probability values for most of eastern Australia, especially for more southern regions. Northern Queensland indicates close to 'average' rainfall probability values for the February to March period.*

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) funds a research project in this area of seasonal and shorter-term forecasting and to which this summary from Professor Stone belongs.



## State Minister visits farm

Queensland Agriculture Minister **Bill Byrne** drove from his Rockhampton electorate to CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri's** Mackay farm recently.

The meeting was robust and constructive with the men covering issues including marketing and environmental regulations.

It ended with both having a clear understanding of the others' positions and with the door open for future communication.

### Charlie McKillop:

You've also played the ACCC card and a draft determination was handed down late last year. What does that bring to the mix?

### Barnaby Joyce:

All these things become articles of how you can actually deal with the issue. Look, we've got a code of conduct for how you operate on ports, I brought that one through.

People said it would never happen and we had a whole heap of people saying how outrageous it was and got really angry with me, but it's there. We can do other codes of conduct, and I can bring

all the sugarcane farmers down to help me draft it up, if that's what they want.

### Charlie McKillop:

Well, that's a threat that's been made by the Member for Dawson George Christensen on a number of occasions. Are you ready to fulfil that threat?

### Barnaby Joyce:

Well, I'm the Minister, I can do it. But, you know...every time the government gets involved everybody complains because (the Government) haven't gone far enough, they've gone too far, but I am prepared to do it, I have done it so many times.

Whether it be the code of conduct for port operations, whether it's more overt involvement in foreign investment, whether it's suspension of green prawns.

I've got no problems getting involved if that's what is required, and I say that, not as a threat, just as an open acknowledgement of the way I operate.

So if this thing is not resolved, if I have to continually have briefs come across my desk, I will move and when I do, you won't get in my office, you won't get in my door to complain about what I'm doing because basically I'm sick of having the discussions trying to get people to move and they're not moving so I'll just move myself. ■

# GROWER VOICES...

## Lives and businesses on hold

Disappointed, despondent and disgusted – just some of the emotions being felt by the 1,500 Wilmar Sugar suppliers who are still waiting for sugar marketing choice and a 2017 mill contract.

To highlight the plight of these mostly family-farming businesses, CANEGROWERS has publicly urged Wilmar, QSL, the Queensland Government and the community to remember who is at the heart of the current impasse over contracts for the 2017 season.

"This is not just about contracts and sugar marketing, this is about families. It's about the small businesses contributing to the economies of Queensland's regional areas, that supply the eight Wilmar sugar mills," CEO Dan Galligan said. "Without them, their hard work and capital, there is no

sugar industry in Queensland. This drawn-out process is taking its toll."

In April 2014, Wilmar Sugar pulled the rug out from under growers by deciding to force them to market their economic interest sugar through its own channels – cutting them off from the industry-owned not-for-profit marketing company QSL.

While legislation to guarantee competition in sugar marketing and choice for growers passed the Queensland Parliament in December 2015, Wilmar Sugar is yet to finalise agreements for the harvesting season due to start in around 16 weeks.

"Cane Supply Agreements for our members can't be concluded until Wilmar Sugar and QSL reach an On-Supply Agreement (OSA). That OSA is now the critical thing. Without that, there is no marketing choice for growers," Mr Galligan explained.

"Ensuring choice in marketing is the best way to counter Wilmar's regional milling and marketing monopoly power and ensure growers can invest in their farms, their businesses, with confidence for the long term good of our industry."

### AARON LINTON, BURDEKIN

**Aaron and his wife Amy have had their farm at Home Hill for just over six years and are very worried.**

"We fear that in June we won't have a contract, we'll be needing to cut cane and Wilmar is expecting us to give in to their terms because we have no option," Aaron says.

"We will try to hold off until the bank tells us we can't any longer.

"We have mortgages and bills that need to be paid and a young family that we need to feed. It's not just for one year but for the next 20 to 30 years, we're in this for the long term and are trying to see the big picture.

"We shouldn't be forced into a position where the Wilmar offering is all we can take. For the 2016 season, their marketing and pool price offer was \$100 less per tonne than QSL.

"We're worried that if we sign the deal directly with Wilmar to do our marketing, we will never know how much we are losing and who is taking the profits – there's nothing to stop them selling to their own refineries for whatever price they like."





## JOE GROTTELLI, HERBERT RIVER

**Joe farms 485 hectares at Hawkins Creek and Abergowrie with his parents and brother.**

"We've invested \$4 million over the past five years, expanding our business and upgrading the farms we've bought," he says.

"It makes my blood boil that the focus has all been on miller investment in the sugar industry but growers take on a bigger risk and, proportionally, sink a lot more into their businesses.

"Without a contract, we have no guarantee of return on what we've spent so we've put a stop to it. We won't be doing any more significant investment until there's a decent outcome," Joe says.

"Mentally, this situation does get you down, it is affecting us personally, but we have to run our business and find the best outcome in the scenario that we're faced with."



## BRIAN STEVENS, PLANE CREEK

**Brian has been growing cane at Koumala for 54 years. He says growers around him are losing heart.**

"These are very stressful times. Banks are starting to get toey because growers don't have a contract to underpin their financial position this year," he says.

"All of our money is invested in this year's crop, we've taken a big risk with it but we are absolutely determined that we won't let Wilmar walk over us."

Brian says one of the long-term impacts is the loss of trust between growers and the miller.

"When two parties are dependent on each other, some trust is needed but it's dissipated in this current dispute."



# Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Communications with Neroli Rooke

Economics with Warren Males

## Reef in brief

The reef continues to be a focus of government funding and programs in 2017. The Australian Government's \$140M Reef Trust programme is rolling out Reef Trust Phase IV. This component, Reef Trust Wet Tropics Reverse Tender is for the Wet Tropics region and will offer funding to growers with ideas on how to improve their nitrogen use efficiency.

Phase III of Reef Trust is ongoing and focuses on investments to improve management practices.

The Queensland Government has also committed \$33 million to the Major Integrated Projects in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin. (Find out more about this project on page 9)

## On the soapbox

You can feel there is an election coming. My prediction for issues to keep an eye on include land clearing and climate change. These go hand-in-hand with the tried and tested platform of saving the Great Barrier Reef. These issues will be discussed by CANEGROWERS Environment & Sustainability Committee, which will inform CANEGROWERS key election priorities.

## Smartcane BMP

It's no secret I'm a passionate advocate of Smartcane BMP. I believe it's the platform that brings all our productivity and sustainability challenges together. The continual adoption of best management practices and Smartcane BMP will allow you to tell your story, grow your business and show the community what positive actions you are taking.

There are plenty of opportunities to engage in Smartcane BMP and to access reef funding, so contact your local CANEGROWERS office or visit [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au) for further info. ■



## Linking and sharing

Part of my role at CANEGROWERS is being a point of contact for people wanting to reach members. A lot of information comes into my email inbox and makes its way to the CANEGROWERS Facebook page and into *Australian Canegrower* and district newsletters.

Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, for example, have delivery of Phase IV of the Reef Trust. Terrain NRM and NQ Dry Tropics are promoting the funding available to growers with projects to reduce nitrogen levels in water leaving farms. For information in the Wet Tropics email [reeftrust@terrain.org.au](mailto:reeftrust@terrain.org.au) and for the Burdekin email [burdekintender@nqdrytropics.com.au](mailto:burdekintender@nqdrytropics.com.au)

The Reef Alliance is a partnership of rural industry, NRM bodies and WWF. CANEGROWERS is involved through the Queensland Farmers Federation. The Alliance seeks to promote and report on the progress that agriculture is making to achieve water quality outcomes. To link into its newsletters head to <http://www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/>

The Reef 2050 Communication Network involves the government agemcoes, industry groups, NRM and research organisations with a stake in the Plan which is the framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef until 2050.

The Network gives CANEGROWERS a voice as communication strategies are developed by the agencies responsible for the Plan. It is an avenue to highlight and explain the on-farm work being done to minimise risks to the Reef. ■



## ACCC Authorisation

In its draft decision, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to CANEGROWERS and local CANEGROWERS companies to collectively bargain and make cane supply and related contracts for a period of ten years. The ACCC makes it very clear that the proposed authorisation does not extend either to the negotiation of a single state-wide CSA or to QCGO assuming the principal bargaining role in collective negotiations.

The ACCC will hold a pre-decision conference on 10 February, ahead of making its final decision, at which CANEGROWERS will clarify our application and respond to any questions raised.

## Electricity

CANEGROWERS has invited Queensland Parliamentarians, State and Federal electricity regulators (QCA and AER), Ergon officials, electricity users and media representatives to attend the launch of the CANEGROWERS-Sapere report. The key findings of this report are:

- The Ergon TSS is not cost reflective and it, along with the AER draft decision, are not backed by evidence.
- The failings are systematic and are set to affect all Queenslanders, calling into question the way the national electricity market is regulated and how network prices are determined.

## Trade

An eight-strong team from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce will visit Brisbane this month to verify data provided in the ASA response to questions raised during their investigation of an alleged surge in sugar entering China.

ASA has argued strongly that Australian sales to China are made in response to a Chinese import need and is no justification for China to impose safeguard measures against raw sugar exported from Australia. ■





# GROWER IDEAS NEEDED

**Got a great idea for progressive farming practices that will improve water quality, but feel like nobody's listening?**

The Queensland Government is committing \$33m to initiatives that reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff into the Great Barrier Reef and is calling on growers to lead the way with innovative and inspirational ideas.



The Wet Tropic Major Integrated Project (MIP) will be rolled out in the Tully and Innisfail districts over the next three years.

The project focuses on cane and banana farms in the Tully and Johnstone catchments, however it will also look beyond just farming practices and combine water quality solutions across all activities in the catchment areas.

"This is a unique and exciting opportunity to ensure local knowledge is incorporated into a reef water quality project to suit local conditions and farmer circumstances," said CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman, **Joe Marano**, who also sits on the Wet Tropics MIP project panel.

Growers are invited to share their ideas at workshops in the Innisfail and Tully areas on 2 and 3 March.

These workshops are the first steps in developing and refining actions to be implemented between June 2017 and June 2020.

"Ideas big and small, old and new are sought to develop a project that can transform our approach to the enormous challenge of improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef," said Terrain CEO **Carole Sweatman**.

"The Wet Tropics MIP is a significant opportunity to locally design and

implement a reef water quality project. It aims to improve the health of the reef while ensuring viable farming and rural communities."

The project will be designed by the local community, with support from a consortium of over thirty partners.

The consortium is coordinated by Terrain NRM on behalf of the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership, Australian Banana Growers' Council, local government, community groups, consultants and scientists.

Active participation by farmers and the local community will be critical to the project's success.

Learnings from the project design model will potentially be applied to other projects in future.

For further information about the Wet Tropics MIP and associated workshops, go to [www.terrain.org.au](http://www.terrain.org.au) or contact **Tania Simmons** at [tania.simmons@terrain.org.au](mailto:tania.simmons@terrain.org.au) or 0417 986 499. ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman, Joe Marano; Terrain NRM's Community Partnerships Manager, Bart Dryden; Dept Environment and Heritage Protection Director Reef Programs, Scott Robinson; Johnstone Region Catchment Management Association's Sam Pagano, and DEHP Principal Policy Officer Rae Schlect.*

## Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

### HAVE YOU HEARD? – MAXIMISE YOUR SUPER CONTRIBUTIONS

We highlighted in a previous column the changes to the after-tax (non-concessional) contribution caps that will take effect in the new financial year.

These changes were passed through both houses of parliament on Wednesday 23 November 2016 as part of the Federal Government's superannuation reforms, and also apply to before-tax contribution caps.

From 1 July 2017, before-tax (concessional) contributions will be limited to \$25,000 a year for anyone of any age, reduced from the current \$30,000 limit or \$35,000 limit if you are 49 and over.

It is envisaged these changes will make the superannuation system more sustainable for all Australians.

It's another considerable reduction to the contribution caps that will impact your super balance.

Luckily, there's still time to take advantage of the current legislated caps and contribute up to \$35,000 if you are over 49, or \$30,000 if you are under.

Your before-tax contributions are contributions made into your super fund before tax has been paid. These primarily include:

- Employer contributions including salary sacrifice payments, and
- Contributions allowed as an income tax deduction.

If you're in a position to take advantage of the current before-tax cap, it may be wise to seek the advice of a financial planner to ensure it aligns with your current financial goals.

Our financial planner is available to discuss and determine if you have a need for personal advice, without any obligation. A quote will be provided for your approval to proceed.

Call **1300 131 293** to find out more.

**AustSafe Super is the industry super fund for rural and regional Australia, and has been committed to looking after members' super throughout their working life, and into retirement for over 25 years.**



# Sugar Research Australia introduces **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

## SRA appoints Executive Manager, Technology



SRA has announced the appointment of Dr Frikkie Botha to lead its research division, filling the pivotal role of Executive Manager, Technology, within the industry-owned company.

Dr Botha comes to the role with an extensive Australian and international career in sugarcane research, including more than 35 years' experience in academic, corporate and entrepreneurial R&D.

***"Dr Botha is well known and respected within the Australian sugarcane industry and has an extensive scientific record."***

SRA CEO Neil Fisher said that Dr Botha had previously been SRA's Executive Manager, Strategic Initiatives, and he has held previous roles in the Australian sugarcane industry at BSES and the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC).

He is also a former Managing Director of the South African Sugarcane Research Institute, a Director of the Institute for Plant Biotechnology, and Professor of Plant Biotechnology at the Universities of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Stellenbosch.

He is currently an honorary Professor at the University of Queensland and executive member of the International Society of

Sugarcane Technologists. "Dr Botha is well known and respected within the Australian sugarcane industry and has an extensive scientific record," Mr Fisher said.

"His skills as a leader will assist SRA's scientists to continue to deliver valued solutions for a growing sugarcane industry."

