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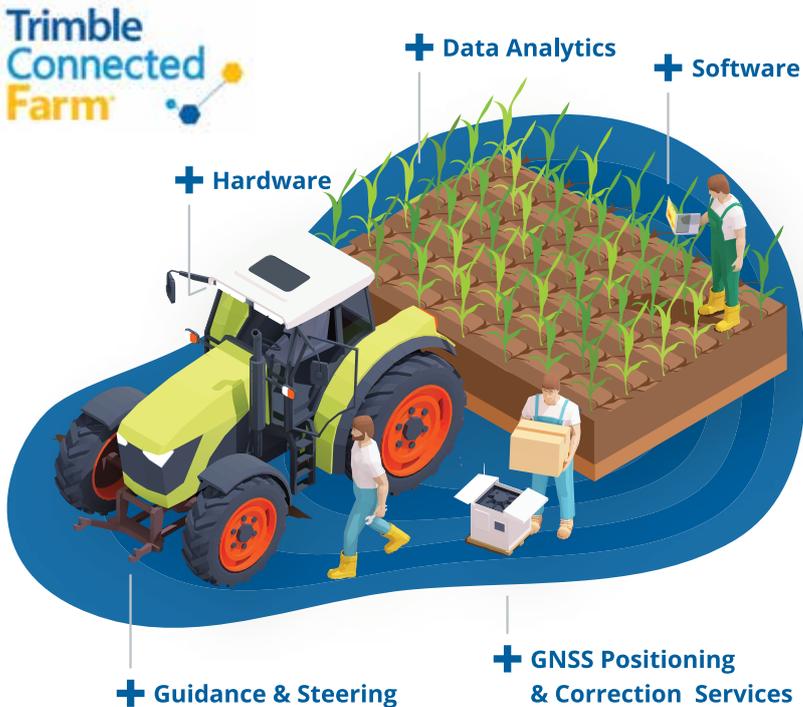
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**COVER IMAGE:** Tully's Vecchio Family puts their new John Deere to work as Queensland's 2021 sugarcane harvest gets underway. Photo credit Craig Gilbert Photography. Read more on page 24.

**CONTENTS IMAGE:** Stay safe this harvest season. A haulout struck and damaged a power pole on a north Queensland cane farm last month. It was one of almost 150 incidents in the past 12 months. Read more on page 19.



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## Growers' reef concerns raised at Katter bill hearing

CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino and Environment and Sustainability Manager Mick Quirk fronted the Queensland Government's Health and Environment Committee in June to speak up for growers and outline in detail why the government's damaging and unjust reef regulations should be abandoned.

The pair gave evidence at the committee's hearing into Katter Party MP Nick Demetto's bill to repeal reef regulations.

"We pushed the point again that the industry doesn't need regulation and instead of attacking growers the government should be working with us," Mr Mammino said.

"We explained why that reef report card system wasn't fit for purpose and how, because of the way the reporting is done, it only sets growers up to fail.

"We also made the point that the government had taken the good work the industry had done on nutrient management through SIX EASY STEPS away from us and legislated it."



Mr Mammino told the committee that he was a third generation cane grower and that his family had been continually improving farming practices since the 1970s.

"My family isn't unusual in that regard. Growers throughout the industry have made huge improvements to their farming system," he said.

"I asked the committee why they thought growers should keep engaging and improving practices when they received no recognition for the changes they've made over the past few years, nevermind over the past three decades." ■

## Sugar power to the rescue

Queensland's sugarcane industry has demonstrated its credentials as a reliable supplier of renewable energy into the state's electricity grid, stepping in to help stabilise the network when one of the state's main power stations went offline recently.

Wilmar's Victoria Mill in Ingham and Pioneer Mill near Ayr, as well as Mackay Sugar's Racecourse Mill (pictured right) came to the rescue when a fire shut down Biloela's Callide Power Station on 25 May.

The incident resulted in widespread power outages across the state, with about 400,000 homes and businesses affected until .

"Queensland's 19 sugar mills produce around 1 million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity annually from 438 megawatts of installed generation capacity of which over half is exported into the National Electricity Market (NEM) to power thousands of homes and businesses up and down the State," the Australian Sugar Milling Council's David Rynne said.

Mr Rynne said that sugar power was "dispatchable and synchronous" meaning it made the NEM more reliable and secure.

"Co-generation from bagasse offsets the risks of power supply associated with intermittent solar and wind renewable supply as well as unforeseen supply issues such as what we've just witnessed at Callide.

"As a leading producer of clean, green and abundant sugar power, we can accelerate Queensland's energy transition, enhance energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate regional development," he said. ■





## UK opens door to Australian sugar

Australian sugar is one of the first big winners of the United Kingdom's post-Brexit trade push, with the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson signing an in-principle trade-deal on the sidelines of last month's G7 summit in London, opening the door to 250,000 tonnes of Australian sugar exports.

