

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

# GROWER



CANEGROWERS

8 April 2019 Price \$9.95



## CALL TO ARMS

**SIGN OUR REJECT THE REEF  
REGS PETITION TODAY!**



**Federal  
Government  
tips in funds  
to tackle tiny  
invaders**



**Increasing  
the uptake  
of Enhanced  
Efficiency  
Fertilisers**



**Project gives  
growers  
access to on-  
farm water  
quality data**





# Amitron®

TERMINATES WEEDS WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| UV Stable           | Wide weed spectrum     |
| Moves through trash | Pre- & post-emergent   |
| Easily activated    | Versatile & compatible |
| Residual control    | Tough on vines         |

[amitron.com.au](http://amitron.com.au)

® Amitron is a registered trademark of an Arysta LifeScience Group Company



# CONTENTS

8 April 2019



## Features

- 5 Canberra tips in funds to tackle tiny invaders
- 6 Reef bill committee - farm groups given minutes to argue case
- 9 Cash for accreditation - Wilmar extends Smartcane BMP incentives
- 10 SRA Snapshot - links between on-farm practice and water quality
- 14 New data for farmers
- 18 Membership update - working hard for your business
- 20 New Reef regulations

### Also inside:

- 2 Chairman's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 16 QSL report
- 21 Policy update
- 22 Classifieds
- 23 Rainfall report

COVER IMAGE: CANEGROWERS is calling on members to sign the Reject the Reef Regs petition. Read more on page 6.  
Pictured: Innisfail cane growers Felix Garrone, Joe Marano and Louis Garrone.

**Editor:** Wayne Griffin

**Design and classifieds:** Angela Linhart

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

**Published every second Monday by**  
CANEGROWERS

Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,

Queensland Australia

ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,

Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone: 07 3864 6444

Fax: 07 3864 6429

Email: [info@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:info@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Website: [www.CANEGROWERS.com.au](http://www.CANEGROWERS.com.au)

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 41 Number 07

Printed by Printcraft

37 College Street, Hamilton QLD 4007

### Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250

# STAND UP FOR YOUR INDUSTRY

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

CANEGROWERS has strongly denounced the Reef Bill that was recently introduced to the Queensland Parliament by Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch. We need to take a strong stand.

This Bill does nothing for the sugar industry or the farming sector as a whole but it reeks of political populism without any consideration given to the negative impact it will have on thousands of Queensland families and businesses.

A farmer recently told me that his definition of a farmer is 'someone who must be regulated for political opportunity'. We can all very much relate to that sentiment.

On March 25, CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** and I appeared before the Parliamentary Committee presiding over the Reef Bill.

We appeared alongside other farming bodies, most notably AgForce, Growcom and Queensland Farmers' Federation. Our views were also shared and supported at this hearing by the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC).

Unfortunately, this hearing only served to confirm our fears that the Reef Bill is being bulldozed through parliament without proper consultation or consideration, and is an act of political manoeuvring designed to stem the flow of inner-city votes to the Greens, rather than an example of good governance.

CANEGROWERS, AgForce and the ASMC, who together represent around \$10 billion of farm output, were given just 40 minutes before the committee, with each organisation allowed the grand total of three minutes to present our arguments.

We made it clear to the committee that the proposed Bill forces an unprecedented level of bureaucratic intrusion onto growers, with little or no evidence it will produce environmental benefits – but plenty of evidence it will damage the farming sector.

We also pointed out that the current Reef Legislation, introduced in 2009, already sets a remarkably high regulatory threshold.

The current legislation has provisions for environmental risk management plans, soil testing, nutrient calculations, record keeping, the prescribed use of chemicals, chemical accreditation, mandatory setback areas, and grower audits.

The proposed legislation turbo charges these requirements to a new level of bureaucratic compliance that I doubt many farmers could comply with.

We made it clear to the committee that the new legislation also practically rules out any further expansion of the industry.

The Impact Assessment requirements for new cane land (including old cane land that has been out of production for a period of time) is so high it may confine us to our current 360,000 ha footprint.

## TIRED OF THE BIG STICK

As farmers we put a lot of sweat, blood and tears into running the best farming operation and producing the best crop possible. We're rightly proud of what we do. But being constantly told by politicians that our efforts are not good enough has demoralised growers.

It's time to let those politicians know that enough is enough.

CANEGROWERS and AgForce have joined forces and through the National Farmers' Federation have launched an online petition to register your complaints about the Reef Bill.

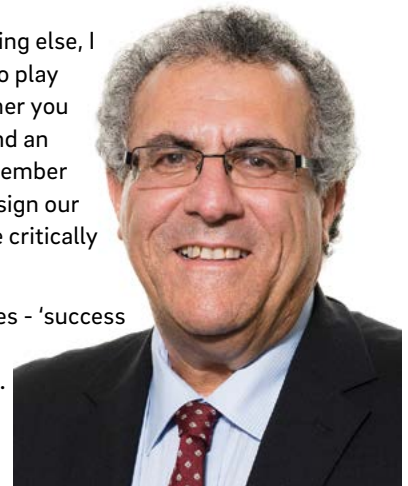
I encourage every farmer to record their opposition to the reef regulations by signing this petition. If you can't access this online, ring your local CANEGROWERS office and they will help you to be part of the petition.

Cane growers have always been successful when we stand shoulder to shoulder in great numbers. We will also work closely with AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and other groups to plan our next steps.

More than anything else, I call on growers to play your part. Whether you write a letter, send an email, phone a member of parliament or sign our petition, it will be critically important.

As the saying goes - 'success is the sum of all the small efforts'.

You can make a difference. ■





# CANE COUNTRY WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED



## ACCESS THE BEST CANE-SPECIFIC COVER ON THE MARKET

Queensland is a beautiful place to live, but it can also be volatile and unpredictable. Making sure you have the right insurance cover is so important.

### Get the right cover

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers have access to a range of insurers to provide you with the most competitive cover.

### No fees for members

As a membership service, no broking fees apply for CANEGROWERS members.

### We come to you

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers will visit you on farm to talk over your insurance needs.

### Help to lodge claims

If something goes wrong and you need to report a claim, we are here to assist you during the claims process.

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

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Southern growers breathe a sigh of relief

Above average rainfall in March provided a much-needed drink for parched cane crops across Queensland's southern growing region, boosting grower morale, especially in Rocky Point where a five-month dry-spell finally ended.

"Things are definitely looking a lot better than they were a few weeks ago," CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Chairman **Richard Skopp** said, after the district, which received little to no rain between mid-October 2018 and mid-March 2019, had a 250mm drenching in the final two weeks of March.

"It was looking very gloomy for a while, the cane looked practically dead in many places and we were seriously thinking about having to replant, which is very rare in the area. But we've seen a big turnaround over the last two weeks," Mr Skopp said.

"The whole district has really copped a soaking. The soil is fully saturated, so that will give us enough for a month of growth at least. It's strange to see the green leaves starting to poke up through the brown, dead leaves."

While all of the southern growing regions recorded figures well below their rainfall average for the period January-March (see the rainfall chart on page 23), some good falls have been recorded.

In the week ending 1 April, Bundaberg had 37 mm, Childers 443 and Maryborough 76. ■

## NFF WELCOMES CLIMATE POLICY COMMITMENT

The National Farmers' Federation has welcomed a commitment from the Labor Party to exempt the farming sector from its proposed climate policy, which seeks to reduce Australia's carbon emissions by 45% by 2030.

Labor's policy statement says it will seek to reduce pollution by big emitters over the decade by extending the existing pollution cap implemented by the Turnbull Government – known as the safeguard mechanism.

"The agricultural sector will be exempt from the expanded safeguard mechanism - we won't have targets for farmers," the policy statement says.

National Farmers' Federation Chief Executive Officer **Tony Mahar** welcomed the exemption.

"An assurance that agriculture won't directly bear any additional burden in reaching Labor's proposed 45% emissions reduction target by 2030 is positive, as is a guarantee that a carbon tax or a carbon pricing mechanism will not be introduced," Mr Mahar said.

