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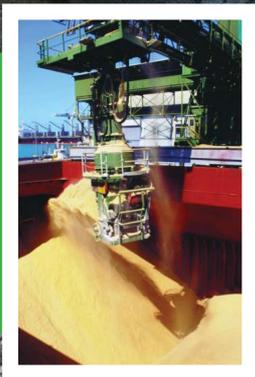


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COVER IMAGE: One year on from completing his Smartcane BMP accreditation, Mackay's Tony Bugeja believes the industry program has achieved credibility in the eyes of growers.

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Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

Published every second Monday by
CANEGROWERS

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AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 39 Number 19

Printed by Printcraft

23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$220

The Senator Leyonhjelm saga continues!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and I recently spent two days in Canberra lobbying Senators and political parties in advance of a vote on a motion which seeks to disallow our Sugar Industry Code of Conduct.

We met with representatives of the Liberal National Party, Labor, the Greens and many of the crossbench Senators. These discussions were both constructive and encouraging.

The vote on the disallowance motion was originally set down for Tuesday 12 September, but the proponent, NSW Senator David Leyonhjelm, decided to defer it to a later date.

Whilst we are disappointed that the vote has been delayed, we remain confident that we can return to Canberra and have Senator Leyonhjelm's misguided attempt to kill off the Code voted down.

I've been encouraged by the level of understanding in Canberra around the key and complex issues that have given rise to this situation and the sugar marketing dispute.

The Sugar Industry Code of Conduct is needed for the future stability and growth of our industry.

Some millers would have us believe otherwise, claiming that the Code is undermining the industry but in the past 12 months, sugar milling companies, particularly MSF, have announced a range of new value-adding business opportunities.

These announcements are substantial and they contradict the claims that the investment channel in our industry is drying up.

The Code curbs monopoly behaviour and ensures the sugar price is not ceded away from farmers into the pockets of large, regional milling monopolies.

Almost 93% of the sugarcane produced in Queensland is, by simple logistics, tied to its local sugar mill. Sugarcane is highly perishable and bulky, making long road transport financially unviable.

Hence, the mills each enjoy a regional monopoly status and can exploit that to dictate the terms and conditions of cane supply and marketing arrangements that are unacceptable to growers.

I am pleased that many Senators have strongly affirmed their support for growers.

What is extremely disappointing is that Senator Leyonhjelm has still not sought to have discussions with CANEGROWERS.

It is an affront to every grower in Queensland that the Senator is proposing a course of action that could financially erode grower returns but has not even had the courtesy to hear our views.

The disallowance motion is now set down for a vote on 17 October, and I can assure all growers that we will continue to campaign very strongly to ensure its defeat.

HARVEST

The 2017 crush has passed the 50% milestone. In a turnaround to 2016, this season is all about the dry conditions engulfing the eastern seaboard of Queensland.

Even though the crop will be down on tonnage due to the effects of drought and Tropical Cyclone Debbie, in a strange twist, sugar production could be on a par with last year.

The dry conditions have caused the sugar content of our cane to march upwards. The Queensland average has hit 13.21 units, almost 0.9 units up on the same time last year.

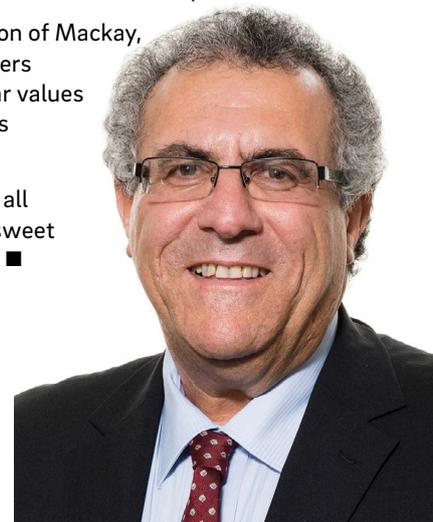
With half of the crop yet to come in, it appears (subject to weather) that the 2017 crop could be one of the sweetest in recent years.

That is good news for our industry.

In my own region of Mackay, stories of growers attracting sugar values of 18 or 19 units abound.

Let's hope that all growers get a sweet result for 2017. ■

"It is an affront to every grower in Queensland that the Senator is proposing a course of action that could financially erode grower returns yet he has not even had the courtesy to hear our views on the matter."





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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tariff news from Jakarta gives Aussie sugar a boost

Australia is poised to benefit from an imminent tariff reduction on our sugar exports to Indonesia.

"We look forward to Indonesia being restored as a major export destination for our raw sugar," said CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri who is also the current Chairman of the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance.

"A 3% tariff cut is a good outcome for Australian farmers and millers and for Indonesian refiners who want access to our high-quality product at a competitive price."

Australia was put at a disadvantage in 2015 when Indonesia granted Thailand a 5% tariff on sugar while Australia's stayed at an effective 8%.

"We went from supplying around a third of Indonesia's sugar imports to almost nothing," Mr Schembri said.

"The final steps are now being taken to level the playing field and reduce the tariff on Australian sugar to 5%."

An agreement was reached between Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Indonesian President Joko Widodo in February and this month Trade Minister Steven Ciobo travelled to Jakarta to finalise the details.

"We thank the Prime Minister, Trade Minister and their officials and representatives for their hard work on our industry's behalf," Mr Schembri said.

"We will have the opportunity to increase our exports to more than 1.25 million tonnes from their present level of 350,000 tonnes - that's another AU\$500 million worth of potential sales.

"Removing a barrier to trade with our nearest neighbour is a great outcome for the Australian sugar industry and our Indonesian customers."



Pictured: Australia's Minister for Trade Steven Ciobo MP shakes the hand of Indonesia's Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita at a meeting to discuss the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA)



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Seeking your feedback on reef regulations

The Queensland Government is seeking feedback on its cost and benefit analysis of proposed new reef regulations. Growers are urged to take time to read the information and provide feedback.

The document, *'Broadening and enhancing reef protection regulations'*, outlines the State Government's proposal to extend existing measures aimed at reducing nutrient and sediment run-off.

"The cane industry is already making significant strides forward in the area of water quality through the continued uptake of the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP."

"There are two options being considered by the government in order to accelerate improved reef water quality outcomes," CANEGROWERS Environment Manager Matt Kealley said.

"Option one is the current approach. No change whatsoever and no additional legislation. Option two is broadening reef regulations.

"The government's preferred option is number two. However, CANEGROWERS will be making a submission recommending that the government refrain from implementing any further reef regulations.

"The cane industry is already making significant strides forward in the area of water quality through the continued uptake of the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP."

Under the proposed changes new agricultural activities will be required to apply at least the minimum regulated standards as well as meet higher standards for farm design.

New agricultural and point source activities will also be required to offset any significant residual loads following the implementation of required standards.

CANEGROWERS has identified the below points in the proposed regulatory reforms.



