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COVER IMAGE: Isis grower Don Halpin with grandson Oscar. The Halpin's improved their irrigation methods to find their 20% gain through the Isis 20:20 process. Read more on page 12.

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Regulation gone too far!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The Queensland Government's troubled Reef Bill is sitting on the table in State Parliament, waiting for its turn to be debated. While it waits, CANEGROWERS is keeping up the pressure against its insulting and dangerous provisions.

To say that the Reef Bill has been controversial would be a gross understatement. It has prompted CANEGROWERS to take the unprecedented step of commissioning and airing a television commercial to highlight our serious concerns.

Our advocacy for Queensland's 4,500 growers is serious business. Cane growers not only have an economic investment in this industry, but for many families there is a social and historic investment that spans many generations.

This is a watershed moment in our history. CANEGROWERS sought to ignite a public debate about the unfairness of laying the blame for any decline of the Great Barrier Reef (and the cost) at the feet of farmers alone.

The business model of smothering farmers with increased regulation is a flawed approach which will hurt the industry while not helping the Reef.

The first round of Reef regulations brought in by the Bligh Government was touted as the vehicle for improving water quality and protecting the Reef.

Ten years on and the government is back with a bigger baseball bat and tougher laws to save the Reef again.

Surely by now it is proven that regulation to secure environmental performance is a flawed approach.

Growers have repeatedly said to government that all regulation do is get in the way of the necessary innovation and investment by farmers in new technology to bring about environmental sustainability.

I would particularly like to address a number of allegations that have been levelled at CANEGROWERS in recent times. One allegation is that we are attempting to corrupt the science narrative about the Reef.

CANEGROWERS does not arbitrate on science but we are perfectly entitled to

understand the science underpinning this debate.

If we are to wear the cost, compliance and some blame for the state of the Reef, we are entitled to understand the science around this issue.

We are not rusted on to the view of one scientist, we just want to understand everything in the debate.

The second allegation is that CANEGROWERS as an organisation has accepted state and federal government funding for various programs and hence government has an entitlement to regulate growers. This is absurd!

We have constantly said that the co-investment model between growers and government achieves greater environmental dividends than the big stick of regulation.

We are not certain what the government might do now in relation to the proposals and provisions in its current Reef Bill but we are willing to talk to government to find a workable solution.

Cane growers and farmers only want certainty and fairness. That is not an unreasonable ask. ■



"The business model of smothering farmers with increased regulation is a flawed approach."



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Grow a better tomorrow

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU deal could open door for Australian sugar

Australia is a step closer to reaching a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union that could open up market access for high-quality Queensland raw sugar.

The Federal Government has launched public consultations on the EU's proposed list of protected terms, known as 'Geographical Indications' or GIs.

An agreement on GIs, which protect the identity of products originating in a specific region, would remove a significant hurdle that has so far prevented the EU from tabling its market access offer for agricultural products including sugar.

"As both an importer and exporter of sugar, the EU has developed a dynamic and more competitive sugar economy," CANEGROWERS Head of Economics, Warren Males, said.

"There are no sound economic reasons why EU sugar refiners should be prevented from sourcing high-quality Australia raw sugar."

"But the constraints limiting EU refiners' ability to source much needed supplies of high-quality raw sugar remain in place."

However, there are signs that the EU's protectionist mindset is changing, with the European Commission's own analysis showing that new market access for Australian raw sugar will have minimal impact on the EU sugar regime.

Europe has already approved significant new duty-free market access opportunities for sugar in other trade agreements.

The EU granted South Africa 150,000 tonnes and, as part of Mercosur, Brazil 180,000 tonnes of new access for sugar.

With the EU again a net sugar importer, CANEGROWERS, working closely with European sugar refiners, continues to make the case for the full inclusion sugar in the EU-Australia FTA.

"The days of sugar trade with the EU being seen as politically sensitive are long gone," Mr Males said.

"There are no sound economic reasons why EU sugar refiners should be prevented from sourcing high-quality Australia raw sugar."



"Sugar's inclusion in a FTA would enable EU sugar refiners to compete with refiners in the Asia-Pacific region for access to limited quantities of Australian raw sugar."

"Both the EU and Australia would benefit from such an outcome for the long-term economic benefit of both countries," Mr Males said.

CANEGROWERS is continuing to fight for an improved sugar trading environment. ■

Geographical Indications

The EU has asked Australia to protect more than 400 product names as GIs, meaning they could no longer be used by Australian producers.

The names relate to a range of sectors including, dairy, meat, smallgoods, horticulture, oils, beer and spirits.

Some popular household names are among the GIs the EU wants protected before moving forward with a FTA.

They include cheeses such as Gorgonzola, Mozzarella and Parmigiano Reggiano, smallgoods like Prosciutto and drinks like Champagne, Irish Cream and Scotch Whisky.

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Reef Bill – waiting on the debate

CANEGROWERS is keeping up the pressure ahead of a Queensland Parliamentary debate on a Reef Bill which would ramp up the already stringent laws on cane farming in the north of the state and impose regulation for the first time on southern districts.

Debate on the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* is now expected in September but the timing is ultimately in the hands of the State Government.

The Bill seeks to hand broad powers to the public service to change minimum cane farming standards, shift the regulatory goalposts, in any way at any time with no regard for the impacts on growers or their communities.

It could also see agronomists, industry

extension officers, sugar mills and fertiliser resellers forced to hand over information about the day-to-day operations and business decisions of cane farmers.

With a television campaign having great impact through regional Queensland, CANEGROWERS is encouraging the State Government to address industry concerns about the bill.

While they have been expressed clearly at every opportunity, both in submissions and publicly, to date there

has been no recognition or response to these concerns by government to CANEGROWERS. We continue to seek a meeting with government to discuss the Bill. ■

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Sign the #RejecttheRegs petition:
farmers.org.au/campaign/rejecttheregs

Watch and share the CANEGROWERS Reef Bill video: youtu.be/RDCdq03cX3o

Getting the gang together...

Smartcane BMP facilitators from all of Queensland's cane-growing regions descended on Brisbane this month for their annual Facilitator Team Meeting.

With 425 cane growing businesses now accredited and many more lined up and almost ready, there's a lot to talk about as the industry best management practice program targets productivity, profitability and sustainability.

Facilitators shared engagement and record keeping tools and discussed areas for improvement. Presentations also included Sustainable Sugar Supply Chain, Cost of Production calculators and an overview of the Hort360 BMP program, facilitated through Growcom. ■



CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

Week 11 (ending 17/8) Mossman Mill crushed 41,738 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.75 CCS.

Coastal growers supplied 28014 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.44 CCS while Mareeba growers supplied 13,724 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.04 CCS.

Around 51% of the 2019 crop has been crushed with a season to-date for Mossman Mill of 11.96 CCS.

