

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

GROWER



CANEGROWERS

11 March 2019 Price \$9.95



CLASH OF IDEAS

As growers showcase innovation, government plans introduction of industry-harming regulation



**Smartcane
BMP gets
Coca-Cola's
sustainability
seal of
approval**



**Australia
launches
WTO action
against
Indian
subsidies**



**Weeds cost
farmers
almost \$5b
per year,
new report
claims**

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COVER IMAGE: South Johnstone cane farmer Adrian Darveniza is trialling zero tillage fallow crops and plant cane. Read more on page 14.

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Bureaucratic backhand blow to growers

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Queensland's 4,500 cane growers are angry at the Queensland Government's decision to lift the bar on regulatory environmental compliance.

The Bill introduced by the Labor Government into Parliament on 27 February could not have come at a worse time for Queensland cane farmers.

Growers in the north of the state are still counting their losses from some of the worst flooding in decades, while in the south, growers have emptied their pockets to pay electricity bills to water drought-affected cane.

At a time when cane farmers could really use a helping hand from government – what we're getting is a bureaucratic backhand instead.

CANEGROWERS is not suggesting for one moment that we be exempt from environmental scrutiny.

After all, we farm 360,000 hectares adjoining the Great Barrier Reef and we take our environmental responsibility very seriously.

Over the past three decades, cane farmers have collectively rolled up their sleeves and embarked on massive changes to our cultural and farming practices.

The move to minimum till, green trash, mulching, satellite precision farming and controlled traffic, to name but a few practices, have lessened our environmental footprint and enhanced our reputation as a socially responsible industry.

In addition, our industry best management practice program, Smartcane BMP, currently has approximately 70% of Queensland's cane-producing area participating in the program, and Coca Cola has recently endorsed our Smartcane BMP program as an acceptable benchmark of sustainability.

Despite all of these endeavours, what we have received from government is further regulation. This is an enormous kick in the guts to every grower in Queensland.

While any details are yet to be made clear, it appears that there are three key elements to the latest plan.

Firstly, there will be new regulations that will require growers to have a nutrient management plan and comply with practices to reduce sediment loss.

The Bill also vests enormous powers in the State Government to demand information from fertiliser companies, contractors, sugar mills or any organisation that is a collection point of data on fertiliser use and productivity. This is Big Brother to an extent that we have never seen before.

The third element is that the potential to introduce new cane land into the industry (including former cane

land) will be greatly restricted. New cane areas will require an Impact Assessment, the conditions of which will be onerous and difficult to achieve.

More than anything else, this new legislation causes cane farmers and primary producers more broadly to lose confidence in the whole reef debate. The goal posts shift so often that growers are losing interest in the issue.

In addition, the nutrient and herbicide reduction targets are now so high that it gives rise to a 'why would we bother?' attitude.

This Reef Protection Bill will now be exposed to wider consultations with industry and the public. Be assured that CANEGROWERS will do its utmost to lessen its egregious impacts.

Whenever we travel to international sugar forums, the Australian sugar industry and its growers are often applauded as some of the world's most sustainable – but not in the eyes of our own Queensland Government. Little wonder that we are so frustrated!

WTO Action Against India

On a positive note, CANEGROWERS welcomes the announcement by the Federal Government that it will escalate its dispute with India over export subsidies.

The announcement by Trade Minister **Simon Birmingham** will give Australian cane growers some level of encouragement that the sugar price distortions being caused by Indian policies is being challenged.

Equally, we are greatly encouraged that the world's largest exporter of sugar, Brazil, will join the action.

We acknowledge that these matters do take time, perhaps too much – but the prize at the end of this campaign is worth fighting for.

When Australia, Brazil and Thailand successfully challenged the European Union's export of subsidised sugar in 2004 the resultant structural increase in the world price lasted for over ten years. ■



2019 QSL GROWER STUDY TOUR — SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

QSL is seeking expressions of interest from growers keen to join a study tour to South Korea.

Enjoy the delights of Seoul while also gaining an invaluable insight into one of Queensland's most important export sugar markets.

Tour highlights include meeting with key customers and tours of their refineries at the ports of Incheon and Ulsan as well as plenty of opportunities for sightseeing.



TOUR DETAILS

When: Saturday 18 May to Saturday 25 May 2019

Cost: \$6000* per person

Includes: Economy-class airfares to Seoul (departing Brisbane), accommodation, transfers, travel within South Korea and some meals.

Participants require a valid passport (with at least 6 months' validity) and will need to organise their own travel insurance for the duration of the trip.

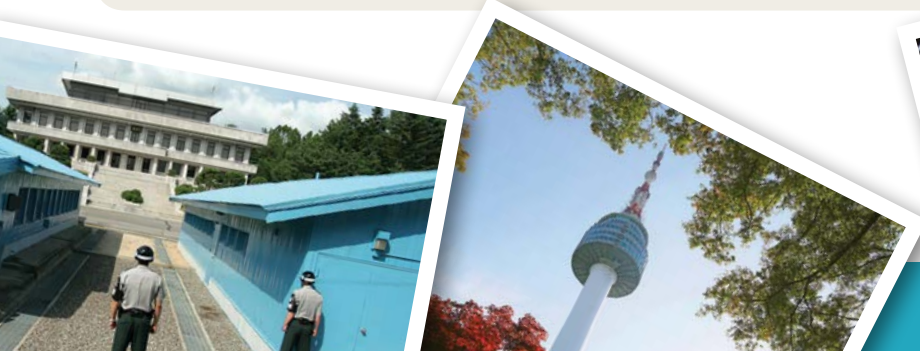
Expressions of Interest closing soon.

Please note that places are strictly limited and will be reserved on a first-in first-served basis. Partners are welcome.

* Approximate cost

Interested?

To register your interest, contact Alana Lucht on 3004 4471 or email Alana.Lucht@qsl.com.au



NEWS IN BRIEF

Our sustainable sugar ticks market boxes

Coca-Cola Amatil has announced that it will source all sugar in its non-alcoholic beverage range in Australia as sustainably accredited under Smartcane BMP or Bonsucro.

CANEGROWERS worked closely with the company as it went through the Smartcane BMP program and ultimately determined it met the company's sustainability requirements.

"Great recognition of the commitment of our growers and what they have and continue to achieve in caring for the environment"

"This is very significant for the whole of the Queensland industry and a great recognition of the commitment of our growers and what they have and continue to achieve in caring for the environment while running world-leading profitable and productive sugarcane farms," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

Coca-Cola Amatil says the decision means all purchasing contracts running until 2021 would be for sugar from growers independently accredited as following production frameworks which aim to increase on-farm productivity while reducing environmental risks.

Group Managing Director Alison Watkins said the decision was a good environmental and commercial one for the company.

"We have responsibilities to the community on resource use and renewal, and we've also heard customer feedback in favour of greater sustainability in the products we sell," Ms Watkins said.

"The switch to sustainably accredited sugar is a step forward for our overall operations, and also in meeting that customer demand."

"All Smartcane BMP accredited growers in Queensland should feel personally proud of this recognition," Mr Galligan said.

"Supported by the commitment of our members to Smartcane BMP and its environmental credentials, CANEGROWERS has been actively building links with a number of companies and accreditation programs to ensure they can identify our sugar as meeting their environmental and social responsibility goals."

Smartcane BMP has already achieved full alignment with Bonsucro, an international sustainability standard for sugar, and CANEGROWERS is now working with the big sugar trading and supply chain firm Czarnikow and its VIVE program for sustainable sugar on a joint path to compliance.