PROPOSED REGULATORY REFORMS

1. Reef regulations is a policy that the Queensland Government is actively pursuing.
2. Regulated areas will extend to all reef catchments including the Burnett Mary catchment which takes in the Isis, Bundaberg and Maryborough sugarcane regions.
3. The current reef regulations applying to cane growers will be revised with three proposed regulations to be added.
 - Ground based N and/or P fertiliser application must only occur as banded application
 - Growers are required to keep records of soil tests, use of N & P fertilisers and agricultural chemicals
4. A transition to a more refined nutrient management approach (i.e. a whole of farm nutrient management plan) is required within two years of the commencement of the revised reef regulations (2020).
 - Fertiliser application equipment must be calibrated prior to the season, change of product and/or crop stage.
 - The use of measures that will minimise the release of soil to receiving waters. (Note: measures may include inter-row cover, maintaining soil cover during fallow, irrigation techniques, minimum tillage and a gradient greater than 3% requires additional controls)
5. New agricultural activities (new greenfield sites, land that hasn't been used for agriculture in five years or existing activities that expand or intensify) will be required to consider load limits. The strategy is to avoid, mitigate or offset any significant residual load.
6. New agricultural activities will be required to meet a higher practice standard than existing activities however the higher practice standards are not yet clearly defined.
7. A water quality offset framework is to be established, however how the framework may offset risk to cane through financial payments of land based offsets is unclear. ■

Current requirements

- Soil sampling & analysis
- Calculating & applying optimum amount of nitrogen [N] & phosphorus [P]
- Adjusting N rates after small crop (other than legumes) production
- Mill mud nutrient deductions must be made from bag N and/or P fertiliser application rates

SENATOR JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND SUGAR INDUSTRY

Liberal Democrats Senator David Leyonhjelm plans to move a motion to disallow the sugar industry's hard won Code of Conduct on 17 October. But as his letter to the editor (*right*) demonstrates, the Senator has very little understanding of the mechanics of Australia's sugar industry.

Below, CANEGROWERS' economics guru Warren Males corrects some of the misleading statements and incorrect assumptions in the Senator's letter.

Historically mills did not market sugar. All raw sugar was marketed through Queensland Sugar Limited or its predecessors, with the proceeds from sugar sales shared by growers and millers in accordance with the terms of cane supply agreements.

Both growers and mills had and continue to have a direct economic interest in the value of sugar sold. It was actually the mills that identified and contractually documented this economic reality, coining the term Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar. The value of GEI sugar flows solely to growers as part of their cane payment, just as the value of Mill Economic Interest (MEI) sugar flows solely to mills.

The dispute actually began when one mill broke the terms of an agreement between growers, mills and the Queensland Government to consult with growers before changing raw sugar marketing structures. Growers believed that mills were misusing their regional mill monopoly power and were concerned at the lack of choice and transparency in the proposed mill marketing arrangements.

The Code requires contract negotiations between growers and millers to be conducted in good faith, with parties acting reasonably, fairly and honestly, without intimidation. It provides for arbitration as a mechanism to resolve deadlocks, but any arbitrated outcomes are subject to judicial review, if disputed.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONTROL WHAT YOU DON'T OWN?

Once cane growers deliver their cane to a railway siding or delivery point near their farm, it belongs to the mill which processes it into sugar. The sugar is sold via a pool system with the grower receiving partial payment within days and the remainder subject to the price achieved on the world export market. The partial payment can be up to 90% of the crop value, depending on the pool.

In the past, when many sugar mills were owned by grower cooperatives, cane growers felt they had some (albeit remote) influence over how the mill marketed its sugar. Australia has a very minor influence on world sugar prices, but growers liked the thought that they had a say.

Those days are gone, with most mills now having no grower shareholders. However, despite having sold the cane and with no equity in either the sugar or the mill, growers are still demanding a say over who markets the sugar. They claim this is justified because they have an 'economic interest' in the final price they receive.

This is the origin of a dispute that began when a number of mills were acquired by Singapore-based Wilmar, a global company with vast access to international markets. Complaints by growers that they would lose any say over the marketing of sugar culminated in the Queensland Government introducing legislation and the Commonwealth Government a Code of Conduct.

The code requires sugar mills to negotiate with growers regarding the marketing of the sugar they produce. If agreement cannot be reached they must submit to arbitration, with the result binding.

This is all highly political. Cane growers have long been influential in Queensland's marginal seats, with National Party politicians highly sensitive to their demands and One Nation breathing down their neck. Indeed, the final decision to introduce the Code of Conduct was a result of a deal to secure One Nation's support for a bill to reduce company taxes.

The code is contained in a regulation which I have moved to disallow in the Senate, prompting an outpouring of hostility from sections of the cane growing community accompanied by some very rash assertions as to my motivation and understanding of the sugar industry.

Forcing a miller to negotiate with an input supplier over the sale of the miller's own products, and to comply with the directives of an arbitrator should it fail to agree with those input suppliers, is not a formula for business confidence. It's a pretty safe bet there won't be a rush of additional investment in sugar mills while the code remains.

That's important, because our international competitiveness is already marginal. If sugar milling becomes uncompetitive through lack of investment, cane growers will suffer as much as anyone. What growers really need is competition for their cane. They ought to be doing everything possible to attract new entrants into milling, if not investing their own money.

As it stands, the only people who believe the cane growers have a legitimate claim are those who want their vote, plus a few who dislike foreign investment and don't understand the issues.

Significantly, neither the Productivity Commission nor the Queensland Productivity Commission supported government intervention, noting that it would cost money and jobs.

The sugar industry received more than \$400 million from its fellow Australians a decade ago to help it adjust to the realities of a deregulated market in which it competes on the basis of skills and expertise, as its counterparts do with wheat, sheep, beef and milk. Running to the government for help because things are not to the growers' liking suggests all that money was wasted.

David Leyonhjelm is a Senator for the Liberal Democrats

The Code does not force negotiation and it does not mandate an outcome that links the price of cane to sugar. Although this link is not disputed, the parties can agree whatever cane payment structures they choose. The Code supports grower choice and, as noted, provides a dispute resolution process to resolve deadlocks in negotiations.

Senator Leyonhjelm also overlooks the fact that hundreds of millions of dollars worth of investment has been announced by millers, particularly the Thai owned MSF Sugar, since the introduction of the new structures.

In most regions, there is spare mill capacity. Considering the massive costs involved in constructing a new mill, the Senator's assertion that growers should try to attract new millers to these regions is simply unrealistic.

Senator Leyonhjelm also ignores the other side of the story. Any lack of confidence in cane production puts mill viability at risk. In providing a counter to mill monopoly power, the Code provides stability, strengthens grower confidence and underpins the viability of cane production which is the foundation on which the industry is built.

In contrast, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) found that mills had more market power than growers and supported a mechanism to ensure balance in cane supply negotiations.

Less than two-thirds of the industry support package was ever paid out. Ironically, the largest share of the payments went to mills.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

In Week 14 (ending 9 September) Mossman Mill processed 41,911 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.81 CCS. Coastal growers supplied 29,603 tonnes for an average of 14.16 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 12,308 tonnes for an average of 14.80 CCS.