Weather conditions around the district are more favourable at the moment for both harvesting and planting, hoping for these conditions to continue.

CAIRNS REGION

Intermittent wet weather across the area has caused delays to harvesting.

Planting is well underway where conditions allow.

Inter-mill transfers have required adjusting due the reduced crushing rate at South Johnstone Mill.

INNISFAIL

Periods of adverse wet weather and mill breakdowns over several weeks in early August caused significant disruptions to harvesting. The No.2 boiler at South Johnstone Mill suffered significant damage with repairs expected to be completed sometime in week commencing 16 September.

MSF Sugar is doing all it can to maximise daily throughput by managing crushing at South Johnstone and Mulgrave mills. This has resulted in more cane transferring from the South Johnstone mill area to Mulgrave mill. So far this season, there have been 770 hours of lost time (521 hours to wet weather and harvesting) and only 641 hours of crushing time.

As at 18 August, South Johnstone Mill had crushed 319,808 tonnes, 23% of the estimate. The daily CCS is struggling around 12.0 and the season to date is 11.6.

There has been a concerted effort to get some planting operations completed, but recent wet weather has created problems for paddock preparation.

HERBERT RIVER

Week 6 saw Victoria Mill crush approximately 132,000 tonnes, while Macknade Mill crush 71,000 tonnes for the week. Wilmar reported a cane supply shortage twice during week, with no cane delivered for around three hours on Wednesday. Other than that, there were no major issues. Victoria Mill had a maintenance day which lasted approximately 14 hours. Macknade Mill had a four hour stop to change shredder tips.

The indicative CCS for the week was holding at 12.77. A few areas around the district received some rainfall during the week, let's hope the rain stays away for the coming weeks so planting can be completed uninterrupted.

In Week 7, Victoria Mill crushed around 139,500 tonnes. Macknade Mill crushed 69,500 tonnes up until Friday morning, with an anticipated 70,900 tonnes for the week. The mill average for CCS on all cane crushed was 13.01. The cane variety Q208 dominated supply to the mill at around 35%. At the end of Week 7, the Herbert River mills had crushed 25% of the current estimate.

TULLY

The forecasts of Professor Roger Stone from USQ's Centre for Applied Climate Sciences have been spot on this year for the Tully Mill Area. The sub-tropical ridge staying in the south keeps the high-pressure systems in the bite, resulting in strong south-easterly air flows that create persistent showers for the Tully district. Then, every 40 days or so, this is enhanced by the impact of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). While there has not been a lot of rain, it is enough to disrupt land preparation and impact on crushing.

The 2019 crop estimate has recently been downgraded to 2,225,000 tonnes or 78 tonnes per ha, the lowest yield and estimate for several years. Season to date CCS is 12.35 with 40% of the crop harvested and crushed, and it will require excellent conditions to average the 13 units required to achieve the long-term average of 12.8. 2019 will be a difficult year for all sectors of the industry, and every effort needs to concentrate on making the best of the season we are dealing with.

The TCPSL approved seed plots are now open for business, and planting for some growers is behind them, however most are still hard at work.



BURDEKIN

Good weather conditions have prevailed for harvesting operations, however the last two weeks have been impacted by two lengthy stoppages at Kalamia (ash sluice return pipe fail) and Invicta (diffuser chains sprocket alignment), resulting in 384,292 tonnes being crushed for Week 10 and 370,673 in Week 11. There were also scheduled stops at Invicta B Side and Inkerman mills during Week 11.

Wilmar's Burdekin mills achieved the milestone of three million tonnes crushed on the 11 August.

As of Week 11 (w/e 17 August) the Burdekin mills had crushed 3,384,061 tonnes of cane for the season, which is just over 42% of the revised season estimate.

The highest CCS sample for Week 10 was 17.85 from a rake of Q240 plant cane, recorded in the Invicta area. In Week 11 the highest CCS sample was 17.6 from a rake of Q232 first ratoon cane recorded in the Pioneer area.

The cool, dry weather has seen CCS continue to rise, with seasonal CCS recorded to date at 14.97. Pioneer continues to nudge ahead with 14.42, closely followed by Inkerman at 14.24 season to date.

Q240 continues to be the highest supplied variety at 41%, followed by KQ183 at 21%. On a district basis, Q183 achieved 15.11 CCS followed by Q240 at 15.09.

Wilmar have acknowledged and promoted cane train safety week with the introduction of the train brain tactic when approaching cane railway crossings.

PROSERPINE

The Proserpine crushing season is slowly gaining momentum with the half-million tonne milestone reached at the beginning of Week 9. The pre-season estimate has been revised down to 1.58 million tonnes, meaning 32% of the crop has now been harvested.

An unplanned stop due to a failed electrical component in the bagasse bin restricted throughput for the fortnight, however mill performance improved significantly over the past week. In response to the lost time, the next major maintenance day has been pushed back to 28 August.

CCS continues to rise and the season-to-date CCS exceeded 13 units for the first time this crush. The highest CCS sample for the week was 16.20 from a rake of Plant Q183 from the Gregory Productivity District.

MACKAY

At the end of Week 9 Mackay mills had crushed a combined total of 1,865,743 tonnes of cane.

The week's tally was 219,186 tonnes with a CCS of 13.71 (year to date CCS: 12.56).

Individual totals for the week ended 18 August were:

- Farleigh – 67,752 tonnes
- Marian – 90,096 tonnes
- Racecourse – 61,338 tonnes

PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill has now processed almost 500,000 tonnes for the season or 40% of the total forecast crop. A stop during the week to address vibration in the shredder saw the tally conclude with 66,514 tonnes crushed for the week, to bring the total to 495,785 tonnes.

CCS for the week ended 17 August was 14.11 – the first time this season that the average weekly CCS has passed 14 units.

The highest CCS was 16.40, from a rake of Q252 1R in the Dawlish productivity district.

BUNDABERG

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 77,589.30 tonnes for week ending 17 August, bringing the season total to date to 512,887 tonnes.

The average CCS for Week 7 was 14.23 units, with season to date CCS average sitting at 13.70 units.

The base CCS will be increased for both supply areas from Monday 19 August:

- Bingera - 0.5 to 13.80 units
- Millaquin - 0.30 to 14.10 units.

The highest individual CCS for Week 7 was 17.00 units for KQ228 PL cane in Millaquin and Bingera.

The four major varieties supplied were Q240 with 31.7% and 15.03 CCS, followed by KQ228A with 21.25% and 14.78 CCS, Q208A with 11.68% and 14.71 CCS units, and Q252A with 8.71% and 15.24 CCS.



Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

The Isis region experienced some isolated showers in Week 5. However, these falls were sparse and had little impact on crushing activities, with just a couple of hours lost due to wet field conditions. Rainfall figures remained in the single digits, with Childers recording around 6mm, Tirroan 5mm, Isis Mill 9mm, and Bullyard 5mm.

Week 5 saw 67,672 tonnes of sugarcane processed through the rollers at Isis Mill, with a further 61,909 tonnes crushed during Week 6. At the end of Week 6 the total tonnes crushed to date stood at 311,090 tonnes.

CCS reached 13.94 units in Week 5, with the highest CCS for the week of 16.78 units recorded from a rake of Q252 Autumn plant cane supplied by a Sharon grower. Week 6 saw an average CCS of 14.37. Autumn plant Q252 again provided the highest CCS for the week, with 17.04 units recorded from an Alloway grower supply. The year to date CCS is currently 13.82.

The best performance across harvesting groups supplying more than 500 tonnes per day during Week 5 saw one group achieve fibre values of 12.67% and another group recording ash levels of 1.95%. These results indicate the commitment and effort being made to Harvest Best Management Practices by members of the harvesting sector.

MARYBOROUGH

The district harvest is building momentum with 150,680 tonnes crushed by 16 August. CCS is also increasing and is sitting on 13.24 units, season to date. Highest CCS for the week came from a rake of Q232 in Tinana at 15.6 units.

Mill operations have been pretty good with only a minor water pump issue early in the week.

The latest newsletter covered an update on the Sunshine Coast transport issue. We also have two Maryborough west access issues which are similarly restricting B-double routes. MSF sugar are continuing to work with TMR for a solution.

A group of growers attended the Dr Peter Ridd presentation in Bundaberg recently and it was a thought-provoking evening with over 300 attendees. While not denying the science, he is promoting the need to check the accuracy of data before significant decisions are made at the expense of regional Queensland.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point has crushed a total of 25,151 tonnes of cane at an average CCS of 12.35 as at 18 August 2019.

The co-gen plant managed to continue operating for the entire week but needed to stop for boiler repairs the week starting 19 August.

Most of the cane harvested to date has been two-year-old cane. Dry conditions continue.

Many growers are concerned that the sugar content in the one-year-old cane will be well below 12 CCS.

There is constant pressure for cane hay and forage from cattle producers as the dry continues in south western districts. ■

Money Matters

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IMPROVING EMPLOYEE WELLBEING IN SMALL BUSINESSES

Improving the wellbeing of your workers doesn't have to be complicated, formal or take up a lot of time. The most important thing to do is to make a start, no matter how small, and build from there.

There are a number of quick, cost-effective initiatives that any small businesses can undertake, such as:

- Celebrating employees' successes
- Sharing knowledge with one another
- Providing opportunities to learn
- Regular check-in meetings to see how employees are going

ASK STAFF WHAT THEY THINK WOULD IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING

It's important for your employees to feel heard, know that your interest is genuine and importantly, that the information they provide is followed up on. This could easily take the form of a casual chat and starting them off with a few of the above ideas to get them thinking.

LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

SuperFriend is Sunsuper's workplace wellbeing partner and together we support employers to build mentally healthy workplaces for their staff.

Visit superfriend.com.au and head to the 'Resource' section to download a number of free resources including 'Building Thriving Workplaces' booklet.

Article excerpt provided by SuperFriend.

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New research to deliver outcomes for Australian sugarcane GROWERS AND MILLERS

SRA has announced the investment in seven new research projects that will drive productivity, profitability, and sustainability for Australian sugarcane growers and millers.

These new projects add to the extensive portfolio of SRA's research investment that spans across the priorities identified in SRA's five-year Strategic Plan.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said the research was identified as part of the SRA Board's approach to targeted investment in 2019/20.

"These investments focus on transformational research, variety development and milling efficiency and technology. We are ensuring that our new investment addresses critical research gaps and requirements within our Strategic Plan," Mr Fisher said.

"All of these projects have been chosen as part of a rigorous selection process over the last six months, overseen by the SRA Research Funding Panel (RFP).

"They have been assessed based on the results they will provide to the industry, leading to positive outcomes for our members and investors."

New investment includes innovative research that will understand how the industry can use emerging technology to help diagnose the prevalence of ratoon stunting disease (RSD) by scanning cane as it makes its way through sugar mills.

This research has the potential to link the volumes of cane passing through the factory back to the paddock, in a way that would greatly enhance the industry's ability to diagnose and manage RSD.

"Like any potentially transformational research, there is no guarantee of success," Mr Fisher said. "But these game-changing innovations are exactly the type of investment the industry requires as it deals with the challenges of the weather and a depressed world sugar price.

"SRA is also investing in several projects that continue to deliver on our commitment to enhancing the SRA sugarcane breeding program and reach our target of achieving 2 percent annual genetic gain.

PROJECT TITLE	RESEARCH AGENCY
Validating high-throughput phenomics technologies for sugarcane clonal selection	SRA
NIR Calibrations for Fibre Quality	SRA
Strategies to minimise impacts of processing existing soft cane varieties, and industry cost/benefit analysis	QUT
RSD detection at the sugar factory – disease detection blueprint	SRA
Harvester losses assessment by real-time Machine Vision Systems	USQ
Eliminating roll arcing	QUT
Australian Sugar Industry Training - Development of factory training modules - Phase 2	QUT

"This includes the application of cutting-edge technology such as unmanned aerial vehicles to collect data that improves the way we deliver new varieties to the industry. Other research will investigate the use of near infra-red technology to assess the fibre characteristics of sugarcane varieties, and also explore the use of machine vision sensors to directly measure losses during harvesting.

"In the milling research space, we are also investing in research to eliminate the arcing of mill rollers and improve crushing performance, as well as the development of new training modules for sugar factory operators."

The full portfolio of SRA's research investment is available via the SRA website: sugarresearch.com.au/research-portfolio/

SRA's investment is funded by the statutory levy of 70 cents per tonne of cane, to which growers and millers each contribute 35c per tonne of cane each. This investment in research is supported by a co-contribution of about \$6.6M from the Federal Government and \$2.85 million from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). ■

Q&A: Dr Peter Ridd Speaking Tour

A speaking tour by prominent north Queensland academic Dr Peter Ridd has raised questions around some of the scientific studies of the Great Barrier Reef as well as CANEGROWERS attitude to and involvement in farm practice improvement and water quality programs.

The sugarcane industry in Queensland is obligated to operate under policies and laws that governments say are formulated and guided by scientific studies of the role of water quality for the health of the Reef.

So naturally, growers have a keen interest in the science and its conclusions, particularly where it is used to justify regulation on industry practices, and in any concerns or discrepancies that are raised.

Over the past two weeks, CANEGROWERS has faced a lot of questions about Dr Ridd's presentation. These are the answers we have provided.

