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COVER IMAGE: Gympie growers Natalie and Craig Mellor are seizing every opportunity on farm to plug income gaps. Read more on page 12.

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Blaming farmers will not help the Reef

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

As this edition goes to print, the State Government is once again preparing to wield the big stick of environmental legislation against Queensland's cane growers.

By the time you read this column, the deeply flawed and unfair Reef Bill will most likely have passed through parliament unamended despite the concerns raised by hundreds of cane farmers and months of lobbying by state and district CANEGROWERS representatives.

To say that we are deeply disappointed is an understatement.

This Bill, which will do nothing to protect the Reef, will undoubtedly have a negative impact on our industry at a time when we're already under immense pressure from low world sugar prices and drought-like conditions.

And for what? So that politicians can shore up their credentials with green-leaning voters.

There's no sugar-coating it, this is a big blow to growers. However, it's important at times like these to remember that we have a strong industry, with a long and proud heritage. We have weathered many storms during our 150-year history and we'll weather this one too.

It's also important that we continue to prove this government wrong by loudly and proudly proclaiming the wonderful advances in innovation and farming practices that Queensland's cane growers have made over the past two decades.

Media reports claiming cane farmers are damaging the Reef offer a false representation of what is actually happening in the cane fields of Australia's sugar industry.

Cane farmers are champions of land management and sustainability – not environmental vandals out to make a buck at the expense of our resources. Taking care of the land is in our DNA.

Currently there are no less than 50 interactive projects underway across the industry involving the collaboration of cane growers. These projects range in nature from water quality monitoring to soil health,

nutrient management planning, and runoff prevention.

Farmers by their very nature are curious about the interactions of soil, cropping, water and land. In recent years we have come to understand that these resources are the engine room of our environmental and economic sustainability.

One of the facts that our detractors and the activists fail to realise is that in today's environment, the sustainability and economic drivers are now aligned.

In simple terms, cane growers have come to understand that investment in innovation and technology to keep herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers on the farm, represents the most economic outcome for farmers and the community.

That is why we will continue to oppose environmental regulation, as it just gets in the way of farmers engaging in innovation and technology to optimise the use of inputs such as chemicals and fertilisers.

With the State election just one year away, CANEGROWERS will be calling on any incoming government to commit to repealing this unjust and unnecessary Reef Bill and instead, to continue working with growers to further the already great strides we have taken as an industry. ■



"It's important at times like these to remember that we have a strong industry, with a long and proud heritage. We have weathered many storms during our 150-year history and we'll weather this one too."

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Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dry year taking its toll on Queensland's crop

Most of Queensland's sugarcane districts are well behind their annual average rainfall for the January to September period.

As the cane harvest passes the halfway mark and sugar production for the 2019 season looks set to be below last year's, 4.3 million tonnes, rainfall figures explain the story.

Only the Mossman district and regions between Lucinda and Proserpine have had above average rainfall for the year so far. Mackay and Sarina are close to average.

In the far north, areas around Babinda and Tully are up to 1000mm or a third of their average rainfall in deficit.

The story is much worse from Bundaberg south into the New South Wales cane districts where rainfall figures for 2019 are as much as 65% behind the average.

In Queensland's most southern district of Rocky Point, growers are not only battling the dry weather but also continual mill breakdowns.

"We got 7mm last night, but that was the first rain we've had since 7 July," CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Chairman **Richard Skopp** said.

"Overall we're about 450mm behind for the year and that's resulted in the crop only being about 60% of what it should be.

"Thankfully the CCS has picked up a bit in recent weeks, so we're hopeful we'll get good sugar for the rest of the harvest.

"That's assuming the mill keeps crushing, which is a big if at the minute. We're lucky if we're crushing two or three days a week."

A full table of rainfall figures from the Bureau of Meteorology is on page 24. ■

Pictured: drought-affected cane in the Rocky Point district.

"Overall we're about 450mm behind for the year and that's resulted in the crop only being about 60% of what it should be."



LIQUAFORCE ADDS ANOTHER TOOL TO THE TOOLBOX WITH CHT COLLABORATION

LiquaForce is proud to have been delivering liquid fertiliser solutions to east coast sugar cane farmers for more than a decade – and now the team are going one step further, teaming up with CHT Australia, the producers of Gypsum alternative, Aqua-Sil.

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CANEGROWERS blasts political point-scoring as **REEF BILL SET TO BECOME LAW**

As this issue of *Australian Canegrower* went to print, the Queensland Parliament was poised to pass into law an unchanged Reef Bill giving the State Government significant new powers. Simultaneously, moves were underway in Canberra to set up an inquiry into the evidence underpinning the state's regulatory approach.

CANEGROWERS has strongly opposed the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* since it was first introduced in February.

It is an affront to the thousands of growers who have and are changing their farm practices and taking responsibility for building sustainable, resilient and profitable businesses that take account of any risks to the Great Barrier Reef.

However, despite hundreds of growers attending public hearings, thousands of signatures on petitions, months of lobbying by CANEGROWERS and attempts by the Liberal National Party to amend the Bill, it was set to be passed into legislation unamended.

While the Environment Minister **Leeanne Enoch** made statements about providing concessions, none were reflected in the Bill which included:

- Powers for the public service to change minimum cane farming standards in the future without taking into account the effect on the farming systems they relate to;
- Powers for government to demand from agronomists, extension officers, sugar mills and fertiliser resellers, information about farms;
- The extension of regulations into southern growing regions; and
- New assessment and approval processes for land being developed for cane production.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** expressed the extreme disappointment of growers.

"This Bill was more about political points for the Palaszczuk Government and to satisfy green-leaning voters than it was

about coastal agriculture and securing a sustainable future alongside the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"While this Bill feels like a kick in the guts, I urge CANEGROWERS members to remain proud of their industry.

"Away from Queensland's state political stage, CANEGROWERS work in the international market has shown that our practices align to the most stringent sustainability standards and our sugar is keenly sought by buyers."

"This Bill was more about political points for the Palaszczuk Government and to satisfy green-leaning voters than it was about coastal agriculture and securing a sustainable future alongside the Great Barrier Reef."

In Parliament, Broadwater MP **David Crisafulli**, explained his father's use of technology to reduce fertiliser and chemical use on the family cane farm to show how the sugarcane industry had and is changing.

