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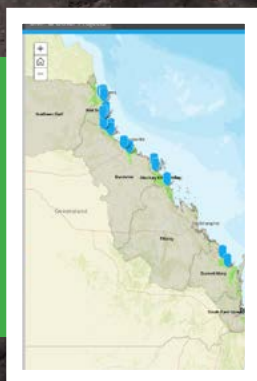


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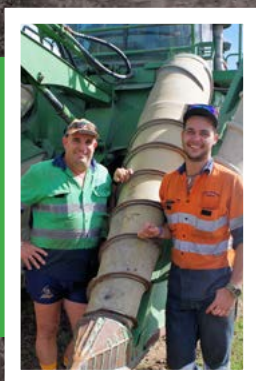
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## CANE CHANGE GROWS TULLY SUCCESS



Map reveals  
grower  
efforts to  
protect the  
Reef



Harvest  
trial sets out  
to answer  
million dollar  
question



New  
Notification  
for burning  
sugarcane  
released

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY



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*Andrew with Burdekin district facilitator, Jasmine*

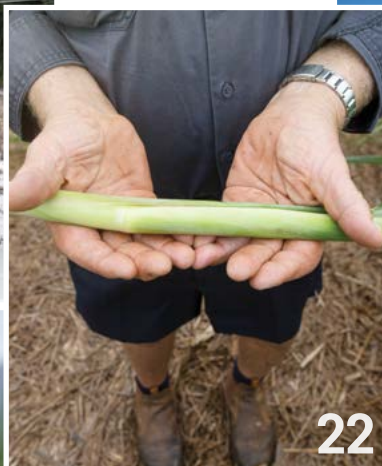


Contact your district facilitator to find out more.



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COVER IMAGE: Tully cane grower Damien Rigato (right) and agronomist Peter Reed watch planting operations on Damien's Rockingham cane farm.

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# Better sugar prices ahead?

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Recently CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** and I attended the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) annual conference in Brazil. While the glamour of longhaul travel has long since faded, it's vitally important that the Australian sugarcane industry is represented at these events so we can gather as much information as possible about what's happening in the global sugar industry.

I feel privileged to have been elected Vice President of the WABCG, an organisation that represents the interests of around 5 million beet and cane growers from 32 countries, and I'm looking forward to working with newly elected President **Eduardo Romão**.

Eduardo is a Brazilian cane grower and historically Australia and Brazil have worked closely, particularly on trade and World Trade Organisation issues.

Given that Australia, Brazil and Guatemala are currently working together on a WTO action against India's subsidies, I am sure that the partnership between Australia and Brazil in the WABCG can only further our cause.

One of the aspects of the WABCG that is quite revealing is the similarity of issues we all face as sugarcane and beet growers.

We often feel that steep increases in mindless environmental regulation against farmers in Queensland makes us more bureaucratically persecuted than our global counterparts.

In fact, this is a global phenomenon, with beet growers in Europe or cane farmers in Brazil facing even greater environmental scrutiny. In Europe, beet growers are contemplating an end to their ability to use glyphosate and increasing pressure on their insecticide use.

In Brazil the use of glyphosate by the farm sector is under immense pressure and the farm sector is required by law to maintain a minimum percentage of land for conservation. The percentage varies by state, but it is generally in the range of 20 to 50% of the land that the farmer owns.

All around the world cane and beet growers, and farmers more generally, are facing strong environmental regulations. The restrictions placed on farmers in other countries doesn't change our immediate challenge to ward off the impacts of the new Reef Bill. At the very least however, our engagement with other sugar industries through forums such as WABCG allows us to exchange information and strategies that can be extremely useful with what we are facing in Queensland.

The Queensland sugar industry is facing difficult times. The world price has been low for a long period of time and the Queensland Government looks set to burden cane farmers with further regulation.

Despite the adversity, the world sugar price is showing some early signs of a recovery, with sugar currently trading in a broad band from US\$12.5 - 13.5 c/lb

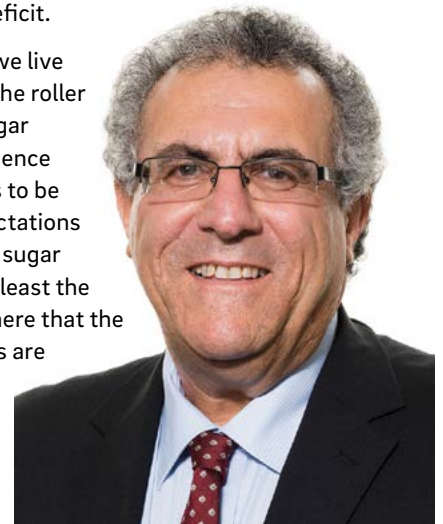
While prices have been historically lower than they are at present, this recent downturn has extended for longer than normal cycles.

As we know, the world price is a function of world supply and demand, and the sentiment of speculators. More than anything the Indian export subsidies have weighed down the world price.

Despite world stocks currently being quite high, most commentators are pointing to a deficit emerging for 2019-20. Some say that deficit could be as much as four million tonnes. Whilst an emerging deficit is a positive, world sugar stocks will need to be drawn down to push the sugar price beyond its current range.

As Australian growers, we are highly exposed to the world price but at least signs of strengthening are emerging. Forward sugar prices are stronger than the prompt prices, confirming the view that the market is headed for deficit.

As growers, we live and breathe the roller coaster of sugar prices. Experience has taught us to be wary of expectations of a booming sugar price - but at least the evidence is there that the fundamentals are changing for the better. ■





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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Map reveals growers' Reef collaboration

A new interactive map of Queensland's cane farming districts is shining a light on the extent to which sugarcane growers have worked with scientists over the past decade on environmental sustainability.

"It can be quite difficult at times to explain just how much energy and effort the sugarcane industry is investing to improve water quality for the Great Barrier Reef while ensuring the industry remains productive and profitable - so CANEGROWERS has pulled together this map," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"The projects represent an enormous amount of hard work and dedication by both growers and researchers."

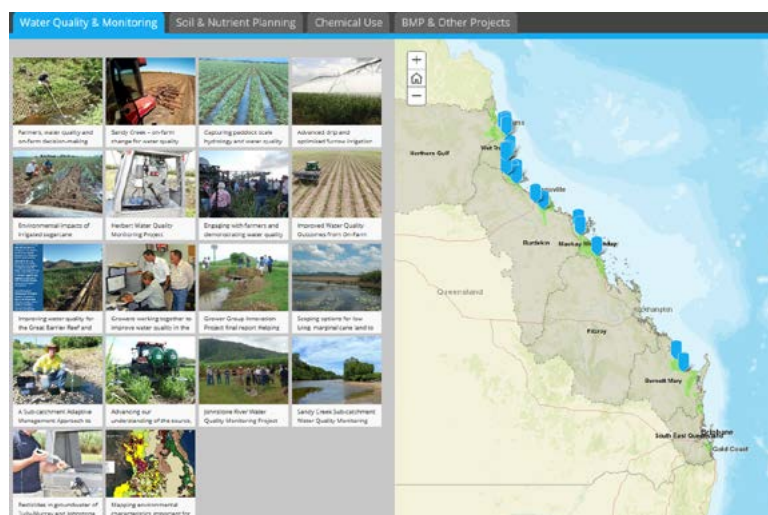
Mr Galligan said while cane growers and the scientific community did not always see eye to eye on matters of reef research, this had not stopped the two working together.

"We thank all of the organisations and individuals who are working collaboratively and constructively with us," he said.