An independent review of Smartcane BMP and VIVE, carried out by Kruger, Swart & Associates, concluded there was good alignment between the programs.

There is an opportunity to combine Smartcane BMP's evidence at farm level with the VIVE program's upstream modules to increase assurance throughout the supply chain.

"VIVE's work with mills, refiners, shippers and trade houses opens the door to extending the farm level success of the Smartcane BMP across the entire supply chain," Mr Galligan said. ■

INDONESIA TRADE AGREEMENT

After months of uncertainty, Australian and Indonesian officials have finally signed off on a free trade agreement that could see a significant boost in sugar exports to our northern neighbour.

The Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA), which was signed in Jakarta on 4 March, will give 99% of Australian exports to Indonesia either tax free entry or preferential treatment.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said the deal, which will see tariffs on Australian sugar drop from 8% to 5%, would level the playing field between the Australian sugar industry and its competitors in the Indonesian market.

"Improving the conditions for trade with our nearest neighbour is a great outcome for the Australian sugar industry," Mr Schembri said.

"The change in tariff from an effective 8% to 5% puts us on a par with our competitors in that market and provides the opportunity to increase our exports to Indonesia from their present level of 350,000 tonnes to more than 1 million tonnes.

"Indonesia is a growing market and one which we are perfectly situated to supply with quality sugar well into the future. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

National Farmers' Federation CEO Tony Mahar said the deal represented "real tangible benefits to the hip pocket of many Australian farmers".

"IA-CEPA will deliver improved market access for live cattle, feed grains, beef, sheep meat, dairy, sugar, fruit, carrots, potatoes and honey."

"Indonesia is the world's biggest importer of Australian wheat and Australia is Indonesia's largest supplier of red meat. Australian dairy products and sugar are also highly valued by our neighbour."

"In 2017, almost half (49.5%) of our food and fibre exports went to Indonesia, valued at \$3.5 billion."

Mr Mahar said it was now up to the Australian Parliament to ensure the landmark trade agreement was ratified. ■

Formal WTO action launched against India

Australia and Brazil have taken the important step of launching formal World Trade Organisation action against India with other countries tipped to join in. The dispute settlement process is a bid to stop the country's subsidised production depressing world sugar prices.

The essence of the case against India is that for many years its been supporting sugarcane production at a level above its WTO obligations. What that's done is create a massive surplus of sugar, some of which is being exported into an already surplus market, depressing prices to a level below the cost of production of the world's most efficient producers.

CANEGROWERS has thanked the Australian Government and particularly Minister Simon Birmingham and his department for launching the action.

"This glut is hurting Australia's cane growers and millers, and is threatening our \$1.8 billion sugar export industry by dragging down prices to unsustainable lows," Senator Birmingham said.

"While Australia respects the rights of WTO members to support their farmers and agricultural industries, this support must be consistent with WTO rules and provide a level playing field.

"Australia always seeks to resolve its concerns outside of the WTO's dispute system, and our numerous

representations to India at the highest levels and in the WTO have been consistent with this approach.

"This glut is hurting Australia's cane growers and millers, and is threatening our \$1.8 billion sugar export industry by dragging down prices to unsustainable lows."

"Unfortunately, our representations, and those of other sugar exporting countries, have so far been unsuccessful. This has left us with no other choice but to initiate formal WTO dispute action, together with Brazil."

An assessment of India's subsidy-driven overproduction by Green Pool in February 2019, for the Australian Sugar Milling Council, estimated the total damage to the Australian sugar industry of the world price being lower than it would be without India's exports at \$468.5 million over the three-year period 2017/18 to 2019/20.

Commenting on Indian Government policies, Green Pool said, "By continuing to produce sugar surplus to domestic requirements at high prices, the government forces mills to either store the excess, or to export it at subsidised prices. There are two impacts – global stocks rise, pushing global prices lower, and subsidised exports undercut other efficient producers keeping prices and premiums under substantial pressure. This impact will last for several more years yet".

The report also sounded a warning that India's export push was likely to target some markets important to Australia, including Indonesia, Malaysia and China, where competition was already stiff. ■



Reef Regs

Queensland's cane growers have reacted with anger and frustration at government plans to ramp up the state's already stringent reef laws, saying the proposed new regulatory regime is heavy-handed and risks criminalising farmers. If approved, the laws could see agronomists, industry extension officers, sugar mills and fertiliser resellers forced to hand over sensitive data about the day-to-day operations and business decisions of cane farmers in a Big Brother-style system that threatens to stymie industry development.



KICK IN THE GUTS

The Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, which was introduced to State Parliament on 27 February, has drawn the ire of Queensland's peak agricultural bodies, with CANEGROWERS warning the new laws may damage the future growth of the \$2.5 billion sugar industry while doing little to further protect the reef.

The government's decision to push ahead with the proposed new laws is a kick in the guts to growers, many of whom have spent thousands of dollars improving on-farm practices and updating their farming systems to ensure the best possible environmental outcomes, CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

It also comes as a bitter blow to primary producers across northern Queensland who are still counting the cost of recent natural disasters.

"Just as growers are picking themselves up from a summer of natural disasters, the Queensland Government is putting a further regulatory cloud over our businesses," Mr Schembri said.

1 FARM DATA

Agronomists, extension officers and even chemical and fertiliser resellers will be required to keep and produce on request records of advice, products, and services supplied to growers.



2 FURTHER REGULATION

The Bill provides for future regulations that will enable the collection of additional farm data for various reasons, including to assist in determining where over application of fertiliser, and therefore high rates of nutrient run-off, may be occurring.



3 LAND USE

Under the Bill, growers will be required to obtain an environmental authority licence to grow cane on their own land, if that land has not been in cane production for three of the previous 10 years (including one of the previous five years). Where a licence is required growers will need to show they can manage water quality risks through farm design and practice standards.



4 EXPANSION SOUTH

Should the government's proposed law changes be approved by parliament, growers in Queensland's southern growing regions of Bundaberg, Isis and Maryborough, who are already struggling with drought and soaring electricity prices, will face reef regulations for the first time.





"With international companies now looking at sugarcane as a valuable feedstock for a new generation of bioplastics, biochemicals and biofuels, we won't be able to grow to meet new opportunities."

Pictured: (above) Cairns growers John Porta and Paul Gregory are among more than 350 cane farmers, accounting for over 20% of the Queensland's cane land, that are fully accredited in the industry-driven best management practice program, Smartcane BMP.

"We absolutely take our responsibilities towards reef water quality seriously.

"That's why we've voluntarily gone down the road of an industry-developed and independently assessed best management practices program – Smartcane BMP.

"Under this, growers have shown initiative and commitment, improving their productivity while addressing issues of fertiliser and sediment runoff.

"The program has recorded real and positive momentum with participation going from zero to 70% of the state's sugarcane area within five years.

"What we should be seeing is the removal of regulations those areas where growers have proven the highest commitment and results towards Reef water quality.

"CANEGROWERS has invited the Premier to visit a cane farm to give growers the opportunity to explain exactly what impact these laws will have but to date she hasn't taken up our offer," he said.

In the most sensitive area for Reef water quality, the Wet Tropics region, participation in Smartcane BMP involvement is strongest with over a third of the area now independently accredited as operating at or above industry best practice.

Across the state, 90% of growers engaged with Smartcane BMP are now applying fertilisers underground to prevent any washing away, 80% of the cane is cut green with a mulch/trash

blanket left on the paddock and 80% of growers use fallow rotations to protect and nourish their soil between cane crops.