WHAT IS CANEGROWERS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPEAKING TOUR?

Dr Peter Ridd offered to talk to communities in cane growing regions as he presented the Australian Environment Foundation's 2019 Bob Carter Commemorative Lecture - *How Reliable is the Science Demonstrating Damage to the Great Barrier Reef? The Need for Better Quality Control*. He asked CANEGROWERS districts to assist with the organisation of the events.

This is done all the time for organisations and companies wanting to reach growers, however, most events just don't garner as much attention that Dr Ridd's speaking tour. In these situations, each local district takes its own approach, reflecting the priorities of its local community and members.

The best way to acknowledge peoples' concerns and uncertainties is through greater communication of science and we would encourage any scientist who wants to work with CANEGROWERS to take a similar opportunity to talk directly to growers and the industry as a whole.

DOES CANEGROWERS AGREE WITH DR PETER RIDD?

CANEGROWERS represents sugarcane farmers, it is not a scientific organisation and does not put itself forward as such. It is not CANEGROWERS role to arbitrate on science. CANEGROWERS understands that there is always a degree of uncertainty in any scientific study, and that decision-making takes account of the weight of evidence.

Being engaged with scientists is part of CANEGROWERS commitment to the pursuit of a sustainable future for the industry and the Great Barrier Reef. Members, as individuals, can of course form and hold their own opinions.

WHAT'S CANEGROWERS VIEW ON CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR SCIENCE?

This is an issue that the science community will have to discuss and resolve should there be consensus that the current system of peer review not be adequate.

Continues page 11 ►

Dr Peter Ridd (formerly a professor at James Cook University) has raised '11 questionable claims' about the condition of the Great Barrier Reef. These have been published in newspapers including the Bundaberg NewsMail: bit.ly/31FWLSD

Dr Ridd is calling for greater scientific quality control and rigorous checking, testing and replicating of the scientific studies which are used as the basis for legislation.

The Australian Coral Reef Society (an organisation of reef researchers) has compiled a detailed response to his concerns about the science: bit.ly/31Rg7ED

The Society says there already exists a number of processes through which GBR research work is reviewed and assessed including a Queensland Independent Science Panel, a federal Independent Expert Panel and a process of review and discussion which leads to a detailed Scientific Consensus Statement every four to five years.

DO THE QUESTIONS BEING RAISED ABOUT THE SCIENCE CHANGE CANEGROWERS APPROACH TO THE REEF AND WATER QUALITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN WHICH IT IS INVOLVED?

CANEGROWERS and its members remain committed to managing the impact of farming on the waterways that feed into the Great Barrier Reef and the organisation and its members have helped develop and implement many programs aimed at achieving this. These programs include Smartcane BMP and Cane Changer, initiatives of CANEGROWERS, which have co-investment from the Queensland and Australian governments.

Smartcane BMP is also designed as a program to improve productivity and profitability and it is positioning the industry to meet market demands for sustainable sugar - so it has economic benefits as well as environmental ones.

CANEGROWERS has shown time and again its willingness to work cooperatively with programs and organisations that seek to collaborate with growers.

CANEGROWERS members work with many scientists, including those working on improved farming practices and monitoring of catchment water quality, to manage impacts. None of this is changing so government and scientists alike should continue to have confidence in CANEGROWERS and its members. ■



August 2019 Sugar Market Update now available

CANEGROWERS members can use their member number to access the exclusive monthly video market update and supporting documents online now.

Visit: www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service



What is the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service?

Following the CANEGROWERS victory in securing choice for Queensland sugarcane growers, sugar marketers have begun competing to provide their services to growers. CANEGROWERS has recognised the need for a neutral information service to assist members to make informed decisions and reap the benefits of competition.



Offering information and education to members through workshops, regular videos and newsletter updates



Providing an independent service to members which does not favour one marketer over another



Don Halpin discusses the savings and efficiencies he's achieved through the 20:20 Project with fellow Isis grower Shaun Tobin.



GROWER-FIRST APPROACH DELIVERS 20 PER CENT GAINS

by Cindy Benjamin

What would make a big difference on your farm if you had 20 per cent more of it? Say 20 per cent more time? Or 20 per cent more money in the bank? Or 20 per cent more efficient irrigation?

Since the answer to the question would be very different for each farm and every grower, the Isis sugar industry has formed a partnership to engage with growers at a personal level, putting the grower first.

Using a new Isis 20:20 process, growers are considering what opportunities lie ahead and what might be holding back their business. They then draw on local expertise to initiate targeted changes, making noticeable differences in their personal lives, finances and sugarcane productivity.

Isis 20:20 manager, **Angela Williams** said that while conversations about the sticking points or areas of concern can be hard to initiate, the families who have opted-in to the Isis 20:20 process have found that it is very worthwhile. Growers have already made 487 documented practice improvements in the first 12 months.

"With family members seated around the kitchen table and the conversation guided by a process that puts the grower's success and well-being first, we are able to work through what really matters for the family, the business and the individuals," Angela said.

"The project has been underway for about 12 months and already 113 growers have been involved in improving their energy use, record keeping, irrigation methods, nutrient management, harvest efficiency, weed, pest and disease management, and variety choices."

While the Isis 20:20 process is all about finding the 20% gains, what growers find is that making those gains usually involves them taking advantage of other initiatives that are available through the partner organisations - Isis Mill, CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Productivity Ltd. These initiatives can include irrigation and energy audits or productivity planning.

The end result is that they also automatically move further along toward their Smartcane BMP, best management practice, accreditation.

Don and Antonella Halpin and their son **Andrew** farm on the Elliott River near Bundaberg and supply cane to Isis Central Mill. Don is chairman of Isis Productivity Ltd (IPL) and also a director of Isis Central Mill.

"Being involved with the Isis 20:20 process from both the management side and the grower side has been very interesting and certainly beneficial for our family and business," he said.

"From IPL and the Mill's perspective, it has helped draw together several programs to make better use of limited resources and from a grower perspective, it has helped us to investigate and work on the areas that were not working as well for us as we would like."

Through the Isis 20:20 conversations, the Halpins decided that concentrating on improving their irrigation methods would be the best place to find their 20% gain.

Continues page 14 ►



They wanted to move away from high pressure winch irrigation and had planned to invest in a two pivot system. They also wanted to revisit trickle irrigation on some blocks.

"Having decided this was the area we wanted to focus on, we had an audit done of our existing irrigation infrastructure and farm layout and it became clear that a pivot system was not going to be the most cost-effective method for us," said Don.

"We have now purchased a lateral move (irrigator) that travels a 'racecourse path' to evenly water the 42 hectare river farm where trickle irrigation is not an option due to water quality issues."

The lateral applies 35mm in 4 to 4.5 days where the winch system took 12 days.

