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Finally! Action on rising groundwater

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Merry Christmas!

The Australian Canegrower team would like to wish all of our readers, contributors and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

We look forward to bringing you more great content in 2022 and keeping you up to date with all the latest industry news and views.



COVER AND CONTENTS IMAGE:

The new school resource on sugarcane was successfully launched with the help of Gordonvale growers, Desley and John Ferrando, their granddaughter Sofie and CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan.

Read more on page 6.

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Sharing Australia's experience with the world

CANEGROWERS has briefed the UK National Farmers Union on the support and education the organisation provides to members through the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service. The UK is the first jurisdiction outside Queensland that enables growers to manage their sugar price risk. Beet growers in the UK can only manage their price risk in-season however and are unable to hedge prices for future seasons.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** dialled in to a meeting of the International Sugar Organisation being held in London. He was asked to present a growers' perspective on a panel about sustainability. It was a great opportunity to talk to a global audience about Australia's decades-long journey of innovation and development and adoption of Smartcane BMP.

CANEGROWERS has also joined the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) consultations with the ISO. The meeting addressed four topics: climate change & implications for growers, global sugar and ethanol markets outlook, the effect of sugar taxes in countries which have introduced them.



Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri addressed the International Sugar Organisation

Global Sugar Alliance

CANEGROWERS' head of trade and economics, Warren Males, participated in a virtual meeting of Global Sugar Alliance in November, where member countries were unanimous in their support of Australia, Brazil and Guatemala's WTO case against Indian sugar subsidies.

"The case against India is strong and we look forward to its swift resolution. The sugar market does not need India's sugar export subsidies," Global Sugar Alliance Chairman and Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) Managing Director, **Greg Beashel** said.

"We expect the Panel will rule that the Indian sugar regime

is fundamentally flawed, it breaches the commitments India made in the WTO and it needs to be reformed." ■



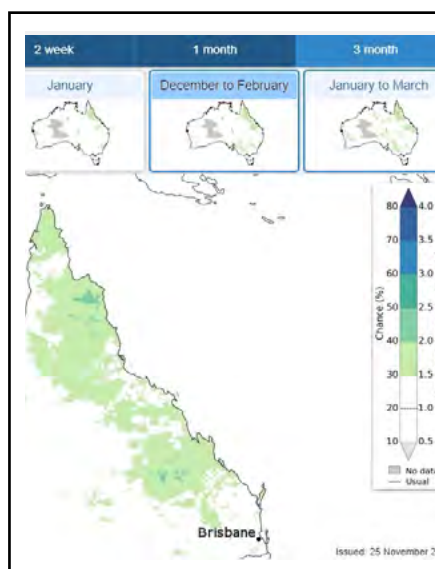
Sustainable sugar – your questions answered

Just what is sustainable sugar? How can we prove that Queensland sugar fits the bill?

These questions have become important as food companies and consumers scrutinise how their food is produced.

It's an area that CANEGROWERS has been working on, in a bid to secure markets for the sugar grown by members.

Answers to these questions are in the CANEGROWERS Podcast available on Buzzsprout, Apple, Spotify and Google as well as the CANEGROWERS website. ■



New weather tool

A new online map enabling users to check the likelihood of extreme climatic conditions has been launched by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The extreme climate outlook map allows users to zoom right in to their exact location to see the likelihood of unusually dry or wet, warm or cool conditions for the weeks, months, or even seasons ahead.

With BOM recently declaring an La Niña event, growers won't be surprised to learn that most cane-growing regions have been given a 30-40% chance of 'unusually wet' conditions between December and February. To view the map visit www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks. ■

Win for accredited growers in face of costly regulations

CANEGROWERS has secured valuable recognition for Smartcane BMP accredited growers through persistent representations to the Queensland Government over its regulation of farm practices.

"In its latest bureaucratic addition to reef regulations, the government planned to make every cane farmer engage an 'appropriate person' to develop and sign off on their fertiliser plans," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"This would completely disregard the decades of experience of thousands of sugarcane growers in Queensland."

CANEGROWERS lobbied against the new regulation asking, at the very least, for an exemption for growers who are accredited under the Smartcane BMP program, along with clear guidelines of how it would work for other growers.

"We appreciate that the Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon has listened to our perspectives on this issue and the government has now accepted our argument that Smartcane BMP accredited growers do not need to engage an appropriate person," Mr Galligan said.

"These growers, managing 650 accredited cane farming businesses covering 35% of Queensland's cane area, have already been independently audited as operating at or above industry best practice. This standard is above what is required by regulation.

"Making them seek extra approval from an external person for their normal farming operations was condescending and unnecessary."

This change is consistent with the government's recognition of Smartcane BMP accreditation as meeting the swag of reef regulations in place, which ensures accredited growers will not be a target for inspections by compliance officers.

"Adoption of Smartcane BMP is voluntary and while it provides valuable validation of sustainable practices, we know that many hundreds of growers not in the program are also operating very sustainable businesses," Mr Galligan said.

"CANEGROWERS still has concerns about how this additional regulation will impact on the many growers on the pathway to accreditation.

"It will add costs and processes to their business for no benefit for the environment or farm productivity and CANEGROWERS will continue to ensure government understands the impact these regulations have on all sugarcane growers." ■

SUGARCANE – FARM NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS BUDGET

From 1 December 2021, sugarcane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsunday regions will need a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget to calculate the amount of fertiliser they can apply in the 2022 season.

The requirements still use soil testing and the regulated method, including parts of the SIX EASY STEPS, to work out nitrogen and phosphorus rates for each block. However, growers can now refine these rates across their farm as long as they do not exceed the whole-of-farm amount.

Compliance officers will work with sugarcane growers to help them understand what is required and provide information and pathways to compliance.

Smartcane BMP accredited growers are deemed to be compliant with the regulated standards and will be the lowest priority for compliance inspections. They will also not need to update, review or have their nutrient management approach verified.

For more information on the Reef Regulations – visit www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations



Taking the sugarcane story to schools

From school visits for National Agriculture Day to the launch of a teachers' resource, November has seen a focus on education at CANEGROWERS.

A Gordonvale cane farm provided the backdrop for the launch of a new curriculum-aligned teaching resource on the sugarcane industry.

Called *One Plant, Many Products*, the resource was developed through the CANEGROWERS membership of the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) and is ready for teachers and students to access through the Primezone website.

"We know that schools and teachers are expected to meet the requirements of the national curriculum which is why we have worked so hard with PIEFA to design this resource to be ready-made to do that while also including industry insights," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"Through lesson plans incorporating video and other resources like worksheets, the new package tells the story of sugarcane from the paddock to the packet and the many other possible uses of sugarcane are explored."

"This new CANEGROWERS resource targets years 5 to 8 science, design and technology and geography curricula with a fantastic introduction to cane production, milling, sugar production and value-adding of the product," PIEFA CEO **Luciano Mesiti** said.

CANEGROWERS is keen for the resource to also spark interest in the many and varied careers agriculture can offer, fitting in nicely with the focus for National Agriculture Day on 19 November (known as #AgDay) and its theme of Choose Your #AgVenture.

CANEGROWERS took up the challenge and with the assistance of Cairns Region grower **Luke Calcagno**, CANEGROWERS Isis manager **Angela Williams**, and Sugar Research Australia's **Phil Patane**, made a careers information video.

The three participants answered questions about their day-to-day work, how they got into their roles, and their view of the future of agriculture and the sugarcane industry in particular.

The inspiring video was shared across social media on #AgDay. Its reach and impact will continue well into the future as it is listed as a resource in a range of school platforms and is available via the CANEGROWERS website and YouTube channel.

Careers in agriculture was the theme for a visit by six growers to Home Hill State High School.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman **Phil Marano** said the board members talked to Year 7 and 11 students.

"We explained our roles in the sugarcane industry and it was also important to talk to students about the opportunities for them in cane growing and agriculture in general," Phil said.

"It's not just about growing cane but also about science and agronomy.

"The students were interested in new products and directions for the industry into bio-products and asked questions about haulout and harvester driving.

"Our other motivation was to try to help people understand the importance of cane growing in our district, for the economy and jobs."

"It was important to talk to students about the opportunities for them in cane growing and agriculture in general."

Rocky Point growers **Janette** and **David Keith** accepted an invitation to join an agriculture expo at the nearby Calvary Christian College.

Janette said more than 150 students visited their stand. David demonstrated cutting cane with knife.

A video and wooden models showed the modern method of harvesting and other farm activities.

"Feedback after the event was that children went home and showed parents the information they'd received at the talk," Janette said.

If a school was too far from the farms they were interested in, PIEFA set up a platform and timetable of virtual visits.

PIEFA facilitated a Farmer Time program for #AgDay linking schools with farmers.

Producers across a wide range of industries participated including mushrooms, avocados, pork, cotton, vegetables and sugarcane.

The cane session was hosted by Herbert River growers **Zenan Reinaudo** and **Paul Marbelli** who shared their knowledge and passion for the industry.

Linked by video conference to three schools in Sydney, another in regional New South Wales and one in regional Queensland, they gave a comprehensive presentation about cane growing, the use of technology, their career journeys and the range of roles available in the sugar industry.

The session was recorded and is now available on the PIEFA YouTube channel for many more schools to access. ■



Pictured: (Page 6) The CANEGROWERS Burdekin Board answered students' questions at Home Hill State High School during the week of #AgDay; (above right): The PIEFA school resource on sugarcane was launched with the help of Desley and John Ferrando and their granddaughter Sofie and CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan; (above left): Janette Keith from Rocky Point, pictured above, enjoyed sharing the passion of growing cane with students at the Calvary Christian College Expo.

Use the QR code to watch the CANEGROWERS careers information video, celebrating National Agriculture Day - #AgDay.



CANEGROWERS ELECTIONS - TIME TO STEP UP

The CANEGROWERS elections are fast approaching and there has never been a more critical time for growers to stand up and play an active role in shaping the future of Queensland's sugarcane industry.

Held every three years, the election process gives members, from Rocky Point to Mossman, an opportunity to elect directors to their local CANEGROWERS district board.

These newly elected board members will then appoint representatives to sit on the CANEGROWERS Queensland Policy Council, which in turn elects the new CANEGROWERS Queensland Board.

Nominations will open on 1 February 2022, and already interest is high, with dozens of potential leaders attending the CANEGROWERS Leadership Forum in Cairns earlier this year, to get a feel for what it means to be an elected grower-representative.

"CANEGROWERS' strength has always come from its members, the sugarcane farming families of Queensland. It is from these very members that we draw our leadership teams," current CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"At both district and state level, the people working and fighting for growers are themselves growers. They understand the challenges and opportunities facing the industry and can ensure the growers' voice is heard loudly and clearly through the corridors of power.

"Being a grower representative can be a challenging role at times, but it's also very interesting and very rewarding."

"These days, thanks to a strong and experienced team of staff at our district and state offices, coupled with the use of new communication technologies and the adoption of more efficient farming practices, it is much easier for board members to strike that all important balance between family life, farm life and leadership responsibilities."

Any CANEGROWERS member can nominate for a board position, and while many experienced directors will be returned, the triennial elections present an opportunity for new grower-representatives to step up.

"It's critical we have a diversity of views, experience and skillsets around the board tables to ensure that any decisions we make

at district and state level are in the best interest of our members and the industry as a whole," Mr Schembri said.

"I'd particularly like to encourage more women and younger growers to consider taking on a leadership role.