"It is vital that growers are given every opportunity to participate in scientific monitoring programs and to engage with researchers and industry experts, so we can all continue to work towards a shared vision of a sustainable industry operating responsibly within our environment."

The interactive map lists many programs and initiatives funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments around water quality and monitoring, soil and nutrient planning, chemical use and best management practices.

The map has been added to the CANEGROWERS' Cane to Coast website feature ([www.canegrowers.com.au/cane-to-coast](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/cane-to-coast)) which explains how the sugarcane industry continues to push itself to be sustainable, productive and profitable. ■



## ELECTRICITY TARIFF EXTENSION MISSES MARK

Queensland farmers and businesses have an extra 12 months to transition to standard electricity tariffs following continued advocacy from the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and industry members.

The State Government has extended the deadline for the more than 30,000 small and large customers in regional Queensland currently on transitional and obsolete tariffs to 30 June 2021.

QFF President **Stuart Armitage** welcomed the government's decision to extend the deadline but noted the extension only applied to customers on the Ergon network and called on the government to include all Queensland farmers and businesses.



"The government has failed to consider the many farmers and businesses operating in south east Queensland who will be unfairly disadvantaged because they are on the Energex network and therefore unable to access this extension," Mr Armitage said.

"For farmers, this is yet another frustration in a process that has continually caused anguish with a lack of clarity on what tariffs would be suitable for irrigation and other agricultural-specific operations, and the significant bill increases some farmers will face when moving to standard business demand-based tariffs."

"After remedying this disappointing omission, the government must use this additional time to develop a suite of suitable tariffs and a genuine transition program for farmers required to move to standard business demand-based tariffs."

"If action is not taken, unsustainable electricity price increases and lagging productivity will result in more expensive food, fibre and foliage and a further loss of the international competitiveness of Queensland's farmers." ■

## Correction

Whoops...in the 17 June issue of *Australian Canegrower* we incorrectly reported that German company Nordzucker was negotiating the purchase of three Mackay Sugar Ltd mills in Mackay and Plane Creek. The mills in question, Racecourse, Marian and Farleigh, are actually all located in the Mackay area. The Plane Creek Sugar Mill in Sarina is owned by Wilmar Sugar Australia and, to the best of our knowledge, is not for sale. We apologise for any confusion. ■



# Harvest trial to answer million dollar question

A month-long field demonstration will test harvesting best practice methods in the Herbert district so cane growers and harvesting contractors will finally have an answer to the million-dollar question: "How does it affect my bottom line?"

Two Herbert harvesting contractors will take part in the demonstration that will compare their standard harvesting practices to best practice methods.

The data collected will allow both contractors and growers to see if the best practice method delivers more tonnes of sugar per hectare, and therefore more revenue for the industry.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) Harvesting Adoption Officer **Carol Norris** said the demonstration would give local industry answers on the economic viability of implementing harvesting best practice in the region.

"This harvesting demonstration has come at the request of growers who wanted to see how the best practice method would play out in local conditions and if potential revenue increases would be worth any increased costs," Ms Norris said.

The request came after growers toured the Childers and Rocky Point cane growing regions last year where harvesting best practice has yielded positive results.

Herbert River CANEGROWERS Chairman **Michael Pisano** said the upcoming demonstration could drive change in the local sugar industry.

"If there's money to be made in adjusting harvesting practices, then it makes sense to do that, and it's good to see the industry coming together to collect and analyse local data," Mr Pisano said.

Ms Norris said SCHLOT Live cane loss monitoring systems would be fitted to each of the harvesters taking part in the demonstration, which will start in mid-August.

The system will track how much cane is lost through the harvester's extractor using current harvesting settings versus best practice settings.

"It will ultimately provide the local industry with information on how much

potential revenue is being left behind in the paddock," she said.

Grower-contractor **Dwayne Morelli** owns one of the two harvesters that will be fitted with the cane loss monitoring technology.

He said data would be collected from about 18 blocks – two blocks from each of the farms in his harvesting group.

"We'll be able to compare cane loss against harvester ground speed, fan speed, fuel consumption and time in paddock, amongst other factors, to determine where the economic sweet spot is," Mr Morelli said.

He said the data would enable growers and harvesting contractors to compare old ways to new ways and make a decision on which option best suits their operations.

The demonstration involves a significant level of investment from Sugar Research Australia, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Wilmar Sugar Australia.

SRA will assign six staff to data collection duties for the trial. Two will be assigned to each cane siding to analyse extraneous matter samples and coordinate rakes. There will also be an SRA staff member sitting in each harvester cabin to measure distance and settings.

Wilmar has committed funding for an additional fibre analyst at Victoria Mill to ensure that individual CCS is allocated to the payment of the cane from these trials. ■

*Pictured: (below) Phil Patane, Dwayne Morelli and Michael Pisano.*



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

Mossman Mill started the 2019 crush on Tuesday 4 June, however continued showery weather around the district hampered the first week of harvesting operations. The mill factory had a stop start week also, resulting in a high incidence of delayed cane. Conditions have improved with welcome blue skies around the district.

To date (16 June) a total of 38,203 tonnes of cane has been processed for a mill average of 11.11 CCS.

Coastal growers have supplied 23,087 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 10.40 CCS, while Mareeba growers have supplied 15,116 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.37 CCS.



## BURDEKIN

Crush week ending 22 June saw all Burdekin mills operating under clear skies, with cool crisp mornings giving ideal harvesting weather.

Harvesting and crushing operations began on 4 June at Kalamia and Inkerman mills, followed by Pioneer and Invicta mills on 11 June. Most mills settled down to normal operations in the first week with the exception of Inkerman, which had issues with an alternator and a shredder bearing. The first of the scheduled cleans will be carried out at Kalamia and Inkerman on Tuesday 25 June.

At end of week 3 (22 June) a total of 701,479 tonnes has been crushed, which is approximately 8.5% of the 8.24 million tonnes estimated. Seasonal CCS recorded to date for Burdekin is 13.33. Of the district's mills, Inkerman is currently the highest with 13.53, followed by Pioneer with 13.48.

In terms of variety, KQ228 has been the most supplied with up to 60% at one mill followed by either Q240 or Q183 at around 25-30%. On a district basis KQ228 achieved 13.69 CCS in week 3. In week 2 a rake of KQ228 first ratoon for the Inkerman Mill supply area received an allocation of 16.5 CCS. In week 3 a rake of Q240 plant cane supplied to Invicta Mill was allocated 16.7 CCS.

## TULLY

There have been less than 45 days in 2019 where no rain has been recorded in Tully, however with almost 30,000ha for harvest this year, the four dry days in June were enough to get the harvest started on 5 June, with the first cane crushed on the following day.

The respite from the rain was short-lived and the harvest was disrupted for several days. Two weeks after the start date, 100,000 tonnes had been crushed with an average CCS of 11.2.

CCS is rising rapidly as harvest moves from old ratoons and as blocks dry out.

Current estimate is in the order of 2.43m tonnes, but it is too early to get a trend of how the crop is yielding to estimate.

## Sugar Industry Recovery & Resilience Officers

The Burdekin and Herbert River districts now have IRROs under a government-funded Queensland Farmers Federation project to help growers following the February flooding disaster.

Mindi Lennon commenced working from the CANEGROWERS Burdekin office on Monday 4 June. Her contact details are 0436 921 711 and [mindi\\_lennon@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:mindi_lennon@canegrowers.com.au).

Ray Cervellin is available through the CANEGROWERS Herbert River office.