Dr Botha, who also oversees the SRA Yellow Canopy Syndrome research program, said he looked forward to working with SRA's researchers to drive profitability and productivity for sugarcane growers and millers.

## SRA welcomes new engineer to harvest efficiency team

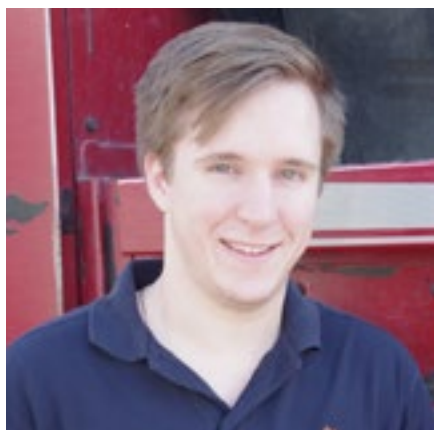
SRA has added new engineering expertise to its team working with the Australian sugarcane industry to improve the efficiency of the harvest.

SRA has welcomed mechanical engineer Joseph Bonassi to its team of research and adoption staff, where he will work on this major focus area of research.

Mr Bonassi is based at SRA's Ingham research station alongside SRA Adoption Officer, Phil Patane.

The pair will conduct vital research and adoption activities across the industry.

This includes activities as part of a significant investment into sugarcane harvest efficiency through the Australian



Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme, where SRA is leading major integrated research and adoption activities.

SRA CEO Neil Fisher said that Mr Bonassi, a Ingham local, is very familiar with the sugarcane industry.

"Joseph has also previously completed a work-placement at the Isis Central Sugar Mill through a Sugar Research Institute scholarship in 2015, as well as placements with Wilmar in the Burdekin and in the Herbert," Mr Fisher said.

"Harvest efficiency is an issue that requires collaboration along the value chain, including from harvester operators, growers, and millers, so Mr Bonassi's insights into milling will be valuable as he takes on this new role."

Mr Bonassi has a Bachelor of Engineering through James Cook University.

***"Joseph will add the strong engineering focus required by the team to help solve some of the loss issues."***

Herbert grower and harvesting contractor, Vince Russo, said further skills within the harvest losses research team would be welcomed.

"The industry along the coast continues to make improvements in harvesting efficiency, and Joseph will add value to that work," he said.

"I believe there are still significant losses across the value chain. In order to minimise losses in the harvest sector we need to firstly identify the origin of the losses then accurately evaluate the magnitude and value of the loss.

"The solutions will be varied, from simple practice changes to the possibility of machine design changes, some of which may be small while others may need to be radical in nature.

"Joseph will add the strong engineering focus required by the team to help solve some of the loss issues." ■



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## Time running out to make your 2017 QSL nominations

By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations

As the end of February nears, time is running out for many growers to finalise their QSL pricing nominations for the 2017 Season.

When considering your QSL pricing options, it's important to remember that not all pools are available to all growers.

Nomination deadlines also vary, so please consult with your local QSL Grower Services Team member to clarify the QSL products available to you and your deadlines to access these.

Remember, MSF Sugar and Tully Sugar growers can only access QSL pricing products if they have nominated QSL as a marketer of their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar).

As I write this, Wilmar growers are still unable to access QSL Marketing Choice for the 2017 Season, however negotiations

are continuing and we intend to release details regarding applicable nomination procedures and deadlines when an On-Supply Agreement has been secured.

### YOUR QSL PRICING OPTIONS

The following tables provide an overview of QSL's 2017-Season pricing products. We recommend that you read the relevant QSL Grower Handbook and Pricing Pool Terms available on our website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) before finalising your nominations:

#### **QSL-MANAGED POOLS:** *QSL makes pricing decisions on behalf of Growers.*

<b>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> which provides a guaranteed minimum return with the potential for higher returns across the season. The minimum tonnage required to participate in this pool is 50 metric tonnes. Growers using this option can expect to receive 90% of the value of the pool's completed pricing by the end of crushing.
<b>QSL Actively Managed Pool</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> which targets the best return over the season by pricing more frequently as short-term market opportunities arise. The minimum tonnage required to participate in this pool is 10 metric tonnes.
<b>QSL 2-Season Forward Pool (2018 Season)</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> with pricing undertaken across the 2017 and 2018 Seasons. This pool aims to target the best return, with some pre-set price triggers. The minimum tonnage required to participate in this pool is 1 ICE 11 futures contract (50.8025 metric tonnes).
<b>QSL Harvest Pool</b>	An <b>Uncommitted Sugar Pool</b> designed to manage possible production variation throughout a season. All QSL growers must allocate 35% of their initial production estimate to the QSL Harvest Pool.

### HELP AND SUPPORT

	Districts:	FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND	NORTH QUEENSLAND
QSL's Grower Services Team is available to help with any questions you may have regarding any of our pricing products. Your local representatives are:		<b>Daniel Messina</b> Grower Relationship Manager Ph. 0429 660 238 <a href="mailto:daniel.messina@qsl.com.au">daniel.messina@qsl.com.au</a>	<b>Carla Keith</b> Industry Relationship Manager Ph. 0409 372 305 <a href="mailto:carla.keith@qsl.com.au">carla.keith@qsl.com.au</a>





## **INDIVIDUAL GROWER PRICING POOLS:** *where individual Growers make their own pricing decisions.*

<b>QSL Target Price Contract</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> which enables Growers to price their GEI Sugar during the current season plus up to 3 seasons ahead. Orders must be in a minimum of 10 metric tonne lot increments**, with price targets in \$10 increments (e.g. \$410, \$420, \$430). Pricing to be completed by 15 June in the year crushing is to commence for the relevant season. Growers using this option can choose an accelerated Advances program or the standard QSL Advances program.
<b>QSL Fixed Price Contract</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> which enables growers to price their GEI Sugar up to 3 seasons ahead of the current season. Orders must be in a minimum or multiple of 6 lots (304.815 mt) with pricing to be completed by 28 February in the year crushing is to commence for the relevant season. Growers using this option can choose an accelerated Advances program (up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crushing) or the standard QSL Advances program.
<b>QSL In-season Fixed Price Contract</b>	A <b>Committed Sugar Pool</b> which enables growers to price their GEI Sugar incrementally during the current season. This product provides a longer pricing window, with pricing to be completed by 15 April 2018 after the crush is completed. Allocations must be in a minimum and multiple of 6 lots (304.815 mt). Individual pricing orders may be in a minimum of 1 lot (50.8025 mt) with separate pricing decisions able to be made for each individual futures position.

*\*\* Growers may be required to nominate in increments greater than 10 mt depending on their local pricing agreements for the QSL Target Price Contract.*

Remember, you can generally choose a combination of pools and/or forward pricing products, however:

- QSL Harvest Pool participation is mandatory (35% minimum)
- US Quota allocation is automatic (1-5% allocation)
- Everyone gets an +/- allocation from the QSL Shared Pool (Premiums + Corporate Earnings less Costs)

### 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.*

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# LOW PRESSURE, BIG SAVINGS

## Bundy growers reap benefits of new irrigator

by Amy Claireton

Automation is saving these Bundaberg region cane farmers time, money and, in this hot and dry southern summer, their crop.