"We do however have reservations about the impact a 45% target could have on agriculture as a participant in the value chain. For example, increased fuel transport or electricity costs are likely to have a consequential impact on the agricultural sector." ■

## TABLELAND GROWERS FORM NEW COMMITTEE

A group of Tableland growers has formed a new committee to promote closer ties and cooperation with MSF's Tableland Mill.

The Tableland Mill Suppliers group will work constructively and in partnership with MSF, "So that the Tableland sugar industry can reach its full potential of in excess of 2 million tonnes of cane," committee chairman and CANEGROWERS Tableland member **George Adil** said.

"The financial commitment by MSF over the years, in sugar manufacturing, the co-generation plant and the promotion of Nalinga Dam, can only auger well for the Tableland community and Tableland Mill suppliers," Mr Adil said. ■



**With over 30 years experience, Drain Tech can ensure you get every drill to the Mill.**

- Sub-surface Drainage
- High Pressure Drain Jetting
- Irrigation Mains
- Contour Mapping and Design

~ Servicing growers from Mossman to Mullumbimby ~

**Call Richard on 0428 528 054**  
**www.draintech.net.au**



# CANBERRA TIPS IN FUNDS TO TACKLE TINY INVADERS

The Federal Government's Budget has confirmed \$27.5 million to combat two imported ant infestations in sugarcane regions.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said he was bringing forward \$18.3 million originally earmarked for 2012-22 to aid the eradication of red fire ants.

These aggressive ants, which have a sting that can kill, form colonies and have been confirmed in the Rocky Point cane growing region of southern Queensland.

A package of \$9.2 million has been outlined for another ant species in sugarcane areas - yellow crazy ants.

The tiny formic acid-spraying invaders, which are on the list of the world's 100 worst invasive species, are believed to have infested more than 1,700 hectares in the Cairns region alone, including cane farms where they can cause major problems for growers by protecting crop pests such as aphids and scale, and causing soil aeration.

"This funding is great news, it's a good thing the government has done" said Cairns grower **Dino Zappala**, who has been battling yellow crazy ants on his Edmonton farm for years.

"Our problems with crazy ants began about six years ago. We had a block of plant cane up against the hill, about eight acres, and we were getting about 48 tonnes to the acre off it.

"But when it came to first ratoon I noticed that the cane was dropping off,



there was mould on the leaves and mould on the sticks. It just looked very sickly, like it was disintegrating basically.

"When we went into the paddock to investigate what was happening, we discovered these yellow crazy ants everywhere. They were up in the canopy and dropping all over us, they were down in the soil, getting into the root system.

"That year we went from 48 tonnes per hectare down to 28 tonnes per hectare and we had big losses in sugar. There were some patches where the ants were really thick that wouldn't even ratoon and needed to be ploughed out."

While Dino still has yellow crazy ants on the farm, he said the problem is manageable thanks to the ongoing efforts of his neighbour **Frank Teodo** and the Wet Tropics Management Authority's government-funded Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication team.

"Frank and Lucy Karger from the eradication team have done a fantastic job getting the



infestation here under control," Dino said.

"Without them this problem would have continued to spread right across the farm and the region. That's why it's important the government keep the funding up." ■

*Pictured: Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication team inspect a cane paddock for signs of infestation (Wet Tropics Images/Kirsty Cantle); (right) the tiny ants can spray formic acid to temporarily blind predators (Wet Tropics Images/Jurgen Freund).*



CANEGROWERS

**ELECTIONS 2019**

**BALLOT PAPERS TO BE RETURNED  
BY 5PM 12 APRIL**

**WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU**

# REEF BILL COMMITTEE

## FARM GROUPS GIVEN JUST **MINUTES** TO ARGUE CASE

CANEGROWERS has told a Queensland Parliamentary committee that the State Government's proposed extension to laws covering farming in Great Barrier Reef catchments included a grab for sugar industry data. The bill also proposes a future landscape of ever-shifting farm regulation.

*"When we talk about our concerns about the bill, it is about the capacity for the director-general to continually change the minimum standards and also ... seek information from the industry."*

CANEGROWERS was represented by Chairman **Paul Schembri** and CEO **Dan Galligan** in Brisbane at the only scheduled public hearing of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's examination of the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*.

CANEGROWERS shared a 40-minute session with representatives from AgForce and the Australian Sugar Milling Council. An attempt by one LNP Committee member to extend the time failed.

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan told the committee that while government had spoken to industry about some of the regulations that may happen under the bill, there had been no discussion about some of the most concerning provisions in the proposed law.

This includes a wide-reaching government data grab from the sugar industry and its advisors and suppliers and the ability of government to shift the minimum farming standard goalposts.

"There has been no consultation about the bill," Mr Galligan said.

"When we talk about our concerns about the bill, it is about the capacity for the director-general to continually change the minimum standards and also the capacity for the government and the director-general of the department to seek information from the industry. Those have not been consulted about at all."

ASMC CEO David Pietsch told the Committee the milling organisation also had concerns about the acquisition of data.

"In our submission we provide an example where records that are held by a sugar mill and collected for a specific production related purpose may be inaccurately or perversely used in the context of this legislation," he said.

"Data held by industry that is considered accurate for the purposes for which it is collected such as harvest management, productivity improvement, extension or sugar cane plant breeding programs may

# Help stop red tape choking QLD farmers

The Queensland Government is moving to further regulate farming across the state.



*"Australian cane farmers are acknowledged as being world leaders in terms of environmental sustainability. We are innovative, we use technologies that other countries do not and we are considered to be at the leading edge, engaging in world's best practice."*



not necessarily be complete, accurate or suitable for the purpose intended in the new bill."

Mr Schembri today told the Committee that cane growers take their environmental responsibility seriously but the bill threatened their motivation and goodwill.

"Australian cane farmers are acknowledged as being world leaders in terms of environmental sustainability," he told the Committee. "At every forum that I attend internationally, Australian farmers are held up there as being the world leaders in terms of environmental sustainability.

"We are innovative, we use technologies that other countries do not and we are considered to be at the leading edge, engaging in world's best practice. Therefore, it is somewhat irritating to

come back to Queensland where our environmental credentials are made out to be second rate.

"We think that the reef protection bill will add unnecessary cost to our industry. We think it is heavily bureaucratic and, importantly, it will restrict our growth whilst providing very little in terms of public benefit."

The second panel to appear before the Committee included the Queensland Farmers' Federation, with CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Chairman Allan Dingle as one of its representatives, along with three other organisations including Growcom. Three environment or conservation focussed groups shared the third and final 40 minute session.

After the hearing Mr Schembri said the time was completely inadequate for the Committee to explore the huge

impacts the Bill would have on farming in Queensland.

"While we thank the Committee members for their interest and questions, it was clear some of them had more to ask us when the time expired," he said. "This makes regional public hearings, that more farmers can attend, an absolute priority and we urge the Committee to leave Brisbane and travel to the key farming areas impacted by this Bill."

The Committee is yet to schedule any further hearings and is due to report on 26 April. ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan.*

## AustralianFarmers

### Sign the petition to #RejectTheRegs

**VISIT [FARMERS.ORG.AU/CAMPAIGN/REJECTTHEREGS](https://farmers.org.au/campaign/rejecttheregs)**

# TIME TO REGISTER FOR CHEMICAL COLLECTION

Supplied by AgSafe

Time is running out for Queensland's cane growers to register their unwanted agricultural chemicals for collection as part of Agsafe's biennial collection drive - the deadline is 19 April.

The ChemClear collection program, which kicks off in June, provides a safe, effective and convenient path for landholders to dispose of any unwanted agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

ChemClear is a widely recognised program that manages the risks associated with obsolete agvet chemicals, while encouraging farmers and other chemical users to clean up their farms and chemical stores to ensure sound environmental practices.