Their role is to:

- Work in the interests of all primary producers and rural communities in the priority area.
- Develop functional referral networks and up-to-date contact lists to link with industry, commodity and community networks (including QRAA, financial counsellors, Centrelink, human services, Lifeline, Bush Connection, etc.).
- Provide advice to service providers on local priorities about the requirement of additional, targeted programs.
- Assist clients affected by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event to access the full range of government and other assistance programs in a timely manner.
- Assist clients affected by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event to develop and evaluate resilience plans to better manage the business risks associated with a changing climate, and practical management options for future responses to natural disaster.
- Where appropriate, collaborate with other recovery programs, including the provision of information about regional priorities for recovery and preparedness activities.
- Refer clients to professional services such as financial planning, business management, production systems, health services and social support.



## MACKAY

At the end of week 3 of the crushing in Mackay district, Farleigh, Marian and Racecourse mills had crushed a total of 207,874 tonnes (as at 23 June).

Individual totals for the week were:

- Farleigh – 68,040 tonnes
- Marian – 80,677 tonnes, and
- Racecourse – 59,157 tonnes.

The total for the season to date was 387,082 tonnes with a PRS of 11.82 (year to date PRS: 11.38).

In addition to a busy week for growers on the farm, Mackay was caught up with Show fever from 18-20 June in fine weather under sunny blue skies.

Dwayne and Estelle Chapman at Homebush cleaned up in the annual sugarcane competition winning the categories Best Six Sticks of Q240, Best Six Sticks of Any Other Variety (SP80), Best 12 Sticks of Any Two Different Varieties (Q240, SP80), Champion Six Sticks of the Show (Q240), Reserve Champion Six Sticks of the Show (SP80), and Champion Exhibitor of the Show.

This year's Sugar Pavilion attractions included a popular novelty free ride – a stationary bike connected to a Swiss Alps cycling route simulator which encouraged both kids and adults of all ages to try to set a speed record in return for a sweet treat.

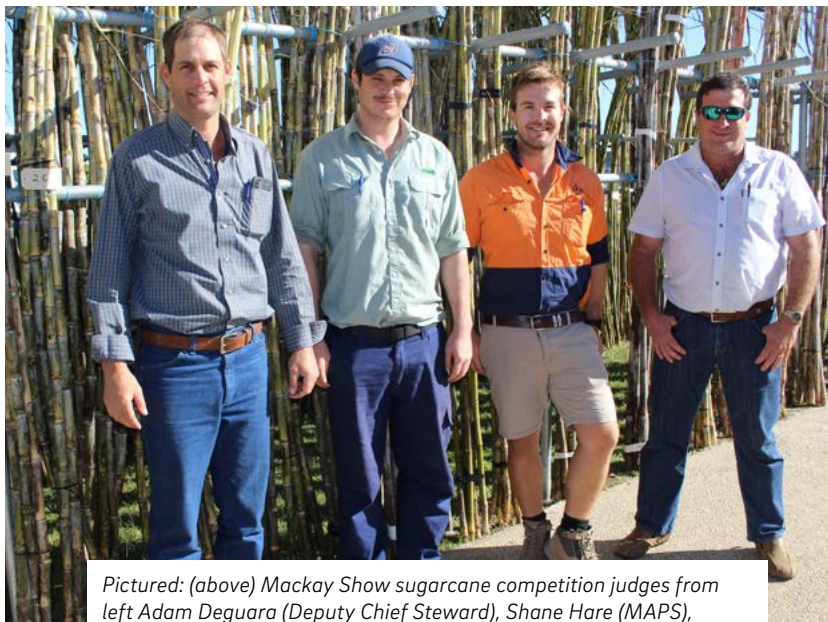
## PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill began crushing on Tuesday 18 June. The opening days of operation saw some commissioning issues but the factory is now crushing well with 27,758 tonnes crushed for week 1 ending 22 June.

The average weekly CCS was 11.81 while the average bin weight was 3.84 tonnes.

The highest CCS was 14.60, from a rake of KQ228 OR in the Main Line productivity district.

No rainfall was recorded for the week with only 8.4 mm recorded for the month to date at Sarina.



Pictured: (above) Mackay Show sugarcane competition judges from left Adam Deguara (Deputy Chief Steward), Shane Hare (MAPS), Chris Tom (SRA) and Andrew Camilieri (Chief Steward). (Below) speed records were set at the Sugar Pavilion on the stationary bike ride which was coupled to an online virtual cycling route in the Austrian Alps.



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# BURNING QUESTIONS

## WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO UNDER NEW NOTIFICATION

With the 2019 cane harvest underway in most Queensland districts, cane fires will once again light up the skies providing spectacular photo opportunities. But before lighting up a paddock this harvest season, growers are urged to ensure they're up-to-date with the latest cane burning rules.

Following months of consultation with CANEGROWERS, including a series of regional workshops, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has issued a new Cane Burning Notification, which clarifies when and where growers can and can't burn cane and trash.

"For some time we've been concerned that the Cane Burning Notification first issued in 2004 along with the Cane Firing Guide was open to interpretation and required a review," CANEGROWERS Industry Manager Burn Ashburner said.

CANEGROWERS raised the issues with QFES which responded positively and a combined consultation process was undertaken with eight workshops held throughout the sugarcane growing regions.

"It became clear during these workshops that the 2004 Notice was not adequate," Mr Ashburner said. "A number of things have changed since the Notification was first issued.

"Cane burning frequency has changed significantly with green cane harvesting. One of the effects of this is that the skills and experience for cane burning has declined.

"Also, increased urbanisation and concerns about burning cane affecting

health makes it more important to ensure that burning is carried out legally and with due consideration.

"We've also had several tragic deaths in recent years. These have been

*"It became clear during these workshops that the 2004 Notice was not adequate. A number of things have changed since it was first issued."*

investigated by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland which has highlighted the risks involved with cane burning."

The new *Notification for Burning of Sugar Cane*, which was published in the Queensland Government Gazette No 29 on 31 May 2019, gives cane growers the authority to burn sugar cane in accordance with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, provided minimum conditions are met.

The main change from the old Notice is that the new one more clearly spells out what parcels of cane land can and can't be legally burnt.

There are also minimum conditions for weather, smoke hazard (signs), equipment and people.

"It is important for growers to be clear as to whether they can meet all the conditions of the Cane Burning Notification," Mr Ashburner said.

"If the conditions cannot be met, then a permit will be required from a local Fire Warden.

"It is also recommended that if there is any doubt or uncertainty around whether the cane can be burnt legally under the Notification, or you want to remove all doubt, then a permit should be obtained from the local Fire Warden and the conditions of this permit followed."

To find the local fire warden use the Fire Warden Finder at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw\\_finder.aspx](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Pages/fw_finder.aspx)

A copy of the new QFES Cane Burning Notification information sheet can be found inside this issue of *Australian Canegrower*.

## CHANGES TO CANE BURNING REQUIREMENTS

A parcel of cane land that can be legally burnt must be:

- fully surrounded by other parcels of cane land.
- adjacent to a road reserve that may contain a local road but not a main road or highway with cane land on the other side.
- adjacent to a single parcel of land (no greater than 2,000 square metres) with the same ownership and with up to two dwellings.
- adjacent to parcels of land used for rural purposes other than the production of sugar provided there is

written advice that there is no objection from that land owner or occupier.

It is also clear that cane cannot be burnt under this notice, and instead a permit will be required, if the parcel of cane land:

- adjoins a road reserve that includes a highway or main road or
- adjoins a parcel of land that is used for urban purposes or other intensive activities.