Downtime for the week resulted from a scheduled maintenance day, high liquor stocks from processing difficulties at the pan stage, No 3 Mill feeding

problems and some secondary juice tank repairs.

Ideal harvesting conditions continue around the district, however, higher CCS and fibre levels restrict the back end and the crushing rate is down to 315 t/hr in Week 14.

A bit of rain would be ideal right now to give a much-needed boost to plant cane, to help our cut to crush estimate hold and to lay some dust.

Cairns region

Dry weather continues to prevail across the Babinda and Mulgrave areas. Planting continues and growers remain focused on farming activities, with irrigation underway in some areas.

As a member of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce, CANEGROWERS Cairns Region recently sponsored a corporate lunch. This allowed a brief opportunity for CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman, **Steven Calcagno**, to deliver an overview of our good stories around water quality and Smartcane BMP. We

also took the opportunity to distribute the *Journey of the Jellybean* industry brochure to attendees.

The region is mourning the recent death of **James (Jim) Dillon**. Jim was a representative on numerous sugar industry committees and boards and was the longest serving Mill Suppliers Committee member with in excess of 40 years representation. Jim was a well-respected member of the community and considered a stalwart of agriculture across the region.

Innisfail

Continuing fine weather has allowed for harvesting operations to proceed unhindered. As at 17 September, 56% of the crop had been crushed. The mill has been able to increase crushing rates, with repairs to the damaged electricity generator completed.

Planting is coming to an end. There have been some concerns that the continuing dry conditions might slow germination, but expected rain should be a huge boost for next year's crop.

With the continuing dry conditions, the current indication is that the crop is cutting out at 99% of the pre-season

estimate. CCS levels have improved but nothing to get too excited about, with the season-to-date mill average still below 12.

The estimated finish date is still 22 November, with the allowance for a further seven days lost for wet weather, which may or may not eventuate.

MSF Sugar is expected to make an announcement late November/early December regarding the major works planned for South Johnstone Mill as part of its plans to convert the mill into a bio-refinery.

Tully

Harvest is progressing in ideal conditions, with the very dry weather providing the highest CCS results in several years. It is not often that Tully has a week of harvest with the results above 14 CCS. Because of the dry weather the crop estimate is dropping, but 2.5 million tonnes may be achievable.

The SRA Harvest Project Trials are underway with the last of the trials being conducted the week ending 23 September. Group meetings to discuss the data and actions are planned for early October.

Burdekin

The run of dry weather has continued across the Burdekin region over the past fortnight, providing good harvesting conditions.

Inkerman, Pioneer and Kalamia mills have each now passed the one million tonnes crushed mark. The fortnightly crushing update finds that Burdekin mills have now crushed a total of 4,937,640 tonnes of cane.

The Burdekin mills crushed 384,247 tonnes for the week, after extended stops for repairs and cleaning at Kalamia and Inkerman mills.

The average weekly CCS level finally cracked 15 for the season at 15.07 units in Week 14 (ending 16 September) with season to date climbing to 14.

Best performing variety on a regional basis is still Q183 at 28% of supply and 15.42 CCS, closely followed by Q208 with 15.30 CCS.

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS AND PHOTOS?

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Herbert River

A rain event on 19 September curtailed harvesting and prompted mill cleaning and maintenance to be brought forward.

The rain will be beneficial for young cane and will refresh the standing 2017 crop still to be harvested.

The harvest remains well ahead of the 2016 season and is on track for a November finish based on the budgeted 4.9 million tonne crop.

Cane Changer is coming to the Herbert. Project leader **Dr John Pickering** presented the framework of the program to directors.

Directors decided to take leadership and ownership of the program for the Herbert and each signed a commitment to the Cane Changer program that will be explained to growers at workshops to be organised in coming weeks and months.



Bundaberg

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Chairman **Allan Dingle** and Director **Anna Attard** had the opportunity to meet with Queensland Premier **Annastacia Palaszczuk** in Bundaberg recently. Allan and Anna spoke to the Premier at length regarding the issues faced by cane growers and farmers in general. The main topic was the cost of electricity and the damage that the pricing of that input is doing to our region.

The mills have been performing quite well over the last month, partly because of the exceptional harvesting conditions. Millaquin had a major breakdown with the failure of the rail cane carrier belt. This resulted in 91 hours in lost time and a slow crush rate thereafter as the mill processed stale cane. Availability at Millaquin has been around 85% prior to this breakdown and Bingera a very credible 98%.

Mackay

The three Mackay mills crushed a combined total of 212,675 tonnes for week ending 17 September.

A major stoppage was experienced at Farleigh Mill due to repairs to the shredder bearings. Marian and Racecourse mills conducted maintenance days and this also impacted throughput for the week.

PRS is increasing at all mills and the pan stage will most likely be the limiting area within the mills.

Individually the mills crushed (for the week): Farleigh: 55,871 tonnes, Marian: 89,602 tonnes, Racecourse: 67,202 tonne bringing the total cane crushed to date to 2,934,047 tonnes of the 5,100,000 tonne estimate.

PRS for the week was 15.59, and average to date is 13.13.

Proserpine

Proserpine mill crushed 71,450 tonnes in the week ending 16 September. Throughput was significantly reduced by an extended 49 hour stop to repair the intermediate carrier on No. 1 mill.

Despite the lost time, the mill remains slightly ahead of budget having crushed 912,233 tonnes or 57% of the revised estimate.

CCS has levelled off over the last few weeks. Average CCS for the week was 14.50 bringing the season to date average to 13.40.

Interim payment CCS has been increased to 13.95 in anticipation of continuing dry conditions.

Current indications are the harvest will be completed in early to mid-November.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill processed 47,779 tonnes of cane in the week ending 16 September (Week 13) bringing the season to date total to 727,559 tonnes.

This weekly throughput was below budget mainly due to an extended stop early in the week when the sugar screw failed.

CCS for the week came in at 15.38 units (up from 15.32 the previous week) with the season to date average at 13.60. Average bin weight for the week was 3.89 tonnes.

Pictured: Debris left by Tropical Cyclone Debbie litters Proserpine fields.



Continues page 10...

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Maryborough

Another week and still no rain!

The crush continues at a good pace, with the halfway mark passed on Friday, 15 September. As at 16 September, Maryborough cane growers had supplied 309,912 tonnes of cane, or 52% of the estimated crop.

There has been plenty of publicity surrounding the proposed off-stream storage project for Maryborough, thanks in part to the Queensland Government's decision to conduct cabinet business from the Wide Bay region earlier this month.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough and MSF Sugar representatives spoke directly to ministers and the Premier about the importance of the project.



Weather conditions remain very dry and fire risk is certainly high at present. Productivity services are currently sending out watering rates to aid growers in irrigation use.

The area remains drought declared since February 2017 and another decent amount of rain is needed very soon.

Rocky Point

The Rocky Point Mill had a reasonable Week 12 until a break down at the cogen plant on morning of Friday 15 September forced a stop. The mill began crushing again on the evening of Monday 18 September.