Dean Cayley and his father Neville are impressed with the benefits flowing from their recently-installed low pressure irrigator.

Replacing 21 winch runs, and watering 40 hectares of their 150 ha cropping land at Alloway, south of Bundaberg, the lateral move irrigator is saving them time and money. It is also most likely saving the crop in what is turning into a hot, dry summer growing period.

"The cane would really be suffering at the moment without this new system," said Dean. "And we would be struggling to keep water up to the whole farm in these conditions."

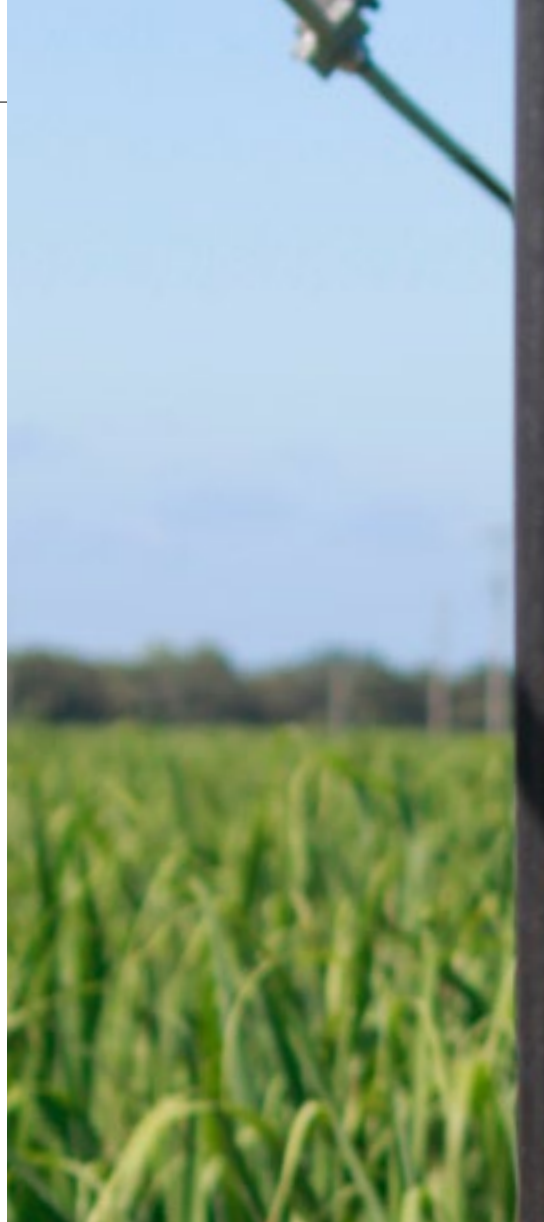
To water the 40 ha block previously took 14 days using a combination of flood and water winches compared to the six days it now takes for the automated lateral move to complete a full watering cycle.

"The time to get around the block is more than halved and power usage has been cut by around 75%," he said. "The winches drew 132 kW of power per night for 14 nights compared to just 60 kW per night for only 6 nights to water the same area with the lateral."

"In addition to the water use efficiency gains we expect from the crop, this saving in power was what we were chasing when we decided to invest in this system. The other major benefit is not having to check winches during the night."

The design of the system is based on an audit conducted by Bundaberg Sugar Services to assess the water holding capacity of the sandy loam soil, collect data to demonstrate likely efficiency gains and flow test the pumps.

"This report showed that the system we had in place could not deliver the 50 to 60 mm of water that the crop required every seven days to maintain peak growth rates in summer," said Dean. ►







*"We can apply both paraquat and 2,4-D in the one pass and have the capacity to spray about 8 ha in two hours before needing to refill."*

Using this information, the design team at Sunfam recommended the type of irrigator, sprinkler size and the optimal timing to achieve the production potential of the block.

The Cayleys chose an automated lateral move irrigator with a 230m long boom. The irrigator cart is located at one end of the boom and travels along an 800m run before slowly turning itself around to water the other side of the block.

The diesel motor on the cart uses about one litre of fuel per hour to run the 15kW generator that operates the electric drive mechanism of the irrigator.

The pipes are all poly lined to protect the machine from the bore water, which would otherwise corrode the pipes within about eight years. Having the lining in the pipes should protect them for the full 20-year life-span of the machine.

This installation also provided an opportunity to upgrade the underground pipe infrastructure delivering bore water to the block.



*Pictured: (main) The lateral move irrigator cart is at one end of the 230m boom. It moves along an 800m track, watering 20 ha on one side before turning itself around to water the other side. (inset) Bundaberg growers Dean and Neville Cayley. (left) Dean contract plants cane and soybeans using two GPS rigs which can adjust to 1.5 or 1.8 m row spacings.*

*Continues page 16...*

## ON FARM cont...

New lines of 200mm poly pipe were installed to carry the volume required to operate the low-pressure irrigator.

A soil moisture probe from Bundaberg Sugar Services has been installed in the block to monitor the crop's water use and ensure optimal growing conditions are met. The whole system was operational in October 2016.

"The current price of sugar, combined with low interest rates, made this a good time to invest in equipment like this that will reduce our operating costs and improve production," said Dean.

"We were also successful in obtaining an interest rate reduction through the Clean Energy Fund and Westpac Bank."

Having about one-third of the farm irrigated with this automated system frees up considerable time to manage the rest of their business and spend more quality family time.

Starting in 2006, with a GPS base station and one tractor, Dean now has four tractors fitted with GPS for use on

their farm and in his contract cane and soybean planting business.

Dean said the soybean crop planted in the Bundaberg district would total around 600–700 ha this year.

On their own farm, they have opted to grow peanuts since 2009 but have not planted any this year, choosing instead to lease the fallow area to a sweet potato grower for 12 months.

In the mid-1980s, Neville was one of the first growers in the area to change to billet planting and he established the cane planting contract business that Dean now operates.

They run two planting rigs that can be adjusted to suit row spacings ranging from 1.5m to 1.8m to suit different farm systems across the 400 ha planting contract.

In 2010 Dean and Neville changed to green cane trash blanketing and built a high clearance spray rig to manage weeds in the ratoons.

Starting with a retired cotton picker, Neville designed and managed the conversion.

Taking advantage of the comfort and good visibility of the existing cab, local engineering firms worked with Neville to reverse the drive mechanism and install the spray tanks.

Further panel work and painting was done on-farm by Dean and their employee, Norm. They also designed and built the boom, mounted on a forklift mast, from scratch on the farm.

"We can apply both paraquat and 2,4-D in the one pass and have the capacity to spray about 8 ha in two hours before needing to refill," said Dean.

"Being able to raise and lower the spray boom gives us more options for spraying under different conditions."