Mr Crisafulli echoed CANEGROWERS view that continued collaboration, not the big stick of legislation and regulation, is the key to reducing farm impacts on the environment.

"Improvements are needed by working together, not by pitting farmer against

community and, above all, not by allowing an unelected bureaucrat to determine how farming and the environment can go hand in hand," he said.

REGULATION

CANEGROWERS will continue to stand up for Queensland's sugarcane growers as the regulations under the legislation's powers are finalised, proud of the efforts of growers to work towards both productivity and sustainability outcomes.

With a nod to the concerted efforts of the agricultural sector, in her speech to parliament Ms Enoch outlined some draft concessions in the regulations.

These included a commitment to not change the farming standards for five years once they are imposed under regulation, a change to the threshold at which new environmental approvals would be needed for farm developments and no regulation at this stage around data gathering (although the power remained in the legislation).

SENATE INQUIRY

On the day the debate began in Brisbane, the Federal Parliament was also focused on the Great Barrier Reef with a motion moved by Queensland Senator **Susan McDonald** to set up an inquiry into the evidence behind the Queensland Government's regulatory approach to Reef water quality improvement.

The motion was passed and the inquiry is due to report in October 2020, the same month the next Queensland state election is due. It is unclear what impact any Senate inquiry findings would have on any future State Government policies but the inquiry will provide an ideal opportunity for all parties affected by this critical issue to have their say. ■

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

40,806 tonnes of cane was processed through Mossman Mill in Week 15, ending 14 September.

Coastal growers supplied a total of 26,432 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.13 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied a total of 14,374 tonnes for a mill average of 14.79 CCS.

Very dry conditions continue around the district with most areas receiving less than half the average rainfall for August.

With this extended dry period we remind growers to stay vigilant around any cane or trash burning they are doing and ensure they comply with the Cane Burning Notification.

INNISFAIL

MSF Sugar has advised that repairs to its No.2 Boiler at South Johnstone Mill is progressing with hydro testing now completed. Investigations are still underway to determine what caused the boiler to explode.

As at 15 September South Johnstone had crushed 585,228 tonnes, 46% of the forecast estimate. The daily CCS improved over the past two weeks and is now in the mid 13's. However, with the lack of steam with No.2 boiler out of action, there has been an impact on the pan stage and processing slowed as a result. The seasonal average is 12.21. Crushing is still expected to finish 21 November.

Dry conditions have been experienced in recent weeks although overnight temperatures have been unseasonably cool. Planting operations are in full swing although some growers are concerned that the drier conditions could continue and impact on the new plantings.

TULLY

There has been no rainfall to date in Tully for September and the dry conditions have resulted in the sugar content of the cane reaching 14 for the first time this season. While this is a unit below the record levels seen last season, the seasonal average CCS is rising rapidly and is currently 12.82 or around the long term seasonal average. While dry conditions are good for harvest, fire danger is high and last week there was a significant fire that resulted in accidental burning of standing cane and trash blanket.

The crop estimate is now under 2.3 million tonnes or 79 tonnes per ha, well below average and recent seasons. With less than 850,000 tonnes to harvest and crush, it should be an early finish for Tully Mill this year.

BURDEKIN

As of Week 15 (ending 14 September), the Burdekin mills had passed the 60% mark of the 2019 crushing season. Crushing has now caught up to budget after losing 143 hours to bad weather earlier in the season.

Burdekin mills crushed 396,252 tonnes during Week 14, despite a scheduled stop at Kalamia. This was the highest weekly throughput so far this season. 378,790 tonnes were crushed the following week, which included a scheduled stop at Pioneer and Invicta's A side. Inkerman, Kalamia and Pioneer have now exceeded the one million tonnes of cane crushed for the season.

The highest CCS samples for weeks 14 and 15 were 18.6 and 18.8 respectively from rakes of Q240 third ratoon from the Invicta area. Average weekly CCS of 15.64 was recorded in Week 15, with a season-to-date CCS of 14.5. In Week 15, Q240 continues to be the highest supplied variety at 41%, followed by Q183 at 18%. On a district basis Q183 achieved 15.99 CCS followed by Q240 at 15.71. All of the major varieties recorded over 15 CCS in Week 15.

HERBERT RIVER

In the 10th week of the crushing season the mills are on track to hit 202,184 tonnes with Victoria Mill crushing 137,611 tonnes and Macknade 64,573 tonnes. There was a choke at Macknade and issues with the shredder controls which reduced Thursday's crush to only 5,000 tonnes and reduced loading in the HBT on Friday to 26,000. Victoria Mill held a maintenance day on Tuesday. The indicative rate for CCS is an average of 13.6 for the week.

In the 11th week the mills crushed 208,407 tonnes - 141,769 tonnes at Victoria and 66,639 tonnes at Macknade which had a maintenance day on Wednesday due to a choke. This took a number of hours to dig out so the mill decided to bring forward the caustic boil and routine maintenance. Victoria Mill had a maintenance day on Wednesday also.

An increase in the crushing rate has been achieved through better bin weights and plant cane. CCS has continued to improve with the cooler weather. The indicative rate for CCS is an average of 14.1 for the week so far. The variety Q208 is still leading the way at 25% of cane delivered to the mills.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River has recognised Fred White for being involved as executive at the Stone River Branch for 52 years and Sam Torrisi as Chairman of the Stone River Branch for past 30 years.

PROSERPINE

Proserpine Mill passed the halfway mark of its 2019 crush on 11 September. Another 171,845 tonnes have been crushed since the last update bringing the season-to-date total to just over 830,000 tonnes.

Weekly CCS continues to exceed 14 units lifting the season-to-date average to 13.50. The highest CCS sample was 17.14 from a rake of fourth ratoon Q208 from the Kelsey Creek Productivity District. Despite the persistent dry weather, average bin weights have exceeded 9.4 tonnes for the past few weeks.

Growers are nearing completion of this year's planting and are now focusing on irrigation activities.

PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill crushed just under 70,000 tonnes of cane for the week ended 14 September, the highest weekly throughput so far this season. It brought the season total to more than 740,000 tonnes. Average CCS is 13.86 for the season, while average bin weight is 3.97 tonnes. The weather conditions remain favourable for harvesting with no rain forecast for the near future. The highest CCS for the week ended 14 September was 17.4 units from a rake of Q208 PLT in the Carmila productivity district.