Agsafe's other stewardship program drumMUSTER reached a significant milestone in New South Wales last month, collecting that State's 10 millionth chemical container.

The end-of-life waste management program has already saved NSW

councils an impressive \$32 million in landfill costs, by diverting empty, clean containers towards recycling schemes since 1998, providing chemical users with an affordable, accessible way to dispose of unwanted drums.

Agsafe General Manager **Dominique Doyle** said, "Farmers have huge expenses and need to use all chemicals they purchase where possible. When they don't have a use for them, or have inherited redundant chemicals, they're making a conscious decision to dispose of those chemicals in a responsible way. ChemClear gives them that option".

When taking an inventory, ChemClear requires the name of the product, manufacturer, container size and the remaining quantity in the container to enable a registration. If the container has no label on it, ChemClear requires the size of the container, whether it is a powder, granule or liquid and the remaining quantity in the container.

Chemical containers displaying the drumMUSTER logo are eligible for free collection. Agvet containers without the logo or that are unlabeled, expired, mixed or from non-participating manufacturers, are designated fee-for-service products incurring a per L/kg fee for disposal. A quote will be supplied for fee-for-service chemicals before collection.

A retrieval vehicle will be collecting registered chemicals from allocated sites in each Shire Council area where a registration has been received.

Register now online at [www.chemclear.org.au](http://www.chemclear.org.au) or phone 1800 008 182. ■





## QLD - June 2019

**Registrations close 19th April.**

For further information please call  
Colin Hoey on mobile: 0428 964 576



**Dispose of your unwanted or obsolete agvet chemicals in one easy collection.**

**FREE collection of Group 1 chemicals:**

- with readable labels
- still in original containers
- not mixed with other products
- within 2 years of expiry or deregistration
- from drumMUSTER participating companies

**Fee for service for Group 2 chemicals**

Recycle your empty eligible agvet containers. Visit the [drumMUSTER](http://drumMUSTER.com.au) website to find the nearest collection site to you. Remember, every container counts.





**drumMUSTER**



[chemclear.org.au](http://chemclear.org.au) 1800 008 182



Wilmar Sugar has announced an extension to its Smartcane BMP incentive program, with the bonus cash payment now available to growers who achieve accreditation in the industry's best practice management program by mid-2020.

Under the incentive program, growers supplying Wilmar mills in the Burdekin, Herbert River and Plane Creek areas, who achieve accreditation by 1 July 2020, will be eligible for a one-off payment of 15c per tonne, capped at 25,000 tonnes.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman and Plane Creek mill supplier **Kevin Borg** welcomed the move saying that, despite a level of mistrust between growers and Wilmar, the industry needed to pull together in the face of environmental, sustainability and political challenges.

"At the end of the day we're all in this together, growers and millers," Mr Borg said.

## CASH FOR ACCREDITATION

Wilmar extends Smartcane BMP incentive program

"It's a positive move by Wilmar and, let's be honest, we need all the incentives we can get to encourage growers to get on board with Smartcane BMP.

"Despite the fact that most of our growers would be farming at or above industry standard, we've struggled to get them over the accreditation line and that's mainly down to the record keeping requirements.

"Hopefully, this incentive will encourage them to take that extra step, because the reality is that's where we need to be as an industry.

"And it's not just because of Reef issues. Increasingly, buyers are looking to source sustainable sugar and we can't afford to be left behind and lose our competitive edge in the marketplace."

Wilmar's cane supply and grower relations general manager **Paul Giordani** said growers could receive up to \$3,750.

"We introduced the financial incentive in 2017 to demonstrate our commitment to environmental best practice and our support for the industry-run Smartcane BMP program," Mr Giordani said.

"Since then, we've provided the one-off payment to growers across our Herbert River, Burdekin and Plane Creek milling regions.

"Some of them had already achieved their accreditation, while others finished the three core modules of BMP after we launched the incentive program."

To be eligible growers must have registered by 29 March 2019 and achieve accreditation by 1 July, 2020. ■

# Main Engineering 4945 3300

## IRRIGATORS – HOSE TRAILERS – BILLET PLANTERS

Ready for immediate delivery!



**ME 800 IRRIGATOR**  
also available with hose reel

**HOSE TRAILERS**



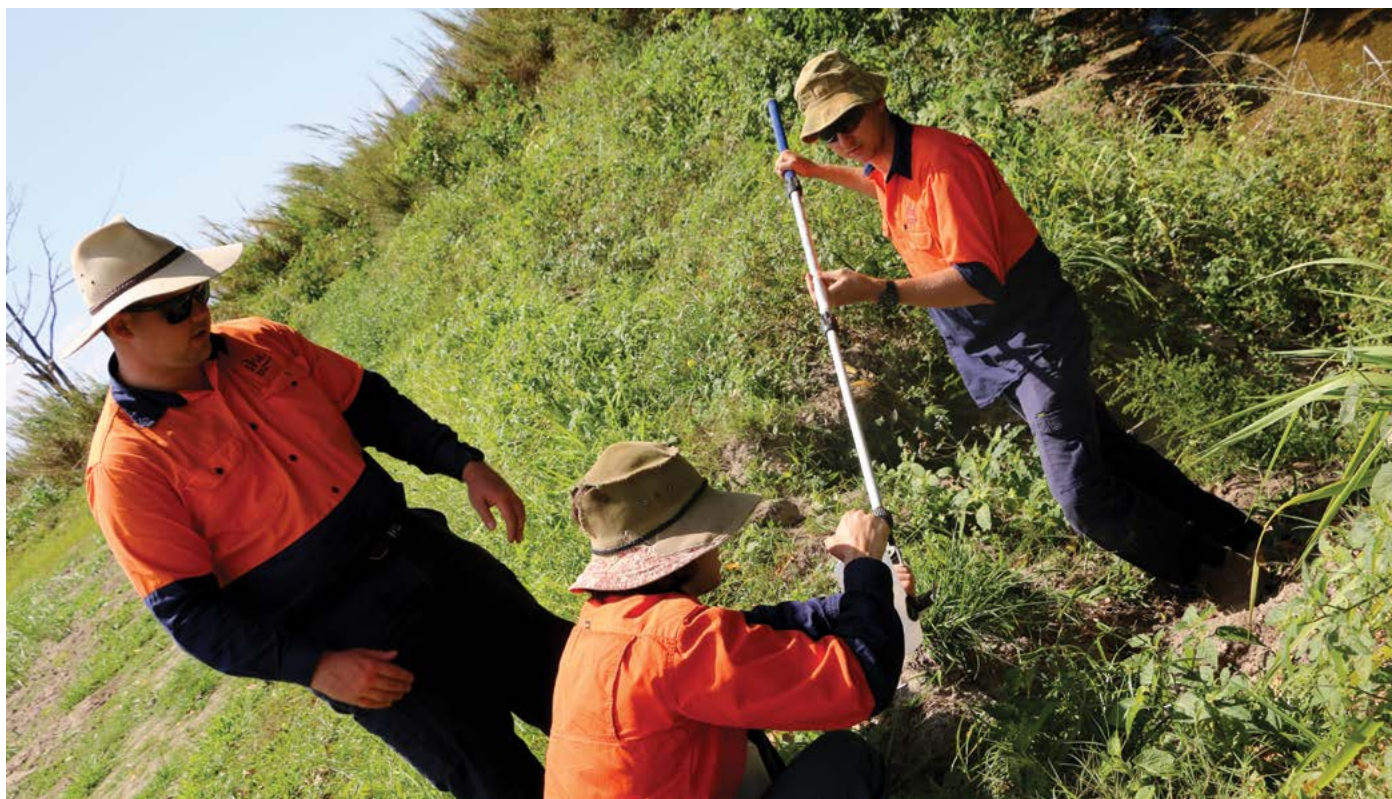
**BILLET PLANTERS**



**Quality Billet Planters & Soft Hose Irrigators – Manufactured Locally at Affordable Prices**  
16 Horsford Place, Proserpine | [www.mainengineering.com.au](http://www.mainengineering.com.au)



# SRA to build industry knowledge on interactions between on-farm practice and **WATER QUALITY**



Sugarcane growers in multiple priority catchments of the Great Barrier Reef will gain a clearer understanding of the relationship between farm management and water quality through a new project to be undertaken by SRA.