"Installing the lateral move irrigator was also a chance to evaluate our pumping systems and install a variable speed drive to maximise the efficiency of the water delivery to the irrigator," Don said.

"As well as doing a better job of irrigating the crop, the lateral has also halved the energy costs to apply water across a very dry summer since it was installed in December 2018."

Having used trickle irrigation extensively in cane and previously in horticultural

crops, Don and Andrew were convinced of the benefits, but they had also identified some practical problems that needed new solutions for their soil types.

"We have previously installed both underground and surface trickle tape and both have significant drawbacks," said Don. "In our sandy soils we know that we lose water below the cane root system and it can be hard to wet up the profile when the tape is buried. But surface tape is hard to retrieve and it can be hard to get the applied water to spread from the inter-row to the row."

The new system that Andrew came up with is a compromise that seems to be solving all the main problems.

After planting, the Halpins run the trickle tape out beside the stool and the tape is buried just a few inches below the soil surface when the cane is filled in.

"This means the water is applied right where the crop can use it and we don't need to retrieve the tape until after the final ratoon is harvested," said Don.

"To check on its performance we installed moisture probes at an emitter and between emitters so that we could see that the water was spreading through the root zone without draining out below."

Pictured: (Top) Andrew Halpin has developed a way to install trickle irrigation on sandy soil to overcome the disadvantages associated with deep buried tape and with surface trickle. (Above) Don Halpin and grandson Oscar browse through the Isis 20:20 individualised productivity plan for Donella Farms.



"Families who have opted in to the Isis 20:20 process have found that it is very worthwhile. Growers have already made 487 documented practice improvements in the first 12 months."

Pictured: (Above) Mark Mammino looked into ways to make his existing winch irrigation system more energy efficient. Upgrading to electric pumps with variable speed has vastly reduced the energy requirements on undulating blocks.

With GPS-guidance in all their machinery, it is easy to conduct all paddock operations, including buried fertiliser applications, without disturbing the trickle tape.

The Halpins now have 32 ha under trickle to water cane and the following peanut crop, before retrieving it prior to planting the next cane crop, when it is re-installed at filling-in.

The trickle blocks are also set up with automatic switching to allow Don and Andrew to use off-peak electricity to apply water for four hours on one block before switching to another block for the second four-hour period.

The tape applies 6mm (0.6 ML/ha) at very low cost compared to their previous methods that involved 12-hour application periods with some losses below the root zone.

The third project that Don and Antonella have initiated to help make 20% gains in their crop production is to undertake a personalised productivity plan with the Isis 20:20 productivity team.

Don said the planning process highlighted nutrient management as an area to focus on, leading to a GPS-upgrade, retro-fitting variable rate drive to the fertiliser box and split applications of nitrogen through the trickle tape.

"The real benefit of being personally involved with the Isis 20:20 process has been to draw together several other projects and seeing that each one contributes to significant changes and improvements in how we do business," said Don.

CANEGROWERS Isis chairman and IPL director, **Mark Mammino**, used the Isis 20:20 process to galvanise himself to make some tough decisions.

He was finding that some of the job satisfaction he had always enjoyed in farming was being overshadowed by stress and tiredness.

"When I sat down and thought about it, I wanted 20 % more time," he said.

"Our sons are not planning to return to the farm and I didn't want to drive myself into the ground and then find I was forced into selling the farm sometime in the future."

"So I evaluated the off-farm activities I was committed to and resigned from some of them. Then I looked at the farm and decided to reduce the total area that I was working."

By selling part of his farm aggregation Mark also redeemed many hours a week simply by reducing his travel time between farms.

Another area of interest for Mark was to develop systems that better track crop production costs at a block level. Having this information makes it possible to assess the performance of each block and to take out blocks when their profitability drops rather than following a simple rotation plan.

"All other businesses keep records that help them make these key financial decisions and keep track of their inputs," he said. "I want a recording system that marries up with my plans and automatically populates when I implement a recommendation."

When Mark completed the irrigation audit of his farm he decided to find efficiencies in his pumps rather than through low pressure systems that had long pay-back periods.

Mark still thoroughly enjoys farming and says he's a long way off retiring, but he could see that his quality of life was suffering.

The Isis 20:20 process helped put some things that the family had been thinking about for a long time into focus and made it easier to make some hard decisions.

The Isis 20:20 process has proven to be a very effective gateway into targeted learning and best management practice change through the coordinated delivery of the district's irrigation and energy audits, individualised productivity plans and farm economics, farming systems and crop sequencing tools.

With the Isis sugar industry working in such a coordinated way with growers, the process ensures that time and money is spent in ways that directly benefit the individual grower and underpin the industry's future. ■

Reminder: Important QSL pricing dates ahead



By Bryce Wenham
QSL Executive Manager Supplier
Relations and Systems

September brings a number of important dates for QSL growers with uncompleted 2019-Season grower-managed pricing, as well as those considering nominating tonnage to QSL's 2020 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool and/or 2020 Self-Managed Harvest.

2019-SEASON PRODUCT DEADLINES

- **2019 QSL INDIVIDUAL FUTURES CONTRACT:** The Pricing Completion Date for the Individual Futures Contract's October 2019 contract is **16 September 2019**. Any tonnes remaining unpriced beyond this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.
- **2019 QSL SELF-MANAGED HARVEST:** The Pricing Completion Date for the Self-Managed Harvest's October 2019 contract is **23 September 2019**. Any tonnes remaining unpriced beyond this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.
- **2019 QSL TARGET PRICE CONTRACT:** Growers who have unpriced 2019-Season tonnes in the QSL Target Price Contract will have these automatically rolled forward after **20 September 2019** and costs may apply. These costs are not a charge imposed by QSL, but the cost of transferring unpriced pricing exposure from the Oct19 contract to the Mar20 contract and the difference in values between the two. Any costs from this Oct19-Mar20 roll will be in addition to the existing \$1.22/tonne already incurred from the Jun19-Oct19 roll. You can find an estimate of the Oct19-Mar20 roll cost on the bottom of the Indicative ICE 11 Prices table published on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au) and featured in our daily pricing email.

2020-SEASON PRODUCT DEADLINES

- **2020 QSL EARLY-START ACTIVELY MANAGED POOL:** Nominations for the 2020 QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool **open on 1 September 2019 and close on 31 October 2019**. This QSL-managed pricing option targets the best return for participants by pricing in an active manner designed to exploit short-term market opportunities. As its name suggests, it starts pricing earlier than the standard QSL Actively Managed Pool, giving the pool managers an additional six months in which to price this pool's tonnage.
- **2020 QSL SELF-MANAGED HARVEST:** Nominations for the 2020 QSL Self-Managed Harvest **open on 1 September 2019 and close on 31 October 2019**. This grower-managed pricing option is designed to give growers the opportunity to manage their own production risk. To participate, growers must have a minimum of 300 tonnes and 35% of their GEI Sugar with QSL allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool. They are then responsible for pricing the entirety of their QSL Harvest Pool allocation against each of the four futures contracts available each season (July, October, March and May). Pricing restrictions remain in place for 20% of each participating grower's nominated tonnage in the Self-Managed Harvest in order to maintain their production buffer.