More details are on the QFES Information Sheet included in this magazine. ■







## QSL Payments & Statements

Mackay growers marketing with QSL have started to receive their QSL payments and statements for the 2019 Season. For most of these growers, this is the first time they have been paid directly by QSL. The following Frequently Asked Questions cover some common queries they may have regarding this process:

### I AM A QSL GROWER. AFTER I DELIVER CANE, HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Cane deliveries made up until midnight each Saturday will result in a payment from QSL on the following Friday.
2. If you chose to be paid directly by QSL, we will deposit your sugar payment directly into your nominated bank account/s. Or, if you elected to be paid via your miller, we will pass your QSL payment onto your miller to pay to you.
3. QSL will issue you with a statement via email. All of your QSL statements will also be available in your QSL Direct online account.
4. Growers with no email will receive a hard-copy statement in the mail.
5. You will also still receive a statement from your miller detailing the cane delivery as well as the associated GST, allowance, deductions and any payments you have arranged to third parties.

### WILL QSL PAY MY ALLOWANCES AND DEDUCTIONS?

Allowances and deductions under your Cane Supply Agreement and based on the tonnage of cane delivered or

processed, such as CANEGROWERS levies and harvester contractor payments, will continue to be paid by your miller and shown on the Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) they provide. For growers paid directly by QSL, the total of such amounts will also be reflected on your QSL payment.

### WILL QSL ALSO PAY MY THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS, SUCH AS A LEASE OR LIEN?

No. Any payments based on the gross value of your cane that have previously been paid by your miller, like liens and leases, will continue to be paid by your miller and detailed on your statement from them.

### WON'T THIS BE CONFUSING – GETTING TWO STATEMENTS?

It shouldn't be. You will still use your RCTI from your miller for your Business Activity Statement (BAS) and other bookwork. Your QSL statement will just detail your pricing results achieved with QSL.

### WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY QSL STATEMENT?

QSL will send you some material to help explain the payment process and your QSL statements. Your local QSL reps are also on hand to answer any questions you may have – just call your local QSL rep **Sonia Ball** on 0418 978 120 or email [Sonia.Ball@qsl.com.au](mailto:Sonia.Ball@qsl.com.au) for help.

## Changes to farm arrangements

QSL Growers who have a QSL Grower Pricing Agreement and are planning changes to their farm's operating structure (such as a farm sale, new lease or subdivision) are asked to complete a "Farm Sale/Lease Information Form" and submit this to QSL.

This form is not a contract – it simply initiates the documentation process by gathering basic information about the transaction to enable QSL to prepare the relevant Deed of Acknowledgement and/or Deed of Novation, to implement associated pricing transfers.

This can be done before, during or after the transaction occurs, but ideally, before the transaction occurs.

Completed forms can be submitted via email to [qsldirect@qsl.com.au](mailto:qsldirect@qsl.com.au) or to your local Grower Services Representative.

For further information or to commence the process, please contact the QSL Direct team on 1800 870 756.





## Advances update

The QSL Advance rate for the 2018-Season June payment has been paid at 97.5%. This is an increase of 2.5% on the May rate of 95%.

The final QSL Advance payment for the 2018 Season will be made in July once the QSL Shared Pool for the season has been finalised.

Growers using QSL Direct will be able to access their Q4 and annual financial reports, which capture all payments made by QSL in the relevant period, by late July.

For further information regarding your QSL payments, please contact your local QSL representative, detailed at the bottom of this update.

## YOUR QSL GROWER SERVICES TEAM

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# CANE CHANGE GROWS TULLY SUCCESS

By Wayne Griffin

It's been a busy few years for Tully grower Damien Rigato. For almost three decades his main business was bananas, with a small cane farm supplementing the family's income. Then Cyclone Yasi came. Eight years on he's left bananas behind and become one of Tully's top ten cane growers, cutting almost 90,000 tonnes and bagging a slew of productivity awards in 2018.

"It's a pretty familiar story," Damien says of his farming background during *Australian Canegrower's* recent visit to the largest of the family's six farms at Rockingham, 15 minutes south of Tully.

"My grandfather came out from Italy and started labouring on farms, cutting cane and picking tobacco, before eventually buying a small cane farm himself in Tully."



In 1985 Damien's father, Dennis, added bananas, kick-starting the family business, Rigato Bananas.

"We were share-farming to begin with, then we bought our own farm and built our own business up and it progressed from there," Damien said.

Business was good for many years, with the family establishing a large banana operation that at its peak employed around 200 people. They also had a small cane-growing business, cutting around 8,000 tonnes a year.

Then disaster struck. On 3 February 2011, Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi crossed the Queensland coast at Mission Beach, just east of Tully.

The Category 5 cyclone, which recorded winds of over 185 km/h, left a trail of destruction in its wake and devastated the local banana industry.

"We were big banana farmers. We had bananas in Tully and Mareeba, about 400 hectares all up," Damien said. "But Yasi just knocked down the Tully farm. Completely destroyed it."





*"We bought this farm and planted 400ha of cane the first year, another 200ha the second year and we pretty much went from an 8000-tonne grower to an 80,000-90,000 tonne grower in a few years."*

"The Mareeba farm survived, but we decided to get out of the bananas after that.

"We're still called Rigato Bananas but we don't actually grow any at all now. It might be time to look at changing our name," he joked.

The sale of the Mareeba farm enabled the family to purchase the largest of their current properties at Rockingham.

"We bought this farm and planted 400ha of cane the first year, another 200ha the second year and we pretty much went from an 8,000-tonne grower to an 80,000-90,000 tonne grower in a few years," Damien said.

"We've got five other satellite farms and all up we've about 1,300ha of cane production area."

The switch to cane has proven to be successful, with the Rigatos picking up no less than four trophies at Tully's 2018 Productivity Awards night, including highest CCS for the area and highest net return.



*Pictured: Cane grower Damien Rigato has embraced best management practices on his Tully farm and become one of the regions' largest and most productive growers.*

*Continues on page 14 ►*





*"We do everything in house here. We plant, we harvest, we have our own laser buckets. Whatever we want to do, we do, we're self-sufficient. So making changes to the farming system, while still a lot of work and time consuming, may be that little bit easier."*

It's not all about the cane, though. The family also grows grass and legume fallows which they harvest for seeds and hay.

It's become an important and lucrative part of the business.

"We do 125ha of rhodes grass that we harvest for seed. We also bale that hay and send it to various places across Queensland and New South Wales for stock feed," Damien said.

From June to October 2018, they produced around 5,000 large 8x4x3 square bales, averaging 600kg a bale.

Due to the drought conditions across much of Queensland and New South Wales, hay is in great demand and Rigato bales have found their way to farms in Muswellbrook and Taree in NSW, and even the Goulburn Valley in Victoria.

"We have our own header and a new baler that we bought last year, not even thinking about drought," Damien said.

"What happens is, if you harvest grass seed but don't bale the hay off, the hay on top of the stool kills the stool. We were ending up using some of our seed every year to re-plant paddocks.



"So we bit the bullet and bought a baler and then developed a market for the hay.

"We also plant legumes on our fallow, and we either bale them or try to harvest seed off that as well.

"We're diversifying a bit to try to compliment the cane farming enterprise," Damien said.

Coming from a heavily regulated industry like bananas, Damien was quick to implement new and improved farming practices on his cane farms.

The business was an early adopter of the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP, self-assessing in 2014 before finally achieving accreditation in the three core modules earlier this year.