Called Cane to Creek 2.0, the project expands on two successful water quality projects that have been running in the Wet Tropics under the direction of SRA.

These projects have looked at herbicide, pesticide and nutrient management in multiple catchments of Far North Queensland. Cane to Creek 2.0 will build on the momentum of these projects and expand their footprint across sugarcane growing regions from Mossman to the Burdekin.

Cane to Creek 2.0 is funded by a partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from SRA.

## SRA appoints Dr Michael O'Shea as Executive Manager, Operations

SRA has announced the appointment of Dr Michael O'Shea as Executive Manager, Operations.

In this critical role for SRA, Dr O'Shea is responsible for the organisation's health, safety and environment, information technology, human resources, assets and facilities, and farms and operations. He comes to the role with extensive experience in senior management and research within the Australian sugarcane industry spanning more than 20 years.

Since the beginning of SRA in 2013, Dr O'Shea was the General Manager of the SRA Research Funding Unit (RFU), playing a key leadership role in helping steer investment in critical research, development and adoption (RD&A) activities.

Prior to his role with the RFU, Dr O'Shea was a Program Manager and Principal Scientist with BSES Limited, a predecessor organisation of SRA.

Dr O'Shea said he looked forward to working closely with SRA staff, the

sugarcane industry, and other key stakeholders in his new role.

"SRA is firmly focused on delivering productivity, profitability and sustainability for sugarcane growers and millers and I look forward to further contributing to industry outcomes and impact through this challenging role as Executive Manager, Operations," Dr O'Shea said.



Continues page 11 ►



## SRA appoints new General Manager, Research Funding Unit: Dr Harjeet Khanna

SRA has appointed Dr Harjeet Khanna as General Manager of the Research Funding Unit within SRA.

The SRA Research Funding Unit helps to inform and manage SRA's investments in research, development and adoption (RD&A) activities that deliver profitability, productivity and sustainability outcomes for sugarcane growers and millers. The RFU works with the Research Funding Panel (RFP), which is an independent skills-based panel appointed by the SRA Board. The RFP and RFU ensure there is a rigorous evaluation process for potential projects and investments and that they align with the objectives of the SRA Strategic Plan and government priorities. The RFU and RFP also receive guidance from grower and millers through advisory committees.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that Dr Khanna was previously a Program Manager within the RFU team and she comes to the role with wide-ranging scientific and management experience.

"Dr Khanna has extensive experience in plant tissue culture, biotechnology and molecular biology and a distinguished research career in Australia and overseas, working on a range of crops," Mr Fisher said.

"She is also well-known to SRA's broad-ranging research partners with whom we invest, through her role as a Program Manager since 2013. She has played a crucial role in overseeing a range of projects, including the major program of work on yellow canopy syndrome (YCS).

"These skills will be a strong asset to SRA and the industry and we look forward to Dr Khanna taking on this role within the Executive Team at SRA."

Dr Khanna said she looked forward to continuing to build on an effective research program for the Australian sugar industry, working in partnership with the rest of the RFU team and the Research Funding Panel.

"SRA continues to be firmly focused on outcomes-driven research that delivers on the needs of our investors. The RFU play a key role in that and I look forward to continuing that in this role," she said. ■

## Money Matters

with Sunsuper

### AUSTSAFE SUPER HAS MERGED WITH SUNSUPER

On 1 April, AustSafe Super merged with Sunsuper, and we are now stronger together as one fund committed to rural and regional Australia.

The merger, driven by the funds' shared values and solid commitment to members, provides an opportunity to expand the delivery of services and products to members in rural and regional areas through greater economies of scale.

AustSafe Super's independent chair, Mr Henry Smerdon AM, said the merger was testament to both funds' drive for better member outcomes.

"This is a particularly well-suited match for both organisations. Both funds started in Queensland within a year of each other, are based on a profit-for-member model, provide industry leading services and have a passion for rural and regional Australia."

Like AustSafe Super, Sunsuper has a long heritage of supporting rural and regional areas with around 380,000 of the fund's members and 40,000 employers currently living and working within these communities.

Sunsuper chair Andrew Fraser said that with a shared objective of always acting in members' best interests, the merger will drive greater efficiencies, foster a stronger competitive position in the market, and ultimately generate greater value for both funds' customers in the form of enhanced services and lower fees. ■



## Your local fund has grown.

AustSafe Super has merged with Sunsuper, and we're now stronger together as one fund committed to rural and regional Australia. With more than 1.3 million members and \$60 billion in funds under management\*, Sunsuper is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing super funds. We are also proud to be named as *Money* magazine's Best Super Fund Manager for the second year in a row.



[sunsuper.com.au](http://sunsuper.com.au) | 13 11 84

For information about awards visit [sunsuper.com.au/awards](http://sunsuper.com.au/awards). Products issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd ABN 88 010 720 840 AFSL No. 228 975. Consider Product Disclaimer Statement before making a decision. Call 13 11 84 or visit [sunsuper.com.au](http://sunsuper.com.au) for a copy. \* As at January 2019. 2323 (03/19)

# Increasing the uptake of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers



Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers (EEFs) are advanced fertilisers that can lead to more productive and sustainable farming practices by increasing the nutrient uptake and decreasing the nutrient loss of a particular crop. This allows growers to receive a greater yield, while applying less fertiliser and nutrients.

The EEF60 Project was developed by CANEGROWERS and Sugar Research Australia (SRA) to better understand the effectiveness of EEFs in well-controlled conditions. To achieve this, 60 sugarcane growers are currently undergoing trials using EEFs throughout Queensland's cane growing districts, which can be compared to the productivity and efficiency of other fertilisers.

## PROJECT UPDATE

The first year of harvesting has been completed and a workshop to discuss the results was held in February.

Overall, there was little significant response in yield/ha with the different levels of nitrogen in the treatments. This is not an unexpected outcome from the first year of a nitrogen trial when there can be background or residual N available.

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

Sixty-two trials have been re-established with 32 in the Wet Tropics, 15 in the Burdekin, 10 in the Central region and five in the Southern Region. Of these, six sites have water quality monitoring designed to establish the relative water quality of the different treatments from the run-off and deep drainage.

Behaviour Innovation has provided a report on *Understanding Psychological Barriers and Motivators to the Adoption of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers*. It identified that growers generally believe there is a significant risk associated with EEFs and that the cost/benefits were far from clear.

This again is not unexpected and is one of the reasons for the project, so we can establish when EEFs are likely to work and when not. There will be no silver bullet but it will help clear up some of the uncertainty.

There have been some difficulties accessing mill information for the economic analysis but this is all now on track.

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

- Burn Ashburner, Project Manager, CANEGROWERS



## RESEARCH UPDATE

The EEF60 project team along the Queensland coast has completed its first full year of project activity across 2018, and are gearing up to roll around again this year to gather more data and assess the range of trial treatments against a new backdrop of weather conditions.

Water quality monitoring is underway, and the team is closely watching the weather - flooding in the north and drought in the south. Wet conditions have slowed things down in some regions, but biomass sampling has begun.

In the Far North, three additional sites have been added at Mossman. With five sites now established in the Southern Region, the project is on track to collect data from 60 sites across three years (180 years of trial data in total).

Diverse weather conditions are giving plenty of opportunity to assess the treatments, which is important for the project in helping growers and industry assess the benefits and costs of EEFs for their business against a range of scenarios they might face each season.

Grower participants have received preliminary data from their harvest results, including information on the effect of EEFs in terms of tonnes of cane per hectare, CCS/PRS, and tonnes of sugar per hectare.

It is also planned to provide growers with information on the nitrogen use efficiency effect on grower profitability.