During his farming career, Neville has grown a wide variety of crops in rotation with cane. He said the first rotation crop on the farm was peanuts, planted by his father in 1946.

The Cayleys have since grown watermelons, green beans, potatoes for crisping, tomatoes, tobacco, capsicums, asparagus, and most recently, peanuts again.

"There is real value in rotation crops but we have always maintained sugarcane as our mainstay crop," said Neville. "It is a reliable production system and guaranteed income. The horticultural crops are higher risk but play an important part in cash flow for our business." ■

*Pictured: Before and after: Neville and Dean Cayley used a retired cotton harvester to build their high clearance spray rig in 2010. The sprayer can apply both paraquat and 2,4-D in one pass and has the capacity to spray 8 ha before refilling.*







## Pest Animal Management and Chemical Training Workshops

AgForce is pleased to offer Queensland rural landholders a new service that will help you to get ahead of the game and access the most up-to-date tools to manage pest animals.

These one-day workshops for landholders will include practical training and information on the latest pest animal control tools specific to your industry's pest animal issues. Included in these workshops is nationally accredited chemical handling safety training for safely preparing, delivering, transporting and storing chemicals.

You will receive (at no cost):

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- Eligible experienced participants may qualify for a **Statement of Attainment** in the following **nationally** accredited units:
  - AHCCHM303 – Prepare and apply chemicals
  - AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals

**Workshop are being held at:** **Bowen, Tuesday 28 February 8.30am – 5.00pm (arrive at 8:00am)**  
**Mackay, Thursday 16 March 8.30am – 5.00pm (arrive at 8:00am)**

### Limited places available, Register NOW!

Which of the above workshop locations do you wish to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Enterprise name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the first and last names of all attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a rural landholder or manager? Yes ☐ No ☐

To register visit [www.agforceprojects.org.au](http://www.agforceprojects.org.au) or complete the form above and return to fax (07) 3236 3077 or post to AgForce Projects C/O AgForce Brisbane: PO Box 13186, North Bank Plaza, cnr Ann and George Streets, Brisbane, QLD, 4003. For more information call (07) 3238 6048 or email [admin@agforceprojects.org.au](mailto:admin@agforceprojects.org.au)

*This project is delivered by AgForce Projects with support from the Queensland Farmers Federation and the Queensland Government, funded by the Australian Government. AgForce RTO Reg No. 1834*





# New quad safety laws come into effect

Children under the age of eight can no longer be carried as a passenger on a quad bike, while drivers and passengers of quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles must now wear motorbike helmets under new safety laws that came into effect in Queensland on 1 February.

The mandatory helmet requirements had been previously outlined in the *Guideline for Conditionally Registered Vehicles in Queensland Form 17*.

The requirements have now transitioned to the road rules and apply to quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles being used on Queensland roads and road-related areas.

**MORE THAN 70 PEOPLE  
HAVE BEEN KILLED  
ON QUAD BIKES  
IN QUEENSLAND  
SINCE 2001 –  
APPROXIMATELY 30  
PER CENT OF ALL QUAD  
BIKE-RELATED DEATHS  
IN AUSTRALIA.**

From 1 February 2017, a \$365 fine will apply for failing to comply with the mandatory helmet requirements as well as the incursion of three demerit points.

This offence will also be subject to existing motorcycle helmet double demerit point penalties. If two or more motorcycle helmet offences are committed within a 12 month period, the second offences will incur double demerit points.

The current exemption from wearing a helmet applicable for the operators and passengers of conditionally registered utility off-road vehicles which operate under the LO3 condition code, and are fitted with seatbelts and a roll over protection system will remain.

However, there will be no helmet exemptions for quad bike operations.

Under the new laws, children under the age of eight are prohibited from being

carried as passengers on quad bikes and utility off-road vehicles.

Children of any age cannot be carried as passengers if they are unable to sit with their feet flat on the floor and hands on handholds.

The new laws will be enforced by Queensland Police.

Queensland has the highest number of quad bike-related hospitalisations with about 1500 between 2009-2013, as well as 3000 quad bike-related emergency department presentations and more than 1000 ambulance attendances.



# Starfish and biosecurity - how do they relate?

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager



*Sugar ship New Dynamic leaves port with a cargo of Queensland sugar*

Biosecurity – it's something most of us don't give much thought to, at least not until there is a problem. Then it is all hands-on deck to manage the issue and hopefully eradicate it – a process that usually takes significant time, money and resources.

When we do think about biosecurity, we generally only consider our own industry. However, it's good to be aware of the processes in place to protect Australian agriculture as a whole.

To this end, CANEGROWERS engages on biosecurity issues through interaction with the Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee, Plant Health Australia (PHA), National Farmers Federation (NFF), Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and Biosecurity Queensland.

This offers many opportunities to talk about preventative strategies, on-farm practices and possible pest incursions.

I recently attended a meeting of the NFF biosecurity taskforce in Canberra, which turned out to be a real eye-opener.

I consider sugarcane as having its fair share of risks, however it is staggering to comprehend what other plant industries and the animal sector must deal with and the steps they are taking to manage risk.



*Northern Pacific Seastar*

One of the issues that particularly caught my interest was ballast water, which is water taken on by ships in port and is important for maintaining safe operation.

## WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH CANE AND BIOSECURITY?

To me, it's considering the bigger picture. The Queensland cane industry exports 80% of its sugar overseas, mainly to the Asian region.

This means there are many ships coming and going from ports in Queensland, all of which take on ballast water. These ships also need to release the ballast water at some point on their journey.

A single ship can take up to 70,000 tonnes of ballast water and it's believed that this water is responsible for about 20-30% of all marine pest incursions into the Australian marine environment.

The Australian Government considers ballast water taken up at international ports and coastal waters outside Australia's territorial sea to be high risk.

Fortunately, there are regulations in place requiring all high-risk ballast water tanks to undergo a deep ocean exchange, outside a 12-nautical mile limit, prior to arrival in Australian ports.

However, even with the best intentions and supporting regulations, things still escape.

One example is the Northern Pacific seastar, which has become a serious pest

in Tasmania's Derwent estuary, becoming the dominant invertebrate predator.

Native to the coasts of eastern Russia, China and Japan, the seastar's diet consists mainly of molluscs, but starfish predation is a problem for commercial aquaculture industries who cultivate oysters, scallops and mussels.

The Northern Pacific Seastar, like all introduced pests, has the potential to establish large populations in new areas because they have no natural predators.

In 1998, seastars were discovered on commercial mussel ropes in Port Phillip Bay, Victoria. Estimates indicate the population had reached 12 million two years after they were first detected. It was believed that ballast water was the vector.

Tens of thousands of seastars have been removed in eradication attempts, but with little effect on the overall population. This creates cost, pressure on the local fisheries and stress on the endemic species and marine environment. The priority is now managing the spread of the seastars along the coastlines.

So, next time you see the ship being loaded with Queensland sugar, bear in mind the biosecurity risk being managed in the ballast water and how the system is interconnected.

While seastars do not directly impact the cane industry, managing biosecurity risk across the whole value chain is vital, because the next threat could impact upon us.