ANNUAL RURAL SAFETY FOR CHILDREN FIELD DAY

The Sarina Showgrounds was the venue for this year's Rural Safety for Children Field Day on 17 September, sponsored by CANEGROWERS Mackay, Wilmar, Mackay Sugar and a wide range of organisations which are all members of the Rural Safety Working Group for Mackay/Plane Creek.

In short presentations at a number of different stations, the primary school children visiting from a number of schools in the area were informed about all aspects of safety including farm safety, tractor safety, railway track safety, rural fire safety, quadbike safety and personal safety. (Pictured right top) John Tait from Wilmar Sugar with Sam the Cane Train talking about cane harvesting safety. Children were given show bags (pictured right bottom) with a rural safety workbook featuring fun quizzes and colouring-in projects to complete.

Sugar industry representatives joined representatives from the Mackay Regional Council, Rural Fire Service, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and a number of government departments and utilities in hosting the day.

BUNDABERG

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 76,071 tonnes for the week ending 14 September (Week 11). This brings the season-to-date total to 832,746 tonnes. The average CCS for the week was 15.62, bringing the season average to 14.30 CCS. The highest individual CCS was 18.10 units for Q240 OR cane in the Bingera area.

The four major varieties supplied for Week 11 were Q240, accounting for 33.18% of supply with a CCS average of 15.81 units, followed by Q208 - 17.33% and 15.66 CCS, KQ228 - 14.99% and 15.36 CCS, and Q238 - 10.94% and 14.88 CCS.

MACKAY

For the week ending 15 September the three Mackay district mills had together crushed a total of 2,729,954 tonnes of cane. The total for the week was 227,053 tonnes with a CCS of 14.92 (year to date CCS is 13.14).

Individual mills recorded the following for the week ended 15 September:

- Farleigh - 67,057 tonnes
- Marian - 93,386 tonnes
- Racecourse - 66,609 tonnes



Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

The Isis Mill processed 59,277 tonnes of cane during Week 9. Based on the current estimate, which remains steady at around one million tonnes, the halfway milestone was also surpassed during that week. As at the end of Week 10, the year-to-date throughput was at 557,030 tonnes. The average weekly CCS climbed to reach 15.00 units during Week 9 and the year-to-date CCS also rose to 14.26 units. Week 10 saw the weekly average CCS at 15.35, with the year-to-date figure still rising at 14.36 units. The sweetest sample for Week 9 came from a Burnett River grower who recorded 17.66 units of CCS from the cane variety KQ228 Autumn Plant. A North Bundaberg grower had the highest CCS in Week 10 with a CCS recorded of 17.61 for Q240 First Ratoon.

Harvesting Best Management Practices continues to be the focus across the harvesting sector. Research indicates that in the past there had been a tendency to increase harvesting hourly throughput when crop size declines. Recording equipment suggest that for the 2019 season, harvester cleaning chamber hourly volumes on a whole have not increased even when poorer crops were harvested. These simple changes will ensure that all stakeholders will benefit from healthier ratoons that will have a longer life cycle.

Conditions unfortunately have remained very dry across the region which has increased the risk of accidental fire. Fire danger has reached the extreme stage in the past weeks and a total fire ban is in place at the time of writing. Growers are reminded to be fire ready by checking their own firefighting equipment. Having tanks full of water and ready to go can make a substantial difference if an accidental outbreak occurs. Growers should also re-establish fire breaks immediately after harvest.

MARYBOROUGH

As of Week 8, 339,919 tonnes or approximately 54% of the estimated crop has been crushed for an average, season-to-date CCS of 13.71. Maryborough Mill experienced its first major issue of the season earlier this month, with a roller in Number 2 mill breaking. Fortunately, a spare was on hand and only two days of crushing time were lost. The break in harvesting didn't go to waste, providing mill workers and harvesting crews with an opportunity for some routine maintenance work.

The weather conditions are very dry and despite forecasts for thunderstorms, the likelihood of good rain remains low. Growers are facing difficult decisions on whether to plant or hold off. Watering is being done where possible.

Don't forget the demonstration sessions at Isaac Schmidt's farm on 25 and 26 September. Contact the office for more details.

ROCKY POINT

As at 14 September 2019 (Week 7) the mill has crushed 71,268 tonnes at an average CCS of 12.45. The Rocky Point crush continues to be hampered by boiler tube issues at the cogeneration plant, which usually halts the crush by two to three days each time a boiler tube needs repairing.

The weather conditions are extremely dry, windy and dusty and the area is desperate for rain. The crop is stressed and planting has been hampered by the dry conditions. The overall estimate has dropped by 10% and will continue to fall away if there is no rain soon. The latest Harvest Report has the crop estimate at 212,000 and 7.8 weeks to go, which would take the end of season to the middle of November. Time will tell if this can be achieved.

Money Matters

with Sunsuper

WHAT VALUE DO AUSTRALIANS PLACE ON FINANCIAL ADVICE IN A POST-ROYAL COMMISSION ENVIRONMENT?

Sunsuper has released its report confirming the value of financial advice with research showing that 80% of Australians believe financial advice had given them more peace of mind and 77% believe advice had helped them feel better prepared for retirement.

The research, conducted by CoreData on Sunsuper's behalf, follows three everyday Australian households at various stages of retirement and highlights the financial and lifestyle benefits of financial advice.

Also highlighted in the report, 75% of people believed the advice they received was more than worth the cost, and 72% feel they have a better understanding of what to expect in retirement.

Sunsuper's Head of Advice and Retirement Anne Fuchs says that while findings from the Banking Royal Commission shone a light on the damage and impact poor financial advice results in, Sunsuper's Value of Advice report highlights that great financial advice can truly change people's lives for the better.

"Financial advice provided by trustworthy experts with their clients' best interests at heart contributes significantly to the financial wellbeing and retirement preparedness of a vast number of Australians."

"We know that some clients often struggle to appreciate the benefits of financial advice and in turn, can lead them to question the upfront investment in great financial advice."

"Our research validates the value of the service we provide to clients in helping them achieve their best possible retirement."