Environmental losses (run-off and deep drainage) are being assessed at six of the sites.

A project meeting was held in February to discuss these results and plans for extension and communication, including a two-pager for industry has been distributed through the extension network.

- Dr Barry Salter, Key Focus Area Leader, SRA

## GROWER PROFILE

Third-generation sugarcane farmer **Bruce Peterson** is one of five growers in the Southern Region participating in the EEF60 project.

The Peterson's family-run business includes around 200 hectares of leased and private land at Farnsfield near Childers.

Bruce grows peanuts as a rotation crop and has planted 50ha this year both as a cash crop and to boost productivity through better soil health.

"Peanuts fit in nicely with the sugar cycle. They help to cut down on nitrogen rates for the following cane crops, condition the soil and eventually go back into the ground as organic matter, all helping to build healthy soil," he said.

"This year, more than ever though, we are chasing the cash flow from the peanuts given the very low sugar prices."

Bruce says he was approached by SRA to participate in the EEF60 trial and was more than happy to participate.

"I'm always keen to be part of trials because you get to see firsthand the good, the bad and the ugly of these sorts of projects on your own place," he said.

"We farm a lot of marginal soils so these sorts of coated fertiliser products may have a place in our more marginal soils that are prone to leaching in heavy rainfall events - not that we're experiencing that at the moment, in fact we have the complete opposite."

Bruce has had other trials on his farms recently including the Best Management Practice Harvest Trials and Harvester Base Cutter Speed Trials.

"We've also just implemented stool splitting throughout the farm and I think this has been quite successful in helping us to become more fertiliser efficient," he said. "Whatever we can do to improve productivity and become more profitable is a step in the right direction." ■



Queensland  
Government



This project is funded by the Australian Government Reef Trust and Queensland Government Great Barrier Reef Innovation Fund.



# New data for farmers

Supplied by WTSIP

*"There's no 'good' or 'bad' data – it's all just information that helps landholders understand how nutrients, sediment and pesticides are behaving in the basin, so they can tailor practical solutions."*

Cane growers will now have a better idea of the quality of the water in their own backyards under a project being delivered in the Tully and Johnstone basins.

Almost 30 new sites are being monitored for water quality as part of the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP).

The data being collected is being provided back to farmers at a series of local shed meetings.

The program is capturing data in a new way.

Basin Coordinator **Sandra Henrich** said that up until now, most monitoring results have been aggregated from a large area containing lots of different users and uses.

"End of catchment monitoring gives a 'big picture' look at long term trends in the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon but it makes it hard for someone to know what their relative contribution is," she said.

Monitoring at the paddock scale compares different land management practices and the effect that improved practices have on water quality.

Sub-catchment monitoring tracks how water quality changes as it moves down a creek system through different land uses and land types, including rainforest, agriculture and urban.

"Lots of factors like rainfall, soil type and management practices all influence how nutrients, sediment and pesticide move,





"Farmers have been asking for this kind of data for a long time. It will contribute to a growing bank of information that will help inform farm decision making."

and how water quality is affected," said Ms Henrich.

"There's no 'good' or 'bad' data – it's all just information that helps landholders understand how nutrients, sediment and pesticides are behaving in the basin, so they can tailor practical solutions.

"Farmers have been asking for this kind of data for a long time. It will contribute to a growing bank of information that will help inform farm decision making."

CANEGROWERS member Dean Sinton attended a meeting in the Innisfail region.



"We've been asking for more localised water quality results and that's what we're getting," he said.

Ms Henrich said everyone is particularly keen to see how the wet season affects water quality.

The data has been shared at 14 meetings across the Johnstone and Tully regions, to around 85 farmers since November.

Shed meetings are continuing throughout this year.

For more information contact Fiona George (Tully) on 0488 702 203 or Sandra Henrich (Johnstone) on 0439 916 749. ■

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

*Pictured: (opposite) Paddock monitoring - solar, flume and platform; (bottom left) WTSIP Basin Coordinator Sandra Henrich; (above) Platform installation).*

# CANE BOOM SPRAYER DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS



The Silvan Cane Boom is designed specifically for Australian cane growers. It incorporates choice of standard or shielded spray heads and air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift.

The fully galvanised 4 or 6 row boom comes standard with a hydraulic twin folding ram mechanism and adjustable tracking arms.

- Available with 600, 800 or 1100 Litre tank capacity
- 50mm Camlock bottom fill and venturi chemical suction probe (1100 Litre only)
- Choice of manual, electric or automatic rate control
- Optional broadacre boom attachment
- Optional hydraulic boom lift

**Silvan**

*The Spraying Specialists*

Call 1300 SILVAN (745 826) or visit [silvan.com.au](http://silvan.com.au) for more information or to find your nearest dealer

## Time to lodge your QSL pricing choices



By Bryce Wenham  
QSL Finance Manager, Supplier  
Relations

Growers marketing with QSL are reminded they must finalise their pricing nominations for the 2019 Season this month.

The Pricing Declaration Date deadlines for each milling district are:

- **Bundaberg Sugar** – See your miller for nomination details.
- **Isis Central Sugar Mill** – 18 April 2019. See your miller for nomination details.
- **Mackay Sugar's Mackay districts** – 5pm 30 April 2019. Nominations made through QSL Direct.
- **Mackay Sugar's Mossman district** – 19 April 2019. See your miller for nomination process details.
- **MSF Sugar** – 5pm 30 April 2019. See your miller for nomination process details.
- **Tully Sugar** – 5pm 30 April 2019. See your miller for nomination process details.
- **Wilmar** – 5pm 30 April 2019. Nominations made through QSL Direct.

After the deadlines outlined above, nominations for QSL's managed pools and self-managed pricing options will close for the coming season, with any unallocated 2019-Season GEI Sugar tonnage defaulting to the QSL Harvest Pool.

The Pricing Declaration Date is also the last opportunity for growers with existing unfilled orders in the 2019-Season Target Price Contract to cancel or reallocate these to an alternate pricing options.

Growers using the Individual Futures Contract can also cancel or reallocate unfilled 2019-Season orders before the Pricing Declaration Date, but only if no portion of the order has been filled.

For more information or help with the nomination process, please contact your local QSL rep or call 1800 870 756.

### Updates discuss latest market movements

The QSL pricing team will hit the road this month to deliver their latest market update at venues throughout Queensland.

Each one-hour session will cover current market activity and themes, as well as the QSL pricing options available for the coming season and beyond.

Session times and venues are listed opposite.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to your local QSL representative.







## QSL PRICING TEAM MARKET UPDATE SESSION DETAILS:

REGION	WHEN	VENUE
<b>Tully</b>	5.30pm Monday 8 April 2019 7.30am Tuesday 9 April 2019	Tully Senior Citizens Hall
<b>Plane Creek</b>	5.30pm Monday 8 April 2019	Sarina RSL
<b>Innisfail</b>	5.30pm Tuesday 9 April 2019	Mourilyan Sugar Heritage Centre
<b>Mackay</b>	5.30pm Tuesday 9 April 2019	Shamrock Hotel, Mackay
<b>Babinda</b>	7.30am Wednesday 10 April 2019	Babinda RSL Hall
<b>Mulgrave</b>	11am Wednesday 10 April 2019	Parkview Tavern, Gordonvale
<b>Proserpine</b>	5.30pm Wednesday 10 April 2019	Metropole Hotel, Proserpine
<b>Tablelands (Tableland Mill Suppliers)</b>	6pm Wednesday 10 April 2019	Jackaroo Motel Conference Room, Mareeba
<b>Tablelands (Mossman Mill Suppliers)</b>	7am Thursday 11 April 2019	Jackaroo Motel Conference Room, Mareeba
<b>Mossman</b>	11am Thursday 11 April 2019	Mossman CWA Hall
<b>Home Hill</b>	3pm Thursday 11 April 2019	Canegrowers Hall
<b>Ayr</b>	9am Friday 12 April 2019	PCYC, Ayr
<b>Clare</b>	12pm Friday 12 April 2019	Clare Club, Clare
<b>Herbert River</b>	12pm Tuesday 16 April 2019	Andrew Vella's place, 3539 Abergowrie Road
	5pm Tuesday 16 April 2019	Jeff Cantamessa's place, 181 Hawkins Creek Road
	8am Wednesday 17 April 2019	Robert Girgenti's place, 57 Kemps Road, Macknade
	12pm Wednesday 17 April 2019	Bambaroo Rural Fire Shed

### DISCLAIMER:

*This update contains information of a general nature only and should not be regarded as comprehensive or complete. Please note that QSL does not provide financial or investment advice to growers in relation to pool selection or pricing decisions. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full which can be found on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this update should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this update.*

# FROM Paddock TO PARLIAMENT TO THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE WE WORK HARD FOR YOUR BUSINESS



A few weeks ago, I spoke at the CANEGROWERS Herbert River AGM. It's always humbling to be invited to these events and I enjoy discussing with growers the issues we are tackling on their behalf.