"Huge changes have been made and the sugarcane growers of Queensland should be congratulated for their effort and commitment," Mr Schembri said

"But instead, with the introduction of this bill to the Queensland Parliament, the Labor Party is telling growers that no matter what you do, how much you spend or change the way you run your farm, we will shift the goal posts on you again and again."

BIG BROTHER

One of the most worrying aspects of the Bill is the power it gives government officials to demand information from any advisor or company working with cane farmers.

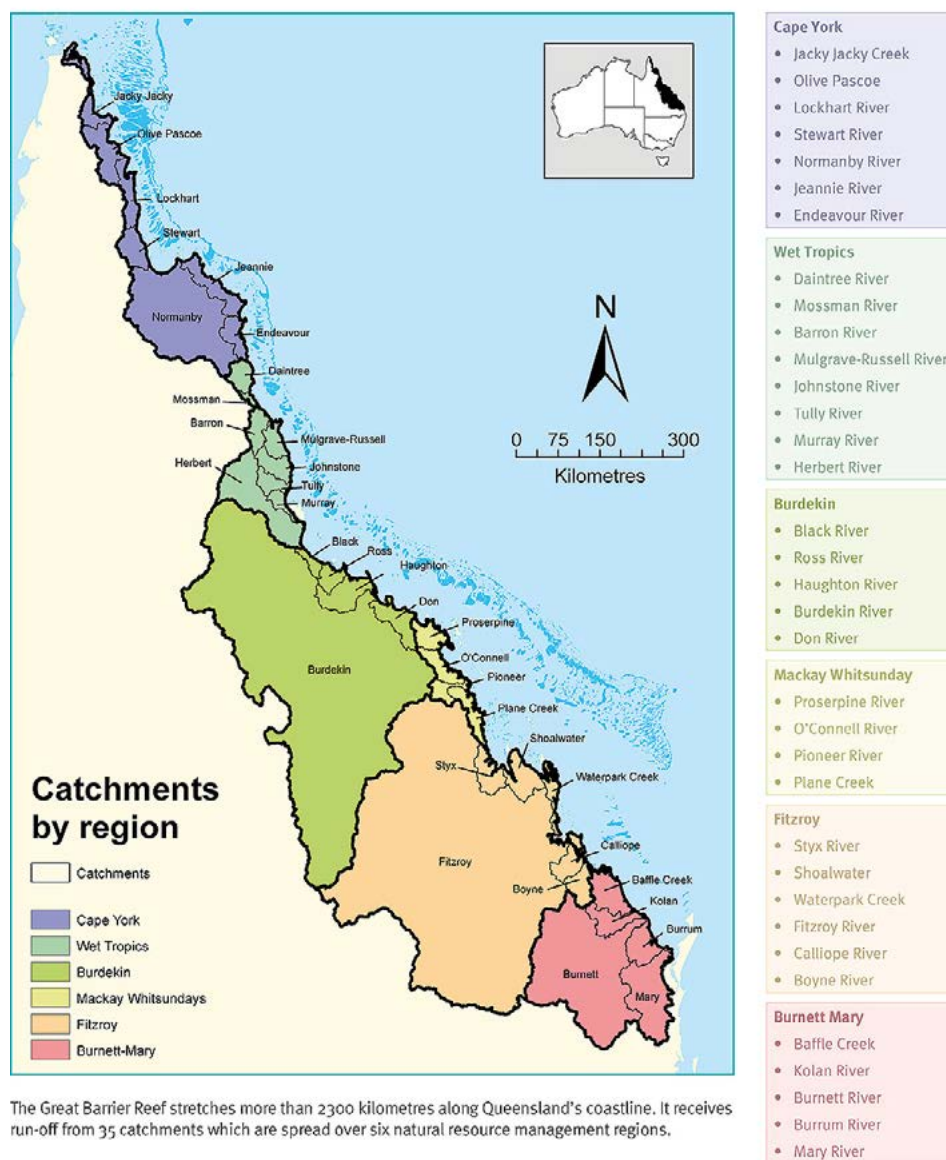
"Not only will this bill increase the red tape burden on individual farm businesses reporting to government but it is ringing alarm bells right through the sugarcane industry's supply chain," Mr Schembri said.

"The Queensland Government's own drafting document says the bill should give it the power to require data from fertiliser sellers, agronomists, wholesalers, sugar mills and industry extension officers.

"Nothing will be safe from the cold hand of the bureaucratic Big Brother!"

► continues page 8

Great Barrier Reef regions and catchments



"What we need is lower electricity prices and more water, not unnecessary regulations that are only going to hurt growers that are already struggling."



The bill could also prevent growers from making the best possible use of the land they own and farm.

"If you haven't cropped an area of your farm for some time and you want to put cane in, the State Government wants to make you go through the same sort of environmental impact statement that a mining company does," Mr Schembri explained.

"This amounts to the Labor Party telling us we can't expand our industry onto land our growers already own and manage without government approval.

"With international companies now looking at sugarcane as a valuable feedstock for a new generation of bioplastics, biochemicals and biofuels, we won't be able to grow to meet new opportunities.

"This would be very short-sighted, throwing a roadblock in front of our industry and potential bio-futures investment in Queensland."

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS FACE REGS

If passed by parliament, the new laws would see reef regulations extended into Queensland's southern cane-growing districts of Bundaberg, Isis and Maryborough for the first time.

It's a development that CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino worries could spell the end of cane growing in the region.

"The feedback I'm getting from growers is that they'll probably exit sugarcane and look at moving to a crop that is less impacted by reef regulations," Mr Mammino said.

"The pressure on growers in the Isis region is already very high. We've been hit badly by the drought and the high electricity prices are making irrigation more and more difficult. There's also pressure from alternative crops like macadamias and avocados.

"If these laws go through as they are, it's going to be the end for many cane growers in this region."

Despite not falling under the current suite of reef regulations, Mr Mammino said there had been an impressive uptake of Smartcane BMP in recent years, with over 75% of the district's cane land benchmarked in the program and

"My fear is, if these new regulations go ahead it's going to have the opposite effect to what the government and the industry actually wants. It may turn growers away from Smartcane BMP if they feel they're being forced into it with a gun to their head."



almost 20% independently accredited as operating at or above industry standard.

"We've been very proactive promoting BMP and a lot of growers have gotten on board with it, but despite that it looks like we're going to be penalised anyway," Mr Mammino said.

"Really, there's no justification for imposing reef regulation in the area. Not only are we not near the reef, but we spend more years in drought than we do with wet weather, so there's no run-off to impact the water quality anyway.

"What we need is lower electricity prices and more water, not unnecessary regulations that are only going to hurt growers that are already struggling."

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO LISTEN

As Chairman of the CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Committee, Innisfail cane farmer Joe Marano understands better than most the negotiations between industry and government that go on behind the scenes of major environmental policy decisions.

However, Mr Marano is frustrated with the State Government's approach to consultation around the proposed new reef regulations, saying government representatives have not listened in industry concerns.

"I just wish the government would come and speak to us, not just the cane

industry, but all the ag industries, and actually listen to what we have to say and take it on board, rather than just paying lip service to our concerns and going ahead with what they had planned anyway," Mr Marano said.

"Look, the government has given the industry a lot of money over the years to develop the Smartcane BMP program, I acknowledge that, and if we're honest we haven't hit the targets, but as an industry we're moving in the right direction.

"My fear is, if these new regulations go ahead it's going to have the opposite effect to what the government and the industry actually wants. It may turn growers away from Smartcane BMP if they feel they're being forced into it with a gun to their head.