"Women have always played a huge part in the success of our industry but have long been under-represented in leadership roles. That's something we need to change.

"I'd particularly like to encourage more women and younger growers to consider taking on a leadership role."

"It's also important that younger growers stand up and get involved. It's an excellent opportunity, not only to share their own views and knowledge, but also learn about the intricacies of the industry and what it takes to be a successful grower-representative from more experienced board members.

"Now, more than at any other time in our history, the industry is coming together and working towards a common goal.

"While there will always be tensions to manage, at an industry level, growers, millers and researchers are pulling in the same direction, looking at ways to improve production and boost profits, while overcoming regulatory challenges and positioning the industry to be an important part of Australia's evolving economy into the future.

"One thing is certain, it is a critical time for the industry and we need growers to stand up and play a leading role in shaping the future of our industry for the benefit of us all."



2022 ELECTION PROCESS

Local district CANEGROWERS boards will be formed based on the results of the 2022 district election process. Once nominations are received, an election will take place if a district receives more nominations than positions available.

CANEGROWERS Queensland will conduct most of the state-wide elections with the exception of some districts choosing to conduct their elections locally.

Members are urged to ensure their membership records are up to date. The official roll for each election is to be finalised by 25 February 2022.

The newly elected district boards will take office from 1 May 2022. These local boards then nominate representatives to sit on the Policy Council for the next three years. The Policy Council has the important job of electing the new CANEGROWERS Queensland Board at its first meeting scheduled for late May 2022. ■

Nominations open on	1 February 2022
Official Rolls close at 5pm on	25 February 2022
Nominations close at 5pm on	25 February 2022
Ballot papers to be posted on	15 March 2022
Ballot papers returnable by 5pm	14 April 2022
Election counting of votes on	19 April 2022
Declaration of election results on	20 April 2022
Elected members term commences	1 May 2022

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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

INVESTING TIME IN THE FUTURE

We are all running to the beat of the same drum. Every one of us continually making decisions about how we should invest our most precious commodity – time.

It is remarkable to think that of all the things in life we waste and replace, time is the one commodity we can never get back, yet it's often squandered on inconsequential things.

It is for this reason that I give so much credit to the countless growers in our industry who have, over the years, decided to dedicate their precious time to take on leadership positions with CANEGROWERS.

It is easy to find reasons not to do so, but the industry leaders I meet have made a deliberate decision to take on a leadership position, seeing it as an investment in the future of their industry and themselves.

It is this mindset of investing in leadership that we are considering carefully as we look towards the CANEGROWERS district elections happening in the first couple of months next year.

The CANEGROWERS 13 district companies are the front door of our organisation and the directors (all 82 of them) of these district organisations really do chart the future of the organisation over their three-year term.

These district boards nominate representatives to the state Policy Council, which in turn elects the CANEGROWERS Queensland Board.

So it is clear the role of a district representative has an impact, and with that impact comes responsibility. Managing local industry issues and being the sounding board for growers in the district is not just a privilege, it is a duty.

Having said that, nearly all district representative I speak to reflects on the great camaraderie, enjoyment, and sense of pride they have in being a local representative.

As a grower-led organisation, CANEGROWERS needs to adapt and reflect, through our leadership, the very grower community we aspire to represent.

To that end, as we look to encourage growers to nominate for leadership positions, we will also adapt our approach to how those people can contribute to the organisation.

Moving meetings online, supporting diversity and leadership development, and providing information and insight in a convenient and timely way, are all strategies to allow our future leaders to fit the leadership role into the demands of all their other life priorities.

We must have an organisation that adapts with our people, so that not only are we grower-led but we are also open to allow people who have the drive, passion, and creativity to be involved, in a way that suits them and their leadership aspirations.

I encourage any growers who wish to contribute to the future of their industry to talk to your local or state representatives and staff. Find out how you may contribute, and you too may experience the benefits of investing in your future, while also charting a future for the industry. Nominations for district elections close on 25 February. ■





CANEGROWERS BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

professional development for growers

Cane growers manage their farm businesses in one of the world's most volatile commodity price environments. Growers are also exposed to production risks arising from extreme weather events and from an ever increasing regulatory burden and tightening environmental controls. CANEGROWERS, in conjunction with funding from the Federal and Queensland governments, is developing a suite of professional development opportunities to assist growers to face these challenges and maintain successful businesses.

CANEGROWERS Business Essentials will be tailor-made to assist growers:

- complete a resilience self assessment based on Smartcane BMP
- better understand and interpret financial reports, budgets and costs of production
- better understand risk and more specifically factors that influence commodity (sugar) prices
- devise strategies to manage risk including price fluctuations
- understand forward pricing tools and other emerging technologies and marketing tools
- develop a plan to manage the risks as far as possible.

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ELIGIBILITY

You're eligible for this course if you are:

- a cane grower, cane grower family member or work on a cane farm
- a permanent resident of Queensland



This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.



FUEL FOR THE FUTURE

Sugarcane will soon be driving public transport in Mackay, with two buses powered by locally-produced bioethanol almost ready to hit the road.

Bioethanol is more environmentally friendly than the traditional diesel fuel used by most buses and this energy source will be produced in the Mackay region.

In a Queensland first, Wilmar Bioethanol Australia will produce the fuel at its refinery at Sarina while Bustech, an innovative bus manufacturer based on the Gold Coast, will manufacture the unique transit vehicles.

While the by-product of sugarcane can produce fuel, electricity and even bioplastics, at present there is not much in it for the grower.

"Our current cane payment systems are not mature enough to take into account any other new considerations," CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

But Mr Schembri was confident that as the diversification of sugarcane evolved farmers would be a part of the conversation.

The bus trial is being funded by Scania, a Swedish manufacturer of commercial vehicles, and the Queensland Government. ■

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¹ AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE NUTRITION MANUAL June 2019 Chapter 21 : Silicon (Si) 91

² Results may vary based on various climatic and soil conditions Trial work completed by Dr Graham Kingston's from 2014 to 2016 Bundaberg QLD



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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

HARVEST ON A KNIFE EDGE

The 2021 sugar cane harvest is coming to a close, with half of Australia's 21 sugar mills having completed their crush by the end of November.

For growers in those mill areas that have completed harvesting there will be a huge sense of relief and satisfaction that the crop has been cut and crushed.

Unfortunately, for those growers with cane still in the paddock, the race is now on to get their crop harvested before the wet season begins in earnest.

Recent widespread rain across many of those areas has put extra pressure on farmers get their crop off.

In the last few days, in some cane growing regions, phenomenal rainfall has been recorded resulting in substantial flooding.

With the Bureau of Meteorology recently declaring a La Niña event, it looks like we're in for a lot more wet weather.

All we do now is look to the sky and hope the weather gods are on our side, and that the coming rain events hold off long enough for the paddocks to dry out and the remaining crop to be harvested and crushed.

Mill Performance

Wet weather hasn't been the only factor behind the late finish in some areas. Milling performance has also been unacceptable in some milling regions.

We know from experience that the sugar industry thrives when crops are crushed in an economic season length of 20 to 24 weeks.

When crops come off quickly the farmer wins, and the mills reap the reward in the next season of increased productivity.

When I joined CANEGROWERS in 1983, I recall one industry leader who often said, "shorter seasons makes for happy growers who grow more cane". So true!

World sugar prices in recent years have taken a heavy toll on mill cashflow and profitability. Obviously, maintenance and capital works budgets have been under pressure as well.

But, while the mills' economic circumstance has been challenging, so too has the economic circumstance of growers.

Unless milling performance improves and season lengths are shortened, cane production and productivity will continue to suffer.

We must phase out these longer harvest seasons or risk a production decline.

Life cycle analysis

The debate around climate change dominates just about every discussion these days. Regardless of whether you believe climate change is real or overstated, one fact is inescapable – the climate change policies of governments, both here in Australia and internationally, will impact our industry.

The Australian sugar industry is being proactive on this complex issue, commissioning a life cycle analysis to better understand and measure our carbon footprint.

This methodology is widely used as a means of auditing an industry's carbon footprint. It measures an industry's carbon emissions, then analyses how the industry offsets those emissions through things like the production of biofuels, clean energy, and carbon sequestration.

The last life cycle analysis undertaken, around seven years ago, found the industry to be net carbon positive. In fact, the sugarcane plant is one of the greatest crops for carbon capture and sequestration.

Far too often in these debates around climate change it is implied that industry, particularly the resources and agricultural sector, are the major source of CO₂ emissions.

We will have the result of the latest analysis in early 2022. Hopefully it proves that the sugar industry is net carbon positive and far more environmentally friendly than some might think.

Climate change is a complex issue and we need to respond in a measured and objective way. We have a lot at stake, both in terms of our economic livelihoods and our reputation. ■

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Win for jobseekers with funding for haulout course

Jobseekers in Mackay can continue to rely on CANEGROWERS to equip them for roles in the sugarcane industry, with the announcement of government funding for an annual sugarcane haulout program in the region.

BY CHRISTINE WALKER

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding will enable CANEGROWERS Mackay to offer its popular four-day accredited sugarcane haulout program in the months leading up to the 2022 harvest.

The program, which is run in partnership with Registered Training Organisation, Axiom College, is much needed in the Mackay region to provide employment opportunities and help fill the industry's requirements for a seasonal workforce, CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg said.

"We thank the Queensland Government for approving the program funding. We also thank the willing band of growers who provide their services as driver trainers and assessors," Mr Borg said.

"They provide the required training and use of their own equipment for participants to achieve their competency standards."

In 2021, Plane Creek growers Ron Gurnett, Glenn Brady and Zachary Borg offered their time and knowledge as trainers.

"These trainers showed professionalism and patience with participants to ensure they understood the instructions required to meet the course requirements," Mr Borg said.

"Their dedication to the task and the industry is why the CANEGROWERS Mackay course has such an excellent reputation.

"The organisation of the program does not just happen by chance. It is the result of hard work by CANEGROWERS Mackay Training Coordinator Shelley Dent working with our trainers.

"CANEGROWERS Mackay prides itself in always being up to date with current changes to regulatory requirements and industry expectations and is always updating instruction materials to accommodate this."

Prior to the commencement of the program, the successful participants are introduced to the sugar industry with a bus trip to Sarina to visit the Sarina Sugar Shed and the miniature sugar mill.

They also visit a cane farm where they can meet the trainers and assistant drivers, see the haulout machinery and the location where the training will be delivered.

Through these experiences, participants have a more complete overall picture of exactly what a haulout operator's role is, while engaging with the other attendees and meeting the trainers/assessors.

The training covers basic haulout sugar cane operations, occupational health and

safety processes, siding operations, pre-start operations, cabin drills, machinery maintenance, shut down procedures, basic operations on haulout vehicles and working safely around electricity on sugarcane farms.

Training takes place on a working cane farm and involves the use of a harvester, tractors and haulout equipment.

Participants who successfully complete the training do not automatically qualify as a haulout operator.

They are trained to industry standard but must also complete further induction and training by the intending employer on-farm, under actual harvesting and transport conditions to fulfil duty of care obligations.

"This is the perfect training opportunity for those who are keen to work in the cane industry during the harvest," Mr Borg said.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work funds not-for-profit community-based organisations to deliver projects that respond to the needs of local jobseekers and employment opportunities in their areas. ■

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EHS

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Comparison wear on the end of the blade when using a standard base cutter disc (A) versus the new self-sharpening EHS base cutter disc (B).