**Matt Kealley**

CANEGROWERS Senior Manager -  
Membership Engagement & Innovation

Speaking at the AGM reminded me of my first introduction to the cane industry, which was also in Herbert River. It was 2009, I was new to CANEGROWERS and the reef regulations had just been announced by the Queensland Government.

Former CANEGROWERS Herbert River manager Peter Sheedy agreed to show me around the district and introduce me to 'a few growers'.

I think Peter secretly wanted to test my mettle, because introducing me to a few growers turned out to mean plonking me

in front of a bunch growers angry about reef regs at five separate shed meetings.

I remember one meeting quite vividly. I was sitting on a plastic chair in my CANEGROWERS hat and polo shirt waiting for the meeting to start. Sitting next to me were a couple of growers and we started talking about their farms and gear, then the reef regulations came up.

The growers were clearly annoyed by the government regulations and started questioning me about them, all the time getting more and more agitated.





After about 10 minutes one of them said to me, 'Who do you work for?'

"You," I answered and pointed to my shirt logo.

"Oh ok. That's good - are you presenting?"

"I am, why's that?" I asked.

"Because once you'd finished, I was really going to get stuck into you!"

I shook a lot of hands that day. My voice was hoarse, I was mentally tired but I thoroughly loved it.

I knew the role was going to be challenging and I knew it was about people, about relationships, building rapport and most importantly building trust.

So, the first thing I did was to get on-farm, kick some dirt and try to understand a bit more about the growers and the families who I was representing.

*"The first thing I learnt? Growers have a story to tell."*

I've got to know a few more growers and their families quite well over the past 10 years. It's the best part of my job.

What I've learnt in that time is that growers are innovative, they are problem solvers and they use good practices. Cane growing families are also fiercely proud of what they do, they work hard to support their family, and are community minded.

Most of all, growers like where they live. It's a pretty nice part of the world.

## WORKING FOR MEMBERS

I've just taken on a new role at CANEGROWERS as Manager of Membership Engagement and Innovation. Colleagues and people in the industry ask me what the role involves? I answer, 'Who will be our members in 10 years, how will they be influenced by science and technology and how will CANEGROWERS meet their expectations?' The most common response has been, 'sounds interesting, good luck with that!'

In the next 10 years, as many growers retire, farms consolidate, technology advances and the needs of growers change - CANEGROWERS will need to respond.

However, the core benefits of membership won't change!

- Finding solutions to problems
- Providing services and products tailored to your needs
- Passionate people working for you

So, what are some of the issues we are working on now to benefit members?

**ENVIRONMENT** - CANEGROWERS works to ensure sugarcane businesses are environmentally sustainable as well as productive and profitable. Our current focus is delivering Smartcane BMP and pushing back on reef regulations.

**MARKETING** - CANEGROWERS fought and won a long campaign to secure choice and competition in sugar marketing services and with new structures in place, is providing information and education to help growers better match their price risk management decisions with their farm and family circumstances.

**ELECTRICITY** - At every opportunity CANEGROWERS lobbies for an electricity generation and distribution system that efficiently, sustainably and affordably delivers electricity to Queenslanders.

**TRADE** - Managing the Australian sugar industry's trade and market access activities, CANEGROWERS is a key participant in efforts to retain, enhance and build export markets for our raw sugar. Following CANEGROWERS efforts, Australia has

challenged India's dumping of subsidised sugar onto the world market through the WTO.

**TRANSPORT** - CANEGROWERS members work under a range of gazetted notices and permits to move their oversize and mass agricultural vehicles on and over public roads. CANEGROWERS ensures this access is maintained as state and federal governments review legislation and regulations - lobbying for improved access and against any moves which may limit farming activity and viability with no benefit to public safety.

**R,D&E** - A commitment to research, development and extension will keep Australia's sugarcane industry productive, profitable and competitive.

**WATER** - Irrigation is important for around 60% of Queensland's sugarcane production and CANEGROWERS members need access to reliable supplies of water at a realistic cost. CANEGROWERS views irrigation water as an enabler of regional economic development and is working with government to ensure the efficient delivery of affordable water.

**BIOSECURITY** - Ongoing vigilance by industry is important to protect the Australian sugarcane industry from the entry, establishment and spread of exotic plant pests and diseases. CANEGROWERS works on biosecurity issues that affect our members through collaboration with SRA, the NFF and with Plant Health Australia as the industry member and signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

As I like to say - problems are easy to find, but it takes hard work to find solutions and sheer determination to make them work. To me, that is one of the benefits of CANEGROWERS - we continue to work hard on the problems to find the solution.

It may take some time, yet with the right mix of perseverance, advocacy, policy solutions, trust and support from members - we can be heard in our communities, by government and on the world stage. ■





**Mick Quirk**

CANEGROWERS Environment  
& Sustainability Manager

# NEW REEF REGS

A Bill recently introduced into the Queensland Parliament aims to give the Department of Environment and Science (DES) new powers - including setting and changing as required the regulations affecting cane growing and other agricultural activities in water catchments that flow into the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) lagoon. They also include the power to acquire any data from retailers, growers and mills that relate to fertiliser use.

DES has signalled that it will establish what is referred to as a new minimum standard for cane farming. The existing minimum standard for cane farming applies to growers from the Mackay region to Mossman and has been the reason compliance officers from DES have visited some growers.

This standard requires growers to, among other things, maintain records of fertiliser application to each block and apply rates of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) to each block that do not exceed the rates recommended by the SIX EASY STEPS (6ES) method (as derived from soil test information).

The new minimum standard being proposed by DES will apply to growers in the southern region as well. It includes the following:

- Grower to undertake record keeping, soil testing and use of 6ES recommendations as per the current regulations but with the cap on N and P to operate at the farm level rather than for individual blocks.
- Grower (with input from an agronomist or equivalent) to develop a five-year nutrient management plan for the farm detailing the amounts of N and P to be applied to each block each year. This plan is to be reviewed each year to account for new soil test results and other changing circumstances. The plan is to be re-developed every 5 years.
- Grower to identify opportunities to reduce N and P rates applied on particular blocks or soil types, in

response to conditions such as a history of low yield, soil constraints such as sodicity, and late harvest.

- Grower to maintain a trash blanket after harvest (unless in the Burdekin where other requirements must be met).
- Growers with areas above 3% slope to install measures to reduce erosion risk, such as contour banks.