As of Week 12 (ending 17 September) the total crushed to date was 171,278 tonnes with an average CCS of 12.80 and rising.

Weather conditions are perfect for harvesting, however rain is desperately needed. Growers are watering young ratoon and plant cane. ■

Isis

The continued dry weather has made for ideal harvesting conditions but rain is badly needed. Fire danger is increasing every day as the long dry spell continues and growers are reminded to exercise extreme caution and follow advice from the QFES until substantial rainfall is received.

The mill has continued excellent throughput and reliability, with above forecasted rates during this uninterrupted period. The 2017 season has seen five occasions of a weekly throughput of over 70,000 tonnes. This is a production record at the Isis Mill with the previous best achievement of four weeks with more than 70,000 tonnes recorded back in the 2012 season.

By the midway point of Week 13, 802,359 tonnes had passed through the rollers. However, the dry spell is impacting productivity figures and the 2017 crop forecast is expected to slip below 1.2 million tonnes.

Cane quality parameters continue to reflect the strong focus by growers and harvesting contractors to work within the best management practices standards for cane harvesting. Week 11 fibre values were 13.96% and ash levels were 1.50%.

Pictured (left): An update on the Ergon Tarriff Trial was also a chance to promote our water crisis and possible solutions.

MSF sugar CFO Belinda Kenny, MSF sugar CEO Mike Barry, Agriculture Minister Bill Byrnes, Maryborough Canegrowers Chairman Jeff Atkinson, Canegrowers District Manager Cameron Waterson, MSF Sugar Farm operations Manager Trevor Crook.

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Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Reef Regulations – Open for comment

The Queensland Government is seeking feedback on its *Broadening and enhancing reef protection regulations consultation regulatory impact statement (RIS)*.

The Environment & Sustainability portfolio at CANEGROWERS will be focusing on government-related reef policy over the coming months including preparing a submission to the RIS. We are seeking your input and comments.

Background

The Queensland Government proposes to broaden and enhance its existing reef protection regulations. The RIS assesses the costs and benefits of implementing the package to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution across all reef catchments.

The proposed regulations are based on the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce:

- Set nutrient and sediment pollution limits for each catchment;
- Apply minimum practice standards to all catchments;
- Require fertiliser re-sellers to keep records; and
- Establish a water quality offset framework.

Cost benefit analysis

The cost benefit analysis is an economic assessment of two options:

- Option 1 – No change whatsoever – meaning current regulations will continue to be enforced; and
- Option 2 – Enhance and broaden reef protection legislation (this is the option the government supports).

Comments and submission approach

If you are interested in the proposed regulations, CANEGROWERS requests that you review the RIS and provide comments back to your district CANEGROWERS office or directly to Brisbane. *There is a summary on page 5 of this magazine of the proposed minimum practice standards.*

Actions and timelines

1. CANEGROWERS is currently reviewing the RIS and drafting a response.
2. District Managers will provide comment to Brisbane by **20 October**;
3. CANEGROWERS will collate the comments and draft a submission by **25 October**; and
4. CANEGROWERS will finalise the submission by **30 October**. ■



Cane Fires

Following a warm winter, Queensland is experiencing a challenging bushfire season in a prolonged period of dry weather and low rainfall totals.

During forecast periods of severe fire danger, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services may issue various types of restrictions in relation to permitted fires.

These restrictions are issued from the Commissioner for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services via the Chief Fire Warden in affected areas.

These restrictions are:

- a) **Permit restriction.** This means that all current or future permits to light fires are cancelled or may have additional conditions added to the permit.
- b) **Local fire ban.** Issued in accordance with section 68A of the *Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, a local fire ban may prohibit the lighting of all or only certain types of fires within a local government jurisdiction during the fire ban period.
- c) **Total fire bans.** Normally issued during a period of fire emergency or when forecast fire conditions are extreme across a Rural Fire Service Area.

Permit restrictions and local fire bans are issued by the Chief Fire Warden for a district. It is their intent to work with CANEGROWERS and other industries who use fire to manage their land to facilitate safe fire management practises to support industry whilst maintaining community safety during challenging conditions.

Should you need to use fire during a declared local fire ban period, you should first contact your local Rural Fire Service Area Office or visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au for more information on permit restriction or local fire bans.

This information has been provided by the Rural Fire Service and should help growers to understand the process of fire bans, continue running their businesses and maintain community safety. ■



Queensland's inefficient electricity distribution tariffs inflate prices

The public outcry about electricity prices largely surrounds the cost of generation and the adverse impact renewables, principally solar and wind generation, are having on the stability and reliability of the national grid and the sustainability of the national electricity market.

This has distracted attention from the impact on prices of excessive costs and charges flowing from the network pricing arrangements.

Continuing its work to understand and highlight the flaws in Australia's regulated pricing framework, CANEGROWERS commissioned the Sapere Research Group to evaluate the tariff structure proposals of both Ergon and Energex.

Sapere had previously reported on a small number of Ergon's Zone Substations (ZS), where congestion was likely to be an issue. The latest report extends this work to include the entire networks of both Ergon and Energex.

Sapere found that:

- i. There is no system-wide network congestion in either network;
- ii. There is substantial spare network capacity across both networks, which is forecast to continue well beyond the duration of the period to which the tariff statements apply; and
- iii. Any potential future local congestion relates to new connections, not increases in maximum demand from existing connections.

CANEGROWERS has long argued that current prices are inefficient. Sapere's work validates this concern.

Network augmentation costs arising from new connections would be more efficiently and fairly recovered from network connections charges or capital contributions paid by new retail customers.

Recovering these augmentation costs through unnecessarily high peak tariffs is inconsistent with National Electricity Rules and results in tariffs that are not cost reflective.

Nonetheless, in approving both Energex and Ergon Tariff Statements in its Final Determination in February 2017, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) appears to have ignored the evidence of excess capacity rendering congestion pricing not only unnecessary but also

inefficient. With declining demand, the reality is that the two networks are overvalued. The simple fix would be to write down that value and charge less for electricity.

The politics is more difficult. Significant debt has been transferred from the government's general balance sheet to Energy Queensland, the holding company for Ergon and Energex. The overvalued regulated asset base supports the new debt structure.

The debt could always be switched back, the assets written down and the effective electricity tax removed.

In the meantime, a good starting point would be for Ergon and Energex to remove the congestion charges from their tariffs and submit proposals with lower and more efficient prices. ■



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QSL bonus rewards 3-year commitment

Did you know that Wilmar Sugar, Tully Sugar and MSF Sugar Growers who nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for three (3) consecutive Seasons forward are eligible to receive a Loyalty Bonus?

The additional payment consists of a share of the returns from QSL's corporate activities via the Shared Services Rebate and a supplementary commitment premium, with these results incorporated into eligible Growers' Shared Pool allocations for each applicable Season.

It's still not too late to receive the rebate and premium this Season. To be eligible, Wilmar, Tully Sugar and MSF Sugar Growers who have already chosen QSL as their GEI Marketer for the 2017 Season just need to choose QSL for the 2018 and 2019 Seasons as well before the 2018-Season's GEI Sugar Marketer nomination deadline.