To download a full copy of the report, go to sunsuper.com.au/valueofadvice

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Welcome to Welcome Creek

A NEW HOME FOR SRA

Sugarcane research has a new home in the Southern Region, following the official opening of the SRA research station at Welcome Creek on 29 August.



Growers, millers and stakeholders from across the region and the industry attended the open day, marking the first major event for the new research station.

"The station is the new home for our research and adoption staff for the Southern Region, and completes the transition from SRA's former facilities at Ashfield Road, Bundaberg," SRA CEO **Neil Fisher**, said. "The open day was a chance to view these facilities, meet with the local research and adoption staff and to hear more about how SRA is delivering outcomes for our investors. It was also a chance for industry to meet with the SRA Board."

Mr Fisher said the move to the new site positioned SRA to continue to deliver on the long-term needs of growers and millers across the Bundaberg, Childers and Maryborough growing areas.

"We have built modern facilities that will enable SRA to continue to deliver services in agronomy, entomology, extension and adoption, pathology and other vital industry requirements," Mr Fisher said.

"The research station has been established to modern and best practice standards, including the installation of lateral-move overhead irrigators.

"This precision equipment allows SRA to deliver quality trial results and research, leading to optimum outcomes for growers and millers."

Mr Fisher said the move to the new site was necessary because of increasing urban encroachment on the Ashfield Road site on the edge of Bundaberg. The previous station's location had been rezoned as 'emerging communities' and it had become increasingly difficult for SRA to conduct research activities on the site. The new 56-hectare station allows SRA to establish for the long-term.

Ahead of the Open Day, the SRA Board and Research Funding Panel met with investors and stakeholders from across the Southern Region. The trip included on-farm visits to the **Petersen** family's farm near Hervey Bay, **Greensill Farming** at Wallaville, and the **Cayley** family at Alloway.

All three growers are experimenting with innovative farm practices to keep their farms profitable and sustainable, especially as they face challenging circumstances around low prices, drought and competition from other crops. The trip was an opportunity to hear about some exciting innovations occurring in the region's cane industry. ■

Pictured: (Above) Ashley Petersen welcomes the Board and RFP. (Below) Dean Cayley shows the Board and RFP planting material being grown from one-eye setts.



Act now to use QSL in 2020

Time is running out for growers in the Mackay, Tully and Wilmar milling districts to choose QSL as their marketer for next season, with 2020-Season marketing nominations closing on 31 October 2019.

In the lead-up to this important deadline, QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer **Greg Beashel** will visit these districts to provide an overview of QSL's new services and products and an update into the current sugar market.

"We appreciate that it's a busy time of the year, but choosing your marketer is an important decision so we want to make sure all growers have the opportunity to ask questions and get the information they need to make an informed decision," Mr Beashel said.

"Growers using QSL then have until 30 April next year to finalise their pricing and payment options, so there's plenty of time to weigh their options once that nomination is in place."

Mr Beashel said the update sessions were open to all growers, regardless of their preferred marketer.

Session details are:

LOCATION	DETAILS
PROSERPINE	5pm Monday 23 September Metropole Hotel, Proserpine RSVP to Karen on 0429 804 876
PLANE CREEK	4pm Tuesday 24 September Sarina RSL, Sarina RSVP to Kathy on 0437 645 342
MACKAY	6pm Wednesday 25 September 2019 Souths Leagues Club, Mackay RSVP to Sonia on 0418 978 120
TULLY	6pm Monday 30 September 2019 Senior Citizens Hall, Tully RSVP to Dan on 0429 660 238
HERBERT RIVER	6.30pm Wednesday 9 October 2019 Ingham Bowls Club, Ingham RSVP to James on 0447 062 213
BURDEKIN	6.30pm Thursday 10 October 2019 Burdekin Sports Club Hall, Ayr RSVP to Kristen on 0438 470 235

HARRIET JOINS MACKAY TEAM

QSL has welcomed a new face to its Grower Services team, with **Harriet McLennan** joining the business as Grower Relationship Manager for the Mackay, Plane Creek and Proserpine districts.

Harriet is an experienced agribusiness professional, who for the past decade has worked in banking and finance, assisting growers from Mackay to Mossman.

Based in QSL's Mackay office, she's looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and helping more Mackay growers discover the benefits of Marketing Choice.

"I'm from a farming family, so agriculture is in my blood and is something that I'm passionate about," she said.

"With the 2020-Season marketing nominations in the Mackay, Plane Creek and Proserpine districts closing next month, I'm really keen to chat to local growers about how they can make the most of QSL's pricing and payment options."

To book a chat with Harriet, call **0409 830 554**.



DISCLAIMER:

These articles contain information of a general or summary nature only and should not be relied on to make any pricing or pool selection decisions. This information does not constitute financial or investment advice, and growers should seek their own independent advice before making any such decisions, in addition to reading the full Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should anything in relation to these articles be taken to include representations as to future matters.

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- Industry-owned
- No margins or mark-ups
- Multiple pricing & payment options
- Dedicated support team

Mackay, Tully & Wilmar districts

Don't miss your chance to use QSL in the 2020 Season – lodge your marketing nomination by **31 October 2019**.



Proudly serving the Queensland sugar industry for nearly a century

Trash offers lifeline in tough times

by Wayne Griffin

They say desperate times call for desperate measures and for Queensland's cane farmers times are certainly grim at present. With drought-like conditions slashing crop estimates and the world sugar price in the toilet thanks to India's export subsidies, it's become increasingly difficult for cane farmers to make ends meet. But resilient growers are doing what they can to boost their farm incomes.

For some growers, alternative crops and cash fallows are helping plug the income gaps while others are looking to do more with what they already have on farm, like cane trash, to keep their business afloat.

"It is common practice in the Maryborough region for growers to bale trash off areas they are going to fallow, but we've definitely seen an increase in growers baling and selling trash off ratoon blocks as well recently," says Maryborough Cane Productivity Services Senior Agronomist and Smartcane BMP Facilitator, Yolande Kliese.

"It's not necessarily something they want to do but it's a sign of the difficult economic position they're facing at the moment that they feel they need to do it. Plus, there is an increased market at the moment with drought-affected graziers chasing any feed they can.

"Not that cane mulch is the best feed source for livestock, but it is a source of roughage that they can eat. Growers are baling trash greener to try to improve the feed value as much as possible for the people using it as livestock feed rather than mulch."