"We have had so many meetings with government, but the conversation is all one-way. They need to get off their backsides and get out to industry and ask what will work and what won't.

"It needs to be done properly, because if it's only being done to appease the green vote with one eye on the next election then it's not going to work and it's going to drive people away from the industry."

Any regulations that force growers to reduce nitrogen inputs unnecessarily will not only hurt farm incomes, it will have a flow on effect that will impact the whole industry as well as the communities it operates in, Mr Marano said.

"We've seen production in some mill areas reduce over the last few years. Is this sustainable? The industry is not just cane farmers, it's millers and harvesters, and they are governed by tonnes also.

"Is this reduction in tonnes down to less fertiliser being applied? If it is, it's going to impact everyone, from the mills right down to the resellers, small businesses and families."

SMARTCANE BMP EXEMPTION

There is some good news in the legislation briefing paper for growers already accredited in Smartcane BMP.

"Agricultural producers accredited under a recognised BMP or like program will be deemed as meeting the regulated minimum practice standards," the paper states.

"This recognition rewards those producers who are already meeting or exceeding minimum practice standards for reducing risks to water quality through industry BMP programs."

For growers in Queensland's southern districts, where regulations will be phased in over a three year period, this means they'll have time to go through the BMP accreditation process and avoid a visit from the government's farm police. ■

Pictured: (above) CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano; (opposite) CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino.

SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP



Growers, millers, service providers and researchers came together in Townsville recently to discuss all things sugarcane soil health.

This meeting was organised as part of the SRA Soil Health Program which is a 10-year commitment by SRA to work with the industry on building our knowledge around the links between soil health, the farming system, and profitability, and translating this into practical outcomes for growers.

The meeting heard from researchers and extension staff across current soil health projects, which are examining a broad

range of physical, chemical and biological factors that influence soil health in sugarcane farming systems.



The workshop identified new and emerging research needs, gaps and

priorities for the industry. It continued to establish a strong platform for collaboration on future soil health communications, understanding, knowledge, skill development and adoption barrier initiatives.

In the development of the SRA Strategic Plan, soil health was repeatedly identified as a high priority regional and industry issue that SRA needs to address. ■

Pictured: Growers talking sugarcane soil health at the workshop.





JOIN US AT THE FIRST LIQUAFORCE AUSTRALIA FIELD DAY FOR 2019 IN THE BURDEKIN

CANE GROWERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MINI FIELD DAY ON FRIDAY MARCH 15TH 2019 AT CLARE'S MIO COLLEGE (1450 BARRATTA RD, CLARE QLD) FROM 1PM TO 4PM. DRINKS AND FINE FOODS FROM CLAREDALE PASTURES PROVIDED FOLLOWING THE SESSION.

Topics Covered

- New trial and R&D outcomes from LiquaForce, including the new LiquaForce Ag Nutrient Datahub (L.A.N.D.) digital support tools and services.
- The LiquaForce Ezy 3 Farm Nutrient Management strategy for optimising both cane and sugar tonnage, including the latest on Plant Starter cane nutrient and bio-stimulants help to grow strong plant cane plus an overview of Big Shot Enhanced Efficiency fertiliser products and overall advantages over granular fertilisers.

Special Guests

- CHT with Aqua-Sil will present on soil ameliorant for improved water infiltration and increased field water holding capacity.
- Pacific Bio will offer their latest updates on the benefits of seaweed extracts produced locally in the Burdekin.
- Nutrifert will present on their range of calcium, cal-mag and gypsum products delivering excellent results against traditional products

RSVP ESSENTIAL BY MARCH 11TH via luke@liquaforce.com.au or 0459 954 002. An afternoon you can't afford to miss!

New 3-season pool added to QSL options



By Bryce Wenham
QSL Finance Manager -
Supplier Relations

Following strong grower demand, QSL has introduced a new 3-Season Actively Managed Pool to its line-up of managed pool options available for the coming season.

Like QSL's other Actively Managed pool products, the 3-Season Actively Managed Pool prices in an active manner and can use a variety of pricing instruments, trade currency and unwind pricing to re-price at a later date in a bid to enhance pool returns.

The new pool prices sugar to be delivered in the 2021 Season, and so has the longest pricing window of any QSL-managed pool (1 May 2019 to 30 April 2022), allowing it to exploit market opportunities available in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Seasons.

It also has the highest level of pricing discretion for the QSL pool managers – up to 50% from the neutral benchmark pricing profile produced by pricing evenly over the pricing window – with additional pricing triggers at certain favourable ICE 11 price levels.

For full details regarding this new pool option, please read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au, or contact your local QSL representative.

YOUR 2019 QSL PRICING OPTIONS

For the 2019 Season, growers using QSL's marketing services will have tonnage automatically allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool and QSL US Quota Pool. The following optional pricing products are also available:

QSL-MANAGED POOL OPTIONS

QSL-managed pools aggregate tonnage from one or more participants, with QSL making all pricing decisions for the pool. The choices are:

The 2019 QSL Actively Managed Pool: A committed-tonnage pool that targets the best return over the Season by pricing more frequently as short-term market opportunities arise.

The 2019 QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool: A committed-tonnage pool that targets the best return by using the same pricing approach and tools as the QSL Actively Managed Pool, but extends the pricing window across 18 months. **Nominations for this pool closed last year.*

The 2019 QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool: A committed-tonnage pool that provides a guaranteed minimum return with the potential for higher returns across the Season. Growers using this option can receive an Accelerated Advances program (up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crushing).

The 2020 QSL 2-Season Actively Managed Pool: A committed-tonnage pool for the 2020 Season, with pricing undertaken across the 2019 and 2020 Seasons. This pool aims to target the best return, with some pre-set price triggers. It has been designed for Growers who seek exposure across multiple sea-seasons.

The 2021 QSL 3-Season Actively Managed Pool: A committed-tonnage pool for the 2021 Season, with pricing undertaken across the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Seasons. This pool aims to target the best return, with some pre-set price triggers.

SELF-MANAGED PRICING

QSL's grower-managed pricing products allow you to make your own pricing decisions, either for the current season or for future seasons. The choices are:

QSL Target Price Contract: Enables Growers to price their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) during the current season and up to three seasons ahead. Features rolling of unfilled orders until April (January for MSF Growers) in the year after crushing commences for the relevant season. Growers using this option can choose an Accelerated Advances



program (up to 90% of the value of their completed pricing by the end of crushing) or the standard QSL Advances program once they have completed their pricing for the season.

QSL Individual Futures Contract:

Enables growers to price their GEI Sugar incrementally during the current season and up to three seasons ahead, with separate pricing decisions for each individual futures position. Pricing is to be completed by April in the year after crushing commences.

Self-Managed Harvest: Growers manage their own production risk by pricing their GEI Sugar tonnage allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool. Participants are responsible for pricing all of their QSL Harvest Pool allocation, with pricing restrictions for 20% of this tonnage to maintain their production buffer. Participants who fail to deliver the tonnage they have priced in this pool are liable for any associated costs.

Please note that the above is the full range of QSL pricing and payment options available for the 2019 Season. Please contact your local QSL representative or visit www.qsl.com.au to confirm the products available in your milling district. Growers should read the relevant Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au before using any QSL pricing or payment product.

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

QSL's Pricing Declaration Date for the coming season is **30 April 2019**. However, Growers in the Bundaberg and Isis milling districts should refer to their miller for their local nomination deadlines.