BASE CUTTERS, REDEFINED

AFTER 3 YEARS OF DESIGN, DEVELOPMENTS AND TRIALS, EHS MANUFACTURING HAVE REDEFINED BASE CUTTERS ON THE CANE HARVESTER.

With the commercial release early this year of these new patented base cutters, harvester operators can be more confident of cutting every stool and stalk of cane with a sharp blade. This is due to the Innovative self-sharpening technology and unique manufacturing technique behind the new EHS base cutter disc.

We all know that new blades produce a nicer cut, but as blades become rounded off and dull, the cut quality and damage to the stool deteriorates. This ultimately yields less crop and therefore less profit to the

farmer. As the harvester travels in a forward motion the current blades have a shoveling effect causing wear and rounding on the front edge of the blade. This also causes excessive dirt through the harvester along with stool damage and billet damage from the blunt blade. EHS Manufacturing's Research and Development team carried out an extensive geometrical study and 3D simulation to change the quality of the cut and avoid the brutal nature of conventional base cutters.

EHS Manufacturing are excited to release their new trade marked MHR (Many Happy Ratoons) Base Cutter disc patented technology. It's just one of their latest products in a range focused on ensuring the best outcome of yields in your current crop with quality ratoons for next year.

THE REDEFINED EHS BASE CUTTER DESIGN HAS FOUR NEW ATTRIBUTES.

Geometry to match the forward speed of the harvester with the cut path of the blade. This is achieved by manufacturing a fully machined blade pocket at a simulated geometry that is then welded into the base cutter disk.

A negative shoveling effect. This assists in dropping dirt with a down draft fan effect on the blade.

Self-sharpening effect. The blade end gives a clean knife edge cut for the duration of the blade life.

Reduce splitting and impact damage to the stool. Due to the sharp thinned blade, the cut per blade can be increased to ensure it's cutting through at least one full stick of cane.

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Using trees to control weeds

Supplied by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Growers are being urged to consider using trees instead of broad-spectrum herbicides to effectively control weeds in riparian zones.

A newly-released video by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) shares some practical advice on weed control using passive revegetation.

DAF Senior Development Officer **Marcus Bulstrode**, who has spent years researching riparian zones in Australia's wet tropics, said passive revegetation could help growers reduce herbicide use, cut costs, and improve water quality outcomes, while also controlling weeds on a more permanent basis.

"A common site in the wet tropics is sugarcane close by to riparian forest with a very weedy zone in between," Mr Bulstrode said.

"Typical weeds in this zone include high biomass grasses, such as Guinea grass, Hamill grass, and broad leaf weeds such as giant bramble and vines.

"These weeds can be very problematic as they can move into cane, but they also harbor rats and pests that go into the cane and cause damage."

Historically, growers have used broad spectrum herbicides control weeds in riparian zones, Mr Bulstrode said.

"These chemicals kill all the plants that they come into contact with, including native trees. Then, in a few months' time, the weeds are back again, and growers need to apply more herbicide.

"Bigger native trees stabilise riverbanks and shade out the grasses and the other weeds that are potentially a problem for sugarcane."

Mr Bulstrode recommends growers use a selective herbicide, such as 'Verdict' (active ingredients haloxyfop-R methyl ester).

"Almost all growers are already using this chemical in their legume fallow crop to take out the cane recruits and volunteers that come up.

"By using this herbicide to control the grasses on the riparian edge, they won't damage the native trees.

"Simply by using the right herbicide to get rid of the weeds, you can allow the plants that you really want to grow - that's passive revegetation."

When it comes to growing native trees, farmers in the wet tropics have an advantage over those other parts of Australia, Mr Bulstrode said.

"We've got the rain, we've got the sun, we've got the nutrients - we just need to control those initial weeds and in very little time we end up with examples of fantastic re-vegetation sites."

To watch the DAF video, visit <https://youtu.be/L0iiUqlrJ7E>. For more information, call 13 25 23. ■

"Bigger native trees stabilise riverbanks and shade out the grasses and the other weeds that are potentially a problem for sugarcane"



QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 24 November 2021.

Sugar



- > The March 2022 ICE 11 contract trended higher for most of November, supported by rising ethanol prices as global energy prices surge. The prompt contract traded from a low on the first day of the month at 19.19 USc/lb up to its high on the 18th of 20.69 USc/lb.
- > The second half of October UNICA (Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association) report revealed 128 Brazilian mills had closed by 31 October, with another 87 expected to shut down by mid-November, leaving only 47 operational beyond then. During the two-week reporting period, 17 million tonnes of cane and 858,000 tonnes of sugar were harvested and milled, while the sugar mix fell even lower to 37.04%. Total accumulated cane harvested and sugar produced for the season now stands at 504.4 million tonnes and 31.2 million tonnes respectively, which indicates the final crop figure is likely to be approximately 31.8 million tonnes of sugar at the end of the season.
- > The Indian cane harvest is reportedly off to a strong start as the Indian Sugar Millers Association published a record high of 2.09 million tonnes of sugar produced at mid-November. This figure is approximately 24% higher than last year's figures and is mostly attributed to the Maharashtra and Karnataka regions.
- > **Closely watching:** Indian export news, Thai crop size rumours and speculator activity.

Currency



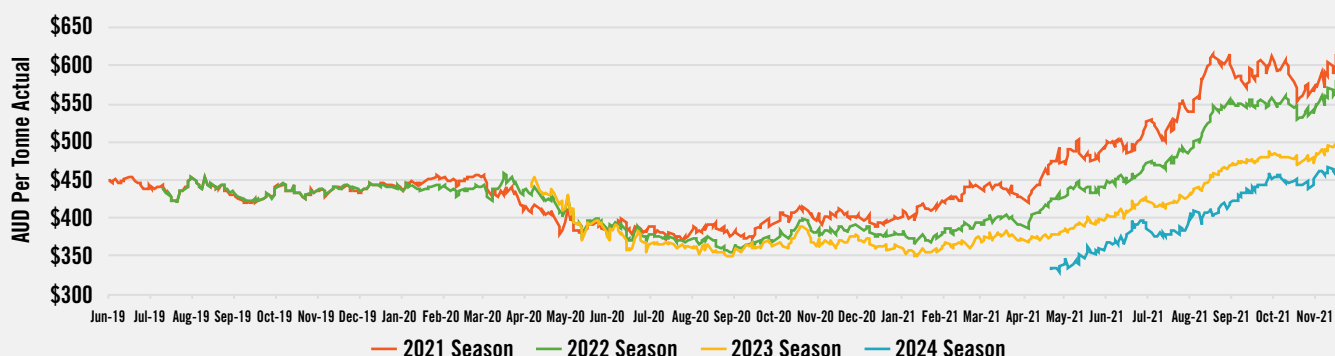
- > The Australian Dollar (AUD) steadily weakened across November as inflationary fears drove markets to price in interest rate hikes in the United States. The AUD traded from a high of 75.36 US cents on the 2 November, down to a low of 72.07 US cents on the 24th.
- > Domestically, wages are reported to be on the rise with the Q3 Wage Price Index printing a gain of 0.6% and settling just above pre-COVID rates at 2.2% year-on-year. The Australian Bureau of Statistics believes the gain is due to salary reviews post financial year end as employers experience reduced COVID-19 financial impacts.
- > In the United States, the October Consumer Price Index accelerated faster than market expectations by printing a 0.9% change against forecast 0.6%. On a year-on-year basis, CPI is now at levels not seen since December 1990 at 6.2%. These rapid increases in inflation challenge the Fed's belief that it is transitory in nature only and could escalate the pressure to raise interest rates sooner rather than later. Commentary on this data from the Fed will be closely monitored by the market.
- > **Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, RBA commentary, global energy prices.

KEY INDICATORS

	24/11/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Mar22)	20.11 USc/lb	+0.86 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.59 BRL	-0.05 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US82.2/barrel	-\$US1.16
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	20.00 USc/lb	-0.07 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	190,000 (net long)	+32,000

	24/11/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7228	-\$US0.0283
\$US Index	96.49	+2.34
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.39 CNY	-0.02 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,690.70	+241.72
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 24.11.21, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Seasons.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial or investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. 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 report.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

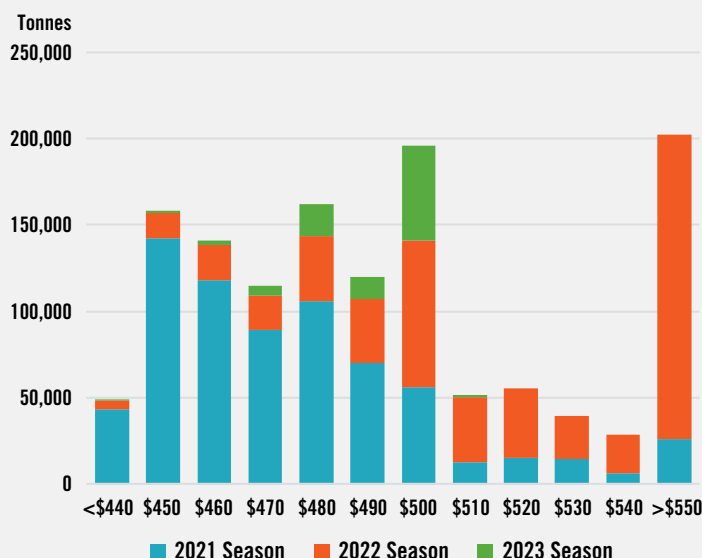


Grower Pricing



- > The QSL Target Price Contract climbed above \$500/tonne gross actual for the 2023 Season this month, with over 42,000 tonnes of QSL grower orders filled at this level.
- > The most popular unfilled order is currently \$600/tonne gross actual for the 2022 Season.
- > The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 2021 Target Price = \$620 / IFC = \$625 (Mar22)
 2022 Target Price = \$575 / IFC = \$590 (Jul22)
 2023 Target Price = \$500 / IFC = \$510 (Jul23)
 2024 Target Price = \$470 / IFC = \$470 (Jul24)
- > Considering your pricing options? The QSL Grower Floor Price Contract provides the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of forward pricing with the potential for further returns should the market rise after your order is filled. Place orders for as little as 10 tonnes to target a 'floor' price and lock in a known minimum return. Once your floor is achieved, you'll also receive 50% of any subsequent prices achieved above your floor price for the order. Any nominated tonnage which remains unfilled after 15 April in the year of delivery will automatically default to the QSL Harvest Pool.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2021, 2022 & 2023 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 24.11.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

USA Quota explained

The U.S. government protects its domestic sugar industry through a series of quotas and separate futures contracts on the ICE exchange. As a result, the prices on the ICE 16 contracts are much higher than the standard ICE 11 contract prices which are used to price sugar from all other origins. In order to maintain their domestic price support programs, the USA had to agree to import a minimum of 1.1 million tonnes of raw sugar annually under a tariff-rate quota (TRQ) that permits sugar to be imported into the USA at low duty.

For the 2021 quota year (September 2020 – October 2021) Australia was allocated:

- Initial quota – allocation 83,252.61 tonnes
- First quota reallocation – 7,284.91 tonnes
- Second quota reallocation – 8,571.77 tonnes
- Third quota reallocation – 2,995.69 tonnes



How this actually works:

The allocation is divided on a pro-rata basis across all Australian sugar marketers who each receive a Certificate of Quota Eligibility (CQE) that allows them to export sugar to the USA. These certificates can be used to deliver sugar to the USA or can be on-sold to other Australian marketers to allow economically viable parcels to be shipped. All proceeds from QSL's US sales are automatically allocated to our US Quota Pool, allowing all our growers to maximise their returns from this high-value marketing activity.