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.

For more information regarding any of the pricing products outlined above, please read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au or from any QSL office.

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More effective N-inhibitor fertiliser now available

Supplied by Impact Fertilisers

Sugarcane growers now have access to an effective new nitrogen inhibitor fertiliser that greatly improves nitrogen use efficiency, while helping combat nutrient runoff and other losses.

Impact Fertilisers has just completed accreditation training in conjunction with the release of its nitrification inhibitor fertiliser product, 'N-Protect™' to resellers in the Burdekin, Whitsunday, Mackay and Bowen regions.

According to Impact Fertilisers marketing manager, **Gary Burch**, N-Protect is both an Australian and a world first in the application of a liquid nitrogen inhibitor to granular urea fertiliser at the point of despatch.

Mr Burch said the patented nitrogen inhibitor liquid formulation, developed by Solvay, guarantees maximum nitrogen use efficiency by dramatically reducing nitrogen loss through volatilisation and leaching.

"N-Protect uses the world's widely used and most effective nitrogen inhibitor, Dicyandiamide (DCD), in a unique liquid formulation that preserves the integrity of the active within the nitrogen fertiliser granule.

"N-Protect disrupts the action of key nitrogen fixing soil bacteria, effectively suppressing the oxidation of ammonium to the nitrate form. Nitrate is the most abundant form of nitrogen, which greatly boosts sugar cane yield, but is also the most susceptible to leaching and losses

through denitrification (i.e. volatilisation) into the atmosphere.

"N-Protect's bacteriostatic action suppresses *Nitrosomonas* bacteria without destroying it. As a result, nitrates are retained for uptake by the plant and not lost through leaching and runoff during rain and irrigation, or denitrification into the atmosphere by microbial action."

In addition to the significant nitrogen use efficiency and likely yield benefits, Mr Burch said N-Protect could play a key role in management of nutrient runoff from farmland under toughening Reef legislation which imposes strict monitoring and management obligations on sugarcane growers in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

DCD - the active nitrification inhibitor in N-Protect - is the most active and widely used nitrogen inhibitor worldwide, but has not previously been available in a liquid form, making N-Protect a world first.

Unlike some controlled release and stabilised fertilisers, this new liquid DCD nitrogen inhibitor formulation has a favourable safety and environmental profile with no associated micro-plastic residues or toxicity issues.

The combination of the effective DCD active and the novel liquid application to the nitrogen fertiliser granules immediately prior to despatch to the end user, preserves the integrity of the active for long lasting results.

The product is now available for order direct to growers in Far North Queensland from Impact Fertiliser plants in Townsville and Mackay.

Trials of the product internationally have indicated that the treated nitrogen persists in the soil for up to 30 days after application. Importantly, the N-Protect treated nitrogen is strongly absorbed to the soil particles, stabilising it from loss pathways, but it remains available for plant uptake and plant growth.

N-Protect and a full information pack are available through selected fully trained and accredited Impact Fertiliser resellers in Far North Queensland. ■

More information is available from Impact Fertilisers

Phone: 1800 88 44 88

Email: customerservice@impactfert.com.au



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Growers seek win-win solutions

Cane growers have made many improvements to their farm operations and practices and many, facilitated by programs with both industry and/or government investment, have reduced the loss of sediment, nutrients and chemicals from paddocks.

During the nine months to April 2019, 455 growers (managing 97,900 ha of cane) worked with Smartcane BMP facilitators to improve farm practices through more use of fallow planting including legumes, adoption of SIX EASTY STEPS for nutrient management, selection of chemicals, nozzles and calibration of spray rigs, managing disease risk and improved irrigation efficiency.

The Reef Alliance Project, funded by the Australian Government and managed by QFF, has worked with 580 growers (managing 76,000 ha of cane) over three years to develop nutrient management plans and better match irrigation to crop requirements. The State Government's Project 161 has had similar success.

These results show the commitment of growers to ongoing improvement that both boosts productivity and reduces risk to water quality. Building on this success is the challenge for industry.

Opportunities abound, including through the Australian Government's new Reef funding commitment which is being managed by the GBR Foundation.

Challenges also exist, such as the State Government's determination

to intensify regulation which may well diminish grower engagement with voluntary programs.

Finding win-win situations with growers is the way to maximise participation and achieve lasting change.

Making this happen is about industry taking ownership and leading the way. ■



Educating about agriculture

CANEGROWERS has joined the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA). Its mission is to engage and inform students, teachers and the community about the role and importance of primary industries in the economy, environment and wider community. It also promotes career opportunities in primary industries and along the food and fibre supply chain.

There are a number of initiatives in which CANEGROWERS can have input.

Teachers workshop - PIEFA is organising a teachers' workshop in Brisbane in November to showcase the options for incorporating agriculture into school curriculums. Being in Queensland, it makes sense that sugarcane will feature.

Facetime a Farmer - Following the success of an initiative in the United Kingdom, three Australian farmers have joined a pilot program which video-links them with classrooms to discuss daily farm activities. There are plans to extend this program and CANEGROWERS will be looking for volunteers.

Student teacher survey - In 2011, PIEFA commissioned a survey of 300 schools (74 in Queensland) and 900 students to assess knowledge and understanding of issues facing the primary industries, focusing on where food and fibre products come from. A follow-up survey is being planned and CANEGROWERS will have some input.

These may seem far from the immediate issues faced by members but they will

hopefully pay dividends increasing community understanding of the importance of agriculture. ■



Trade Matters

The industry's trade activities have delivered very strong results over a long period of time. Examples of this include the successful challenges taken in the WTO against US and EU sugar policies, as well as improved market access to Indonesia, Japan and South Korea.

However, past results are not enough. Maintaining and improving the terms of trade for Australian sugar depends on ensuring that third countries are held to their international commitments, ensuring that sugar is included in future trade agreements, and defending existing market access opportunities.

India sugar subsidies

The WTO investigation over India's sugar subsidies took a step forward on 15 August when Australia, Brazil and Guatemala lodged their second request for the establishment of a Panel at the WTO Dispute Settlement Body.

Given the similarity of issues raised in their separate requests, Australia, Brazil and Guatemala sought the establishment of a single Panel to jointly hear the disputes. India couldn't refuse these second requests to establish the Panels, but, as expected, it did argue that the matters raised by Australia, Brazil, and Guatemala are "distinct and separate".