PRE-CRUSH ADVANCE PAYMENT NOMINATIONS CLOSING

Nominations for the 2019 Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme close **15 March 2019** in preparation for the payment to be made on 29 March 2019. The scheme pays participating growers \$50/tonne of IPS sugar for up to 50% of their 2019-Season estimate, with a finance cost of \$0.60/tonne of IPS sugar applied to their Shared Pool. This payment option is currently only available to growers using the QSL Direct system. For further details, please contact your local QSL representative.



QSL Growers have until next month to finalise their pool nominations for the 2019 Season.

DISCLAIMER:

This Article contains information of a summary nature about QSL's marketing and pricing activities, including key aspects of QSL's pricing pools and offerings. You should not make a decision based on this summary information unless you have read the full Pricing Pool Terms available on QSL's website. Please note that the information in this Article does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL pool/offering selection and pricing. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance. Nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters.

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

There was an electric energy amongst the 200 growers, scientists, soil specialists and ag industry representatives who gathered for the 11th Annual Project Catalyst Forum in Cairns last month.



The grower-led innovation project was initially formed to explore and validate farm management practice change that would improve water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

However, this year the forum turned its attention to soil health - more precisely, understanding how increasing and nurturing soil biology can help reduce inorganic fertiliser application and improve productivity.

The three-day annual event provides an opportunity for growers and their families to mingle with their peers, scientists, industry representatives, project partners, and all manner of experts in a social atmosphere.

This year's welcome function, hosted by Terrain NRM, was more like a family reunion as attendees greeted each other and shared stories over canapés and a drink.

Over the last ten years, Project Catalyst has facilitated hundreds of grower-led trials and encouraged more than 130 cane farmers to adopt higher standards through innovative nutrient application methods, soil health improvements and water quality enhancements.

During the forum, attendees were given an update on some of the trials currently underway across the industry.

ZERO TILL

South Johnstone cane farmer **Adrian Darveniza** was one of the growers sharing his trial data for the first time at this year's event.

Living in the Wet Tropics, the fourth-generation cane farmer knows only too well the effects of heavy rain on both soil and cane.

"We have very friable red soil on a hilly property, and there is a risk it will wash away any time you work it in the wet season," Adrian said.

"A lot of farmers in this district have moved away from planting early, which gives us a 12-month crop at best."

Adrian is comparing late and early plantings as well as zero and minimum tillage in a trial supported by Project Catalyst.

Terrain NRM's Project Catalyst coordinator **Michael Waring** said the Darveniza's trial stood out because of his strong commitment to innovation.

"Adrian didn't work the ground up at all for the soybean fallow crop last year and he has zero tillage sections of the cane crop that followed," he said.

"The trial consists of zero tillage and minimum tillage plant cane that went into the ground in May, and minimum tillage plant cane from a late August planting."

Adrian trialled minimum tillage with a wavy disc cultivator.

"We went down about 3cm to make it that little bit easier to manage," he said.

"We planted the early sections when it was really wet. It rained for about two months before a big dry spell, but the soil seems to have retained its moisture better not having been disturbed and the cane pushed through."

He is hoping the early planting will result in better yields due to the longer crop cycle, as well as time and cost-savings that are already apparent. He is also expecting water quality benefits, with the farm bordering the Johnstone River.

"I'm saving my topsoil and getting a better outcome for water quality – and that's an important bonus," Adrian said.



"With input costs a lot higher these days and with pricing volatile in the sugar cane industry we needed to find alternatives."

Pictured: (left) Grower Sergio Figuera is trialling bio-fertilisers on his Ingham cane farm; (above) More than 200 growers, scientists and other industry stakeholders attended the 2019 Project Catalyst Forum in Cairns from 24-26 February.

"The friable soils here still give us enough soil-to-cane contact with zero or minimum tillage – the soil crumbles easily and lumps that roll back into the small furrow are squashed with the press wheel.

"This wouldn't work for all soil types but it's looking promising in this area and could be explored in other types of soils that aren't compacted and have had a light cultivation."

The trial follows other farming changes on the Darveniza property. These range from cover-cropping and controlled traffic to reducing synthetic nitrogen use in plant crops by 70-90kg/ha through legume cover cropping, and reducing it by 40kg/ha in the rest of the ratoon crop through a sub-surface fertilising system, mill mud application and tailoring nitrogen usage to each block based on the soil and crop needs.

BIO FERTILISERS

Forum attendees also heard results from a bio-fertiliser trial on the Ingham cane farm of Sergio and Sharon Figuera.

The Figuera family began producing bio-fertiliser three years ago in a bid

to increase yield, stem rising costs and improve soil health.

They're now running trials in sandy soils to compare bio-fertiliser and synthetic fertiliser, as well as reduced rates of each and a reduced combined rate.

"With input costs a lot higher these days and with pricing volatile in the sugar cane industry we needed to find alternatives," Sergio said.

"Sharon went to a workshop on bio-fertiliser production and made the first batch, and we've gone from there."

Sergio split one-hectare paddocks into six strips for a three-part trial at three different sites. Outside the trial area, a combination of bio-fertiliser and inorganic fertiliser is used on all of the farm's plant cane and first ratoons, and chemical fertiliser use has reduced from 150kg to 140kg of nitrogen.

He plans to drop that to 130kg next year.

"Over the years we've done a fair bit of damage to the soils by using fertiliser and chemicals and now it's time to wean ourselves off them, steady steady," he said.

► continues page 16

"Our aim is to cut back to a level that's more sustainable and profitable."

Sergio said cane yields hadn't dropped, cane was 'hanging in longer' and he'd noticed a greater resilience to rust. His bio-fertiliser trial follows farming changes including controlled traffic, grassing headlands and drains, and planting legume cover crops.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Building, maintaining and conserving the fertility of soil types globally is one of the biggest challenges to agriculture today. Animal manure, nitrogen-fixing leguminous plants, mulching, composting and crop rotation all play an important role.

University of Queensland researcher, Dr Nicole Robinson, a keynote speaker at this year's Project Catalyst Forum, shared her recent research into sugarcane variety development, understanding plant available nutrients and characterising microbial processes.

Dr Robinson said a major research focus over the last 14 years, has been characterising nitrogen use efficiency in sugarcane and more recently the potential of next-generation fertilisers that repurpose organic wastes and capitalise on biotechnology advances, to tailor nutrient release for crops.

"We feel it is important to show an integrated view at a systems level of our understanding of nutrient cycling. This is one of the strengths of our research group and collaborations, pulling together the detailed studies on soil, plants and microbes," Dr Robinson said.

Andrew Rouse, WWF-Australia Program Manager Sustainable Agriculture, praised innovative growers for their ongoing efforts to not only improve environmental outcomes, but also boost productivity and benefit the industry as a whole.

"Over the last decade grower-led innovations have seen banded mill mud and variable rate fertiliser application, two of the practices pioneered by the project, being more broadly adopted by the industry" he said.

"Many of the practice changes result in productivity improvements that have helped growers to increase their returns against industry trends.



Project Catalyst is a partnership of growers, the Australian Government, WWF, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Natural Resource Management groups, and Bayer Crop Science. ■

Pictured: Growers Phil Deguara (Mackay), Gerry Deguara (Mackay), Ray Zamora (Tully) and Frank Mugica (Burdekin) were presented with gifts in recognition of their innovative farming practices. Pictured with Andrew Rouse (WWF) and Andrew Campbell (Reef Catchments).

FAST FACTS

In 2017, 360 growers participated in project events.

In 2018, more than 1900 people attended 50 Project Catalyst events, like shed talks, field days, workshops and bus tours. All critical to building a grower network focused on positive farm management practice change.