A WIN FOR ACCREDITED GROWERS

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

Smartcane BMP accreditation continues to be the gold standard for cane farmers wanting to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability while maintaining productivity and profitability.

The introduction of updated Reef Regulations, (commencing 1 December 2021), includes the requirement for cane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsundays to have a nitrogen and phosphorus budget prepared before they commence their 2022 fertiliser program. To understand what your requirements are, based on your Smartcane BMP accreditation status, please see the following basic breakdown.

1

EXISTING ACCREDITED GROWERS

As Smartcane BMP standards have always been superior to reef regulations, there is little more you need to do to remain compliant with the new regulations. Having met the Smartcane BMP standards you are already assessing crop needs for all essential nutrients as well as identifying and addressing soil constraints. In addition, you already maintain the required farm maps, management zones (where required) and relevant records. This evidence has been verified through third party audit.

You'll now need to record the total amount of N&P you plan to apply and the actuals, once applied. The whole of farm allocation, based on soil test recommendations, must not be exceeded.

Submit N&P records in your Smartcane BMP Annual Review email.

**You do NOT need to have an N&P budget prepared and verified by an Authorised person*

***AND you will not be the target of government compliance audits*

2

GROWERS SEEKING ACCREDITATION

(First accreditation audit occurring after 30 November 2021)

In addition to following the SIX EASY STEPS program, you will need an N&P budget prepared for the 2022 season – this requires the whole-farm amounts of N & P to be calculated by summing the individual block amounts of N & P that you plan to apply during 2022.

The budget must be prepared and verified by an appropriate person. Once accredited, you are no longer required to have the N&P budget verified by an appropriate person, and this applies for the duration of your accreditation. Your compliance will be verified as part of your Smartcane BMP accreditation 3rd party audit.

**you will not be the target of government compliance audits*

3

NON-ACCREDITED GROWERS

As of 1 December 2021, you are required to adhere to the updated Reef Regulations, including the requirement to have prepared and verified, by an appropriate person, a farm N&P budget before you commence your 2022 fertiliser program. At any time, you may receive an on-farm assessment by a government officer to assess your compliance with the Reef Regulations.



"When it comes to nutrient management, Smartcane BMP standards are well above regulations while offering flexibility through the implementation of SIX EASY STEPS and the 6ES toolbox"



For further information, please visit the resources page of the Smartcane BMP website www.smartcane.com.au

Urgent action needed after decades of delay

by Wayne Griffin

For more than 30 years, successive Queensland governments have kicked the can down the road, allowing a rising groundwater problem in Queensland's largest cane-producing region to grow and spread, but finally action to tackle the Burdekin's increasing soil salinity is underway.

North Queensland's Burdekin region is the cane-growing capital of Australia, harvesting roughly eight million tonnes of cane each year.

This impressive yield is down to a combination of factors – the rich soils, the endless sunshine, and an abundance of water. In fact, Burdekin growers have the kind of access to water that most Aussie farmers can only dream of.

But for some, this abundance has turned out to be a double-edged sword, with rising groundwater increasing soil salinity and impacting crops.

What's surprising about the situation is not the growing salinity problem in parts of the Burdekin, but that it has taken over 30 years and eight Queensland governments to finally get action.

Following the completion of the Burdekin Falls Dam in 1987 and subsequent development of the Burdekin River Irrigation Scheme (now the Burdekin-Haughton Scheme) in 1988, the Queensland Government began auctioning blocks of farmland.

By the time the final block sold in 1998, approximately 40,000 hectares of farmland had been developed.

"Today it's predominantly cane, but initially when it was developed the industry was still regulated, so people couldn't just go in and start growing cane. They had to get assignments. Initially people grew rice and other crops, but as the industry was deregulated it all went to cane," Burdekin River Irrigation Area Irrigators (BRIA) Manager Russ McNee said.

BRIA has been aware of the rising groundwater problem from the very beginning, as has the scheme developer, the Queensland Government.

"It's something you've got to keep an eye on in all irrigation areas, not just the Burdekin. Every irrigation area that has been developed in Australia has had some sort of associated salinity problem," Russ said.

"Right at the outset of the scheme, one of the most knowledgeable scientists in the field, Roger Shaw, advised the scheme developers that there would have to be a certain amount of groundwater extracted every year to prevent the groundwater rising to a level where it impacted crops."

Unfortunately, the government of the day didn't listen, instead leaving the problem for its successor to deal with – a trend that continued for three decades. Meanwhile, the problem continued to grow.

"At the start they actually had policies in place that made the situation worse," Russ said.

"Growers were only allowed to pump 1ML of groundwater for every 8ML of water allocation they purchased. That practically ensured the groundwater would begin to rise, but it was done to make money. The government was selling the water allocations.

"That policy, followed by years of not addressing the issue resulted in the problem we have today.

Pictured: (below) BRIA Chairman and local grower Mario Barbagallo says dewatering is now the only option to address rising groundwater; (opposite) rising salinity can be localised, with healthy crops growing just metres from severely impacted sugarcane.



continues page 26





"We've been pushing for this for 30 years we want to make sure it's done properly and it's not just money wasted for no outcome."

"Sunwater has observation bores out there and if you look at measurements from those bores over the years, the graph just goes one way – up.

"In a dry year you'll see a bit of a plateau or even a bit of a drop, but then the wet season comes and it just starts rising again, the long-term trend has been ever-rising groundwater.

"In some sections it's now getting perilously close, within three metres of the surface, and that's when it starts to impact the crops.

"Three metres might seem a long way down, but between three and two metres is when you start seeing the impact on crops like cane. The soil becomes saline and that impacts the roots and cane doesn't grow well. So, we really need to dewater it, pump it out."

In 2020, the Sunwater board allocated \$12.5m to investigate and tackle rising salinity, however there is still no clear consensus on how the problem should ultimately be addressed.

"There are a few schools of thought about how to deal with it," Russ said.

"One idea is that if the whole scheme went to trickle irrigation, that would alleviate the problem. It probably would to some extent, but growing cane on trickle irrigation is not economical.

"Roger Shaw (who is now part of the scientific panel advising Sunwater on the project) has told us that even if we stopped irrigating completely, we'd still have problems.

"It's got to the level now that the natural infiltration from a rainfall event raises the groundwater level."

BRIA Chairman and local grower **Mario Barbagallo** says dewatering is the only real option.

"Essentially we have to pump the water out, that's the only way we will solve the problem long-term," he said.

"The problem we've got there is the quality of the groundwater, it's so saline – not everywhere, but in the areas most at risk – it's so saline it's not even suitable for mixing with the river water that Sunwater provides for use on farm.

"Instead, we'd have to export that water, but straight away we run into barriers with the likes of the Department of Environment and Science.

"They're reluctant to approve that water being pumped into natural waterways, even in time of high flow when the concentrations would be so low that it would be negligible. But that's eventually what will have to happen.

"And we're not talking huge quantities. Under the ground we have a lot of clay



Sunwater statement

Groundwater levels have risen across most of the Lower Burdekin since intensive agriculture commenced there in the 1980s.

This issue is not isolated to the Lower Burdekin, with rising groundwater and salinity issues affecting many other irrigated areas across Australia and internationally.

Sunwater is committed to continuing to support the Queensland Government, Burdekin irrigators and local agronomists to implement sustainable long-term measures to mitigate the existing rising groundwater (and salinity) in the Lower Burdekin.

In 2020, the Sunwater Board approved to spend \$12.8 million over 4 years (2021 to 2024) to support a Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project.

We recognise that Sunwater, like all other stakeholders in the region, has a role to play in addressing this issue.

Sunwater continues to explore the implementation of off-farm infrastructure-based solutions and preventative measures.

We look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders to ensure a holistic solution to this problem can be identified and implemented.

and fractured rock, so it doesn't take a lot of water infiltration to raise the levels, but conversely, it doesn't take a lot of water extraction to have the reverse effect.

"We had evidence of that from one bore that was pumping for a period of 4 or 5 years. During that time the groundwater in the observation bores plateaued and didn't rise any higher. Then they decommissioned it because of the quality of the water, and as soon as it was decommissioned, the groundwater started rising again.

"That bore wasn't pumping 40,000 gallons an hour or anything like that, it was pumping more like 8,000 gallons an hour or 10 litres/second. That small amount was enough to contain the groundwater rises."

Work begins

During a recent system shut down for maintenance, Sunwater began testing for leaks in one of its balancing storages and irrigation channel.

"I don't know that they found any significant leakage at this early stage, but there are hundreds of kilometres of channels so it will take some time to get through it," Russ said.

While local irrigators have welcomed the Sunwater's investment into finally finding a solution to the salinity problem, they hope it's not a one-off.

"\$12.5m is a significant initial investment, and we're thankful for it, but given the scale of the problem and that governments have left it until now to address, it will take a hell of a lot more than that. It will have to be an ongoing investment," Russ said.

"We've been pushing for this for 30 years and now that Sunwater is finally doing something, we want to make sure it's done properly and it's not just money wasted for no outcome." ■

Pictured: BRIA manager Russ McNee says the rising groundwater problem is now critical in some areas of the Burdekin, with cane crops severely impacted by increasing soil salinity.

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Five ways to improve organisational wellbeing

Article developed in collaboration with SuperFriend

During October, which is Mental Health Month, it's important to pause and reflect on our own mental health and the wellbeing of those around us. We asked SuperFriend, our wellbeing partner to share with us five tips on how we can improve our mental health and wellbeing both at work and at home.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

If you're looking to improve the mental health and wellbeing of your organisation, here are five simple activities which can be promoted within the workplace.

#1 - CONNECT

Creating connections with others is a fundamental human need. This includes relationships with family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours and acquaintances in all areas of life.

Taking time out to both broaden and strengthen relationships every day is the key to harnessing this important aspect of wellbeing. Whether it's done spontaneously or by putting dedicated time aside to connect with workmates can make a big difference to positivity.

#2 - GET ACTIVE

Physical activity is vital for positive wellbeing, whether it's walking, running, cycling, playing sports, gardening or any other activity that gets you moving.

Most importantly, find the things you enjoy – and do those activities regularly. Think about how you can include activity at your workplace – maybe explore the idea of having a 'walking meeting' once or twice a week.

#3 - BE AWARE

Mindfulness is about being in the moment, noticing things around you, being aware of your emotions – whether they are positive or negative, and reflecting on your experiences. Focusing on mindfulness enables you to savour the things you enjoy and become more acutely aware of your priorities, and such self-awareness impacts positively on wellbeing.

#4 - KEEP LEARNING

They say we learn something new every day, and science is telling us that this is important for our wellbeing. Whether it's signing up for a new activity or taking a development opportunity at work, learning new things boosts your confidence and this is great for your wellbeing.

#5 - HELP OTHERS

Considering and acting positively towards others links you to your community and rewards you with a stronger sense of wellbeing. You can do this formally, through a volunteering opportunity, or informally through daily interactions with others.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

KEEN TO EXPLORE OTHER RESOURCES?

SuperFriend offer a range of services beyond training to support you with your broader mental health and wellbeing strategy and policy needs. For example, Workplace Mental Health Essentials for All Staff is an online course and well-suited to those working remotely. Find out more about this course by visiting superfriend.com.au and see below additional health and wellbeing resources for inside and outside the workplace.