"In the banana days we were audited a lot. We were so used to it that it wasn't really a concern with taking on the BMP," Damien said.

"Also, we do everything in house here. We plant, we harvest, we have our own laser buckets. Whatever we want to do, we do, we're self-sufficient. So making changes to the farming system, while still a lot of work and time consuming, may be that little bit easier."





Today all Rigato farms operate on a GPS controlled traffic, 1.9 metre row system.

"We're all zonal tillage and we've just changed from dual row to the Mizzi-style planting, which is a semi-mound planting system," Damien said.

"On the 1.9m centres, planting a conventional single row-width drill you don't get the cover of the cane to prevent weeds coming up.

"So we plant a 600mm wide drill, semi-mound planting, and that allows the cane to be hilled up correctly for the harvester and we get the right canopy cover to prevent the weeds and grasses coming through."

Damien has also taken measures to reduce nutrient and sediment run-off from his farms, which border the Murray and Tully rivers, as well as Bulgan Creek in Tully.

"We've installed sediment traps and in some areas, to stop erosion on our sandier soil, we've built up mini-banks on the headlands," he said.

"The water will run off the paddock onto the headland, get contained within a small levee, then flow down the headland, through pipes and into the

drain. So it's got time to clean itself up and drop any sediment when it's going through the grassed headland."

Over the years, Damien has received various grants from Reef programs and Terrain NRM to help with setting the farm up for zonal tillage and for ongoing practice improvements.

Currently he's working with a number of companies, researching the different implements and styles of zonal tillage used in other broad-acre situations that could be applied to cane.

"It's about soil health, but also savings in time and fuel. In the old days we might work up a fallow 10 times, now we're down to four to five times from fallow to plant," he said.

"We're now looking at a machine that will get us down to two operations from plough-out to plant. One man with one reasonably sized tractor and he can do all the plough-out, all the planting."

Damien is also working closely with Terrain NRM and other organisations to try to secure funding for the development of a cane-specific farming app that he hopes will make it easier for growers to record and schedule farming operations.

"The biggest issues with getting people on board with programs like Smartcane BMP is the record keeping aspect," he said.

"What would really help would be a data management system that not only records what we've done, but also gives us a plan of what we need to do per paddocks.

"We've got 275 blocks of cane ranging from 35ha down to just 3ha on our smaller farms, so management of that is difficult sometimes.

"There are apps out there, but they're not suited to cane because even though cane is a broad-acre crop, other broad-acre crops like cereals, rice, canola – they're all planted every year, and that's the crop cycle these apps are designed for. Sugarcane is in the ground for five, six, seven years – it has different needs.

"We're talking to Terrain about it, and we're looking at getting some funding to try and develop something for the whole industry."

As if that's not enough to keep him occupied, Damien's also busy working on a succession plan, not just for when son Dylan finishes school and decides to take a more active role in the family business, but for the staff he has worked side-by-side with for over a decade.

"We're trying to change our business a bit," Damien said. "My focus for the next 12 months is a bit of a succession plan I suppose you could call it.

"My most valuable asset on farm is my staff. Most of them have been here almost 10 years and I want to be able to step back and give them a bit of control so that they are running some of the business for me.

"I mean, after 10 years they should know what they're doing," he said. ■

*Pictured: All Rigato farms operate on a fully GPS controlled traffic, 1.9 metre row, semi-mound planting system. Damien discusses planting operation with local agronomist Peter Reed.*

Building industry capability through

## SRA TRAVEL AND LEARNING AWARDS



Applications are open for the Sugar Industry Travel and Learning Awards (STLA) through Sugar Research Australia (SRA).

The STLA offer successful applicants up to \$7,500 for an individual award or \$10,000 towards a workshop or event.

These awards encourage innovative thinking and activities that can clearly demonstrate benefits to the Australian sugarcane industry. The activity should be aligned with the outcomes and strategies of SRA's five-year SRA strategic plan.

The STLA are part of SRA's investment in building the Australian sugarcane industry's knowledge and capability.

General Manager of the Research Funding Unit, Dr Harjeet Khanna, said SRA was seeking applications for innovative learning ideas.

"The awards cover a range of possible activities that will deliver benefits throughout the Australian sugarcane industry," Dr Khanna said.

"This includes, for example, skills-development activities such as conference or workshop attendance, visiting farm trials and assessing new farming methods, or visiting a sugar, paper or pulp mill, and then sharing this information

back with industry via an adoption activity.

"These awards are on offer to all industry participants, including growers, millers, and service providers including researchers."

The Awards recognise that it is crucial that the Australian sugarcane industry continues to develop its skills and expertise, which includes looking at other industries and other countries to generate new ideas and innovation.

"SRA is committed to investing in research that can be adopted on farm or in the mill, providing a tangible outcome for sugarcane growers and millers. All applications will be assessed in that context of the benefit to the industry," Dr Khanna said.

Kent Selby, Business Diversification Manager with Sunshine Sugar, took part in a recent STLA to participate in the 2018 International Society of Sugarcane Technologists co-products workshop in Brazil.

He said the conference was a valuable learning experience that helped him understand the advanced state of other sugar-producing nations when it came to diversification.

"What would be considered a diversified factory in Australia is the basic standard for the majority of the international industries," Mr Selby said. "Furthermore, many overseas industries continue to explore and implement new opportunities driven by the fact that they are fully aware they need to continue to diversify in order to remain viable.

"The STLA really reinforced for me that the Australian industry should take a more global view of sugarcane production systems and recognise that there is a multitude of solid information readily available from these other nation's significant resources. By accessing them, the Australian industry may be able to fast track our own diversification ambitions."

Applications close 31 August 2019. For further information visit: [sugarresearch.com.au/research-investment/travel-learning-awards/](http://sugarresearch.com.au/research-investment/travel-learning-awards/) ■



# Tully growers star in TV campaign

Two Tully cane growers have had starring roles in television advertisements that aired across north Queensland recently.

Vince Nicotra and Hannah O'Kane featured in a Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP) campaign designed to educate viewers on the important role farmers and others play in caring for the region's land and waterways.

The campaign aired on Channel 7, Channel 9 and WIN during the World Rafting Championships which were in Tully from 13-20 May.

Mr Nicotra is one of several farmers hosting on-farm demonstration sites to assess what practices make a difference to water quality and why, as well as any associated impacts on yield and profit.

"There are no better stewards of the land than the people who are working on it," he said. "This is my home and my community and so, like most farmers, I want to do what's right and make sure we leave it in good shape."

MIP is a reef water quality program in the Tully and Johnstone regions focused on reducing the amount of nutrients, sediments and pesticides in water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef, while ensuring that regional communities are sustainable into the future. It is funded by the Queensland Government through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

To view the TV ads, visit [terrain.org.au/locals-star-in-new-tv-campaign/](http://terrain.org.au/locals-star-in-new-tv-campaign/) ■



*Pictured: Hannah O'Kane collects a water sample from a creek on her family's farm. Together with Vince Nicotra (below left) Hannah featured in a recent Wet Tropic's Major Integrated Project TV advertising campaign.*



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# Record-keeping vital tool for Wet Tropics growers

*Supplied by Cane Changer*

The sugarcane industry has never backed away from change. In recent years, growers have jumped on board with new projects, initiatives, and trials that offer the potential to improve their productivity and protect their environment.

These qualities were recently on display as growers and their families from across the Wet Tropics Region came together in Cairns, Tully and the Herbert River to learn how to keep records in line with the industry's Smartcane BMP program.