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CANEGROWERS Elections 2019 Update

Ballots will be held to determine board members for five CANEGROWERS district companies for the next three years.

Following a successful call for nominations, QCGO will be running ballots for the Burdekin, Tableland and Bundaberg boards plus the Mackay Area Committee.

Ballot papers will be posted to each member in these districts by 13 March and they are due back with the returning officer by 5pm on 12 April.

Proserpine also requires a vote of members and is running its own ballot process.

All CANEGROWERS members in these districts are being urged to check their mail closely and exercise their right to vote for their preferred candidates.

Nominations for the board of CANEGROWERS Innisfail are now open and will close on the 22 March 2019.

CANEGROWERS can confirm that after nominations were tallied, the following districts received sufficient names to form a board/committee and no election is necessary:

- Mossman
- Cairns Region (covering Babinda and Mulgrave)
- Tully
- Herbert River
- Plane Creek Area Committee
- Isis
- Maryborough
- Rocky Point

The final results of the CANEGROWERS Elections 2019 will be declared on 15 April and the new boards will take office from 1 May 2019. ■

▼ Do you recognise these retiring CANEGROWERS Policy Council members?

Tom Harney and **Drew Watson** have been gifted these quirky caricature keepsakes to thank them for their years of hard work and dedication to the industry. Both Tom and Drew will step down from all representative duties when the Elections 2019 process is finalised. Drew has served on the CANEGROWERS Mossman Board since 1990 while Tom has served on the Tully Board since 1995.

Artist: David Green - www.davidgreen.com.au



Weeds cost farmers millions per day

Invasive weeds are costing Australia's farmers almost \$5 billion per year, or \$13 million each and every day. That's the shocking takeaway from a new report released by the Centre For Invasive Species Solutions.

Across all agricultural sectors, controlling weeds is one of the most costly and time-consuming on-farm operations, with cane farmers alone facing a bill of more than \$70 million annually, CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager **Matt Kealley** said.

"Yield loss from weed competition, combined with the cost of weed control in sugarcane in Australia, has been estimated to exceed \$70 million annually," Mr Kealley said.

"Analysis in 2008 estimated the average value of lost yield due to sub-optimal weed management to be \$338/ha.

"Effective weed management is most important in the early stages of crop development. Weeds compete with sugarcane for light, nutrients and moisture, significantly reducing yields in a relatively short period of time. Implementing a timely, cost-effective weed management strategy is vital to maximise yields.

"Effective weed control until stalk height is at least 10 cm can make an extra \$1400 per hectare total industry income, compared to poor control (based on A\$440 per tonne sugar)."

National Farmers' Federation CEO **Tony Mahar** said the \$4.8 billion figure was

up 20% from the last comprehensive national economic analysis carried out in 2004.

"The cost of weeds to farmers' back pockets is growing and we need smarter, more strategic national investment in research, development and extension solutions to manage them," Mr Mahar said.

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) CEO **Andreas Glanznig** said weed biocontrol was one such example.

"To build on the \$10 billion worth of benefits weed biocontrol RD&E has delivered to agriculture to date, Australia needs a new 10+ year national program to generate an on-going pipeline of biocontrol agents after current key major projects wind up in 2020," Mr Glanznig said.

A more strategic approach is in line with a request by the Federal Government for the CISS to develop a 10-year national investment plan for weeds RD&E, a draft of which is currently open for feedback.

"The new National Weeds RD&E Investment Plan will play a part in unlocking agricultural innovation, a priority in NFF's 2030 Roadmap, a plan for agriculture to achieve \$100 billion in farm-gate output by 2030," Mr Mahar said. ■



Plenty of fertiliser on hand

Supplied by Incitec Pivot

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers says farmers and dealers will be able to obtain their fertiliser requirements for this season's crops and pastures.

The reassurance comes in the wake of the North Queensland floods, which have closed the rail line between Townsville and Phosphate Hill where the company makes ammonium phosphate fertilisers for markets all over the eastern seaboard.

By leveraging its globally diverse supply chain, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers says it now has plenty of fertilisers in stock and more on the way for its distribution facilities around the country.

Trent Cosh, who heads sales and operations in northern Australia, says his team is all set to go to fill customer orders for this season's requirements.

"Our team members are talking to customers regularly to monitor their requirements and we have the necessary products available within our northern distribution network, ready for immediate dispatch," Mr Cosh said.

"We are also encouraging farmers to place orders now with their local dealer, as we still anticipate a very busy season." ■

*Incitec Pivot Fertilisers has plenty of fertilisers to fill farmer orders, shown here by **Shane Hase**, manager of one of the company's distribution centres.*



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A SWEET FUTURE FOR NEXT GEN CANE FARMERS

The cane industry has grown because of the strength of its people. And, as Australian agriculture heads towards greater adoption of innovation and technology to capitalise on global market opportunities, it has perhaps never-before been so important to showcase the diverse career and entrepreneurial potential the industry holds for the next generation.

Next Gen Group was created to support Australia's future cane farmers, encouraging them to pursue careers in agricultural industries such as sugar cane. It provides a pathway for the transfer of knowledge and skills from experienced farmers, while promoting innovative and future-focused primary production.

With more than 200 members spread from Yamba in the south to Mossman in the north, the group holds regular meetings for networking and learning.

In 2019/20, this will include a series of tailored seminars for young farmers across the growing regions of QLD and NSW.

To do this, the Group is covering more than 10,000km to facilitate the forums in the dedicated 'Cane Captiva', a branded vehicle which AustSafe Super/Sunsuper is delighted to support. As a super fund we know the value of planning for the future and are proud to invest in helping to build a strong and prosperous cane industry for generations to come.

For more information visit austsafe.com.au/memberhub or nextgenfarmer.com

AustSafe Super and Sunsuper will merge on 30 March, 2019, when two top performing funds become stronger together as one for rural and regional Australia. Sunsuper is one of the nation's most-awarded superannuation funds, with a profit-for-member model that puts members first, always.

Pictured: (below) Dan Kinnane, AustSafe Super Regional Manager North Queensland with Cane Captiva. (bottom) Next Gen Officer, Gerard Puglisi, presenting at first event for 2019, held Puglisi farm, Whyanbeel via Mossman.



Disclaimer:

Please read the relevant AustSafe Super Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and the "Merger information" at austsafe.com.au before making a decision in relation to the product. Austsafe Pty Ltd ABN 96 010 528 597 AFSL 314183 is the Trustee of AustSafe Super ABN 92 396 191 503. Sunsuper Pty Ltd (Sunsuper) ABN 88 010 720 840 AFSL 228975 is the Trustee of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund ABN 98 503 137 921. For more information on Sunsuper, visit sunsuper.com.au/austsafe-super.

Policy Update

Economics with Warren Males

It's time to talk price risk management

As February turns to March, growers are getting on with their farm activities. In some areas this means cleaning up after floods. Others are spraying to keep weeds under control and some are preparing for planting.

Across the industry most growers are also turning their attention to price risk management activities for the year ahead, as they plan which pool to direct their sugar into for 2019 season pricing.

Because the sugar price is one of the most volatile of all commodity prices, this can be a difficult decision. However, the responses to the questions below may help inform this decision.

- Is the world sugar production and consumption balance in surplus or deficit?
- At what phase of the global surplus/deficit cycle is the market?
- Are sugar prices above or below their long-term average?
- Are forward sugar prices above or below spot prices?

The world sugar market was in surplus for 2017 and 2018 prices. Most commentators are expecting that after two years of surplus, a small deficit will emerge later in 2019 and expand further into 2020.