RESOURCES – FOUND AT [SUPERFRIEND.COM.AU](https://superfriend.com.au)

- 'Looking after you' booklet
- 'Peer Support' booklet
- Free, 15-minute online wellbeing check-in module
- MySuperFriend online learning platform
- Webinar library

ABOUT SUNSUPER

Sunsuper is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds with 1.4 million members* and more than \$93 billion* in funds under management. As a profit-for-members fund, we return our profits to our members as better services and lower fees, so our members truly sit at the heart of everything we do. We also support more than 160,000 participating employer clients* across a diverse range of industries.

If you're not already with Sunsuper and you want to start making a real difference to you and your employee's retirement today – it's easy to join. Call our Contact Centre on 13 11 84 between 8.00am to 6.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday for assistance.

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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 22

 CCS to date - 12.27

 Tonnes to date - 639,778
99.19% crushed to date

Mossman Mill workers tipped their last bin of cane on Wednesday 3 November at 12:32am. A total of 639,777 tonnes of cane were processed for a mill average of 12.29 CCS. The coastal growers supplied 479,713 tonnes of cane for an average of 11.85 CCS and Tableland growers supplied 251,976 tonnes of cane to both Mossman and Tableland mills for an average of 13.82 CCS. Tableland Mill completed its crush on Sunday 21 November.

Overall the season was disappointing for both milling and crop performances. Tonnages and sugar were both below expectations, while lost hours were very high and mill availability below 75%.

The November QSL advance was held until the grower wash-up pay on 26 November, because a reduction had been made to the final estimated sugar price in the QSL Advances Program. The final 50c/t adjustment in the cane payment formula for the sustainable levy, was also made in the November wash-up pay, along with a deduction of 3.5c/tonne of cane for the Cane Analysis Program.

Mossman Mill has seen the retirement of another long-standing employee, **Jim Malone**, after almost 45 years. On

behalf of growers we wish Jim all the best in his retirement.

October rainfall was well below the monthly average but there were some good showers in November. The moisture, together with warm humid conditions, should see the plant and ratooning cane off to a good start for 2022.

The local Bargaining Agent representatives met with mill reps on 26 October to talk about the crushing and to discuss issues that will be facing the mill and growers in the 2022 season.

Daintree Bio-Precinct shareholders heard from company representatives about company activities, milling activities and value-add developments on 29 October.

The first face-to-face meeting of the new Local Marine Advisory Committee for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was held mid-November. There were a number of new members present who all heard about the basic administrative operation of the LMAC group and nominated four regionally relevant issues for the Marine Park the group would like to focus on. These were: War on Wrecks – DSC

Sustainability Strategy – Charter Operators Sustainability Plan – operation, access to and maintenance of beaches.

The Wet Tropics Making Waves Forum was held in Cairns on 4 November. The forum was well attended and covered a number of topics about what is happening on ground in service of acquiring knowledge, gathering data, and building resilience in the Great Barrier Reef. It was a positive event and the variety of topics addressed offered something of interest for all of those in attendance.

In the last weeks of November the CANEGROWERS Mossman AGM was held. The board also met with SRA District Manager – Far North, **Gavin Rodman** to talk about the draft Far North District Plan Activities and Projects and an industry meeting was held with SRA CEO **Ros Baker** and new Chair **Rowena McNally**.


Pictured below left: CANEGROWERS Mick Quirk, Sandra Henrich, Evelyn Matthews and Elisa Westmore attending the Wet Tropics Waterways Making Waves forum and below right the last bin at Mossman Mill was tipped on 3 Nov.



TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 25


 CCS to date - 14.02

 Tonnes to date - 630,508
100.08% crushed to date

CAIRNS

 Harvest week -23

 CCS to date - 11.49

 Tonnes to date - 1,195,036
100.01% crushed to date

Growers across both the Mulgrave and Babinda zones have seen the end of the crushing for 2021.

Wet weather had caused interruptions in the last period for those growers supplying South Johnstone.


CANEGROWERS Cairns Region took

delivery of and distributed 1,256 bags of beans to members.


The direct drill bean planter and the mud spreader have been in high demand as growers work towards planting fallow crops and finalising fertilising of crops as the weather allows prior to the onset of the wet season.

Approximately 25 growers from both the Mulgrave and Babinda zones attended the lunch of the Great Barrier Reef Foundations Russell and Mulgrave Water Quality Program. Growers heard from the Foundation as well as the on-ground Project Delivery Providers who are Farmacist and Tropwater.

INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 22

 CCS to date - 11.45

 Tonnes to date - 1,215,164
95.31% crushed to date

Growers in the Innisfail district finished harvesting on 23 November after a disappointing year for yield and CCS.


CANEGROWERS Innisfail representatives continued to work closely with MSF Sugar on seasonal issues including harvesting equity.

This has been particularly challenging this year with many contractors working long days to fill their allocated bins given the low tonnages. We would like to thank the growers, harvesting contractors, mill staff and others for their efforts this season.

TULLY

 Harvest week - 23

 CCS to date - 12.58

 Tonnes to date - 2,289,862
91.59% crushed to date

The AGM was held with guest speaker CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan providing an update on state-wide issues and there was discussion focused on sugar marketing and feral pig management.


Crushing is drawing to a close with 160,000 tonnes of the 2.5 million tonne crop remaining.


Sugar content is dropping quickly and this, as well as the risk of a wet finish, is concerning.

The 2022 crop prospects are good at this stage and will be dependent on the timing and severity of the wet season.

HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 19

 CCS to date - 12.69

 Tonnes to date - 3,019,681
77.63% crushed to date

In Week 19, Victoria Mill restarted after repairing B1 Mill trash bar and crushed 127,000 tonnes for the week.

Macknade Mill had another good week crushing 63,500 tonnes. The mill average CCS was 12.88 for the week.

In Week 20, Victoria Mill crushed 132,000 tonnes for the week. A maintenance day was held on A side milling train. Failure of a third party contractors high pressure water blasting equipment resulted in a longer than expected planned stop. Macknade Mill continued its consistent run, crushing 66,100 tonnes. The mill average CCS for the week was 13.00.

In Week 21, Victoria Mill crushed 132,000 tonnes for the week and Macknade Mill crushed 60,000 tonnes. The mill average CCS was 12.91.

Macknade had a 12-hour maintenance day during the week.

In Week 22, Victoria Mill had a bagasse system choke, which was caused by a failed soft starter on the large electric motor. The mill completed some small jobs that could only be done with steam off and then attempted to restart. The mill had numerous small problems and took a while to get the factory back up running. This stop caused two days of reduced loading of 21,000 each day. Victoria Mill only crushed 108,000 tonnes for the week.

Macknade also had issues at the boilers when an Ergon fault took out the powerhouse. This caused the boilers to trip resulting in a 4-hour stop to get factory boilers back online and up and running. Macknade crushed 60,500

tonnes. The mill reported a few locos were out of operation. They will move some locos from Burdekin to assist to the end of the season. At the end of Week 22 the Herbert River mills had crushed a total of 3,575,908 tonnes.

In Week 23, the Herbert River district was Impacted by the wet weather. Victoria Mill only crushed 111,000 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushed 55,900 tonnes. The weekly average CCS was 12.54.

At the end of Week 23, the Herbert River district had crushed 3,742,902 tonnes with approximately 60,000 tonnes remaining to crush. With the wet field conditions and restricted loading it was predicted to have the district finishing crushing around 24 November.


Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 24

 CCS to date -14.41

 Tonnes to date -7,745,477
98.67% crushed to date

During the month of November, harvesting was completed at all three of the North Bank mills, leaving just the South Bank to finish, which still had 67,000t remaining in the paddock at the time of writing. The North Bank mills all delivered good mill performance throughout the season.

Mill	Finish Date	Tonnes (m)	CCS
Kalamia	10/11/21	1.55	14.13
Invicta	11/11/21	3.05	14.50
Pioneer	13/11/21	1.63	14.60

Growers who supplied these mills were happy to see their season finish in the second week of November, just before a widespread rain event on 15 November.

Inkerman Mill was not so lucky and was unable to finish as scheduled due to a combination of wet weather and continued poor mill performance, with further boiler issues. It is likely that Inkerman Mill will be crushing into December, as growers want to see this mill keep going until they get their crop off. Current sugar prices are simply too good to be leaving cane in the paddock.

Whilst there has been wet weather to contend with, the primary reason for Inkerman not finishing was due to the poor management of this factory by Wilmar.

Equipment in the boiler was not correctly repositioned in the slack season which meant continual breakdowns with blown superheater tubes. Whilst Wilmar commenced the transfer of South Bank cane to be crushed at the North Bank, it did not happen early enough and despite repeated requests to review the amount of cane being transferred, Wilmar did not increase the transfer.

After the recent rain event (*pictured right*) and breakdowns, growers were left to contend with thousands of tonnes of burnt cane sitting in paddocks for up to 10 days and thousands of tonnes sitting in bins, the bulk of which had to be discarded.

CCS is falling and ratooning for next year has been impacted which will cost growers money now and in future seasons. Wilmar needs to urgently spend money on Inkerman Mill to get its reliability rate up to 90%, a rate which it has not

achieved since 2014. Meetings are to be held with Wilmar to secure the company's commitment to invest capital to get the mill back to where it used to be.

We want to see Inkerman Mill crushing like the other Burdekin mills because when Wilmar has all of its factories humming, the whole community which relies on this industry benefits.

On a positive note, overall confidence levels in the Burdekin industry are high due to profitable sugar prices and the crop for next season looking really good, with the plant and ratoons benefitting from the rain. Here's to a promising start for 2022 season.


The Burdekin is the sugarcane capital of Australia and CANEGROWERS Burdekin was proud to represent agriculture at a National Agriculture Day event on 17 November at Home Hill State High School. This progressive local school has a strong agricultural focus and the topic of the discussion was careers in the industry. Students learned first-hand about how varied the employment opportunities are within the agricultural sector and what a great industry it is to be involved in and some good questions were asked (*see page 6 of this magazine for pictures*).


CANEGROWERS Burdekin wishes all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe over the holidays and we look forward to representing you in the coming seasons.



PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 21

 CCS to date -14.43

 Tonnes to date - 1,556,289
99.76% crushed to date

Harvesting of Proserpine's 2021 crop concluded on Friday 19 November with the last bin tipped at 9:50pm. The mill crushed 1.56 million tonnes of cane at a provisional CCS of 14.4 units.

A few days prior to the completion of the crush, the district received 40-60mm of rain across all productivity zones. While there was minimal disruption to harvesting, conditions were less than ideal and there were some anxious moments. Fortunately, all available cane was harvested with no reports of stand-over.


CCS had been on the decline over the past month, however the rain in the final week had minimal impact on the result. Highest CCS sample in the last week was 17.23 from a rake of second ratoon Q208 from the Gregory Productivity District.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine and SSP conducted their AGMs on the final day of the crush with good numbers in attendance. SSP conducted its 2020 Productivity Awards at the meeting. Congratulations to **Faletti Brothers** who were declared the overall winner.

MACKAY

 Harvest week - 25

 CCS to date - 14.05

 Tonnes to date - 4,464,104
81.60% crushed to date

The crushing season continues to drag on for Mackay and Plane Creek. At 19 November, the 80% milestone was reached for Mackay Sugar with 90% for Plane Creek.