For Wilmar and Tully Sugar Growers this deadline is **31 October 2017**. For MSF Sugar Growers the deadline is **31 December 2017**.

Wilmar Growers who have already nominated QSL as their marketer for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Seasons are receiving the bonus via their current Shared Pool allocation, while Tully Sugar and MSF Sugar Growers will have the bonus paid via an adjustment to the Shared Pool allocation in the final Advances payment of the Season (for administrative reasons).

Growers who are not currently marketing through QSL are also eligible to receive the rebate and premium in future seasons, if they nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for at least three seasons in advance. For example, if a Grower nominates QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Season, the applicable adjustment will be paid in the 2018 Season.

It should be noted that Mackay Sugar, Isis Central Sugar Mill and Bundaberg Sugar Growers automatically receive their share of these returns through their millers' existing Raw Sugar Supply Agreements (RSSA) with QSL.

THE SHARED SERVICES REBATE

The QSL Shared Services Rebate is the net revenue from QSL's Corporate activities and includes the net return from QSL's holding of Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) G-class shares, currently forecast at \$2.4 million for the 2017 Season.

Based on this forecast, the rebate for participating Growers is approximately \$1–1.50 per tonne of sugar

for the 2017 Season, depending on the final number of rebate recipients.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY COMMITMENT PREMIUM

In addition to the rebate described above, Growers who nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar marketer for three consecutive forward seasons are also entitled to a commitment premium, known as the QSL Supplementary Commitment Premium.

This premium reflects the marginal premiums secured by QSL for long-term contracts and any profits associated with those sales from supplying third-party origin sugar. The value of this premium will vary from Season to Season and cannot be determined until all of the sugar supplied for the Season is sold.

Again, QSL already shares the premiums described above with Growers from Mackay Sugar, Bundaberg Sugar and Isis Central Sugar Mill via current RSSA arrangements.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

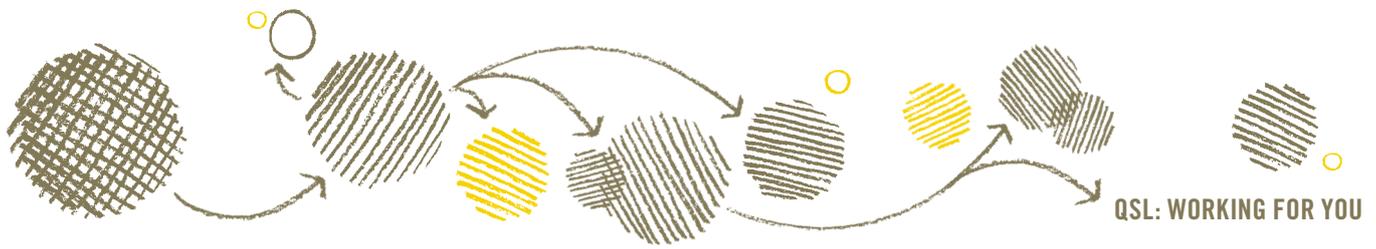
To be eligible for the Loyalty Bonus this Season, Growers must elect QSL as their marketer for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Seasons.

Those who have only chosen QSL for the 2017 Season are still able to access the bonus if they nominate QSL for the 2018 and 2019 Seasons before their 2018-Season marketing nomination deadline. For Wilmar and Tully Sugar Growers this deadline is **31 October 2017**. For MSF Sugar Growers the deadline is **31 December 2017**.

To nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer, Growers must do so within their Cane Supply Agreement.

Upon confirmation of the Grower's three-year marketing nomination, the Loyalty Bonus will be applied as part of their Shared Pool allocation for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Seasons.

For full details of the rebate and premium above, please refer to section 2.8 of QSL's Shared Pool Pricing Pool Terms, available at www.qsl.com.au.



QSL Grower Representatives Elected



Roger Piva (pictured) has been appointed the fourth and final QSL Grower Representative Member for the Burdekin, following a second round of voting.

A tie during the first round of voting necessitated a second round, which closed at 5pm Friday 8 September 2017.

The following Grower Representative Members 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	South Johnstone	Barry Stubbs
Tully	Tully	Thomas Harney
Herbert River	Victoria and Macknade	Michael Pisano Vince Russo
Burdekin	Kalamia, Invicta, Pioneer and Inkerman	Mark Vass Owen Menkens Russell Jordan Roger Piva
Proserpine	Proserpine	Mark Blair
Central	Farleigh, Marian and Racecourse	Francis Perna Anthony Ross Gregory Plath
Plane Creek	Plane Creek	Kevin Borg
Southern	Bingera and Millaquin	Kelvin Griffin Allan Dingle
Isis	Isis	Joe Russo
Maryborough	Maryborough	Jeffrey Atkinson
Rocky Point	Rocky Point	Richard Skopp

To be eligible for the Loyalty Bonus this season, growers must elect QSL as their marketer for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Seasons.

DISCLAIMER:

This document contains information of a summary nature about the operation of the key aspects of the QSL Loyalty Bonus and other matters. As this document is a high level summary, it does not purport to be comprehensive or complete. QSL does not make any representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document, including any forecast information. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance and nothing in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters, which are subject to uncertainties and subject to change.

This document does not constitute financial, investment or product advice, a risk management strategy, a recommendation to invest in any of the pools offered by QSL. You should seek your own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to the pricing pool terms and selecting pools. The information in this document is current only as at the date of this document.

HOW trials look to

REDUCE CANE LOSS AND BOOST MILL EFFICIENCY

Improvements in the quality of cane delivered to Macknade Mill may have helped boost the mill's crushing rate, according to preliminary results from the recent Harvest Optimisation Week (HOW) trial.



Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited Manager Lawrence Di Bella said the early trial results revealed a significant increase in sound cane billets supplied to the mill during the first three days of HOW.

There was also a measurable reduction in the amount of damaged billets, cane roots, stools and trash supplied to the mill.

The HOW trial was designed to collect hard data on whether changes to harvesting practices could maximise revenue for the Herbert River sugar industry.

"If this rate could be maintained throughout a whole crushing season, it would mean that Herbert River mills would have crushed out six days earlier last year."

Throughout the trial week (20-26 August), 20 harvesters supplying Macknade Mill operated at the machine's optimal set-up to reduce cane loss in the paddock.

Mr Di Bella said the combination of higher cane quality, lower billet losses and less extraneous matter had a positive effect on the mill's crushing rate.

"We saw an increase in the crushing rate of approximately 18 tonnes per hour for Macknade Mill over the first three days of the trial," Mr Di Bella said.

"If this rate could be maintained throughout a whole crushing season, it would mean that Herbert River mills would have crushed out six days earlier last year.

"This six-day reduction in season length would have meant that the Herbert industry would not have crushed through Christmas in 2016, would not have harvested cane in the wet at the end of the season and would not have left standover behind."

Three SRA and HCPSL teams worked with contractors during the trial to measure sugar loss, cane loss and billet quality.