# Healthy school lunchboxes

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team

Keep your children healthy and happy with a balanced school lunchbox. Just follow these tips and they'll thrive.

## CORE STRENGTH

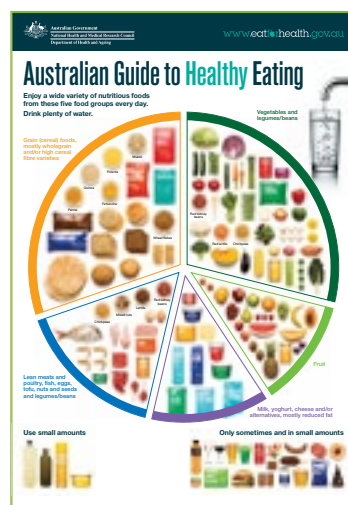
Children need core foods from the five food groups each day to keep them strong and healthy. Use core foods as the building blocks for a healthy lunch box.

Send enough food for a morning snack (recess) and lunch.

Sometimes foods such as salty snacks, cakes, biscuits, chocolates and lollies should be left out of the lunchbox and enjoyed at home in small amounts.

Check out the *Australian Guide to Healthy Eating* to assist your core food choices:

[www.eatforhealth.gov.au/food-essentials/five-food-groups](http://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/food-essentials/five-food-groups)



### LUNCHBOX 1

- Wholemeal wrap with cooked chicken and salad
- Unsalted popcorn
- Cucumber and cherry tomatoes
- Banana

### LUNCHBOX 2

- Brown rice salad with tuna, tomato and cucumber
- Wholegrain crispbread with cheese
- Carrot sticks with hummus dip
- Apple

### LUNCHBOX 3

- Wholemeal sandwich with egg and lettuce
- 4-star muesli bar
- Wholegrain crispbread with vegemite
- Watermelon and blueberries

## MAKE IT EASY

The easier the food is to eat, the more likely it will be eaten. Cut sandwiches or wraps into smaller pieces, take the skin off oranges and include a fork or spoon for salads.

Packaged foods such as yoghurt pouches, canned fruit tubs, muesli bars and cheese sticks are very convenient and save time but remember the environment and consider 'nude food' you can make yourself and pack in re-usable containers.

Make things easier for yourself by doing some preparation the night before and ask older children and teens to pack their own (they're more likely to eat it too).

## PLAY IT SAFE

Warm conditions can increase the growth of bacteria in food which can cause illness. Keep food cold and safe with an insulated lunchbox and ice bricks (or frozen drinks). Leftover lunch shouldn't be eaten unless it has been kept cold.

## REACH FOR THE STARS

Use the Health Star Rating (HSR) to choose healthier packaged foods for the lunchbox. The more stars a product has, the healthier it is. Aim for at least 3.5 stars and the more the better.

Use the HSR to compare brands of the same product, not to compare different foods.

Find out more about the HSR at [www.healthstarrating.gov.au](http://www.healthstarrating.gov.au)



## DRINKS

Keep children well hydrated by providing plenty of fluids. Water is the best drink, followed by milk. Don't send sweetened drinks like soft drinks, sports water and flavoured mineral waters to school. Ensure drinks are cold and refreshing – try sending them frozen in warm weather. ■



# KEEPING AN EYE ON BIG WET RUNOFF

*Supplied by Reef & Rainforest Research Centre*

Every year, major rainfalls in the Far North turn the Barron River and other major watercourses a bright shade of ochre as they pick up mud and silt on their way to the ocean – but this year, scientists and farmers are keeping a closer eye on the sediment-filled waters and their effects on the Great Barrier Reef.

Suspended sediment in floodwaters, sometimes with high levels of nitrogen, pesticides and other introduced elements can have serious effects on the health of coral and other marine life such as seagrass.

The Tropical Water Quality Hub of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Programme includes several projects focused on studying the interaction between floodwaters, agricultural catchments and the Great Barrier Reef.

**Dr Aaron Davis** from James Cook University heads up Project 25, a unique collaboration between scientists and cane farmers to monitor the content of river water along the course of the Russell-Mulgrave catchment south of Cairns.

Dr Davis says the big floods after a long dry season will give Project 25 its best insight yet into the content of the catchment's runoff.

"These are interesting floods because they're what's referred to as 'first flush' events, so there's a lot of stuff that's accumulated or been applied throughout the catchment in the dry season that is being moved by this water all at once, so we'll definitely be looking closely at these results, because they'll give us the clearest picture of what's in the water.

"What you'll see in the runoff really depends on what kind of activity is occurring in that catchment – in a catchment with more bananas or grazing you'd typically expect to find more elevated suspended sediment, while in cane catchments you'll probably that shift toward fertiliser nutrients and pesticides.

"The aim of the project is to provide more locally relevant water quality data to farmers in a region, which can assist decision-making and help guide practice change among the growers in these catchments to reduce potential runoff impacts."



Cane farmer **Stephen Calcagno** is one of the biggest growers involved in Project 25 and said he was looking forward to seeing the results of the monitoring.

"We are always looking at ways of being able to reduce how much fertiliser and pesticides end up in the rivers, because not only does that represent wasted spending for us, it's also going out to the Great Barrier Reef and causing problems there," he said.

"We want to keep the Reef in good nick as much as anyone else and we're definitely keen to see how these measurements turn out so we can see what's working in reducing that runoff."

**Dr Rebecca Bartley** at CSIRO is running another Tropical Water Quality Hub project in the Burdekin region to test ways of reducing erosion in agricultural catchments.

"I previously ran a 12-year study on erosion in the Burdekin and the results were very interesting – it highlighted that if we want to see an improvement in the water quality leaving the catchments and reaching the Reef, we need to be treating the dominant erosion source. This may seem pretty obvious, but in the past, we actually didn't know what the dominant sediment source was, so we tried a bit of everything. In the Burdekin, sediment

tracing has now confirmed that gullies are a major source of sediment."

"In our Tropical Water Quality Hub project we are trialling different gully remediation techniques. These include stock management with fencing, revegetation of gully banks with native vegetation and installing what we call 'stick sausages', which are bundles of sticks wrapped up with chicken wire designed to slow the water down and get sediment to settle out."

"We have a number of paired sites where we will treat one gully, and leave the other gully in its current condition. We then measure the water quality leaving these sites. This will give us a much clearer idea of what type of remediation approaches work, and how much we can expect them to reduce erosion and improve water quality."

"This research has actually never really been done before – everyone has had these assumptions about which techniques work, but until now we haven't had any quantitative data. Once we know which techniques work, we hope that there will be much greater up-take of remediation across the catchment."

*The Tropical Water Quality Hub is managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, based in Cairns.*

# Smartcane BMP

With Project Manager, Mick Quirk

Smartcane BMP-benchmarked growers currently manage over 64% of Queensland's cane production area, with BMP-accredited growers accounting for 12% of the production area. During 2017, I anticipate that the accredited area will reach 25%.