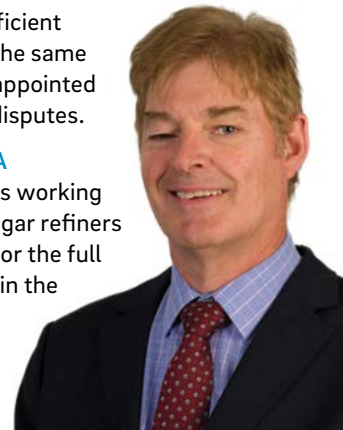
The process moves forward, three separate Panels were established with standard terms of reference and Australia, Brazil and Guatemala reserving rights in each Panel proceeding.

In the normal course and to keep processes efficient and coordinated, the same Panellists will be appointed to hear the three disputes.

Australian-EU FTA

CANEGROWERS is working closely with EU sugar refiners to make the case for the full inclusion of sugar in the EU-Australia FTA.

Read more about this on Page 4 of this edition. ■





Playing the long game

CANEGROWERS works to find answers to your questions and solutions to your problems. That's part of what we do for you as a member.

None of the problems we encounter or the issues we tackle are simple. They all have importance and relevance to our membership, to growers and to the industry. They all require persistence, relationships with influencers and decision-makers and an approach that can find a good outcome for all parties concerned. They need effort and resources. They all take time.

In my time at CANEGROWERS, I haven't met a grower who thinks it's a short-term proposition when they're about to plant sugarcane for the next season. It's a five-year timeframe with a focus on producing a great crop each year, every year, for that crop cycle.

Sure, things happen, and you must be responsive. The weather is not always kind. Yet you plan and work your plan. You're playing the long game.

This is the space where CANEGROWERS works. We are responsive, yet we are playing the long game to create opportunities for your business, to tackle the problems you don't have time to deal with and to find solutions. That's our role. That's our strength. That's our value.

Right now, our immediate focus is the proposed new Reef Bill. We've aired our Reef Bill campaign video on regional television to highlight our issues with the proposed bill and this has created awareness of our ongoing concerns. The video supports our long-term effort and ongoing work to showcase what growers are doing to support their businesses, the environment and the Great Barrier Reef.

We have a great story that is supported by data and engagement. Smartcane BMP was launched in 2013 and, from modest beginnings, we can now show 70% of cane area is in the program. Nearly one in four hectares of cane production area is accredited in the Smartcane BMP program – 425 cane businesses.

Since 2008, there is strong support and engagement in reef funded programs, for farm trials and science to improve efficiency and productivity.

And it's not just about engagement. Growers are giving their time, offering their cane paddocks and spending their money, to support sustainability.

The collaboration and relationships built through growers engaging with researchers, scientists, policy makers, government, industry and agribusiness companies over time, have put CANEGROWERS in a great position to support your business and tell your story.

Yet that's not the only issue we are working on to support your business. There are many others.

Some are complex, like electricity pricing and sugar marketing, others are jurisdictional, like transport and the movement of farming equipment.

They can involve cultural sensitivities such as Native Title claims, or personal safety such as cane burning and workplace health and safety.

CANEGROWERS works to ensure a secure and profitable future for your business, and we want to ensure you come home safe to your family every day.

We don't know what the future holds, but we can plan and prepare for the challenges that may come our way.

We will continue to engage and work to find answers to the problems we face as an industry. We will continue to be resilient to the criticism, strategic in our engagement, bold in our messaging and optimistic for the future.

So next time you are in town, drop into your local office or pick up the phone. We are here to support your business, tell your story, and offer a place to belong. ■



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation



CANEGROWERS Innisfail and WTSIP Chairman Joe Marano

Spotlight on pesticides

The cane industry in the Wet Tropics is skilling up its extension officers to advise growers on pesticide use for better pest management and water quality outcomes.

The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) is hosting a one-day workshop for extension officers this month with **Allan Blair** and **Jack Robertson** from the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

They will cover topics including pesticide groups of concern in Great Barrier Reef catchments, eco-toxicity of different pesticides, integrated pest management strategies and calibrating pesticide application equipment.

A greater focus on pesticides is the industry's response to changes in the way pesticides are measured and assessed by the Queensland Government's Paddock to Reef Monitoring and Modelling Program (P2R).

The number of chemicals that are routinely measured is increasing - from 13 to 22 in the latest 2019 Wet Tropics Report Card. Detection methods are also improving, which may result in more reports of water quality guideline exceedances.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail and WTSIP Chairman **Joe Marano** said it was important for the industry to proactively

manage risks associated with pesticide use as improvements are made to water quality monitoring.

"Many growers are already working hard to manage the risk of chemicals entering local waterways but with changes to how the Queensland Government reports on breaches of water quality guidelines, we need to make sure everyone is operating with the best available information and advice," he said.

Mr Marano said WTSIP's Cane Technical Advisory Group had been asked to review the latest research, which showed a high incidence of Diuron in the majority of water samples and an increased detection of Imidacloprid in water samples from some sub-catchments, which may be related to over-use of Imidacloprid products (eg. Confidor and Suscon).

The Advisory Group reiterated "less is best", suggesting there are many ways to minimise pesticide runoff including choosing pre-emergent products that are effective at a low application rate, banding or zonal application of pre-emergents, managing ratoons with knock-downs and spot spraying where possible and avoiding spraying pre-emergent chemicals close to and during the wet season.

"Growers now have a much broader range of chemicals to choose from, many of which are less toxic, price competitive and less soluble than the more traditionally-used chemicals," Mr Marano said.

"But we need detailed advice on when, where and how to use them effectively so they have less environmental impact while maintaining productivity."

Mr Marano said WTSIP's 17 partners from mills, productivity boards, sugar research, industry bodies and natural resource management were committed to working together.

"It is important for us as an industry to understand how pesticides work and their relative risk to water quality so we can make sure everyone is well advised.

"This information is useful both for growers who have achieved their Smartcane BMP accreditation as well as those still in progress.

"The educational process isn't static, it's ongoing and continually evolving, so by working together to understand our chemicals, we will be in a better position to find effective solutions to create a sustainable industry." ■

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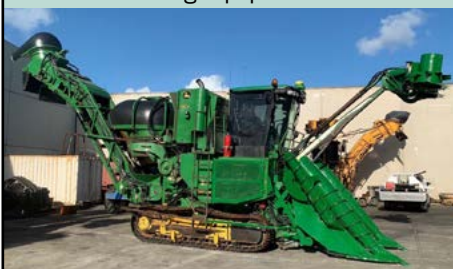
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Self-propelled Nitro N2XP Sprayer, broadacre 27m boom and modified for sugar cane inter row, 4200L tank, \$88,000 inc GST. Bauer Centerliner 4 Tower Linear 260 mtr span \$77,000 inc GST. 3 row stool splitter gal bin s/s worms \$11,000 + GST. Ph: 0428 578 234.