Wilmar Sugar teams collected data on CCS, cane fibre, crushing rates, bin weight, sugar quality and cane quality.

Harvesting teams collected data on the time taken to fill bins, time spent waiting for bins and fuel use for harvesters and haulouts.

Phil Patane (SRA Adoption Officer – Harvesting) said while some feedback would be provided to the local sugar industry in the short term, it would take several weeks to analyse the data fully.

"HCPSL and SRA staff will undertake an in-depth analysis of the trial and the results will be presented to the whole industry after the dust settles on the 2017 harvest," Mr Patane said.

"SRA and HCPSL sincerely thank everyone involved in HOW. The data collected will allow the industry to realise the full commercial worth of the cane crop across the whole value chain." ►



Growers save time and money with **LiquaForce**

Supplied by LiquaForce



This trial is supported and funded by: SRA, HCPSSL, Wilmar Sugar, and the Sugar Research Institute, with support from CANEGROWERS Herbert River and the Australian Cane Farmers Association. ■

Photos: (top) Harvest Optimisation Week included visual displays at the SRA / HCPSSL office at Ingham; (centre) Billets cut under different harvesting practices; (bottom) One of the bins tipped and separated.



North Queensland cane farmer Ernie Romano is a proud advocate for Ingham-based liquid fertiliser company, LiquaForce.

"We started using their Liquid Ezy3 products a few years back with a contractor, but recently we had a local engineer convert our fertiliser box so it could handle liquid application and we're very happy with the results," he said.

Mr Romano said it was an easy process and didn't require too much convincing to make the complete switch.

"In five days we can fertilise our entire 200 acre farm, so from a time saving point of view it just makes sense."

"The crop responds very well, it makes adhering to BMP standards very easy, and it also means that I'm not having to get under a bag lifter and risk my safety.

"It make a lot of sense to me and I think a lot of other growers are starting to get on board, which I'd encourage them to do!"

Want to know more?

Contact *LiquaForce* Managing Director Cameron Liddle on 0427 765 711

FERTILISER BOX CONVERSION

An easy process – tips from LiquaForce:

1. Weld a lid with a breather on top on to a stainless steel stool splitting fertiliser box
2. Install a view pipe for measuring how much is in the box at any given time
3. Remove the worms from the box and plumb the box with reinforced rubber pipe
4. Install an oil motor driven chemical pump
5. Install control bank and pressure gauge
6. Remove legs from box (only counters needed)
7. Run pipe line to each coultter, where a stainless pipe following the curve of the disc will deliver the product under pressure into the slot the disc makes
8. Calibrate – and ready to go!



EXAMPLE: Converted fertiliser box



By Sonia Ball

It has been a year since Mackay cane growers Tony and Margaret Bugeja, with their son Mark and brother John, achieved accreditation in the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP. *Australian Canegrower* met with Tony on his Palmyra cane farm recently to see how he feels about the program and the process, one year down the BMP track.

As one of the first growers to achieve accreditation in one module, Tony said right from the start that it was crucial the program had credibility.

Having since received his full accreditation after completing the other required modules, Tony is comfortable that Smartcane BMP has achieved this credibility.

"I was one of the first growers to be check-audited when the program was first being rolled out, and they were very thorough," said Tony.

Check-audits are carried out by independent environmental/risk management entities on a small number of accredited growers each year.

"If you say that you have done something on your farm, you have to be able to prove it – and with Smartcane BMP accreditation and our record keeping we can do that."

This is to ensure the accredited grower is maintaining record keeping and the BMP standard, usually a year after achieving accreditation.

Tony and his family farm around 365ha of irrigated cane land across five farms at Palmyra and Rosella.

He is a third-generation cane farmer. Tony's parents John, formerly a CANEGROWERS representative, and Jean purchased the Palmyra cane land in 1953.

Following in his father's footsteps was a natural progression, strengthened by many decades of experience.

"Keeping good records isn't new to us, we've always kept records," Tony said.

"We use a lot of colour coded maps that show very clearly where our fertiliser and products are going and our irrigation.

"We realised early on (in Smartcane BMP) that we'd need to keep more details, but again that wasn't a big problem because what I didn't have, our agronomist had, so the information could be found fairly easily."

Tony says he has always maintained that it was 'no good being green, if you were in the red'.

"The environment today is a big issue, and as a farmer you need a good business structure to ensure you remain viable and profitable, particularly when you are changing management practices," he said.

Tony also is a Project Catalyst grower working in conjunction with Reef Catchments to continually strive towards improving water quality from agriculture.

"Quite often if you are fine-tuning your practices to be more efficient this does quite often result in environmental benefits – reducing and minimising products while increasing efficiency."

Tony said he had previously accessed Reef Rescue funding to improve the farm's environmental sustainability and efficiency.

Amongst the equipment purchased, although not all was co-funded, were the zonal rotary hoe, centre pivots, GPS, conversion to 1.8m rows and an upgrade to the planter to convert to variable rate.

"Back when we first moved to GPS, one unit cost \$47,000. The farm now has three units resulting in ever-increasing precision. ►

"You can't make these investments unless they give you a return," he said. Smartcane BMP accreditation also allows the Bugeja partnership to feel more secure in the fact that they now have the credentials to prove they are a sustainable and responsible cane farming business.

"If you say it (that you have done something on your farm), you have to be able to prove it – and with Smartcane BMP accreditation and our record keeping we can do that."

He said it was a positive for the industry and the future that the Smartcane BMP modules had been modified to align with the global sustainability standard, Bonsucro.

"If I could say anything to a grower who was being negative about the program, I'd advise them to go and talk to other growers who have been through the process."

"The Government is looking over our shoulder, if we do not undertake Smartcane BMP voluntarily, the Government will do it for us.

"Reef auditors are already here and UNESCO is looking on," Tony said.

"If I could say anything to a grower who was being negative about the program, I'd advise them to go and talk to other growers who have been through the process," Tony said.

To find your local facilitator or to read more about Smartcane BMP, go to the website www.smartcane.com.au ■

Pictured: While initially sceptical about the program, Mackay grower Tony Bugeja is now a strong advocate for Smartcane BMP.



Smartcane BMP – benchmarked production area grows past 70%

Smartcane BMP has seen a flurry of accreditations in recent weeks, with 35 farms accredited since July 2017.

Project manager **Mick Quirk** said that while the pace had been picking up, he expected an even greater spike in accreditations once this year's harvest had concluded.

"The benchmarked area continues to grow, now accounting for just over 70% of Queensland's cane production area," Mick said.

"The number of accredited businesses also continues to grow steadily, with the area accredited now at over 15%.

"The program will have 20% or more of the production area accredited before the end of 2017."

Among the many newly-accredited growers are Lindsay and Kellie Neilsen who farm in the Mackay district.

"We believe this is crucial for the future of the sugar industry and the Great Barrier Reef," Lindsay said.

He's a fourth-generation farmer with around 105 ha of land under cane at Septimus (on the home farm) and a

further 23 ha on leased land. Both farms are fully irrigated.