While these are significant achievements, our goals are to see more benchmarked growers achieving accreditation, and for growers not yet involved to realise the value of participating in BMP.

## WHAT IS THE CORE VALUE OF SMARTCANE BMP FOR GROWERS?

Smartcane BMP underpins the industry's efforts to retain its social licence to operate – in other words, it helps boost the level of acceptance and approval by local communities and stakeholders of cane farmers and their operations.

When a grower is accredited in BMP, it confirms their reputation for sustainable practices, making the program a vehicle for growers to demonstrate, improve and communicate their environmental stewardship.

Participation in BMP can also help growers improve productivity, and it can provide a pathway to meet the requirements of markets for sustainable sugar.

These additional layers of value support the program's core function of helping ensure the industry's long-term future.

*"Smartcane BMP underpins the industry's efforts to retain its social licence to operate."*

History has shown that BMP programs in other agricultural industries have generally lacked a major and persistent driver of third-party certification.

This is not the case for sugarcane, where its proximity to the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon guarantees ongoing scrutiny and questions.

The industry's reputation will continue to be vulnerable, and determined by others, unless growers embrace the BMP program to capture, celebrate and communicate their practice improvements.

## THE FUTURE

A Best Management Practice program must be long term to provide the benefits outlined above.

Growers have seen many programs come and go over the years, but while the current project funding from the State Government ceases in December 2017, Smartcane BMP has developed a business case for its long-term funding and this has received strong support across the industry.

A strategy and funding mix for its future operation will be developed by the middle of 2017.

In the meantime, contact your local BMP facilitator and get on board the Smartcane Bus to accreditation.



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## WESTCOTT ENGINEERING HARVESTER BLADE RESHARPENING

Various sized resharpened harvester  
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Book online anytime of the day or night at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) or email us at [ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Next deadline is **20 February 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.

## Beaulieu R.U.M.

### Attention Canegrowers

The first step in achieving a high yielding cane crop is a good strike and vigorous growth in the early stage of your crop.

**This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.**

**For a cost of around \$25 per acre  
Can you afford not to give it a go?**

For further information contact –

Burdekin & Northern Region call Wally Ford 0417 937 722  
Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325  
Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

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Do you want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every fortnight?

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### Conversion Track System (CTS)



- Increase field access
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- Available in 30" and 36" widths

Contact > Marney Strachan  
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## Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

### NEW MACHINE!

**GT FULL TRACK INFIELD TRANSPORTER 14 TONNE FRONT UNLOADING ELEV to 4.2 metre delivery.**

CAT 325HP Engine. 9 roller track frames, two speed track drive motors, New 50-1 ratio track drive hubs. SAI piston elevator drive motors, 24" curved grouser plates. Full moving floor. S.A.L.T chains. **PROVEN DESIGN ENQUIRE NOW!!**

### MACHINES NOW IN STOCK!!

JOHN DEERE 2013 3520 Track, 9 litre low hour engine. 10 blade chopper

JOHN DEERE 2007 3510 Track, engine rebuild 2, 300 Hrs. 8 blade chopper

CASE 2006 7700 Track harvester Iveco 350 HP Engine. 5,000 Hrs on new engine. 8 blade chopper system with blade adjuster. Shredder toppler.

CAMECO 2005 3510 Wheel, 8 blade chopper, shredder toppler, very good mechanical condition.

### REDUCED TO SELL!!

2011 MASSEY FERGUSON 5465 4WD Tractor 120 HP. 1,967 Hrs. Front suspension, Linkage & D/Bar fitted.

**NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500** Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

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

**WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track Harvester.** No engine, walking gear or toppler available. Other parts available L&S track hubs, 8 Blade, Diff chopper drums, base cutter box, 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.

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## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

Sugar Terminal Limited shares – 128 x 885 STL shares for sale. Ph. Ruth 0417 629 208  
23.1x26 tyres for haulouts. 20 ply side wall, 50km/h speed rating 8250 Kg load rating. Lab tested. Diamond pattern. Specially designed for the sugar industry. Brand name is 4MOSA. Stocks will be limited so let us know if you're interested so we can ear tag some for you. Cost will be around \$1,000 plus GST. Ph. 0429 819 115

3PTL Fert Bin \$800 incl; 2" arch bar \$300 incl. 3-phase plasma cutter Unimig 105 \$1,600 incl. Yamaha WR450 VGC \$3,500. Ph. 4066 9889

Newton 4 Tonne side tipper, goose neck hydraulic pump and control included. \$2,000 ono. Goodyear 20.8 R38 Tractor Tyre 90% tread \$500 ono. Phone 0429 634 672 or 0488 003 901

JD 3520, 2012 model, adjustable powerfeed roller, elevator extension, GPS, well maintained. Ph. 0427 667 964

Toft Track Harvester. Cummins Motor. Rotary chop. Knife Saver. Base Cutter legs. Sealing Fan. Suit to cut your own cane or Billet Planting. Phone 0427 163 519

Toft Track Harvester - HBM Billet Planter – wide Elevator, 2 double tipper bins on Trailer. Phone 0427 163 519

### Herbert River-Burdekin

2 x T7030 New Holland tractors with 10 tonne Newton elevated tipper. Front suspension, cab suspension, 7000 hours, excellent condition. Case Maxxum 125 tractor with 10 tonne Newton elevated tipper. 3500 hours, excellent condition. Ph. Mario 0408 670 702.

All aluminium radiators to suit New Holland tractors. Custom built. Stocks will be here before the 2017 season so get your orders in now. \$1100 plus GST. 0429819115

FOR SALE Base Cutter Hydraulic Pump & Motor; Chopper Hydraulic Pump & Radial Piston Motor - To Suit John Deere 3520, In Very Good Condition. Contact Rob on 0407 167 716

Laser scoops for sale, 1x11ft cut Peggo industrial, 1x 12ft Peggo industrial, both have everything u will need, inc. onboard cushion hitch, current models. As new cond, also E and I 12 ft ejector, vgc, Ph 0407 635 018

Massey 185 Multi Power, ROPS, ALL NEW: New Injector pump, seat, paint job, steering wheel, gauges, many extras as well \$10,000 ONO Ph Rod 0487170053

Howard 60" Rotary Hoe Fair condition for its age \$1500. Ph. 0429 190 980

1994 CAMECO CHT2500 Full Track Harvester 9660 hrs. Original Cat motor. Track assembly and elevator running gear VGC. Overall machine good condition. Selling due to upgrade. No longer required as backup machine. \$66,000. Ph. 0408454239