2 Bore Pumps = 20,000 GPH At 360ft Head w/- all above ground components and some usable column pipes and up to 170ft 1"SS shafts w/- joiners. Turbines have SS impellers etc available with either 50HP electric or angle drive gearbox (consider parting out). Phone (07) 4159 7275 (nights).

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic

Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427 598 333.

Wanted

AVOKAH Travelling Irrigator in working order. Hose not important. (Cairns Area). Ph: 07 4056 1740.

Massey 178 in good condition. Ingham Area.

Phone Rick: 0429 182 192.

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408 448 227.

Positions Vacant

Haul out operator required for the remainder of the 2019 season. Tully area. Experience with Articulated John Deere Tractor with Carta Elevator bin required. Ph: 0418 181 646.

Haulout operators/farm workers wanted. Large farming entity is looking for experienced haulout operators and farm workers for Mackay/Sarina area. Immediate start. Ph: Brett 0427 171 320.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–August
	12.08.19	19.08.19		
Mossman	0.4	0.4	2491	1795
Mareeba AP	0.2	0	634	731
Cairns	0.2	0	1897	1655
Mt Sophia	3	0	2738	2725
Babinda	0	6	2579	3517
Innisfail	30	17	2885	2967
Tully	5	8	2237	3433
Cardwell	0	3	1934	1716
Lucinda	0	5	2251	1753
Ingham	Tce	8	2649	1631
Abergowrie	0	4	1903	1488
Townsville	0.2	0	1755	898
Ayr DPI	0	0	947	743
Proserpine	0.2	0	1393	1077
Mirani	0	1	1386	1183
Mackay	0.4	0	1048	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	1303	1344
Bundaberg	6	0	251	686
Childers South	10	0.2	260	585
Maryborough	10	0	444	822
Tewantin	10	1	788	1270
Eumundi	0	0	505	1231
Nambour	8	0	837	1222
Woongoolba	1	0	555	960
Murwillumbah	9	0	485	1154
Ballina	0	0.8	856	1350
Woodburn	0	0	261	1035



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.

Work Wanted

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

Property

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: 0408 733 793.

Cane farm Crystalbrook Proserpine. 154 hectares with 350ML of water allocation from River. Lateral move irrigator. 122.1 hectares currently developed for cane. Ph: 0427 678 572.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 0427 241 250.



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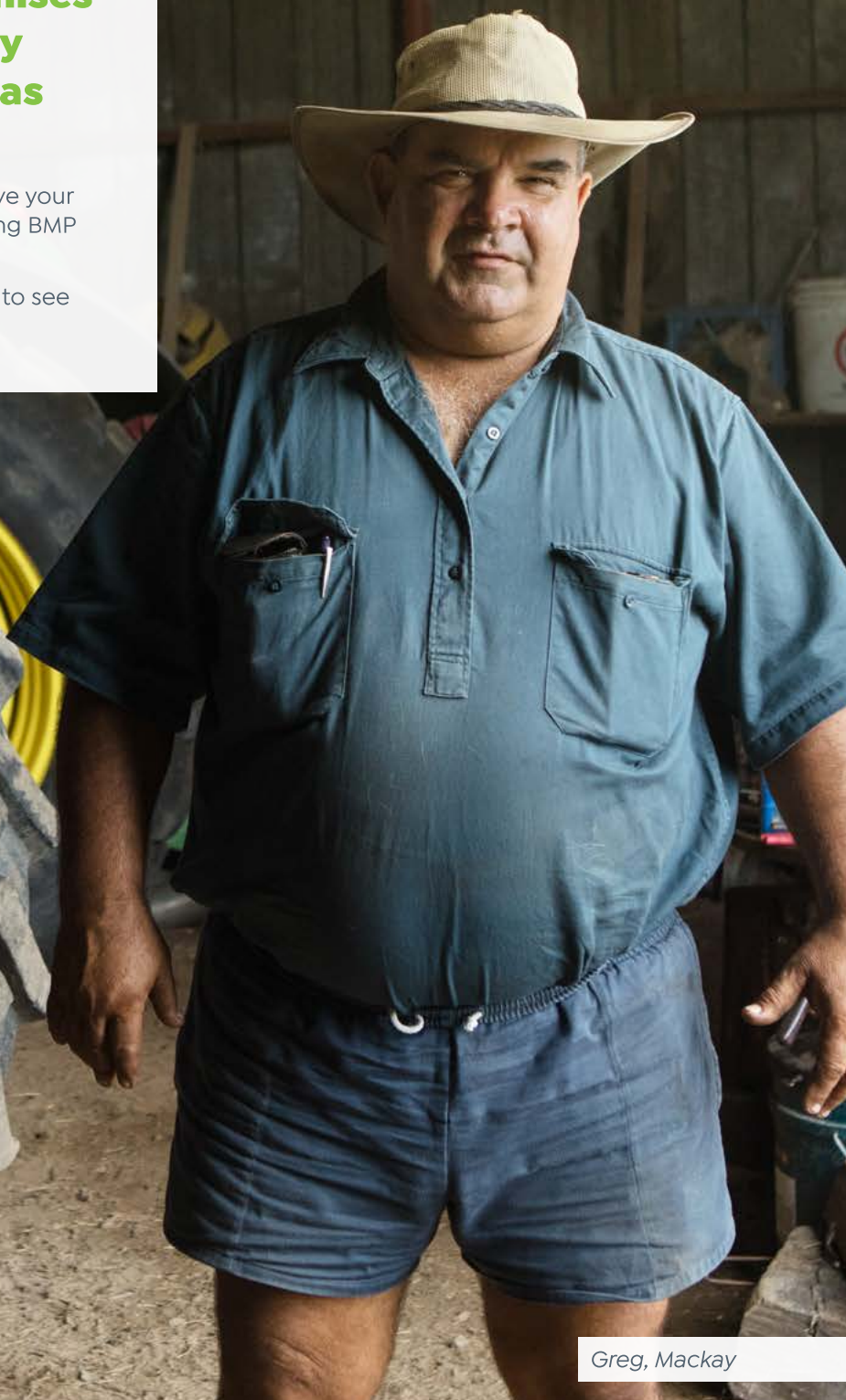


WE'LL WALK YOU THROUGH IT

Smartcane BMP recognises and celebrates the way you farm. And it's not as hard as you think.

You're always looking for ways to improve your farm. So chances are you're already doing BMP on your own.

Get in touch with your district facilitator to see how easy it can be. We're here to help.



Greg, Mackay



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.