However, mill breakdowns have continued in the three Mackay Sugar mills. The finishing date is now put at 3 December for Plane Creek while Mackay Sugar's estimate is for between 22-26 December.

That means it is likely heavy farm machinery will still be on the roads at Christmastime, a serious safety concern for growers with the increased number of motorists travelling in the district to visit family.

Special permits from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to continue crushing throughout the period are being organised.

Cane quality is falling away in both harvest regions. The latest average figure is 14.33 CCS for both regions and while the rain is good for the next crop, it is causing sugar content

to drop away week by week.

Research tells us that a season length beyond the second week of November guarantees major crop losses in the following ratoon crop if it cannot get away adequately before the wet season commences.

Forecasts are predicting a wetter season for us this year, thanks to La Niña. This seems already to have had its effect with early storms in the past weeks.

Recent falls around the district have varied from 24 mm to 150 mm which has pulled up harvesting in some areas.


With prices at AUD \$600/tonne or US 20c/lb, growers have been able to lock in good prices through forward pricing to obtain the best returns for what crop they harvest.

Growers remain hopeful that they will be able to remove the whole crop.

PLANE CREEK

 Harvest week - 23


 CCS to date - 14.44

 Tonnes to date - 1,285,566
94.53% crushed to date

BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 22

 CCS to date - 14.26

 Tonnes to date - 904,162
94.88% crushed to date

Bundaberg Sugar Mills processed 24,687.69 tonnes for the week ending 21st November 2021. This brings the season-to-date figure to 906,334.94 tonnes. The season CCS average for Bundaberg Sugar Mill is at 14.26 CCS.

There has been widespread rain across the district which has stopped the crush. There is around 65,000 tonnes to go and it is anticipated that the finish date will be 12 December. Whilst this is an unwelcome outcome of the rain, the overall effect of the first decent falls in nearly four years is extremely positive.

Surface water irrigators are elated with the recent announcement by SunWater that both sides of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area had their announced allocations increased to 100% for medium priority water.

Given that the capacity of the dam has been significantly reduced, the only reason that our irrigators can go to 100% is because SunWater has quarantined all of their unsold medium and high priority water from the allocation process.

For some, it opens up a suite of choices on what to plant. Up until now many were hesitating on whether to plant soyabeans and risk not having irrigation water if it was needed in December /January. For others it helps with scheduling and will help cane farmers take advantage of the current high prices.

Hopefully the Queensland Government will progress with a decision before Christmas to reinstate the dam to its full nominal allocation capacity and make the best ever Christmas for our irrigators.

It is also likely that groundwater allocations will be increased in the coming weeks when the review is completed.

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Continues next page ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

 Harvest week - 21

 CCS to date - TBA

 Tonnes to date - 610,382
87.20% crushed to date

Due to much needed rain, the 2021 Isis Crush is again stop-start with the Isis and Maryborough cane supply into the Isis Mill. The finish date is currently unknown, although predicted for mid-December weather permitting.

Last month, the Isis district hosted CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri**, CEO **Dan Galligan** and **Matt Keally** on a membership engagement visit to the district (*pictured below*). The two grower shed meetings were well attended, with growers receiving updates on the market, an overview of CANEGROWERS work on their behalf, reef regulations, the new Workplace Health & Safety Guide and issues other growers are facing across the state.

Local growers introduced Paul Schembri to the innovative digital record keeping platform JotForms (*pictured right*) which many are successfully using in our area. Paul is soon to trial the platform for keeping records on his own farm, so watch this space.

The main issues CANEGROWERS Isis has been working on for members are:

- Planning the district roll-out of the 1-on-1 customisation of the CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide
- Finalising a membership review and 2022 plan to ensure the district office can better support our members and continue to offer value for levies paid


- Continuing to improve internal efficiencies to support membership to 'do more with less' by continuing to streamline processes and systems including conversion to Xero, ORECO cane trash contracts, grower payroll and finance administration
- Finalising preparations for the CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Productivity Ltd Annual General Meetings to be held on Friday 10 December with SRA as guest speakers
- Continuing to assist Isis Productivity Ltd with service provision where required due to some recent staff changes.



MARYBOROUGH

 Harvest week - 21

 CCS to date - 14.13

 Tonnes to date - 407,489
78.36% crushed to date

The weather is starting to win the race to end the season. Over the past month, good falls throughout the district have been recorded and the current week of 23 November started very wet with more to come.

This is obviously causing problems for harvesting. On the flip side, the plant cane and ratoons are currently bounding out of the ground with many reports of healthy growth. The soil profile is now holding plenty of moisture in most areas and for those planning for soy beans, the summer promises a strong crop with ideal growing conditions.

At time of reporting, the end of season is shifting further into December to attempt to harvest as much as possible.

If growers are reaching decisions on standing over any areas due to the wet conditions please advise MSF Cane Supply Manager **Chris Coutts-Smith** on mobile 0409 269 189 as soon as possible.

Congratulations to our newest Smartcane BMP accredited growers, **Leo and Tony Groth**.

There are a few more growers also very close to completing the process and we will be able to recognise these at the end of season meeting.


Due to the flexible finish, we are yet to lock in a date for the end of season meeting and BBQ, which will be held at the CANEGROWERS Hall in Maryborough.


Pictured: Bambling Miva 5721-16 spring plant 2021



ROCKY POINT

 Harvest week - 17

 CCS to date - 14.26

 Tonnes to date - 221,836
65.15% crushed to date

The Rocky Point harvest has been struggling over the last couple of weeks as a result of Cogen issues and wet weather. At the time of writing, the Rocky Point Mill had not crushed any cane since 17 November. As of this date, Rocky Point has crushed 221,168 tonnes at a season average CCS of 14.31.

At this stage of the harvest, we would have expected to be almost finished, however, we still have around 120,000 tonnes in the field, which is very concerning. With a solid crop, good CCS and good sugar prices, it's another frustrating year for Rocky Point.

Many growers are currently preparing fields for planting soybeans. Some soy seed has been ordered.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point is holding its AGM on 23 November 2021.

We are also holding a Productivity Workshop (in conjunction with SRA) on 30 November 2021, specifically dealing with ground preparation, chemicals, soil testing and liming.



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WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Consensus Statement on Reef Water Quality

The Australian and Queensland governments have commissioned the five-year update of the Scientific Consensus Statement on Reef Water Quality. This Statement assesses the risks to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) lagoon from changes in water quality, and outlines ways to reduce these risks.

It therefore influences government policy and targets, including the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan which is endorsed by both levels of government.

CANEGROWERS is pushing for a more transparent, inclusive, independent, and open-minded approach to the preparation of the new Statement.

This is essential, given the widely held view amongst many growers that previous Statements have been driven primarily by a government need to justify policy assumptions and priorities.

One positive so far is that the new Statement will be based around key questions rather than having a series of dense chapters that are somewhat impenetrable.

The risk remains though that questions will be unduly influenced by government bureaucrats or policy advisors that have a vested interest in justifying previous Statements and associated policy decisions.

If the questions selected do not address industry needs and concerns, then the whole process will be flawed from the start.

How the final set of science questions are then tackled will also determine the Statement's credibility with industry. The following principles should be followed:

- The Statement should provide context for the risk to GBR ecosystems from water quality. This has been missing from past Statements which focussed only on the potential for water quality impacts and did not consider its importance relative to other risks such as climate change. This is how politicians and others get away with equating the risk from water quality with the risk from climate change.

- The Statement should clearly outline the spatial extent of catchment discharge within the GBR lagoon and provide a quantitative assessment of any risk to inshore ecosystems. This has not been done in previous Statements. This is how politicians and others get away with claiming or inferring that the whole GBR is seriously threatened by water quality.
- The Statement should include a diversity of scientific expertise and perspectives – all reports to date have been prepared, in large part, by water quality researchers. This can discourage alternative viewpoints and critical questioning of both the evidence and the inferences drawn from it. An example is the proposed link between elevated discharge of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) from catchments and the initiation of Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) outbreaks. There are a number of alternative hypotheses around triggers for COTS outbreaks but these have received little or no attention in the Statements. Including COTS specialists, and other key disciplines, will help produce a better product.
- Adoption of particular farm practices will not occur without evidence of agronomic and economic merit. However, there is a serious lack of evidence for the merits of the farm practices that government expects growers to implement so that water quality is improved. The science process has failed growers badly on this front. To make matters worse, the lack of adoption has then triggered innumerable studies on what 'drives' the behaviour of growers.

We remain somewhat hopeful that the new Scientific Statement will be prepared in a manner that helps restore some confidence amongst growers. This will depend largely on how the project is managed by the Queensland Government. ■

”

CANEGROWERS is pushing for a more transparent, inclusive, independent and open-minded approach to the preparation of the new Scientific Statement.

”



Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Effort and impact

I am often asked, "Are you busy?" I think a better question would be, "Are you effective?" It's easy to look busy but it is sometimes difficult to determine if you are effective.

Some issues require fairly low levels of effort but have a relatively high level of impact. These can be considered quick wins.

Other issues require seeds to be sown and nurtured, stakeholders to be influenced and guided. This takes significant effort, and while the anticipated impact might be high, it is not necessarily immediate. These can be called major projects.

Quick wins and major projects are where we should focus our efforts on to create positive change.

Quick wins

Improving the profitability of members is a critical strategic objective and I would consider the Pricing Essentials workshops, which enable growers to understand their cost of production and price risk, and therefore make better future sugar pricing decisions, to be a quick win.

Growers attending the workshop could make immediate changes and it is arguably one of the biggest issues growers can address to reduce their risk and lock in a profit.

The recent publication of the CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farms, which provides industry-specific information to help members meet their regulatory obligations, is another example of a quick win.

However, the major project is changing our safety culture - ensuring our members adopt improved practices so that they operate in a safer environment with fewer, or preferably no serious WHS incidents.

Major projects

CANEGROWERS puts significant effort into sowing seeds, nurturing projects, and guiding and influencing stakeholders with the expectation of longer-term benefits for members.

Examples include working with Sugar Research Australia on the development of its Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2026 and the subsequent commencement of this plan, and the CANEGROWERS long-running involvement in diversification projects.

The effort put into understanding diversification options is based on the belief that strategically it is right direction and there will ultimately be an impact.

For example, this year CANEGROWERS has been involved in projects investigating bamboo and sunn hemp as complementary crops, and biofuel production from bagasse, tops and trash as an addition to raw sugar.

These and other investigations are what I consider major projects. They involve significant effort with a possible high impact, but it takes a long time to get it right.

We can also be sucked into tasks which take a significant amount of effort but even if successful the impact is likely to be low (these can be called thankless tasks). Sometimes there are issues which are low effort and low impact (called fill ins). Thankless tasks and fill ins, while not always rewarding, cannot be ignored and they can keep you busy.

Among the things the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee deals with are issues like transport, cane burning and input costs, which have the potential to take significant effort with little impact or change. These can be thankless tasks, but we do need to keep a watch on them to at least maintain what we have.

All the best for 2022. I hope there are many quick wins and fruitful major projects for you and not too much effort on thankless tasks. ■

" CANEGROWERS puts significant effort into sowing seeds, nurturing projects, and guiding and influencing stakeholders, with the expectation of longer-term benefits for members. "

Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



2021 - sugar price optimism returns

While it has been a season marred by wet weather interruptions and variable mill performance, the 2021 harvest is almost done.

It certainly has been an interesting year - a year which lays the framework for growers to invest with confidence in their cane farming activities.