Spot prices have improved from the lows seen in September last year (see below chart). Prices for the 2019 season are moving towards the long-term average of around A\$420 per m/t and, reflecting the expected deficit, two-year forward prices are higher than spot prices – at levels close to A\$450 per m/t.

As the market transitions from surplus to the expected deficit, there are still some surplus stocks to be consumed before the full impact of the deficit will be felt. This means sugar prices during 2019 season are likely to be choppy. This market volatility could provide pricing opportunities.

The emerging deficit later in the year, if expectations are realised, is likely to support a stronger market and may provide some relatively attractive forward pricing opportunities for future seasons.

At farm level, understanding your cost of production, risk profile and business objectives will help inform your pricing decisions in this volatile sugar market.

In the present market, many growers are considering pricing strategies that give their marketer maximum pricing discretion for the 2019 season and, on the expectation of rising prices, are setting price targets for future seasons that more than cover their production costs.

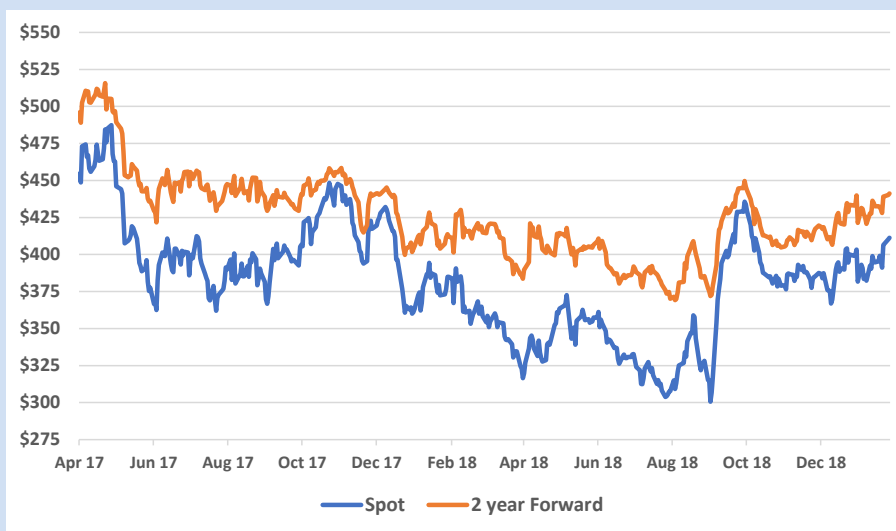
While the sugar price outlook is more constructive than it has been for some time, there are risks.

One is Brazil's expected level of sugar production this year. This is a moving level due to their mills' capacity to switch between sugar and ethanol production. Last year, Brazil produced a record amount of ethanol. The global oil price, Brazil's domestic ethanol policies and the level of sugar prices will influence Brazil's sugar and ethanol production mix. A swing back towards sugar production in response to higher sugar prices may limit the size of any sugar price rally.

To build support for the current constructive market outlook, CANEGROWERS is strongly supporting the formal dispute launched against India in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by Australia and Brazil. We are working closely with industry colleagues in Brazil, Guatemala, Thailand and other members of the Global Sugar Alliance to build a strong coalition of support for the action. ■



Raw Sugar Futures Prices, AUD/t



Industry with Burn Ashburner

EEF60 results not unexpected

The EEF60 (*Support of Cane Farmer Trials of Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser in the Catchments of the Great Barrier Reef*) is a \$7.1 million project funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments.

The project is trialling enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEF's) and measuring their efficacy and environmental impact in comparison to urea when used at different rates and over a range of locations and conditions.

CANEGROWERS has the head agreement, with SRA providing the technical and operational capacity for the project. Extension is being provided by CANEGROWERS Innisfail, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited, Burdekin Productivity Services and Mackay Area Productivity Services.

The first year of harvesting has now been completed and a workshop to discuss the results was held in February. Overall there was little of significance to report.

The response in yield/ha to the different levels of nitrogen in the treatments was minimal. This is not unexpected given that this was the first year of a nitrogen trial when residual N may still be available in the soil from previous applications.

There was also little significant difference between urea treatments and EEF treatments, which again is not unexpected considering the generally dry weather at the start of the 2017/18 season.

Just over 60 trials have been re-established, with 32 in the wet tropics, 15 in the Burdekin, 10 in the central region and five in the southern region. Of these, six sites have water quality monitoring designed to establish the relative water quality impact of the different treatments from the runoff and deep drainage.

At the February meeting, Behaviour Innovation provided a report *Understanding Psychological Barriers and Motivators to the Adoption of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers*. It identified that growers generally believe there is a significant risk associated with EEF's and that the cost/benefits are far from clear.



This is, in fact, the whole reason behind the project - to establish when EEFs are likely to work and when they are not. There's no silver bullet when it comes to balancing nitrogen efficiency, maximising yield and limiting environmental impacts, but we can clear up some of the possible misinformation and uncertainty.

Thanks must go to the participating growers and the research and extension staff who make this project possible. ■



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN KENNY

John Kenny, a cane grower's son who went on to work for CANEGROWERS for more than 36 years in three locations, has passed away aged 90.

On his retirement in 1991, Mr Kenny was CANEGROWERS Executive Officer in Brisbane. A farewell article in the *Australian Canegrower* described him as, "a veritable walking encyclopedia on sugar industry matters".

Mr Kenny grew up in Mossman where his grandfather had been one of the entrepreneurs behind the commissioning of the sugar mill in the 1890s.

After being educated at Nudgee College and spending time working in New South Wales and South Australia, Mr Kenny returned to the sugar industry in Mossman in 1955 to be the local CANEGROWERS Executive Secretary.

Nine years later he moved to Ingham to take up the position of Secretary of the Herbert River executive where he stayed for 12 years.

Mr Kenny helped found the Mossman Cane Growers Co-operative, managed the Herbert River Co-operative and held positions on several mill area committees.

He was elected to the Central Board as a growers' member in 1975 and re-elected six times.

Due to his considerable sugarcane industry knowledge and expertise, he continued in consultancy roles for a number of years after he left CANEGROWERS.

Mr Kenny had three brothers in the sugar industry – a grower Adrian, a chemist Jim and a mill engineer Denis.

He and his wife Gloria have six children. CANEGROWERS sends its condolences to the family. ■

Pictured: John Kenny with his wife Gloria at his 90th birthday celebration in 2018.

Uncovering the value by asking questions



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation

Something my Granddad taught me was to never stop learning. He said read, listen, ask questions and seek answers.

What I took away from this great advice and then taught myself to do, was to keep asking questions to uncover the true reason why something was done the way it was. If I did this, and the answer came back as, "It's because we have always done it that way," then that was the trigger for me to challenge the thinking.

I like to challenge the thinking. Not to point out the problems, but to find a better way of doing things. What I learnt from this ongoing life lesson was that if you're not satisfied by the answer you get from your questions, then ask better questions. And don't just ask the question, listen closely to the answer and find some information to help you clarify what you learned.

In a way, this is what I am doing with membership engagement. I am asking better questions to understand what members value about CANEGROWERS and how we can improve that value. From my review, I believe there are many benefits of being a member of CANEGROWERS. Here are my top three and a bonus:

1. A strong grower focus, supporting a local voice with international reach - CANEGROWERS' strength sits with its members and we are the first port of call for government at all levels for issues relating to sugarcane. When grower voices combine through CANEGROWERS, they have an impact around the state, the nation and the world through memberships and affiliations of various organisations.
2. Negotiating Cane Supply Agreements - CANEGROWERS multiplies the negotiating power of family farmers, seeking the best conditions and terms for you from the sugar milling companies. Expert local teams are backed up by in-house and experienced legal counsel.