CANEGROWERS is arguing for no substantial changes to the existing minimum standards for cane growers, for the following reasons:

- Nutrient management planning is a useful process that growers can voluntarily access via projects funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments. Its value lies in it being a voluntary process in which a grower is fully engaged. It can be used by the grower to refine nutrient management and, just as importantly, to identify issues (e.g. soil constraints, irrigation management, drainage, variety selection) that may be holding back productivity. Growers who are forced to develop such a plan may not have any ownership of it or its potential benefits. There's also a risk that it will put some people off engaging in activities that can assist nutrient management.
- CANEGROWERS believes growers will benefit from more evidence-based guidelines on how crop nutrient requirements might change when crop yield is depressed by certain factors. In fact, CANEGROWERS has worked



with SRA and others to initiate development of guidelines for this very purpose. It is totally inappropriate for DES to consider regulating the use of such tools. They are not designed for a black and white world of regulation and compliance. The guidelines have yet to be road-tested and we expect that most will be have a moderate to high degree of uncertainty. Making such guidelines into regulated prescriptions is the direct opposite of what underpins sustainable farming.

- We do believe that the current regulations will work better with a farm-based cap rather than one operating for each block. However, this will only be useful if growers have the discretion to vary the rates for blocks based on their experience and consideration of any relevant guidelines that may be available. Further, CANEGROWERS believes that the cap for a farm needs to be increased where a grower can clearly demonstrate that significant areas of the farm have a need for higher rates of N and/or P.
- CANEGROWERS is aware that sediment loss from cane land is not a priority issue for reef water quality, so we cannot understand the need to either regulate for trash retention or for additional soil conservation measures on slopes above 3%.
- The southern region is not a priority region for actions on reef water quality, so CANEGROWERS does not accept the inclusion of this region within the new regulations.

CANEGROWERS continues to meet with DES representatives whenever appropriate to argue against these proposed changes. Further, we will insist that growers be given much more opportunity for direct input before any final decision is made. ■



## Agricultural Electrical Risk Forum

Recently, I attended the Agricultural Electrical Risk Forum in Brisbane.

The objective of this forum was to discuss why electricity-related workplace deaths and injuries continue to happen in the agricultural sector and what can be done to prevent them.

Five people have lost their lives to electrical incidents on Queensland farms over the past three years and more than half of the hospitalisations for electricity-related injuries come from regional or remote locations.

Electrical incidents on rural properties are typically caused by:

- machinery and equipment contacting overhead powerlines;
- equipment and electrical wiring not being maintained to appropriate standards; and
- life-saving safety switches not being installed on all circuits.

It was interesting to note that haul-outs are the major contributor to equipment contacting power lines, closely followed by cane harvesters.

A number of simple actions that farmers can take to improve electricity-related safety in the workplace were outlined.

These included:

- moving irrigation pipes, machinery and other large items away from under overhead electricity lines;
- asking Ergon Energy for free safety advice about electricity lines and poles on the farm (Ergon Energy can also provide prices for line markers and their installation, advice on painting power poles and stays and property maps showing electrical infrastructure);
- checking electrical equipment before use and disposing of defective items;
- checking power cords and, where signs of damage are present, disposing of defective cords after cutting off the plug;
- employing an electrician to inspect electrical infrastructure and install safety switches on all circuits.

CANEGROWERS will be part of smaller groups that will discuss the required strategies to renew efforts to ensure that members can be provided with options and processes to keep them safe. ■



### N90L (CANE 86) COMMERCIAL BATTERY

**710CCA**

**12 MONTH WARRANTY**

**SUITS TRACTORS, HARVESTERS, MACHINERY, ETC.**

**\$119.00**



**AAA FNQ BATTERY WHOLESALERS**

**CAIRNS**

**52 MCLEOD ST, CAIRNS  
Ph: 07 4031 4177**

**TOWNSVILLE**

**59 INGHAM RD, TOWNSVILLE  
Ph: 07 4779 6888**

# Classifieds

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

Book online anytime of the day or night at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) or email us at [ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Next deadline is **15 April 2019**.

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



**Neil's Parts Australia**

**HIGH QUALITY TRACTOR PARTS**

**1800 463 457**  
 AH 0417 662 137, 0408 735 148  
[www.neils.com.au](http://www.neils.com.au)

**JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY**

**New Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS**

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
 All bath bearings  
 \$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other  
 size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m,  
 3m & 3.4metres.  
 3 point linkage offsets available also



**New Heavy Duty SLASHERS**

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
 Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

**Johnny Farming Company**  
 Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
 or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
 133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

## Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane  
 Harvesting Equipment Sales

2012 John Deere 3520 Track Harvester,  
 9 litre engine, 8 blade chopper shredder  
 top. Greenstar GPS. Well maintained.

2012 John Deere 3520 Wheel  
 Harvester, JD 9 Litre engine, 8 blade  
 chopper system, standard top.

2008 John Deere 3510 Wheel  
 machine, JD 8.1 Litre engine, 4,200  
 hrs remanufactured engine, standard  
 top.

2005 CAMECO 3510 Wheel Harvester,  
 JD 8.1 Litre new engine, 3,500 Hrs.  
 SAI chopper motor conversion 8 blade  
 chopper.

1997 CASE Track Harvester Komatsu  
 325 HP engine 6,000 hrs. 15" x 8 blade,  
 raised cab with tilt kit, standard top.

1995 CAMECO Track Harvester 325 HP  
 CAT engine 1,500 hrs rebuilt engine.  
 Very good condition for age.

Side Tippers BSM. Single axle units.  
 23x1x26 tyres. One fitted with New  
 Holland TS115A.

CASE 7700 pump drive gearbox.  
 Complete with eaton and vane pumps.  
 2006 model.

CANETEC PUMP BOX  
 Complete 4 outlets

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500  
 Rubber belt cane feed.  
 Immediate delivery.

2x TOFT 7 tonne Hi-Lift side tipping  
 trailers. Remote hydraulic's.  
 23x1x30 tyres on single axles.

McLean three quarter tracks. 6 roller  
 good condition. Suit CASE 8000 or  
 Cameco 3510- JD 3520/570.

Whole Toppers 2 x CASE as new one is  
 complete with hydraulic valve.

NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS  
 Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE.  
 Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE  
 DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS  
 Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570. Tungsten  
 hard faced on wear areas. New seal  
 plates, clamping bars & dowels with kit.

**Graham Twyford**  
**48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay**  
**Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696**  
**[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)**  
**[www.gtmachinerysales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinerysales.com.au)**



**CLANCY'S AG.**

**TRACTOR, HEADER & AG PARTS**

Same name, new generation!  
 Shipments now arriving with  
 a large range of parts for all  
 popular makes.

**1300 252 629 (1300 CLANCY)**  
**[WWW.CLANCYS.AG](http://WWW.CLANCYS.AG)**  
**TOOWOOMBA**



**Price Guarantee**  
 If you find a competitor's  
 lower price on the same  
 item  
 We'll Beat It By  
**10%**

*Australian Designed and Engineered*

**ROCCA ST-350**



The ROCCA ST-350 Heavy-Duty SpeedTiller is  
 designed to chop up heavy crop residue,  
 leaving behind a perfectly conditioned  
 seedbed. It's fast speed saves money on fuel  
 and labour costs. Where other machines  
 leave hardpan compaction in the soil, the  
 ROCCA ST-350 does not. Up to 26in discs  
 available for good penetration in tough soil.

**List Price: \$28,500**  
**Now for a Limited Time -**  
**\$22,950!**  
 (+GST +Freight)

**1800 899 885**  
<https://www.roccaindustries.com>

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS  
 AND PHOTOS?

Find **CANEGROWERS** on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia)





**Mossman-Tully**

Plant cutter. Blower. 7 Tine ripper. Silvan Spinner C x 2. Hardy bool tank. Rotary Hoe M130. Half tracks 7000 harvester. Case 2590 2WD. Chamberlain 4080. Fiat 1000 2WD. Fiat 980 2WD. Michigan 14yd scraper. Spicer dolly. Rims 14DW 21 x 32689. Edbro hoist (Truck). Complete S/h chains, sprockets, idlers and rollers to suit track cane harvester. Tyres: 2 x Goodyear 14L - 16.1 New 10 ply. 4 x S/h Olympic 14.9.28 6ply. 2 x S/h 23.1 - 34. Ph: 0407 160 673 or (07) 4055 4449.