"Record keeping is a valuable tool - not only does it provide evidence that you are doing the right thing by the environment on your farm, but it is great information for your business," said Herbert River Smartcane BMP Facilitator, **Maria Battoraro**.

"Keeping accurate records can help you know more about your business and make informed decisions about your productivity and profitability."

Growers involved in Smartcane BMP work closely with a local facilitator to demonstrate their adoption of farming practices which benefit both their on-farm productivity and the environment.

Held in conjunction with local CANEGROWERS offices and representatives from Smartcane BMP, the workshops provided growers with the tools to streamline their record-keeping



process and work the practice into their routine.

"What we've seen in the past is that many growers are already at or above the program's standards in terms of their on-farm practices," said Tully Smartcane BMP Facilitator, **Nick Stipis**.

"However, many have encountered barriers with the record-keeping requirements of Smartcane BMP."

To counteract this, the CANEGROWERS offices have developed a number of record-keeping templates to streamline the process for growers.

"We have developed record-keeping templates for Smartcane BMP which really come down to four simple steps - recording who carried out the task, what inputs were applied and their rates of application, when was it done, and where the farm and blocks are," said Cairns Region Smartcane BMP Facilitator, **Kasey Shaw**.

"These templates are the minimum you need to include while still being compliant

with all of the requirements under Smartcane BMP," said Nick Stipis.

The record-keeping templates are just one of the many resources available at CANEGROWERS offices to assist growers in their journey through Smartcane BMP.

Also at the workshops were members of Project Cane Changer who took attendees through some tips and tricks to streamline the record-keeping process.

"We know that there can be a number of obstacles which may get in the way of keeping accurate or timely records," said Cane Changer Project Manager, **Toneya McIntosh**.

"That's why we've included some simple strategies based around habit formation that you can use to work the process of record-keeping into your routine."

Project Cane Changer is a CANEGROWERS initiative designed to better understand the challenges faced by growers and to recognise them for their history of environmental stewardship and practice change.

The project also aims to 'Set the Record Straight' about the positive changes taking place on-farm.

If you're interested in finding out more about record-keeping templates, Smartcane BMP, or future workshops, you can contact your local CANEGROWERS office or Smartcane BMP Facilitator. ■



*Pictured: growers learning about the Smartcane BMP process in the Cairns and Tully regions.*



## Check your email!

We're marking the new financial year with a small gift for all CANEGROWERS members.

From 1 July, in addition to sending you a printed copy of *Australian Canegrower* each fortnight, we'll also deliver a digital copy of the magazine directly to your email inbox.

For those living in locations where the post is a bit slow, it means no more waiting for the magazine to arrive or needing to visit the post box before you can catch up on all the latest news from Queensland's sugarcane industry. Your digital copy will pop up in your inbox every second Monday, without fail, enabling you to catch up on industry news while you're on the go or out of town.

If you already receive a digital copy of the magazine, you don't need to do anything.

If you're new to the digital issue, just check your email inbox after 10am on Monday 1 July to find your digital copy waiting for you.

Email not there? Don't worry, your email filter probably thinks receiving a free digital copy of *Australian Canegrower* is just too good to be true and must be a trick. Check out your spam folder.

Still can't find it? Drop us a line on [editor@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:editor@canegrowers.com.au) or call (07) 3864 6430 and we'll sort you out.

Don't want a digital copy of the magazine? No problem, simply open the email, click the unsubscribe link and follow the simple steps. ■

## Membership Fees 2019 Season

cents per tonne of all sugar cane supplied to mills by all members

District Company	Crop Insurance Levy (ex GST)	Total Membership Levy (inc GST)
Bundaberg	Note 1	75.35
Burdekin	1.64	50.48
Cairns - Babinda	Note 1	47.94
Cairns - Mulgrave	2.10	50.25
Herbert River	2.86	48.00
Innisfail	Note 1	50.22
Isis	1.35	47.77
Mackay	4.27	49.66
Maryborough	Note 1	34.19
Mossman	2.00	34.19
Plane Creek	3.42	53.53
Proserpine	Note 1	38.04
Rocky Point	3.70	71.81
Tableland - Mossman Mill	2.81	53.38
Tableland - Tableland Mill	2.81	35.10
Tully	2.50	33.97

### KEY:

1. This fee schedule will apply to all sugar cane supplied to Queensland mills by all members during the 2019 crushing season. Fees vary from district to district due to the size and extent of operations and services offered.
2. **Note 1** - no additional charge for crop insurance.

## Money Matters

with Sunsuper

### ARE YOU SINGLE TOUCH PAYROLL READY?

For employers with fewer than 19 employees, Single Touch Payroll (STP) came into effect on 1 July 2019. For some employers this task may seem daunting; however, there are a few things to keep in mind during this transition.

- The ATO acknowledges that some small businesses, particularly those that don't currently use payroll software or those with intermittent internet access, may find the transition to STP more difficult. The ATO states that you will need to apply for a deferral if you won't be ready to start reporting before 30 September 2019, and they may be able to offer deferrals or exemptions for small businesses in certain circumstances.
- Organisations with four or less employees that don't use payroll software will be able to comply with STP reporting through their Business Activity Statements and employers will only have to submit STP reports quarterly for the first few years.
- If you already use a payroll solution and aren't sure if it's STP-compliant, it's important you contact your provider to find out.
- If you manage your own payroll, which is not currently STP-compliant, the ATO provides a list of companies offering low-cost STP solutions that cost less than \$10 per month, take only minutes to complete, and do not require you to maintain software.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find out more about STP deferrals and exemptions, including how to apply, visit the ATO's 'Get ready for Single Touch Payroll' website page.

For additional information on STP, visit the ATO's website or read our previous article 'What is Single Touch Payroll' available at: [sunsuper.com.au/knowledge-centre/single-touch-payroll](https://www.sunsuper.com.au/knowledge-centre/single-touch-payroll).

#### Disclaimer:

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# Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

## Looking after the future workforce

Having a skilled workforce is fundamental to the sugarcane industry's success. However, like many essentials in life, people often only realise how important it is when it's not available.

With competition from other sectors of the economy constantly draining skilled labour from the industry, doing nothing is not an option. The solution requires a longer-term, whole of industry investment.

It can be hard to see the direct benefit of investments such as educating school children on the opportunities in agriculture and, more specifically, the sugarcane industry - but if agriculture is not on show, it may not feature as a career options for school leavers.

CANEGROWERS is a member of the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (RJSA), which provides leadership and advice to government, service providers and other organisations on employment, skills, industry training, and workforce planning issues on behalf of Queensland's agriculture industries.

RJSA has been operating for four years and is starting to gain recognition amongst government and service provider as representing agriculture's training needs in Queensland.

There are a number of school initiatives which RJSA follows closely including the Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools Program Extension and Gateway Schools.

RJSA also runs the Agricultural Work Placement Program which is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. This provides a good opportunity to introduce young graduates into agricultural extension, and the sugar industry benefits with nine of the current 14 placements servicing the industry.

CANEGROWERS is also a member of the Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEFA), a not for profit company, which among other things operates and manages a web portal called Primezone.

Primezone provides teachers, parents and students, with an Australian Curriculum-driven range of high quality vetted primary industries education resources from Foundation to Year 12.

You can find more information on the QFF and PIEFA websites: [www.qff.org.au](http://www.qff.org.au) or [www.piefa.edu.au](http://www.piefa.edu.au) ■



## The sugar cycle turns

As the financial year draws to a close, it's useful to take stock of the year that's gone and to look ahead.

With production exceeding consumption, 2018/19 has been another year of surplus sugar.