Trash blanketing has long been established as one of the simplest and most effective weapons in a grower's arsenal when it comes to combating nutrient and sediment run-off, while also helping control weeds, retain moisture and boost overall soil health. So, it's hardly surprising that growers are only removing some of this vital resource as a last resort.

Gympie cane growers **Natalie and Craig Mellor** are prime examples of the industry's many reluctant balers.

Big believers in operating their farm in line with industry best practice, the husband-wife team has been gradually working towards Smartcane BMP accreditation and is also involved with MSF Sugar's Project Uplift program.

That's why Craig finds the decision to bale and sell his trash particularly galling.

"If I'm honest, I never really agreed with baling trash, so I feel like a bit of a hypocrite now," he says. "But there are other factors involved."

In addition to the low sugar price, Craig and Natalie have recently purchased a second farm that remains under lease for the 2019



season. They're also in the process of installing a new centre pivot.

"It is what it is and there's no use whinging about it, but the cost involved, added to the low sugar price and the fact we're not getting a crop off that farm this season, well, it's a big factor in why we've decided to bale," Craig says.

"I love cane farming - it's a lifestyle and that's what I love about it. I also like doing my bit to improve the soil, improve our practices, be innovative where we can.

"What I don't love is doing things simply for the money, but with times the way they are, you do what you have to do to pay the bills."

In addition to supplying garden mulch for the local market (something he'll continue doing with trash from his 40 hectares of annual fallow), Craig expects to ship over 3,000 bales to drought-stricken cattle properties in the state's west.

"In all honesty, it's a lot of work I'd rather we didn't have to do. We get a contract baler in, but then we've got to move it all off the paddock and load trucks, sometimes up to four a day, with the average truck taking an hour and a half to load. That's over half your day gone."

It's not all negative, though. While Craig would rather maintain his trash blanket, he's grateful for the ability to supplement the farm income. Also, he's happy he can help out his fellow farmers, many of whom are enduring even worse times than he is.

"The only upside to it, apart obviously from helping us out financially, is the guys ringing up looking for bales are absolutely desperate for feed to keep their cattle going. I spoke to one guy who was knocking over Prickly Pear for the cows to eat," Craig said.

"Don't get me wrong, if they rang up tomorrow and said 'we've had ten inches of rain, we don't need any more', I'd be more than happy to stop, but as it stands they need the feed and we need the income."

It's not just established practices like trash blanketing that may fall foul of the current poor economic climate. Innisfail's Smartcane BMP Facilitator **Deb Telford** says financial concerns are making many growers think twice before undertaking any new, innovative farming practices.

"Times are tough all over and what we're seeing is that for many growers, especially smaller growers who may not necessarily have a great deal of capital behind them, they're taking fewer risks when making farm management decisions," Deb says.

"Making a change, even if it's something designed to improve income or productivity, is often seen as being risky.

"It's seen as a safer option to continue to do what they do and predict cash-flow based on what they know rather than take a gamble on something new.

"But there are many practical ways growers can boost productivity and reduce their overheads, often without incurring large debt or spending huge sums of money.

"It's times like these that seeking assistance from a trusted advisor can help reduce the risk of changes to farm management practices."

In Maryborough, Yolande Kliese understands only too well the concerns of the farmers she works with.

"It's a catch 22 - yield is down because of low rainfall, prices are down because of a market surplus, so growers bale trash to make ends meet," she says.

"But this is not the first time the cane industry has been through tough times and growers are experienced at managing their businesses through these difficulties.

"They're very good at improving efficiencies and implementing ways to reduce costs of production in times like this.

"For example, some growers are currently looking at installing variable speed drive pumps to reduce costs of irrigating. Others, like Craig and Natalie, are installing low pressure overhead irrigation to boost productivity while cutting costs.

"It is in times like these that people are looking to control and reduce any costs as well as increase income, such as through selling trash.

"I completely understand where they're coming from, but I'd encourage them to leave at least 30% of the trash blanket in place on ratoon blocks and to continue making changes that will improve not just their soil health, but improve their productivity and, ultimately, their bottom line." ■



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Rainfed agriculture is an imperfect science in which variability in rainfall leads to great uncertainty for farmers - too much rain can result in reduced productivity, whereas drought can lead to total crop failure.

Other methods of irrigation, such as flood, are also proving unsustainable in the face of global water shortages and the increase in water and energy prices.

While there are other efficient water-use technologies on the Australian irrigation market, they require a substantial upfront investment, rely on filtered water and are subject to very high seasonal energy consumption and maintenance costs.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Created specifically to address the gap between efficient irrigation and the high cost of achieving it, N-Drip is the first and only micro-irrigation system that uses no external energy source, relying solely on gravity to propel the water from source to crop.

The core technology behind the solution is a groundbreaking, IP-protected dripper, which delivers uniform irrigation directly to the root zone of crops, in the exact quantities required.

The ideal complement to rainfed agriculture, N-Drip provides an instant response to periods without rainfall on the one hand, while on the other hand ensuring full absorption when there is rainfall, which flood irrigation cannot do.

Utilising existing infrastructure and field levels, N-Drip enables a quick and simple transition to a sustainable, efficient method of micro irrigation, with minimal investment.

Implementation is simple, affordable and reversible, delivering substantial savings in water and other resources (energy, fertilisers, etc.) while maximising crop yields.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

N-Drip recently won an Overall Award for Excellence in Disruptive Technologies in the prestigious International Finance Corporation/Financial Times Transformational Business Awards.

Nine N-Drip systems have already been successfully installed at Australian farms

since the company was established in late August 2018. Three of these installations are in sugarcane farms across Queensland.

The first was at **Mark Savina's** Cairns cane farm (pictured below), where it was used as supplementary irrigation for dryland farming. Adding less than 1.6ML of water, the system delivered an impressive 28% increase in yield between September and November.

"It was a bit of a learning experience for me because I've never had to irrigate in the past, but overall I was pretty impressed by with the system. We definitely saw positive results in our yield over the time of the trial," Mr Savina said.

"In fact, I was so impressed that I've decided to do another trial with the N-Drip system, only this time we're incorporating fertigation to hopefully improve our efficiency and yield even further."