"I believe our business will be better placed in the BMP program as we'll be continually updating and reviewing our farming practices," Lindsay said.

"Being sustainable is extremely important to us as it is becoming increasingly harder to remain profitable and maintain productivity while reducing inputs.

"BMP plays a key role in viability - sustainability and profitability."

The Neilsen's were already used to keeping records on their farms through the Mackay Sugar site AgDat, and by following Six Easy Steps.

"For us BMP was just a matter of filling in the gaps to produce a more detailed farm plan," Lindsay said. ■

Pictured: Lindsay Neilsen, pictured with his son Hayden, said since achieving Smartcane BMP accreditation he has more confidence in the way he farms.



CANE BIOSECURITY AND MIXED CROPPING —UNDERSTAND THE RISKS



By Frank Fox, Biosecurity Queensland

"The safest way to protect your property is to adopt a Farm Biosecurity Plan and initiate these measures prior to establishing any alternative crops."

In the 31 July issue of *Australian Canegrower* we explained how biosecurity zones and movement restrictions assist in the management of biosecurity risks across Queensland. We also alerted growers to the potential biosecurity implications of mixed cropping ventures. A timely and serious reminder of these risks can be found in far north Queensland, where many growers have both sugarcane and bananas.

SUGARCANE, BANANAS AND PANAMA DISEASE TROPICAL RACE 4

The ongoing presence of Panama disease tropical race 4 in the Tully Valley is a major biosecurity concern. Spores of this fungal disease can persist in the soil for up to for decades without host plants.

Biosecurity Queensland and the banana industry have put in place measures to contain the spread of infected soil and banana plant material and other known carriers of the pathogen from properties known to be infested. It is conceivable that these controls will remain in place for many years.

These measures apply to any infected banana plantings, including those on properties also planted to cane or other crops. An infected banana block on a cane property has the potential to contaminate other areas on the farm. This will occur if soil, banana plants, machinery, staff and other carriers are allowed to move from infected blocks without appropriate hygiene and decontamination procedures. Any land exposed to these unrestricted movements, including cane blocks, will then be subject to Panama movement controls. This will then require any carriers, including cane planting and harvesting machinery, to be cleaned and decontaminated prior to moving off the affected blocks.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER MIXED CROP SITUATIONS?

Similar situations may apply to other mixed cropping ventures. The impacts of biosecurity will vary depending on the crops grown and the areas within which the farm is located.

HOW TO MANAGE THESE RISKS? - PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT

The good news is that basic farm biosecurity best practice will manage most of the risks associated with mixed cropping.

Keeping a register of vehicle, machinery and staff movement and decontamination processes is important. It may be prudent to run the different cropped areas as separate operations with their own pools of machinery and staff with tailored farm zoning. This will reduce the risk of cross-contamination between blocks and will limit the amount of machinery and staff that may require decontamination should an exotic pest or disease appear in any block.

The safest way to protect your property is to adopt a **Farm Biosecurity Plan** and initiate these measures prior to establishing any alternative crops.

Technical support is always available. CANEGROWERS and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries can provide advice to members on any proposed mixed cropping ventures. With strong measures at the farm level, the industry itself is better placed to remain resilient and maintain market access for its members.

For more information, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Growers are also strongly urged to become familiar with the *Queensland Biosecurity Manual* that includes guidance on all these biosecurity requirements. ■

DIVIDING FENCES – growers' obligations to contribute



By Chris Cooper, CJ Cooper & Associates

"CANEGROWERS has been successful in a large number of dividing fence cases concerning cane land adjoining grazing and residential blocks or commercial users. The decisions in these cases have consistently established that a cane grower should not have to contribute at all to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence."

I am regularly asked by growers whether they are obliged to contribute to the cost of establishing or maintaining a dividing fence with a neighbour, be they a grazier, another primary producer or an urban dweller.

Under government legislation, the old *Dividing Fences Act* now known as the *Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution Act 2011 (Dividing Fences and Trees)*, a Court or Tribunal has the power, where the parties cannot agree amongst themselves, to decide the respective contributions to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence.

Whilst the general rule is that neighbours should pay equal amounts, the Court or Tribunal has a wide discretion to determine the relative contributions.

Among the arguments which have been used by CANEGROWERS is the point that a dividing fence does not benefit cane growers and, indeed, acts as a detriment.

Indeed in the many cases before Courts and Tribunals, to my knowledge of over 30 years' experience of representing

CANEGROWERS members, there has never been a decision made to require a grower to contribute to the cost of a dividing fence.

Whilst each case will always be considered on its own particular facts and circumstances, growers have very strong grounds for arguing that they do not have to contribute to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence unless they voluntarily agree to do so.

It is highly unlikely a cane grower would be ordered to contribute to the cost of a dividing fence.

Please do not hesitate to contact CANEGROWERS legal advisor, **Chris Cooper**, on freecall number **1800 177 159** should you wish to discuss this or any other legal topic of interest to you. ■





How much food do I need?

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team.

We all need to eat from the five food groups each day to stay healthy, but how much food do we need?

How many kilojoules?

How many kilojoules you need to eat each day depends on your size, physical activity level and stage of life. For example, large muscle-bound men need more kilojoules than petite women, and we need fewer kilojoules in old age. There are calculators you can use to estimate your daily kilojoule needs, however they are only estimates. For example, there is a *Daily Energy Requirements Calculator* on the Australian Government's Eat for Health website (eatforhealth.gov.au).

The best test is your body weight (or more accurately, your body fat level). If your weight is staying the same, you're eating the right amount but if you're gaining weight, you're eating too many kilojoules and need to cut back.

How much of each food group?

A positive and practical approach is to look at how many serves you need from each of the food groups. It's about what you need to eat more of, not what to go without. It's almost guaranteed you need to eat more vegetables. The numbers below give you a rough idea but you can calculate your personal recommended serves and those for children at the Eat for Health website.

Recommended average daily number of serves from each of the Five Food Groups						Approx. no. of additional serves *
	Vegetables	Fruit	Grain (cereal) foods	Lean meats, poultry, fish, eggs etc	Milk, yoghurt, cheese etc	From food groups or discretionary choices
MEN (19-70 yrs)	5-6	2	4.5-6	2.5-3	2.5-3.5	0-3
WOMEN (19-70 yrs)	5	2	3-6	2-2.5	2.5-4	0-2.5

* Additional serves for taller or more active men and women.

Table adapted from <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/>

How much is a serve?

Below are example standard serves of food from the five food groups.

Vegetables and legumes: ½ cup cooked vegetables

Fruit: 1 medium apple, banana, orange or pear

Grains: 1 slice of bread or ½ cup cooked pasta

Meat: 65g cooked red meat or 100g cooked fish or 2 eggs

Dairy: 1 cup milk, 200g yoghurt or 40g cheese

What about protein, carbohydrate and fat?