3. Tailored insurance solutions - CANEGROWERS provides a quality and comprehensive service, including insurance advice and products broking through qualified professionals located in sugarcane regions. Members have access to an exclusive industry-specific crop insurance product with no broking fees charged to CANEGROWERS members.

Bonus - Information and Insight

Anyone can find information on the internet these days, but CANEGROWERS adds analysis, insight and strategy to this information to support members businesses and improve their profitability.

So here are my questions to you, as a member or prospective member.

1. What's most important to you about your business?
2. Does CANEGROWERS support that need?
3. If you could change one thing about your business, what would that be?
4. How can CANEGROWERS support you with that change?
5. How are you taking advantage of the opportunities provided by CANEGROWERS?

In the end, it comes down to risk. If the risk is low, can you see any reason not to be a member of CANEGROWERS?

If you have considered these questions, I would be interested in hearing from you, as I am always keen to learn and find better ways of doing things. Please email matt_keally@canegrowers.com.au or call the Brisbane office on (07) 3864 6444. ■



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* 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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John Deere 7260R 2012 model 2600 hours IVT transmission green star ready, good condition \$172,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0408 457 281.

JD 6300 fwd air cab 90 hp good running condition as new tyres new ac compressor, must be sold \$22,000 + GST. All reasonable offers considered. Cairns area. Ph: 0409 484 178.

7 TYNE RIPPER with hard faced legs & hydraulic crumble roller. Good condition. \$4500 + GST. 2017 STEINBAURER power enhancement module & wiring harness. 230055 model. Suit John Deere 7R & 8R series tractors with 9 litre tier 4. \$900 + GST. Ph: 0408 728 072 (Tully).

1 of 13-6-24 tractor tyre. 2 of 16-9-30 tractor tyres. Best offer. Ph: 0488 633 777.

2005 JD 6620 7310HRS Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul Tyres 90% Ideal for billet planter. Ph: 0407 162 514.

Herbert River-Burdekin

New Holland TM155 2004 model with a 14T carter tipper, twin doors, 1997 model. John Deere 7730 2007 model with a 14T carter tipper, twin doors, 1997 model. POA. Ph: Joe 0429 652 050.

New Holland G170. Super steer, new engine, very good condition. Ph: 0407 167 716.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–March
	25.02.19	04.03.19		
Mossman	62	46	1110	1371
Mareeba AP	23	1	487	633
Cairns	93	41	1204	1260
Mt Sophia	47	107	1275	1824
Babinda	0	0	0	2173
Innisfail	23	76	1070	1763
Tully	24	56	754	2088
Cardwell	51	60	1139	1302
Lucinda	209	31	1698	1258
Ingham	125	91	2012	1195
Abergowrie	10	61	1188	1079
Townsville	9	2	1457	747
Ayr DPI	25	0	730	594
Proserpine	14	35	907	787
Mirani	66	34	903	902
Mackay	2	53	471	849
Sarina (Plane Ck)	20	30	905	1028
Bundaberg	0	6	65	431
Childers South	0	8	20	330
Maryborough	0.6	9	43	494
Tewantin	9	15	57	691
Eumundi	0	0	71	709
Nambour	3	22	107	715
Woongoolba	8	30	57	491
Murwillumbah	12	42	96	641
Ballina	52	12	82	591
Woodburn	9	3	17	491



**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.

John Deere 7510 including 1500l front tank and 1800l GoldAcres Spray tank with 20m boom; Ford 8970 Tractor; 32 plate disc; Grizzly Rippers; 1 tonne bag lifter; 2 x 2 row grubbers for 1.8m drill centres; Louevelle Prime Mover with low loader. Ph: Gary 0429 488 077.

2010 Case 8800 Full Track. 9,900 hours. Good Condition. POA. Ph: 0407 636 055.

John Deere 6630. 2012 1600 hrs. Surplus to requirements. Has creeper gears. Not power shift. Quick hitch and hydraulic top link. \$75,000 + GST. Home Hill. Ph: 0409 481 269.

Billet Planting Equipment. Toft 6000. Bonel Billet Planter. 2x 4T HBM Tippers. Ph: 0429 772 726.

Mackay-Proserpine

Complete Planting Unit: Moller Contractor billet planter. Dual feed. MF 305 Cane Harvester. Rear tipper bin. Good condition. \$40,000 + GST. Ph: Robert 0427 597 254.

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).

NEW HOLLAND TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., KUBOTA M135X-DC 4WD, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$44,000 Inc., KUBOTA M7040 4WD, 70hp 120hrs, c/w Front End Loader 2yr warranty \$43,800 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643.

3 metre kuhn day rotarty hoe. NF105 harvester parts for sale. Ph: 0428 367 078.

2 x Bob Smith 6 tonne single side tippers coupled to Ford 8401 tractors. High flotation 23.1.30 tyres, led lights and own hydraulics on bins. Murphy gauges fitted to tractors. Good condition. Will separate. \$29,000 ONO. International 766. 100hp. 20.8.38 rears. Dual remotes. Good condition. Lights rego. Good paint. \$7,000 + GST. Ph: 0407 769 703.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, Trimble GPS, Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors, Standard Chopper, 2 speed wheel motors, Pro Rata Engine Warranty. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428 182 464.

McLeod 6ft slasher \$2,000 + GST. Galvanised

stock crate \$3,000 + GST. Curly tyre grubber \$500 + GST. Crichton rake \$300 + GST. Ph: 0429 969 549.

Complete cane transport system, Inc. 4 of 8x4 1999 Volvo FL10 Hydraulic Tippers with cane crates, 360HP, 14 Speed Gearbox. 1 x Cane siding Transloader. Handles 4 to 12 ton bins and Hydraulic bin spotter. 1 x 40 KVA Generator, 3 Phase Power Plant. Price \$330,000 inc GST. 2010 Case 8000 Harvester. Ready 2019 Season. \$220,000 inc GST. 2010 JD 3520 Harvester. Ready 2019 Season. Rebuilt Engine. \$275,000 inc GST. Email: gregcal@mackay.net.au. Ph: 0408738611.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Silven 500kg Spreader, very good order, \$450. 3ft Bare PTO Shaft, New, \$75. Ph: 0402 085 833.

Wanted

800Lt Silvan or Hardi Spray Tank Unit. Ph: 0488 633 777.

Vicon fertilizer spreader, 3 point linkage. Ph: 0427 237 087.

3.5 metre rotary hoe. Ph: 0428 367 078.

Massey Ferguson 35X. Ph: 0439 591 455.

Property

92 acre lifestyle block, ex cane, cane ground was approx 65 acres, 3 bed house shed, power, water, 3 phase, landline, underground for irrigation, property runs along the Pioneer River located Mia Mia/Pinevale area Mirani Mackay. Suit persons wanting extra cane ground or a hobby farm \$550,000. Ph: 07 4959 1008.

Babinda area. 125 acres. Over 4,000 tonne average past 6 years. Fully equipped with crop, town water. \$420,000. Ph: 0407 364 012.

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. Qlder style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

HOME BUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm for sale Mackay region. 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This year's crop, machinery shed with 3 phase power and water, tractor,

irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil, no rocks. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses on the farm main house is fully airconed and has a large swimming pool. Ph: 0400 794 857.

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 6kms 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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Bill and William, Proserpine



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