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–Feb
	30.01.17	06.02.17		
Mossman	35	449	1018	918
Mareeba AP	0	84	380	444
Cairns	7	331	705	835
Mt Sophia	29	395	1121	1165
Babinda	0	167	708	1368
Innisfail	73	191	1246	1100
Tully	25	461	750	1336
Cardwell	27	142	501	902
Lucinda	13	40	553	846
Ingham	6	107	419	827
Abergowrie	10	100	256	718
Townsville	22	61	226	566
Ayr DPI	11	35	262	445
Proserpine	24	126	637	645
Mirani	34	134	489	652
Mackay	11	113	556	598
Sarina (Plane Ck)	28	40	784	749
Bundaberg	0	0.4	65	330
Childers South	0	0	46	250
Maryborough	0.4	0	22	338
Tewantin	1	0	78	453
Eumundi	1	0	97	474
Nambour	3	0	88	489
Woongoolba	19	0	26	330
Murwillumbah	55	0	204	428
Ballina	17	0	93	377
Woodburn	16	0	173	306



**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.

**iFIT**  
ENGINEERING  
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### HARVESTER CHOPPER DRUMS

- Strong, open design
- Clean, efficient cutting
- 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 blade (12" & 15")
- Very competitively priced

### Chopper drum reconditioning and modifications

### Char-Lynn motor shaft seal repairs with nitride hardened sleeves

### NEW CHOPPER ADJUSTER

We now manufacture external chopper adjusters to suit John Deere and Case harvesters. For further information contact Ian Fagg

**PH: (07) 4068 2811**

**Fax: (07) 4068 0459**

**Email: [ifitengineering@bigpond.com](mailto:ifitengineering@bigpond.com)**



## Mackay-Proserpine

Tyres & rims; 14.9x24, 2of; 18.4x34, 2of; to suit New Holland. \$2,500 + GST. Ph. 0407 595 218

'96 Austoft complete track frames with drive motor and hubs. \$10,000 ONO. Ph. 0427 355 391

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)

Napier 20 disc hydraulic close offset bumpers. \$1500.00 or nearest offer. Located Rosella. Ph. (07) 49595108 after 6pm.

FERTILISER BIN- 2T hydraulic-lift trailerable side-dresser, 4 coulters and legs, can be fitted with double disc opener. In exc condition, suitable for 1.5m - 1.8m row spacings. \$9 900 incl gst or open to offers. Ph 0409 221 601 Koumala

2 New tyres & rims to fit Case Farmall 80JX. Starmaxx 380-85R 38. \$4,600 + GST. Ph: 0488 598 447

## Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Bonel billet planter with suSCon Blue box. Good condition. Best offers. Ph. 0428 598 307

J I Case 1194 tractor 49 engine hp 42 PTO hp, 12 forward 4 reverse, 2 speed pto, rear tyres 90%, RPOS, \$8,000. Janke 4 row planter with fert boxes, assortment of plates sprockets and chain. Suit soy beans, mung beans, corn, peanuts, etc. \$6,000. Ph. 0418 874 615

Grizzly G60, 36 plate Offsett Disc all hydraulic adjustment, manual fold to less than 3.5m, open at 4.5m, 28 inch discs half worn, New blast and 2 pak paint, rams resealed some spares \$39,600. Ph 0427 769 086

## Wanted

Wanted: BSM 6 Tonne Side Tipper or 10 Tonne Elevating Bin. Ph. 0423262715.

Caterpillar D7E48A or D8 Dozer. Phone Bill Atkinson 0427128251 or Paul Atkinson 0427142302

WANTED TO BUY: Set of 42", or bigger, rims; with or without tyres. Ph. 4954 0190

Wanted to buy: Power Harrow in good condition, approx 2 metres wide, with or without crumble roller Ph: 0417 774 214

Wanted to buy. Second hand pineapple planter. Ph. 4776 1386

Wanted track harvester in good condition. Wanted 4 tonne tipper in good condition. Ph. 0428 495 053

Wanted cane to harvest for 2017 season and beyond in Burdekin region. Ph. 0456 041 428 TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Wanted: Set of 50" rims & tyres. Ph. 0438 421 217

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815

WANTED: High rise spray rig. Ph. 0428 535 385.

Wanted: Tractor, dozer, drott and backhoe. Any model or condition Ph. 3201 5099

WANTED to buy: 2 x double 4-tonne Plane Creek haulout trailers. Ph. 0428 611 714

## Positions Vacant

Harvester Operator/Manager Wanted. Childers/Isis area. Cutting 70-80K tonnes. Experience with harvester operation/management and mechanical skills required. Attractive rates for the right person. Email resume with referees to [gswebb@skymesh.com.au](mailto:gswebb@skymesh.com.au) by 23 Feb 2017.

Sugarcane harvester and bin driver required for Condong Mill area. Machinery, maintenance and management skills required. Position for 2017 season and beyond, with prospect of full-time Harvester Operator position. Ph Bernard 0428 298 618. Maintenance Manager required. Must be able to maintain machinery, water winches, pumps and implements on a large Cane farm 40km north of Bundaberg. Permanent employment after a trial period. Send resume to [laserlevel@landformaustralia.com.au](mailto:laserlevel@landformaustralia.com.au) or Ph, 0427 769 086.

## Work Wanted

BURDEKIN: Seeking full time work on vegetable or cane farm. Will consider other work. Chemical certificates, can drive spray rig, tractors in general, forklift ticket, drivers license, honest and reliable, mechanically minded. Call 47828259 Brad

MAREEBA: Looking for Haul out jobs for the 2017 season. HR license. Forklift license. Very hard worker. Fast learner. Very reliable. Contact Terence 0476407636 or email [swemmert@yahoo.com.au](mailto:swemmert@yahoo.com.au)

MACKAY: Seeking Cane Harvesting jobs for upcoming season 2017. Hard worker and quick learner. Experience driving trucks/tractors. HC license. Concreter by trade, managed a small farm with stock, mechanically minded, willing to give anything a go. Forklift Licence, Heavy Articulated Licence, Manual Drivers Licence, Current First Aid Certificate. Ph Mark 0409 951 568

## Property

Walkerston area: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated. 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing. Ph 0418 185 663 Walkerston area: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated. 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing. Ph 0418 185 663

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407635175.

ABERGOWRIE: Cane farm on Tarakan Road 270 acres all freehold. Genuine inquiries pls phone 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

Wanted to lease. Cane farm land Balnagowan/Dumbleton area. With or without equipment. Ph. 0428 598 688

Land to lease or share farm Mackay region. Ph. 0439526254

Wanted cane farm 5000+ No more than 30 mins from Mackay. Ph 0407629940

## MAKE AN OFFER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**NEW HBM DOUBLE ROW,**  
Planter, drill spacing 150cm-180cm  
Moving Floor, hydraulic or GWD,  
Large SS Fert. Boxes, cat 3 hitch.

**SINGLE ROW HBM PLANTER**  
Rear Wheel 150-180  
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## FOR MORE INFO RING

**4064 2294** 7am to 4pm  
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**WANGAN 4871 NQ**

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# YOU ARE INVITED!



Join us!

## IN MACKAY

March 2017

Next Gen invites cane farmers, cane professionals and industry stakeholders, young and old, to join us at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on Monday 27 - Wednesday 29 March 2017 to discuss topics of interest to the next generation of the Australian sugar industry.

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

**CASE III** **next gen**  
AGRICULTURE  
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Transition & Innovation  
27TH-29TH MARCH 2017

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