There's a lot of talk in diet debates about the best ratio of each of the nutrients to eat but talking about limiting your carbohydrates to 40% (for example) isn't very helpful or effective. Forget about nutrient ratios and focus on food. We don't eat nutrients, we eat food. Keep this in mind when you hear talk of low-carb, high-protein or low-fat and feel free to ignore it all!

Despite scaremongering from the anti-carb tribe, our latest national nutrition survey showed the average Australian's diet consists of only 45% kilojoules from carbohydrate - right on the lower limit for health recommended by the Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs).

I think I eat too much - what should I do?

If you've noticed your weight creeping up, you're not alone. The average Australian gains weight with each birthday. A realistic goal is to keep your weight steady as you age, and this means eating fewer kilojoules because your needs are lower (unfair but true!). The other reality is that your nutrient needs don't change (in some cases they go up) while your kilojoule requirements go down; you need to fit more nutrients into fewer kilojoules. Fitting more into less leaves little room for discretionary foods like cakes, biscuits and alcohol.

Don't forget to move more

And of course, don't forget the other side of the kilojoule ledger; you need to move more to burn kilojoules. Sit less, walk more. Aim for at least 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity, and do more if you can. Children need at least an hour a day, including some vigorous physical activity that makes them huff and puff, and no more than two hours a day screen time. ■

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au

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.

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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Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

Quick-Hitch to suit John Deere tractors (as new) Ph. 0400 634 141

3520 John Deere 2012 model. New walking gear. Sticks or steering wheel. Good machine with lots of extras and well serviced. \$260,000 + GST Ph. 0427 667 964

Five unused cement box-culverts and plates. 900h x 1200w x 1200d. \$1,200. Ph. 0427 028 631 Tully

Modified Toft 4000 full track suitable for harvesting own cane motor 3 years old. 4-tonne HBM Tipper bin will sell separate Ph. 0401 281 262

1960 Fiat 411R, completely restored to immaculate condition. Can be put into high clearance. \$6000 +gst, negotiable. Ph. 0488 522 773

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

Harmonic balancer to suit Ford 5000 1976 model. GC \$200 plus GST. Ph. 0407 154 250

KL Berkeley Pump \$2,000 ono; Brennan Quick Hitch \$1,000 ono. Ph. 0447 215 230

Mackay-Proserpine

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

80" Howard rotary hoe, good condition. 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)

Howard Crumble Roller, HO-CROLL CH365DT, brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT, 2 rollers each@2M. \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428 236 165
DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 4959 2260

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

J I Case 1194 tractor 49hp 2 speed PTO 12 forward & 4 reverse approx 3000hrs rear tyres 90% \$7,250. Ph. 0418874615

Trailco irrigator T450, no hose \$7,500; Southern Cross irrigator 200, \$7,500 inc gst 4 Tyne Ripper \$2,500 inc gst; Kabota Inter-row tractor with spray tank \$6,750. All prices O.N.O Ph. 0419 577 110

Howard Rotary Hoe, AH80 \$5,500 inc gst; David Brown with 5 ft slasher and loader, \$10,000 inc gst; International 856 with loader \$8,750 inc gst; Bag Lifter \$950; International 766 Tractor \$7,750 inc gst; All prices O.N.O Ph. 0419 577 110

Qty AC pipes. Ph. 0423 288 639.

Qty 4" & 5" Alm. pipes, ajax couplings. Ph. 0423 288 639

Howard 9-tine chisel plough, new tension bolts painted spare points \$1,200; Connor Shea 14-row disc seeder, shedded, some spares, plants everything from lucerne to soy beans \$2,500; Pottinger cam hay rake 2.7m wide \$2,500; New Holland 317 hay baler done up, serviced by South Burnett machinery, many spares including knotter stack \$7,000; Mulch mower 1.8m wide new belts painted \$1,200; International 3-furrow mouldboard plough GL200 rebuilt painted owner manual \$700; International 16-plate 3-point linkage disc new bearings plates 90% \$700; Scarifying bar 3.6m wide, 18 s tines, new points \$800. Ph. 0409 866 760

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm)
				January-September
	7 days to 9am 11.09.17	18.09.17		
Mossman	0	0	1624	1834
Mareeba AP	0.2	0	601	736
Cairns	0	1	1323	1689
Mt Sophia	0	0	2490	2800
Babinda	0	5	1255	3641
Innisfail	0	0	2592	3052
Tully	0	0	1866	3548
Cardwell	0	0	1366	1754
Lucinda	0	0	1470	1790
Ingham	0.2	Tce	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	0.2	0	1833	1256
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	2433	1368
Bundaberg	0	0	456	722
Childers South	0.4	0	630	618
Maryborough	0.2	0	427	865
Tewantin	2	0	891	1334
Eumundi	0	0	756	1288
Nambour	2	0	679	1270
Woongoolba	0	0	707	1006
Murwillumbah	0	0	1219	1196
Ballina	0	0	1387	1411
Woodburn	0	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. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

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

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph. 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227

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

Tractor tyres – BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

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

Centre buster / inter row ripper. Must have coulter ripper set up. Must bring rain. Contact Craig 0411 289 333

Rear rims to suit John Deere 4240. Ph. 0427 115 152

Wanted to buy: Front weights for Ford 7000 in Ingham area. Ph. 07 4777 3154 after hours.

7-9 tonne Tipper. Prefer Northern Area (Herbert River). Contact Alan 0428 761 549

HBM Billet Planter, wide elevator OR P&H-Bonel and Toft 7000 or 7700 older machine. Ph. 0417 647 188. Any area considered.

Positions Vacant

Wanted: Harvester Contractor to cut approx. 6,000 tonnes of cane in CALEN area. Ph. 07 4958 8248

Work Wanted

Seeking work as a full-time farmhand in the Ayr region. HR and forklift licence, chemical accreditation. Call John on 4782 2064 or 0417 682 797 or email jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

Property

INGHAM: Cane farm for sale Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3 ha. CPA 46.6 ha. Shed, Electricity & water. Genuine enquiries phone 0407 635 175

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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



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Step 1 – Plant Starter

The unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and growth hormones, synthetic and organic, are the key to the success of PlantStarter. It is these nutrients at this critical early stage of germination that provide just the right conditions for growth, delivering potentially a 98% faster strike rate and 52% greater shoot length, compared to traditional granular fertilisers.



Step 2 – Big Shot

Big Shot is a single application of high analysis N.P.K.S fertiliser incorporating 9% organic carbon base. This aids the microbial slow release of nitrogen fertiliser, which has not only been proven to stabilise the release of nitrogen, but also increase the efficiency of plant available nutrients. LiquaForce BigShot also gives growers the ability to add trace elements more consistently in their fertiliser program, offering the flexibility to create unique mixes specific for their requirements, including trace elements of zinc, copper, boron, or molybdenum.



Step 3 – Valu N

LiquaForce Valu N is a nitrogen based foliar fertiliser. It is compatible with common industry herbicides, allowing the grower to get a single pass nitrogen application using aircraft or ground rigs combined with weed management programs – saving time, minimising labour costs as well as reducing energy consumption. Valu N is set to become more common as reef regulation steers industry to split applications of nitrogen.

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