The outlook for strong sugar prices is accompanied by a reduction in electricity prices, lower water charges and confidence that the regulatory structures underpinning grower choice in marketing will remain.

The year began with modest but positive expectations for sugar prices. CS-Brazil was finalising its 2020-21 harvest and, with low oil prices and low ethanol use, its biggest ever sugar production 38.5 million tonnes.

Despite the prospects of smaller Thai and European crops, the world sugar market was set to swing from a deficit of more than 12 million tonnes to a modest surplus. The threat of another round of Indian sugar export subsidies was also in the air.

Aussie dollar sugar prices for the 2021 season were around \$410/t, \$370/t for the 2022 season and \$350/t for the 2023 season.

As the year unfolded though, the impact of drought in Brazil became more pronounced, the global supply situation tightened and world sugar prices strengthened.

The outlook for sugar prices is now as strong as it has been for many years, despite the lingering threat of subsidised Indian exports.

As November closed, any unpriced sugar for the 2021 season was attracting almost \$600/t and many growers will receive a weighted average sugar price return in excess of \$500/t for this year's production.

We have seen opportunities for 2022 season sugar to be priced at more than \$570/t, 2023 season at almost \$500/t and 2024 season sugar to be hedged at more than \$465/t.

With the positive outlook, growers who understand their costs of production can manage their price risk and look forward with confidence in the knowledge that their cane production will be consistently profitable.

This year also saw the introduction of new electricity tariffs. From 1 July, the new small business flat rate tariff (T20) and interruptible supply tariff (T34) became available.

Many irrigators on the now discontinued traditional farm tariffs (T62, T65 and T66) have made significant savings by switching to T20 and T34. The new tariffs have seen the effective price of electricity fall by 30% or more, compared with previous tariff offerings.

CANEGROWERS is now working with Horan & Bird to explore the possibility of further electricity price savings.

The Queensland Government also delivered on its election promise of reducing water prices for sugarcane growers by 15%.

While the two-tier water pricing policy is less than ideal, it is encouraging that the State Government recognises that irrigation water prices were too high and the price reductions are welcome.

In another important decision affecting the sugar industry, the Federal Government maintained the Sugar Code unaltered following a review which found that the Code provided a net benefit to the industry.

Poor mill performance in several regions has proven to be frustrating. If higher prices result in improved mill performance then shorter season lengths are likely to follow. This will boost confidence and result in higher CCS.

The longer growing period that follows will result in a bigger industry, benefiting both growers and millers. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Growers can look forward with confidence in the knowledge that their cane production will be consistently profitable.



Right to Farm Laws

What are they and would they help growers?

With Queensland's mighty sugarcane industry situated amongst some of the most popular and densely populated areas of the state, land use frictions are bound to arise.

The main source of complaint arises from the increasing urban sprawl, with agricultural activities now being more and more adjoined by residential uses rather than other rural or non-urban lands.

My regular contact with growers and CANEGROWERS district offices indicates that reports of individual complaints against normal farming activity are increasing.

Unfortunately, some local authorities also seem all too keen to support the whingers and whiners and take, or threaten, action against growers.

In the past, the size, importance, influence, and significance of the sugarcane industry to the local districts was such that the industry was largely immune from such complaints.

For a variety of reasons, farmers are now under increasing pressure from sections of local communities, as well as local and state governments, to modify or cease standard farming practices. Environment protection laws are being tightened.

Farmers quite fairly and justifiably seek in part to rely on the "I was here first" principle. Unfortunately, that principle is being eroded.

Some of these land use conflicts are managed by local council planning schemes and the zoning of lands.

The state government has also established agricultural land guidelines and state planning policies.

Whilst these assist in the complex area of land use management, growers continue to be subjected to complaints about standard farming practices.

There is no doubt that local councils and state government can do more to ensure rural lands maintain and enhance productivity and sustainability.



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*



“Unfortunately, some local authorities also seem all too keen to support the whingers and whiners and take, or threaten, action against growers.”

Proper planning schemes and fair and reasonable environmental protection laws are required.

RIGHT TO FARM

Some growers ask “what about our right to farm”.

In some sense that right does already exist by reference to the relevant local council planning scheme.

Cane lands are likely zoned as such, or part of general rural lands which entitle landowners to use those lands for cane growing purposes.

The real issue is the unwelcome interference with the ongoing entitlement to farm. The right to farm is usually regarded as the desire by farmers to undertake lawful agricultural practices without conflict arising from complaints from neighbours and other land users.

Right to farm laws are hoped by rural landholders to provide a statutory shield of protection from complaints about farm activity causing a nuisance.

In some cases, right to farm laws can even extend to protect standard farming practices from government regulation (red and green tape).

OTHER AUSTRALIAN STATES

Queensland does not have specific right to farms laws, but some other states do. In 2019, the New South Wales Government passed the Right to Farm Act. Tasmanian farmers have long enjoyed the protections afforded by the Primary Industry Activities Protection Act.

OVERSEAS EXAMPLES

All 50 US states have some form of right to farm legislation. Many of these laws commenced as far back as 1963. All Canadian Provinces also have right to farm laws.

WHY NOT QUEENSLAND

Right to farms laws are well worth advocating for. Not everyone supports them though, but I think a proper consideration should be given to their introduction.

CANEGROWERS is currently reviewing right to farm options as part of its ongoing strategic planning activity.

The engagement of other peak primary industry bodies including QFF will be necessary to seek to advance the proposition that Queensland should have right to farm laws.

Growers will be updated about any developments in this area.

Any grower wishing to discuss aspects of this article or any other legal matter should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper, for free initial legal advice.

(This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any CANEGROWERS member wishing to discuss any aspect of legal matters should contact their local CANEGROWERS district office or call me on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■

Get reacquainted with CANEGROWERS member benefits!

CANEGROWERS members have access to some excellent resources, tools and benefits.

As the harvest winds down and we move into the festive season, it's a good time to explore the Member Resources section of the CANEGROWERS website and reacquaint yourself with the many benefits available to support your business and family.

BOC

CANEGROWERS has a corporate pricing arrangement with BOC which offers member discounts on gas, welding gear, consumables and safety products. If you are looking to do some maintenance on the harvester or some welding work, simply quote your membership number next time you place an order.

CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service

This service offers information and education via weekly notes on market movements, downloadable resources, and a monthly video market update. With the sugar price on the up and the Aussie dollar down, don't forget to sign up for email alerts that will provide insights on the market to help inform your pricing decisions.

Cost of Production Tool

This easy-to-use spreadsheet can help you calculate your own cost of production, which can assist with making informed marketing and forward pricing decisions.

Health insurance

Health insurance is an important yet expensive cost to the family budget. Fortunately, CANEGROWERS has partnered with **Queensland Country Health Fund** to offer members a Corporate Health Plan - meaning a discount on annual premiums, coverage for health care anywhere in Australia with a choice of provider and a range of convenient ways to claim.

WHS Guide

October was National Safe Work Month and CANEGROWERS launched a Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farms. The user-friendly guide has a suite of checklists, registers and forms that are specifically for growers.

We know you understand the importance of safety and this tailor-made guide provides sugarcane relevant information to help protect growers, their families, staff, and farm visitors.

Looking for a new vehicle?

As a member of CANEGROWERS, you can gain free access to **AutoTender**, a wholesale pricing and automatic tendering platform. Using your computer or smartphone, visit the AutoTender website, find the new vehicle you want, follow the prompts, and let the fleet dealer network and unique negotiation system find the best deal in your area.

This benefit is provided through our membership with **Queensland Farmers Federation**. To access this and other QFF member benefits, click the QFF link in the members only section and follow the prompts.

Speaking of vehicles, if you need a permit to move farm vehicles and equipment on public roads, don't forget to check out the **CANEGROWERS guides for transport and road access for farm equipment** on regional road access and equipment dimension limits.

These guides contain maps of critical roads specific to your district. We also have traffic management plan checklists and decision flow charts to assist you meeting your legal and safety obligations.

To check out these and other member benefits go to <https://www.canegrowers.com.au>.

Forgot how to log in?

Your membership number is on the coversheet of this magazine. Otherwise contact your local office and don't forget to ask them about their local benefits too.

Wishing you a safe and joyous festive season. ■



By Matt Kealley,
CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation

ASSCT 2022 CONFERENCE

The Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) conference, the premier technical and professional event for the Australian sugar industry, returns to Mackay in 2022.

Running from 19-22 April, the conference will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. The theme for the conference is 'Futureproofing a Resilient Industry'.

It aims to promote discussion and ideas on how the industry can remain resilient and insulate from unexpected conditions and occurrences.

The conference is open to all sectors of the sugar industry as well as those who support growers, millers, harvesters, researchers, extension, suppliers and engineers.

Whilst the program is still being finalised, there will be ample networking opportunities, guest speakers, technical sessions, social engagements and field tours.

The ever-popular Industry Equipment Exhibition will be available, where delegates can interact with industry equipment and services suppliers and their products.

A specialised program is also on offer to the partners of delegates who may wish to travel but not attend the conference. The Partners program will visit some great regional attractions and include local retail therapy.

The committee is currently calling for technical papers and poster submissions relating to 'Futureproofing a resilient industry'.

Further information on submission details, along with conference registrations can be found at www.assct.com.au. ■

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Better use of applied nutrients using BioZyme – the market leader in Brazilian sugarcane

Supplied by UPL Australia

A new in-furrow or foliar biostimulant that has been shown to improve cane production in Brazil by up to 18% is now available in Australia.

"We're excited to be bringing the benefits of BioZyme® to Australian growers," said Neil Innes, UPL Australia BioSolutions Manager. "This technology is the result of many years of research and field development in Brazil, resulting in proven results and adoption in cane programs there since 2004."

BioZyme is a natural metabolic activating biostimulant based on hydrolysed plant extracts and key trace elements including zinc, manganese, sulphur, magnesium, iron and boron. The identified extract stimulates root initiation, cell division and cell elongation to give larger root volume and higher tillering in cane for enhanced, vigorous vegetative growth.

"BioZyme has been widely adopted in Brazil with application to 34% of the crop in 2018, or some 2.96 million treated hectares," said Mr Innes. "Results from across 21 different research trials in Brazil from 2014 to 2017 gave 11 to 18% production increases from using BioZyme."

BioZyme has several benefits for cane growers.

Firstly, it improves nutrient absorption and metabolism, improving the plants use of nutrients from the soil. It also allows for better use of both water and nutrients due to the development of an earlier, more vigorous, and consequently larger root system.

"Using BioZyme won't add to your N & P inputs and therefore doesn't affect your GBR nutrient calculations," said Mr Innes. "However, by improving nutrient and water use efficiencies we are providing a cropping system that is more sustainable from a very economical outlay."

Another benefit of using BioZyme is an accelerated stool establishment for a more uniform stand and better start for the crop.

Application of BioZyme is recommended at 500ml per hectare, with the first application at planting in-furrow mixed with fungicides, followed by a boom spray application at the same rate 30–45 days following emergence.

"Another added benefit for Australian growers is the superior tank mix compatibility of BioZyme with commonly used products," said Mr Innes.

Compatibility tests show BioZyme offers excellent physical compatibility with flutriafol, propiconazole and chlorpyrifos for planting operations.

It's also compatible with imidacloprid for application in ratoon cane when applying at the same time as your canegrub control.

BioZyme can also be applied in ratoon weed control operations and is compatible in tank mixes with paraquat, atrazine and/or 2,4-D amine or MCPA formulations.