However, as the global production cycle turns, that surplus (3 million tonnes) was thankfully much smaller than the 20 million tonne surplus recorded in the previous year. But still, the stocks of world sugar grew.

Looking ahead, most analysts are tipping the cycle to turn further, with production falling short of consumption. Different analysts view the world differently. For 2019/20:

- Czarnikow foreshadows a deficit in the order of 3.33 million tonnes
- Green Pool estimates a deficit of 1.62 million tonnes
- Rabobank projects a 4.2 million tonne deficit.

Although the numbers might be different, each of these outlooks are based on a common set of underlying assumptions:

- Brazil – the cane harvest and sugar-make will be about the same as last year. While some suggest production will be little bigger and others say a little smaller, all agree that Brazil is likely to have a production mix in the year ahead that focusses strongly on ethanol. In 2017/18, 46.5% of Brazil's cane was used to make sugar, while in 2018/19 just 35.2% was used for sugar. This resulted in a massive 10 million tonne reduction in Brazil's sugar output.
- India – reflecting low water storage levels and dry weather due to a delayed monsoon, a 3-4 million tonne reduction in output is likely.
- European Union – little change, with a reduction in area planted offset by improved seasonal conditions.
- Thailand – a modestly smaller crop is in prospect. Most analysts are reporting that some land has been lost to sugar as farmers, responding to lower prices, switch crops.

The outlook for sugar prices is brighter as the world sugar market shifts from surplus to deficit but the pathway to improved prices is unlikely to be smooth.

The high level of stocks means there is still plenty of sugar that can be brought to market in response to higher prices. There is also Brazil's production flexibility.

As the analysts suggest, improving sugar prices may encourage Brazil's mills to make more sugar than presently planned.

With the expectation of an emerging deficit, futures prices for 2020, 2021 and 2022 are higher than nearby prices.

For those looking to manage their forward price risk, opportunities to do so are available.

Different marketers have different price offerings. For the latest price quotes and more details on their pools and other price risk management mechanisms, please contact your preferred marketer. ■





# EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY WITH AN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

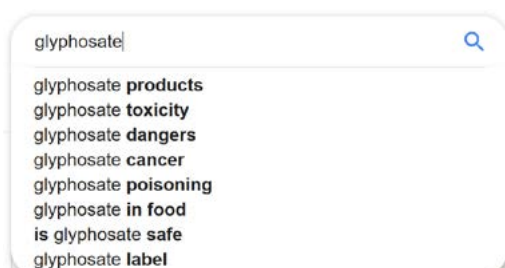
Much of our way of life is based on the achievements of science, which is simply a systematic, evidence-based approach to building and organising our knowledge of how things work.

However, on a number of issues, we increasingly see the value of science being greatly discounted, usually as a means of protecting particular views, values or beliefs.

The importance of science, as well as the ease with which we can dismiss its importance, is on display with many of the issues facing farming.

One example is glyphosate, which has seen recent concerns over its health impacts played out in courts in the USA.

These cases have appeared to be based more on emotion than evidence. Be that as it may, the awareness and curiosity about these concerns is shown by a simple Google search on glyphosate, which prompts the following topics:



The cane industry's view, consistent with all other industry members of the National Farmers' Federation, is that we trust the agency which oversees the use and regulations of agricultural chemicals in Australia, and the overwhelming, science-based, published evidence which indicates that glyphosate is safe to use.

Note that we are not saying that farmers are closed to the topic – if the weight of evidence did start to show significant risk from the product's use, farmers would of course respond accordingly.

This example displays two key features of the science approach – there is no such thing as absolute certainty, and we need to operate on the basis of the weight of evidence.

It is curious that, while our knowledge of how the world works improves at a remarkable rate,

and this knowledge results in new technologies and other benefits for humans, there appears to be a rapidly declining appreciation of the scientific process.

The latter is also associated with declining trust in the knowledge that arises from science.

These trends can be seen in issues as diverse as vaccination, evolution, genetically modified organisms, alternative medicines and climate change.

For the cane industry, there has been much recent discussion about the science of how farming affects water quality, and how water quality affects the health of reef ecosystems.

In all these cases, the key features of a science approach apply - there is no such thing as absolute certainty, and we need to operate on the basis of the weight of evidence.

This does not mean we should accept all science at face value, far from it. The quality of science is driven, in large part, by questioning and testing the theories and predictions that are put forward. However, constructive questioning of science is a long way from the dismissal of science when it does not suit our belief system or agenda.

There are many questions we should ask about the science of farming, water quality and reef health, and we should do this using the open-minded, evidence-based approach that all good science is based on.

CANEGROWERS will continue to support evidence-based approaches to all the issues we face, be it the safety of certain chemicals, the optimal management of nitrogen for crop production, or the effects of farming on water quality and reef health.

In particular, we will be working with industry, as well as water quality and reef researchers, over the next few months to tackle some questions we have on the knowledge of how farming practices affect water quality, and how this knowledge is used to assess and judge the industry's environmental performance. ■



**Mick Quirk**

CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager

# BLOCKCHAIN TO DEMONSTRATE SUSTAINABILITY

In 2018, CANEGROWERS was successful in receiving funding from the Federal Government to deliver a platform that demonstrates the sustainability of the Queensland sugar industry. This blockchain project is now up and running.

## WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN?

Blockchain is an encrypted chain of data. This emerging technology allows multiple parties (individual businesses and/or any size organisation) to share pre-agreed information with each other to create a trusted single data source of truth. Each party's information is stored on their own computers and systems and remains the property of that party.

Blockchain technology removes the reliance on a single party or system which can control the information. It ensures and delivers trust between supply chain participants and simplifies the way these organisations can share information.

Blockchain allows the pre-agreed supply chain participants to access the shared information simultaneously and prevents users from changing another party's data once they have recorded it. Blockchain-based platforms are designed to make data secure for the individuals, accurate, reliable and convenient.

## HOW COULD BLOCKCHAIN BOOST THE QLD SUGARCANE INDUSTRY?

By creating a shared and trusted single data source of truth, blockchain is currently being used globally across a range of industries to address a variety of critical issues. In the food and agricultural industry, blockchain is being used to connect with on-farm sensors, monitoring systems and farm management platforms and tracking the lifecycle of products to be able to deliver against consumer expectations, including items such as:

- **Traceability** – demonstrating the journey a product or components have travelled throughout the supply chain, capturing key information and transformations of the item in a way that is transparent to the trusted supply chain participants.



- **Security** – blockchain technology helps make data secure and reliable by design.
- **Certification** – blockchain technology allows parties to share trusted data about their products and have independent certifiers review and assure this data i.e. Smartcane BMP or sustainability certifications. Blockchain technology provides an ideal platform to support and capture product certification information.

Utilising blockchain technology, Queensland sugarcane growers can show sugar buyers where the sugarcane came from and the sustainability of that farm.

Big sugar buyers, who are seeking more sustainably grown product, are likely to pay more in future for sustainably grown and fully traceable sugar.

## CANEGROWERS BLOCKCHAIN PROJECT

The aim of the four-year CANEGROWERS project is to determine how the sugar industry, from cane farm through to end customer, can better demonstrate sustainable practices through the use of technology and digital platforms, such as blockchain technology.

By being able to better demonstrate the Australian sugar industry's sustainability commitment and practices, we will further strengthen our global market position and work towards an enhanced preferred supplier status.

Through this project, CANEGROWERS is looking to proactively ensure that as an industry producers and supply chain players can meet the shifting regulatory

and consumer landscape as they relate to sustainability, provenance and traceability.