At a second farm in Arriga, on the Tablelands, N-Drip achieved a 48% increase in yield, while at a third farm in Maryborough, a 55% increase in yield was accompanied by a 23% saving in water (according to pre-harvest biomass results).

RISK-FREE INVESTMENT

The cost savings and yield optimisation delivered by N-Drip ensure a return on investment within the first season, eliminating the financial barriers to farmers wishing to upgrade their irrigation technology.

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Dual purpose bioreactor improves farm drainage

The first of six new denitrification bioreactors being installed on Wet Tropics farms will also help improve paddock drainage, in a new twist on a traditional bioreactor design.



A bioreactor doubling as a sub-surface drainage system was recently constructed on **Adrian Darveniza's** Innisfail cane farm, with the remaining five scheduled for completion on other farms by the end of September.

Suzette Argent from the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project said that variability in landscape conditions means no two bioreactors will be the same.

"It's really important that solutions work for the landholder – they shouldn't be over-designed and need to fit into the farm with minimal disruptions," she said.

"Landholders have been involved throughout the design process because local knowledge is just as critical as technical expertise.

"You can't beat the specialist knowledge that farmers have about the landscape, which informs the design process.

A traditional bioreactor is a woodchip-filled trench placed on a farm to intercept sub-surface water. The water flows through the bioreactor and, under anaerobic conditions, naturally occurring bacteria in the woodchip convert the dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) into an inert gas which is then dispersed into the atmosphere.

Adrian Darveniza said the bioreactor is serving the dual purpose of capturing DIN and improving drainage in a difficult area of his farm.

"I've got a wet spot in the paddock and even though I've got seepage pipes there, it is still quite wet and really needed some more," he said.

Continues page 17 ►



Pictured: (main) the bioreactor/sub-surface drainage installed on Adrian Darveniza's Innisfail cane farm; no two bioreactors are the same with each designed to suit the landscape conditions like the one above which was installed on a different Wet Tropics cane farm in August 2018; (left) Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project Catchment Repair Officer Suzette Argent; (bottom left) Innisfail cane grower Adrian Darveniza.

"It's really important that solutions work for the landholder – they shouldn't be over-designed and need to fit into the farm with minimal disruptions."

Waterlogging can restrict plant growth and prevent adequate nutrient uptake.

"As soon as we laid the bioreactor pipe you could see it working in terms of drainage – it was already helping to dry the paddock out. If the woodchip proves to take dissolved inorganic nitrogen out of the water then that's a bonus," Adrian said.

To construct the bioreactor, a 170m long, 1.5m deep trench was excavated. Woodchip at a depth of half a meter was installed around the entire length of drainage pipe. A total of 80 cubic meters of woodchip was used. The site was then backfilled with soil so the crop can be grown as usual, over the trench.

A bioreactor like the one installed on Adrian's farm replaces the sand typically placed around sub-drainage pipe, with woodchip. The simple innovation turns the entire area around the pipe into a bioreactor.

Other design types include an in-drain bed and an offline bed. In-drain beds are positioned within an existing cane drain.

Water passes through the bioreactor system daily, and in times of high rainfall water will pass over the bioreactor.

Offline beds redirect water from an existing sub-drainage pipe into the bioreactor bed. The water passes through the bioreactor before entering the existing farm drainage system.

Ongoing water quality monitoring will help answer key questions about bioreactor functionality, value for money and feasibility for future adoption.

"Bioreactors are on trial in the Wet Tropics. We don't know if they work here, but you have to install them in order to find out," said Adrian.

"Regardless, there will be immediate benefit to the cane I'm about to plant because the extra drainage will help reduce waterlogging." ■

The Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project is funded by the Queensland Government through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

Transport - not very sexy but keeps things moving

CANEGROWERS recently attended a Queensland Freight Action Plan workshop run by Transport and Main Roads (TMR). It was the seventh such workshop which aimed to put actions to the Freight Strategy based on:

- Building effective partnerships – listen to and work with customers
- Unlocking economic opportunities – use existing capacity before building anything new
- Smarter connectivity and access – plan for the future and use more rail
- A resilient freight system – adapt to climate change e.g. flood proofing, inland routes
- Safer freight movements – using technology to reduce crashes and casualties

Underpinning all these is a need for good information and data and a suitably skilled workforce.

I believe there have been over 700 action ideas so far which makes prioritising somewhat interesting.

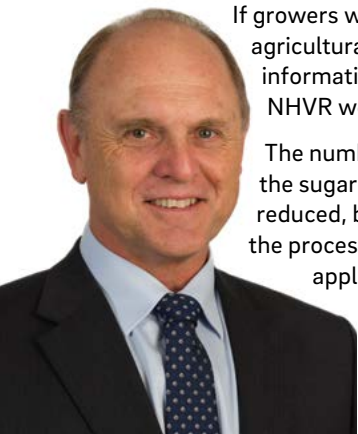
Unfortunately, despite our issues with an increasing number of over-dimensional agricultural vehicle movements, increasing urbanisation, busier roads and an increasing number of flood events, the sugar industry was a very small voice in the freight space. Big trucks and railways were far more compelling to most.

However, I do believe that sugarcane has received a number of significant benefits, which have been negotiated over a number of years.

The *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2019* is a step forward, putting all agricultural access conditions in one place. This goes with an Operators Guide, a Zone Map and Towed Mass Ratio information and calculator.

If growers with over dimensional agricultural vehicles are looking for information, they will find it on the NHVR website.

The number of permits required in the sugarcane industry have been reduced, but if you do need a permit, the processing of agricultural permit applications for Queensland transferred back from TMR to the NHVR from the 26 August 2019. Applications can be made on the NHVR portal. ■



Economics and Trade Committee

The CANEGROWERS' Economics and Trade Committee helps shape industry policy in a number of key areas, including marketing, trade, electricity, water and related activities.

The Committee, which is made up of Policy Council members, meets three times a year and aims to have at least one Committee meeting each year outside Brisbane.

Renewed at July Policy Council, following the CANEGROWERS elections earlier in the year, the new Committee held its first meeting on 12 September.

Needless to say, the action being taken by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala in the WTO against India's export subsidies was a very important focal point for the meeting.