"We know from years of use in Brazil that BioZyme gives improved growth and nutrient uptake, but being new to Australia, we're currently undertaking field trials of BioZyme in various cane regions this season."

Field trials of BioZyme are underway in north and central Queensland growing regions, and in the NSW Tweed area, including trials in ratoon cane as stool-split applications with imidacloprid.

"We anticipate significant interest in BioZyme this summer and autumn seasons, especially given our summer promotion with AmiTron, UPL's integral residual herbicide," said Mr Innes.

"Growers purchasing 10kg of AmiTron with 20L of BioZyme between 1 November and 31 January next year will receive a bonus \$50 BCF voucher."



CANEGROWERS community news



Graduating in style

Demi Zatta (pictured) daughter of Mark and Toni Zatta who are Hebert River growers, recently graduated from Ingham State High School.

Demi celebrated in style. Proud dad Mark said she has always been a hard working student and she is looking to further her studies as either an agronomist or a vet. In the meantime, she enjoys working with Mark on the farm.

Congratulations Demi and all the best for your future ventures!

Don't get caned

CANEGROWERS Mackay and the Department of Transport and Main Roads have taken to social media to launch a road safety campaign to encourage the community to be aware of slow moving cane haulout vehicles.

Plane Creek Area Committee Member, Malcolm Langdon (pictured right) was

the public voice of *Don't Get Caned* last month.

Malcolm displayed his cane haulout equipment at the Sarina Information Centre to show visitors the length, size and weight of this machinery and to explain the regulations which govern its slow speed on public roads.



Musical tribute to the 2021 harvest crews

Rattlin Up the Row is a song written by 14 year old Claire Malouf about her family's Maryborough cane farm in the busy crush. It has been recorded by one of her teachers, Phil Morgan, and set to a video of the family at work on the harvest.

The song celebrates the long and tiring days of the cane crush:

"The harvesters and haulouts are rattling up the rows,

I hope the old girls don't break down beneath the heavy load.

From dawn to dusk, men and machine must just go and go,

They will wake up and do it again tomorrow."

The video, like the farm, is a family affair with Claire driving a truck and bin out tractor, her brother Jack and Pop Col Clayton also binning out and her Dad Tom in the harvester.

You can see the video and hear the song on the CANEGROWERS Facebook page, use the QR code.



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A perfect combination: solar power and bore water pumping

Supplied by Crusader Hose

Renewable energy and Crusader Hose can team up to be part of the solution to reduce your carbon footprint. Solar-powered bore pumps are the smart way to minimise the need for high-cost fossil fuel-generated electricity. Manufactured in Australia, the efficiencies of Flexibore® layflat hose not only reduces pumping costs but requires less fuel and energy in transportation costs than imports.

Crusader Hose is a world-leading manufacturer of layflat hose and has pioneered the development of a flexible rising main. Flexibore® 100 is ideal with submersible pumps and suits most lower-flow bore water pumping applications up to 100 m deep.

Proudly manufactured in Australia, Flexibore® is available in 32mm and 51 mm diameters and coils up compactly in a continuous length. Its flexible nature allows easy handling by two operators with simple accessories; the secure couplings can be attached before or when on-site. With the high-tensile strength of the hose, no safety cable is required.

Other benefits of the Flexibore® system include the perfect hydraulic-flow characteristics ensuring low-cost pumping. Due to its elastomeric swelling features, iron bacteria cannot build up inside the hose. This reliability has helped to make Flexibore® the system of choice for solar bore water pumping.

"In originally developing Flexibore®, the ease with which a farmer could raise or lower a bore pump was essential, and this need is still pertinent today", said Francois Steverlynck, Managing Director of Crusader Hose. The solar bore pump equipped with Flexibore® can be pulled up over a mini roller. There are no kinking problems, as is the case with poly pipe. "A pump blockage or replacement can be fixed easily when using Flexibore®", Francois continued.

Crusader Hose has become well known in the bore water pumping industry. "We are a firm believer in reducing the carbon footprint associated with our products. By manufacturing in Australia, we do not contribute to the carbon dioxide emissions due to shipping as all importers are," concluded Francois. "By equipping Flexibore® 100 with solar pumps, we have a win-win situation for the farmer as well as for the environment."



Flexibore® on solar-powered pumping system pictured above and below a Flexidrag irrigation hose being used on farm.



FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

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Next deadline is **23 January 2022**

* 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, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

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Tyres and Rims to Suit 411R Fiat - 13.6 x 28 Steering Box 434 International Tractor. Mulgrave Area. Ph: 0409761715.

2 x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph: 0740562063.

Mackay-Proserpine

1 Howard 10ft slasher. Ph: 0402203829.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ian Richie tipper bin. Good Condition. Mackay Area. \$25,000. Ph: 0418716043.

Massey Ferguson 1105 in good working order and 100in Howard rotary hoe with crumble roller. Ph: 0413656963.

Westhill ¾ tracks suit 7000 Case \$6,600 inc. GST. 4t rear tipper \$2,500 inc. GST. Ph: 0428115456.

HODGE TRASH INCORPORATOR with crumble bar, good condition. \$4,500 + GST. Ph: 0417612883.

CHAMBERLAIN C6100: very good condition; enclosed ROPS cab; Perkins 6354 engine, high-flow hydraulic pump; draw bar; good tyres. \$7,000 + GST. Ph: 0417612883.

FARM IMPLEMENTS: various including: McLeod 5-leg ripper; McLeod 2-leg ripper; Double-row ratoon grubbers with arch; Hodge 4-furrow reversible plough; McLeod cutaway; Hodge Cutaway spinner; Cane break pusher; McLeod 3-row frame. Call for prices. Ph: 0417612883.

1998 Case fulltrack harvester + parts. \$87,000 inc. GST and 2 x 8401 Ford tractors \$8,000 inc. GST each. Ph: 0481821301.

Ford Genesis 8770 4WD tractor, 5347 hrs. Good cond. \$55,000 + GST. Clearing sale of farm implements: Hodge 7ft slasher, HBM trash incorporator, Bonel cutaway spinner, land plane, confidor applicator, ripper & crumbler, offsets & much more. Ph: 0447745721.

Farm Clean-ups - Will collect scrap metal including old machinery/implements. No job too big/too small. Mackay/Sarina areas. Ph: 0407638381 or 49598453.

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JD. 3350. 4WD. Air Cab. Tractor with 6T. Bob Smith Side Tipper attached. Can separate. Both good condition. Ph: 0427606328.

Howard 6F extra heavy duty slasher. Ph: 0417542783.

Diesel tank, mobile on 2 wheels, appr. 4500 litres c/w battery powered transfer pump 9 tyne Bonel extra h/duty ripper, as new legs, c/w 5/8 inch sheers bolts 120 inch Howard rotary hoe-chain side drive, always kept undercover. Excellent condition 3 cylinder direct drive Perkins, coupled to an oil bath southern x pump-c/w a purpose built trailer with 1000 litre diesel tank-as new condition. Ph: 0435111968.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438606578.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Soy planter 4 twin covington boxes \$2,000 + GST. Ph: 0435805584.

3 row spray trailer 600L for inter row tractor \$1,000 + GST. Ph: 0435805584.

3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, 2,200litre diesel fuel tanker is a complete trailer, Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance. Ph: 0427598333.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ritchie tipper, new 23-1-34 tyres, PTO clutch, hydraulic pump high-low, air con, also wet weather buggy wheels. \$22,000 incl GST. Will separate. Ph: 0409875241.

Wanted

International 766 tractor rims must be 30inch x 10 stud. Will buy whole tractor dead or alive. Prefer Nth Qld area. Ph: 0428198332.

Solid 4 slat butt-lifter for Case harvester. Ph: 0402203829.

Rear tractor tyre 20.8 38in Radial or a 520-85 38in Radial. Ph: 49541174.

Tractor Tyres: 600 x16", 11"x28" and 12"x28". Ph: 49595207.

Dual row billet planter. Ph: 0419771504.

High clearance spray tractor. Send photos and price to 0427157009.

STL shares wanted. Best price, quick cash payment. Ph: 0408448227.

Positions Vacant

Position available on a sugarcane farm in the Tully Area. Duties involve the preparation of farm land, fertilising, spraying, machinery maintenance and general farm duties. Must have Drivers licence. Experience in the operation of farm equipment preferred. Contact 0418181646.

Work Wanted

48 yo male seeking employment (general shed duties (not welding)) 1 day per week. Foxdale-Lethebrook area. 0436397416.

Property

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph: Larry on 0418496864.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Oct 2021)	Month to date (1 Nov-29 Dec)	Year to date	Jan-Nov
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	5.2	104.2	2611.4	2649.6
Mareeba Airport	27.2	22.2	878.6	735.7
Cairns Aero	8.2	68	2351	1825.9
Mt Sophia	25	136	3985.6	3110.1
Babinda Post Office	5	0	3950.2	3951.3
Innisfail	12	91.4	3545.6	3283.6
Tully Sugar Mill	41	159.5	4974.4	3807.5
Cardwell Marine Pde	8.5	227.8	2401.5	1921.8
Lucinda Township	3.6	63	1981.6	1945
Ingham Composite	6	190.3	3268.5	1904.4
Abergowrie Alert	6	68	1650	1289.2
Townsville Aero	4	106	1034.6	1004.4
Ayr DPI Research Stn	4.4	112.6	1063	834.1
Proserpine Airport	38.8	56	1089.6	1266.2
Mirani Mary Street	17.4	88.1	877.9	1278.9
Mackay MO	36.2	73.8	1146.2	1395
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	8.2	168.6	695.6	1544.7
Bundaberg Aero	83	379.6	834	870.4
Childers South	107.6	332.4	901.2	763
Maryborough	180.8	291.8	1047.4	1015.1
Tewantin RSL Park	101.2	125.6	1300.4	1412.9
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	102	172.4	1242.5	1503.8
Nambour DPI - Hillside	57.6	190	1198.4	1539.8
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	172	208.4	1326.4	963.1
Murwillumbah Bray Park	205.4	205.9	1748.1	1419.1
Ballina Airport	150	97.4	1642.6	1598.2
New Italy (Woodburn)	169.6	128.8	1482.5	1203.5



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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 sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. 52.9ha on 2 titles. Only 45mins to CBD. Peaceful location, close to panoramic river, boat ramp & mountain views. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Contact Paul on 0447545550.

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Contact James on 0429621145.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres Cane Production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam Allocation. Supplied to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Ph: 0466241656.

Wanting to lease - cane farm in the Walkerston/Eton/Pleystowe areas and surrounds. Ph: 0421520331.

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415881092.

Young grower wanting to expand. Looking for farms to lease. Mulgrave Area Ph: 0431036229.

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 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.



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FEATURES

- ✓ Very flexible at low pressures
- ✓ Tight bend radius
- ✓ ≈ 20% Lighter than rubber hose
- ✓ Abrasion resistant
- ✓ Low coil volume for easy handling
- ✓ UV treated
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Flexibore® 100 is a high-quality layflat hose made to suit most lower-flow bore water pumping applications including solar powered bore water pumps.

FEATURES

- ✓ Available in 32 mm & 51 mm diameters.
- ✓ Boreholes up to 100 m deep.
- ✓ Elastomeric swelling, No iron bacteria build-up.
- ✓ Low coil volume for easy handling.
- ✓ High-tensile textile reinforcement; no safety cable required.
- ✓ Extremely efficient in reducing friction loss & pumping costs.



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