CANEGROWERS has engaged KPMG to assist in developing the project. To ensure it adds value to the sector, the project requires strong stakeholder input and insights, from farmers and sugar mills right through to end customers and regulators. Stakeholder feedback will also ensure the project identifies appropriate digital solutions that are fit-for-purpose, effective and adoptable by all supply chain players.

The first phase of work will identify the drivers, incentives and pain points currently in the supply chain that motivate or discourage farmers and millers from capturing their current interactions. Key stakeholders will include current Smartcane BMP certified growers and non-certified growers of various size, scale and agronomy along with other industry players including QSL, millers and marketers, as well as end users including food and beverage companies.

"The blockchain project is off to a great start. Consultation is underway across the supply chain to understand the adoption of Smartcane BMP in various regions and to capture insights on the use of data and technology. We recently toured the Tully and Innisfail regions, with plans to visit Bundaberg, Isis and Rocky Point in the next few weeks," said Evie Murdoch from the KPMG Food and Agribusiness team.

Future phases of work will explore possible technology solutions that could support the longer-term industry transformation and position Australia as world-leading sustainable sugar supplier. ■



## FIRST 5 LINES FREE\* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

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 **8 July 2019**.

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



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 or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
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## Mossman-Tully

1x Massey Ferguson 6475. 1x Massey Ferguson 5465. 6 tonne side tipping haulout tractors. VGC. Ph: 07 4056 2063.

2004 Cameco Harv. VGC \$150,000. HBM Billet Planter GC \$22,000. Fert Box 3T Newton Type Side Stool Dresser 760mm OD Cltrs - Draw Bar on wheels, 2 new Cltrs, Full Set Bearings to suit, Stainless Worms & Chutes \$4,400. GST incl. Ph: 0427 655 168. 4T HBM side tipper, good condition. Ph: 0428 100 564.

Fiat 80-66 4wd \$10,000. Ford 5000 \$6,000. Lge offset 24 disc Bonel \$6,000. Ripper Grubber \$1,000. Ripper Culter \$1,000. Spinner rake \$400. Hodge4 disc rev plough. Cane cleaner, Marker, Sm fert box, 600lt tank. Tully area. Ph: 0429 627 192.

10 tonne tipper bin. Good tyres no oil leaks Hbm ball and cup air brakes ready for work. \$25,000 inc GST. Ph: Rodney 0429984920.

## Herbert River-Burdekin

John Deere 6630 139hp 4WD. Excellent condition. 1600hrs. Surplus to requirements. \$81,000 inc neg. Home hill area. Ph: 0409 481 269.

ACO 450 articulated 4WD tractor with big cam 855 cummins 12sp powershift and RABA Diffs \$20,000 + GST. John Deere 4850 MFWD tractor with duals \$20,000 + GST. Full stick planting gear, J 250 harvester, double disc opener planter, Don Gough sugar king planter, thrash blower with toppler, 6 trailers \$4,400 inc GST. Ph: 0437 346 341.

## Mackay-Proserpine

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay). 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay). 6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478 719 294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder toppler, hyd. adjustable fronts 1.50m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted to front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system fitted; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. All in good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. Good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Kubota M135X-DC 4WD, Loader + 4in1 bucket, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$58,000 Inc. Transport subsidised. Ph: 0418 788 643.

Hodge spinner \$300. 80" chrome rotary hoe, heavy duty \$3,800. Moller Billet Planter, single row, 12" chute, excellent condition \$25,000. All prices + GST. Farm house for removal. Ph: 0413 656 963.



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## Classifieds

MF 305 Cane Harvester Plant Cutter GC with plenty of spares \$10,000 + GST ONO. 5 Tonne Rear Tipper Bin GC \$6,000 + GST ONO. Both stored in shed. 4 ¾ Aluminium Irrigation Pipes with Sprinklers \$50. Ph: Robert 0427 597 254.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, GPS and more. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428 182 464.

Powerhaul Austoft. \$13,500 + GST. Ph: 0438 755 459.

New arched steel roller + extendable drawbar, 3.85mx600mmx10mm, baffled with fill point. Truck-legal transport width, blasted/painted \$7,700. Made to any size. Large steel beams to suit shed. 460mmx191mm, 62.83m total & 200mmx200mm column, 35m total, GC \$5,500. 2x Populin/Bonnel billet planters. Both wide elevator models, 1 complete/other nearly + other parts \$3,300 for both. 6 Tonne high lift side Tipper including highflow pto hyd pump, main rams reconditioned, usable working condition \$4,950. All prices inc GST. Ph: 0407 176 828. Moller Billet Planter, 3t tipper bin. \$12,000. Ph: 0417 393 142 or 0428 186 261.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. Fiat High Spray Rig 7 Foot clearance. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427 598 333.

### Wanted

3 Point Linkage Back Blade. Ph: 0439 696 497.

(7610) John Deer. Ph: 07 4954 1174.

14.9-38 Tractor tyres. Ph: 0413 656 963.

### Positions Vacant

Haulout driver operator needed for Proserpine area. 2019 cane crushing season. HR licence a must. 3am starts. 8 out of 10 roster. Must be reliable and have

own transport. Experience preferred with cane cutting and general farm equipment maintenance. Accommodation not provided. Start: Late June through to November. Ph: 0407 111 661.

### Work Wanted

Experienced harvester operator requires position for the 2019 season. Any area, willing to travel. Ph: 0400 790 460.

Cane harvester and haul out operator for the crushing season 2019. Can do farm work repairs and maintenance, case 7700-8800 and other farm machinery. Ph: +230-57523057.

### Property

Wallaville-Tirroan cane farm for sale in 3 adjoining blocks. 205ha CPA, 16ha grazing. 50/50 red/black soil. 865ML water allocation BWS, 106ha gravity-fed centre pivot irrigation with balance winch and flood. One house renovated 2017. One house built 2005. 3 machinery sheds. Ph: Geoff 0477 704 134.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–June
	17.06.19	24.06.19		
Mossman	4	0	2422	1724
Mareeba AP	0.4	0	628	717
Cairns	3	0	1821	1598
Mt Sophia	16	0	2514	2577
Babinda	39	0	2364	3261
Innisfail	37	2	2579	2714
Tully	32	0	1912	3154
Cardwell	1	0	1888	1655
Lucinda	8	0	2205	1653
Ingham	1	Tce	2612	1555
Abergowrie	5	0	1801	1429
Townsville	0	0.2	1741	868
Ayr DPI	0	0	928	712
Proserpine	0.2	0	1348	1027
Mirani	2	0	1314	1118
Mackay	3	0.2	951	1169
Sarina (Plane Ck)	3	0	1251	1282
Bundaberg	0.4	0	231	610
Childers South	2	0.8	230	513
Maryborough	1	1	400	728
Tewantin	29	0.4	591	1131
Eumundi	0	0	404	1095
Nambour	29	0	662	1085
Woongoolba	4	0	409	834
Murwillumbah	0	0	391	1035
Ballina	42	26	580	1146
Woodburn	0	0	261	878



**sunsuper**

dream with  
your eyes open

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.



Cane farm, Silkwood area. 27.82 ha total, 27.62 under cane on 1 freehold title. 5 yr av 97 t/ha. 7.5 kms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water. Ph: 0417 647 002.

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx\* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Queenslander style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408 880 724.

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# Spotted anything unusual?

## NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit [phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane](http://phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane) for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



**Look, be alert, call an expert**