With extended dry conditions across all irrigation districts, increases in SunWater's cost structures and concerns about the likely flow through of high electricity prices to water prices, the Committee also took advantage of the opportunity to meet Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) representatives and take a close look at their draft report, *Rural Irrigation Price Review 2020–24*.

The central requirement of QCA's task is to recommend prices that recover certain prudent and efficient costs. In its draft report, QCA identified a total revenue requirement for SunWater over the period 2020–24 of \$355 million. This is \$62.2 million (15%) lower than the \$417.2 million SunWater requested in November 2018.

QCA notes its investigation has been hampered by a lack of relevant and timely information from SunWater and that final costs and prices may vary from those contained in its draft report.

On electricity costs, SunWater has proposed an annual electricity true-up mechanism. QCA has instead recommended use of a within-period price review mechanism, triggered where water businesses or their customers consider there has been a material change in electricity costs resulting from an unpredictable change in input markets (with minor changes made in an end-of-regulatory period adjustment).

CANEGROWERS has worked closely with the Australian Energy Regulator to reduce electricity cost pressures in the Ergon network. In relation to water prices we are working to ensure that only 'efficient' costs are reflected in irrigation water prices.

CANEGROWERS is closely examining other aspects of the QCA draft report, including the treatment of dam safety, emergency management costs and the cost of the QCA review itself, especially where information delays from SunWater may have increased the cost of the review.

CANEGROWERS is committed to representing members interests on all matters of vital importance. ■



CHANGE TO PERMITS - Queensland.

NHVR to process Agricultural heavy vehicle permits from 26 August 2019

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) in consultation with Queensland local councils commenced the planning for the return of heavy vehicle permit processing to the NHVR during 2019.

The processing of Agricultural permit applications for Queensland will transfer back from TMR to the NHVR from the 26 August 2019.

TMR will continue to process Class 1 Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) and Oversize Overmass (OSOM) applications on behalf of the NHVR.

The return of Agricultural delegations will **not** affect the National or Transitional Notices.

The [National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice](#) was published on the 30 April 2019 and has reduced the need for heavy vehicle permits. Operators are advised to review the published notices to see if a permit is still required for road travel before applying for a permit.

To apply for an agricultural heavy vehicle permit from the 26 August 2019, operators will need to lodge applications via the NHVR Portal **www.service.nhvr.gov.au**



For more information on the change to permit processing in Queensland contact the NHVR: Annette Finch, Project Director by emailing annette.finch@nhvr.gov.au, calling 1300 696 487, or visit the [project webpage](#).

For more information

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MY RECORDS ARE ALL IN MY HEAD

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

*Pictured: Innisfail Smartcane
BMP grower Joe Zappala.*



Record keeping ... hands up if I have lost you already. Over the years I've heard all of the reasons why some people can't or won't keep records. In fact, I'm even guilty of using a few excuses myself.

If records aren't seen to be giving us something in return for our investment of time and energy, then why would we bother? But the truth is, records can and do give us something in return - and once we start getting that 'something', we want more and more.

If you currently keep records but aren't seeing the benefits, then you should ask yourself if you're using the best record keeping tool for your situation.

There are many tools available, from the back of an envelope, the windscreen of the tractor and the palm of your hand to pocket diaries, excel spreadsheets and accounting software or farm management programs with GIS capabilities.

Ultimately, some records are better than nothing and there is no one-size fits all solution. Record keeping tools really need to also be business management tools if

they are to work.

The difference between a pure record keeping tool and a business management tool is what it can give in return for the data we provide. And just as each business is different, so too will be your requirements.

So, what should you consider when deciding which record keeping tool best suits your needs?

FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

What do you need your business management tool to do and what do you want it to give you?

Production data? Compliance info? Planning information? Succession tool? Farm maps? Staff training aids? Reports? GPS?

Purchasing a Ferrari because it is a quality, premium vehicle with a high price tag attached doesn't mean it's the best fit for your purpose. For the same investment you might find a new harvester is better suited. They're both vehicles, they both have wheels and use fuel but they deliver a very different experience.

EASE OF USE/AVAILABILITY

In my experience, ease of use is the catalyst to the uptake of any tool. If a program is over-complicated or repetitive then a user is less likely to use it. If you need to re-train yourself on how to operate the tool every time you access it, you may be less likely to want to use it.

Ease of use is often linked to availability. Is the tool on the office computer and therefore inaccessible from the field or

your mobile phone which is in your top pocket? Does it require the internet? Do you have to be in range?

COST

Just like when buying a vehicle, you should have an idea of your budget when buying a business management tool. The old adage of 'you get what you pay for' can be true, however, there are more and more free or low cost products that may suit some businesses.

There are also different payment types. You may purchase a software package outright (a one-off fee) or enter into a software license agreement to access it for a period of time. Many companies offer free trial versions. I encourage you to use them before making a purchase to identify if that program can work for you.

SECURITY

Whether your tool is hard copy or digital, protecting the data is important. Consider the data security for any product you engage. Software companies should be able to provide you with the exact details of their privacy policy and security procedures. If not, ask why not?

Also consider how your data will be protected in the event of damage/loss. If your mobile phone falls out of your top pocket and into the mixing tank – where is the data? Is it saved only to the phone or is it saved in the 'cloud'?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Being able to contact/access someone from your chosen business tool provider is important. If you hit a road block you want to be able to resolve the issue ASAP. Without good customer support you may find that you stop using your software because no-one was available to resolve the issue.

I'm not going to lie - the hardest part will be the set-up and initial data entry. Good data in, means good data out. A trampoline is an easy to use piece of equipment, you climb up and start jumping. Putting the trampoline together for the first time is a whole other story. If you need to, pay someone (they're out there) to help you get started, then you'll be happily 'bouncing' along for years to come. Talk with your Smartcane BMP facilitator about any assistance they might also be able to provide. ■

AN EXAMPLE COMPARISON BETWEEN A SELECTION OF AVAILABLE PRODUCTS AND THEIR FEATURES

	Use on Smartphone	Mapping	Reporting Capability	Cost	Support	Cane Specific Features
ArcGIS (esri) www.esriaustralia.com.au	✗	✓✓	✓	\$\$\$\$\$	✓	✗
Jotform www.jotform.com	✓	Can be imported	✓	0-\$\$	✓	Can be customised
AgDat (Agtrix) www.agtrix.com	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	✓	✓
Farm Guardian www.farmguardian.com.au	✓	Can be imported	✓	\$\$	✓	✓

FAMILY DISCRETIONARY TRUSTS

The use of family trusts in family business enterprises is becoming more frequent, especially in the agribusiness sector.