Howard 80" Ripper Hoe & Crumble Roller \$5,000. JD 6630 4WD 18.4.38 Rears, Air Cab, Power Quad, Cat 2 Quick hitch, Hydraulic Arm \$62,000. ALL O.N.O Plus GST. Ph: 0419 988 158.

EOI Valley center pivots 9 span, one 6", one 8", good condition, Mareeba. Ph: 0427 010 082.

Toft 4001 track machine motor only 3yr old pump box and pumps re built. Suitable for billet planter or harvesting own cane. Ph: 0401 281 262.

55 kW electric hydra-titan pump, 150mm x 125mm, \$5,500 incl GST. Ph: 0417 794 675.

**Herbert River-Burdekin**

1977 International Acco 1830A Tandem Tray Top Truck. Rego Due September 2019. Machinery Inspection due August 2020. Good Condition. Ph: 0417 647 712.

5 Leg Grissly Drag Ripper with Roller and Spare Shoes VGC \$8,500 + GST. Sheppard 3 Axle Dog Trailer Aluminium Body VGC \$11,000 + GST. Ph: Michael 0427 092 000 or Andrew 0427 774 696.

John Deere 6630 4wd tractor. 2012 model with creeper gears. Only 1610 hrs. \$75,000 + GST. Ph: 0409 481 269.

**Harvesters for Sale by Tender**

- **Mackay** - Cameco CHW 2500 (1995) 6899 hours.
- **Bundaberg** - Austoft 7000 (1994) 5200 hours.

Items are offered for Tender on a 'for spare parts' basis.

For more information and to receive a tender form, please contact Anne at Sugar Research Australia on 07 4963 6810 or [AMcNamee@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:AMcNamee@sugarresearch.com.au)

Tenders close Friday 19th April 2019.

**Mackay-Proserpine**

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

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

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

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

Bonel billet planter, very good condition, with a 14 inch wide shoot, suscon maxi applicator, 100L lorsban tank, 600L shirtan tank with 12 volt pump and quick fill, 400kg fertilizer box, 540 PTO hydraulic pump, 2.5 tonne billet capacity \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0418 720 373.

Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6,600. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph: 4959 5883 or 0407 643 441.

Howard AH rotary hoe 90" crumble roller plastic liner very good condition \$5,500. Ph: 0438 424 538.

**Rainfall Report**

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		January–March	
	25.03.19	01.04.19		
Mossman	661	249	2126	1371
Mareeba AP	64	25	592	633
Cairns	185	45	1490	1260
Mt Sophia	321	82	1698	1824
Babinda	0	0	1062	2173
Innisfail	306	113	1631	1763
Tully	184	112	1130	2088
Cardwell	211	240	1667	1302
Lucinda	119	125	2027	1258
Ingham	105	72	2309	1195
Abergowrie	121	131	1528	1079
Townsville	65	154	1693	747
Ayr DPI	19	59	900	594
Proserpine	21	28	1151	787
Mirani	1	81	1082	902
Mackay	0.6	67	656	849
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	110	1098	1028
Bundaberg	1	37	139	431
Childers South	39	43	183	330
Maryborough	4	76	250	494
Tewantin	17	98	263	691
Eumundi	13	172	265	709
Nambour	26	112	347	715
Woongoolba	1	71	275	491
Murwillumbah	13	30	187	641
Ballina	19	51	210	591
Woodburn	0	23	134	491



dream with  
your eyes open

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

## Classifieds

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: 0428 182 464.

Howard EHD 6 foot Slasher. Needs some work but is in working order. \$3,000 + GST. Proserpine. Ph: 0418 770 218.

Cane Brake Pusher \$100. Cane Planting Trailers. 2 of. Will sell separate. \$300 each. Phone 0457 551 626.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

6T side tipper on Austin truck \$5,000 + GST. Trash incorporator, s/steel worm & plastic bin \$12,000 + GST. 2004 BA Falcon low kms \$6,000 + GST. Irrigator and other implements available also. Ph: 0419 577 110.

P&H trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worm \$12,000 + GST. 100" heavy duty powered rotary hoe \$7,000 + GST. Whole stick planting machinery and various other items. Ph: 0417 617 084.

FARM CLEARING SALE (Wallaville). Toft 6000 harvester, Kubota M125X, Kubota M75, DB1212 tractors, billet and trash planter, fertiliser boxes, spreader, implements, irrigation pipes, irrigators, land plane, scoops and more. Ph: 4157 6155 (after hours).

### Wanted

Looking for someone to plant cane in Millaroo 4 Ha + seedcane. Ph: 07 4784 9151.

STL shares, genuine non-miller buyer. Ph: 0419 717 006.

Wanted to buy tradable titles for Mackay City council area. If you have more than one title on your property you may be able to turn it into cash. Ph: 0413137077 or 0402984863.

### Positions Vacant

Wanted a full-time farmhand in the Home Hill area. Ph: 0429 826 274.

Haulout Operators required 2019 season, Carmila area. Ph: 0407 701 298, 0447 180 488 or 0400 790 839.

Wanted experienced Harvester/Haulout operators for 2019 Cane Crush season. Mechanical knowledge an advantage, immediate start, permanent position for the right applicant. Only experienced need to apply. PO Box 4066, Bundaberg South Qld 4670.

### Work Wanted

Permanent farm hand position Mackay Region. Immediate start. Enthusiastic 21 year old male. Extensive experience in Sugarcane industry being raised on a farm. Current Chemical Certification. Ph: Dan 0488 692 592.

Looking for a seasonal haul out or farmhand job. Haul out operator/farmhand for cane season. From Gordonvale seeking work Babinda, Gordonvale or Cairns area. MC licence, forklift, chemcert, etc. Agriculture, drilling and transport background. Ph: Steven 0438 157 829.

### Property

THE PINNACLES - TOWNSVILLE: Price \$1,100,000. 37.66 acres approved for grazing/rural activity with impressive 2 storey 6 bdrm homestead. Good water supply. 5 bay powered shed & workshop, pens/spelling paddocks. Ph: Sibby on 0417 606 157.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres

under cane. 2019 crop included, Estimate 2000 ton. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 39.94 ha total, 31.74 under cane on 2 freehold titles. 5 yr av 97 t/ha, Part Bruce Hwy frontage, and 7.5 Klms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water on 1 title. Ph: 0417 647 002.

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

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

HOME BUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm for sale Mackay region. 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This year's crop, machinery shed with 3 phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil, no rocks. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

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

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



CANEGROWERS

**CANEGROWERS POLO SHIRTS  
NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
\$30 EACH**

**VISIT [WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU](http://WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU) AND GO TO THE  
MEMBERSHIP PAGE TO DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM**





# ATTENTION MACKAY GROWERS



## Have you submitted your QSL pricing decisions for the coming season?

QSL pricing nominations for the 2019 Season close

**30 April 2019**

To finalise your arrangements for the coming season, you must first:

- 1 Return your **QSL Grower Pricing Agreement**
- 2 Activate your new **QSL Direct account**

### Confused or need help?

Come learn about your new QSL Direct account and talk through your pricing choices at one of our regular small-group sessions

**WHEN:** 10am every weekday

**WHERE:** QSL's Mackay office, Level 2, 120 Wood St, Mackay

To book your place or for further information or assistance, call your local QSL team on **4967 4618**.



Our Mackay QSL representative Sonia Ball is available to help growers finalise their pricing choices for the coming season.

### Market Update

Want to learn more about the current sugar market and your QSL pricing options?

Don't miss our latest Market & Pricing Update with QSL Treasury Manager Ginette Barrett.



**WHEN:** 5.30pm  
Tuesday 9 April

**WHERE:** Shamrock Hotel,  
Nebo Road, Mackay

# ACCREDITATION'S THE GOLD STANDARD

## Let's show off the great work you're doing.

The destination's the same, but the journey's  
different for everyone.

Contact your Smartcane BMP district facilitator to  
discover what accreditation could look like for you.



*Frank and Frankie Gallo, Tablelands*



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.