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

Family discretionary trusts are a type of lawful business structure that, when properly structured, offer a legitimate way to manage tax and offer a degree of asset protection and continuity of asset ownership.

In a family trust, the assets of the business, such as the farm, are legally owned by the trustee. The trustee then manages the business for the benefit of those family members that are named as beneficiaries. The trustee will usually have the power to make distributions of capital, income or both from the operations of the business amongst the beneficiaries. The proportions each beneficiary receives is not fixed and is at the discretion of the trustee. In this way, the trustee can effectively and efficiently manage the tax liability of the family.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

Like any business structure, it must be fit for purpose. Trusts can also be expensive to establish and administer. Good advice from your trusted lawyer and accountant and financial adviser is essential in establishing an appropriate trust structure.

Care must be taken in the appointment of the right trustee and the powers that are vested in that trustee. The discretion that the trustee holds in deciding the distributions amongst beneficiaries is very powerful and can sometimes be abused.

As an example, in a recent Victorian Supreme Court case involving the Marsella family, the court considered a situation where a discretionary family trust was established for Mrs Marsella and she and her daughter were the trustees.

Mrs Marsella died and was survived by her then husband who was the daughter's step-father. With the passing of her mother, the daughter became the sole trustee who then appointed her husband as a co-trustee. The daughter and her husband then exercised their discretion as trustees and distributed the whole of the death benefits of the trust to the daughter.

Mrs Marsella's surviving husband thought he, as a possible beneficiary, should have received something from the distribution. He claimed against the daughter and her husband that they had breached their duties as trustees. The court agreed and ordered the daughter and her husband be removed as trustees and that the daughter repay the funds that she had received to the trust.

The court found that the trustees, even with a wide discretion as to distribution, must act in good faith and must carefully consider how to exercise their discretion. In effect, the court found that a trustee of a discretionary trust cannot just do what they want.

SUMMARY

Discretionary trusts can be a useful and appropriate business structure. However, proper advice needs to be obtained to consider if such a trust is appropriate for your business. The ongoing management of the trust is a significant undertaking and must be done carefully and prudently.

FURTHER INFORMATION

It is recommended that growers considering setting up a discretionary trust seek professional advice and assistance. CANEGROWERS members can call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser Chris Cooper, on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser

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100mgs Kinchant water. Make an offer. 4x4 New Holland 848 round bailer - can see working at the end of season \$15,000. Ph: 0439113511 or 0448057574.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Brand New FEL & 4in1 Bucket can be added for an extra \$17,000 Inc. Ph: 0428236165.

4m 3row 1.8m spacing, Norseman Stool Splitting Precision Fertiliser Applicator: 2t (urea) Stainless Steel Fertiliser Bin with PADDLE metering system. Extra heavy duty toolbar with: XHD CAT III Headstock, XHD ground wheels & triple disc units - 30" primary and 18" double discs. Ph: 0419647976.

1.5 tonne Gessner side dresser, VGC, all offers considered. 44x 4 3/4 aluminium irrigation pipes, 10m long with stands & sprinklers. \$60 ONO per length. Ph: 0749545179 after 6pm.

Howard AH Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned, 1x 100", 1x 90", 1x 80". Howard AR Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned, 2x 80". Also available S/H AR Howard 90". Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph: 0749595885 or 0407643441.

Chisel plough (Graham Plow Yeomans) 3350 wide or 11' 2230 deep or 7'6", 11 legs (+4 spare legs) with leaf harrows \$3850. Ph: 0749595883 or 0407643441.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, 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. Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All in good condition. Ph: 0427617807.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, Trimble GPS, Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors, Standard Topper, 2 speed wheel motors, Pro Rata Engine Warranty. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428182464.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

P&H trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worm \$10,000 + GST.

100" heavy duty powered rotary hoe \$7,000 + GST. Whole stick planting machinery and various other items. Ph: 0417617084.

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator SLEWS 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.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–September
	09.09.19	16.09.19		
Mossman	0	0	2493	1834
Mareeba AP	0	0	634	736
Cairns	0	1	1898	1689
Mt Sophia	0	2	2740	2800
Babinda	0	0	2579	3641
Innisfail	0	4	2892	3052
Tully	0	0	2241	3548
Cardwell	0	0	1934	1754
Lucinda	0	0	2251	1790
Ingham	Tce	Tce	2649	1671
Abergowrie	0	0	1903	1522
Townsville	0	0	1756	908
Ayr DPI	0.2	0	948	752
Proserpine	0	0	1394	1098
Mirani	0	0	1389	1211
Mackay	0.2	0	1051	1256
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	1303	1368
Bundaberg	0	0.2	252	722
Childers South	0	0	261	618
Maryborough	0	0	445	865
Tewantin	0	0	793	1334
Eumundi	0	0	506	1288
Nambour	0	0	840	1270
Woongoolba	0	0	556	1006
Murwillumbah	0	0	493	1196
Ballina	0.4	1	859	1411
Woodburn	0	0	261	1088



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. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427598333.

1x 3 meter Lely Tulip Multidiscs. As new P.O.A. Childers area. Ph: 0427155364.

Wanted

International 766 to 1566 row crop tractor any condition even if not going. Ph: 0428283454.

11 or 12 foot roller for farm use. Ph: 0437011560.

Hard Hose Irrigator 125 x 350 m. Ph: Steve Russell 0419705530.

Low Pressure Upton Boom. Ph: 0749596197. 1 or 2 13.6/38 tyres. Ph: 0407364012.

Property

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation

shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Ph: 0408733793.

Cane farm Crystalbrook Proserpine. 154 hectares with 350ML of water allocation from River. Lateral move irrigator. 122.1 hectares currently developed for cane. Ph: 0427678572.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. Ph: Steve 0410600247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. Ph: Steve 0410600247.

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: 0417647002.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 0747774633 or 0408608664.

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 0408880724.

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. Currently under contract. Ph: Gary Johns 0427241250.

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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 for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



Look, be alert, call an expert