"The proposed UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement will deliver a positive economic benefit for us through immediate and substantial up-front tariff-free access for 80,000 tonnes of Australian sugar," CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"This is a significant boost on the 9,925 tonne quota to the whole European Union prior to Brexit.

"Importantly too, this agreement with the UK allows for the sugar trade to grow over time by 20,000 tonnes each year for the next eight years.

"Australian sugar hasn't had this kind of access since 1973 when the UK joined the then European Common Market."

Trade Minister Dan Tehan has been in regular contact with CANEGROWERS during the long-running negotiations and Mr Schembri thank the Australian Government for its efforts in securing an agreement with a substantial and positive outcome for the sugar industry.

"Australian sugar is of high quality, sustainably and ethically produced and well placed to top up local beet sugar production so that UK refiners can meet domestic consumption demands," Mr Schembri said.

"Australia has well-established markets in the Asia-Pacific region and these will continue to be the main focus of our sugar sales. A UK-FTA will provide a welcome diversification for our export-oriented industry.

"With 85% of our sugar exported, this deal reached by the Australian Government with the UK opens new opportunities for trade, new opportunities to capture price premiums and a chance to grow our industry." ■

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*Pictured: Europe's largest sugar refinery factory on the north bank of the River Thames in London. It produces 1.2 million tonnes of sugar per year.*

# 2021 CANEGROWERS Member Survey

## HARVESTING YOUR VIEWS CANEGROWERS 2021 MEMBER SURVEY

All CANEGROWERS Members are invited to complete the 2021 Member Survey during July.

Each member will receive an email with the survey link. It can also be found on the Member Resources page of the CANEGROWERS website.

This survey is another opportunity for you to help grow our future together by sharing your opinions and ideas on CANEGROWERS activities, products and services. The survey has been built with grower and District assistance and should take less than 15 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous.

The survey is open from Wednesday 30 June to 5pm Friday 23 July 2021.

For any questions about the survey, please contact **Matt Kealley** on 0407 657 779 or email [matt\\_kealley@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:matt_kealley@canegrowers.com.au)

Your answers will inform the direction of CANEGROWERS to grow a better future for all cane growers. ■

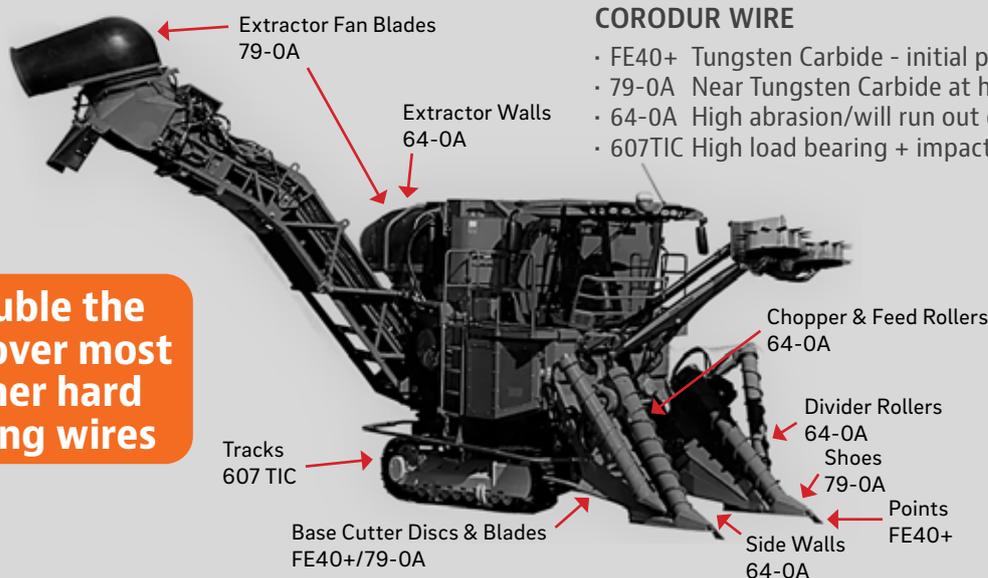


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## RATES PAIN

CANEGROWERS put council rates under the microscope and found cane farms are paying more.

A new analysis that shows sugarcane farms are paying 35% more on average in council rates than residential ratepayers will inform important conversations between CANEGROWERS offices and local government.

"We looked closely at 13 councils with a sizeable sugarcane farming industry, where CANEGROWERS members underpin the local economy, the communities, and up to one-in-three jobs," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

The analysis, completed by the consultancy group Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions (QEAS), assessed the cane farm rate of each council along with its interplay with increasing land values and any measures to limit increases or offer discounts.

The QEAS analysis found:

- On average the local government rate paid by a cane farm is 35% above the average residential rate indicating more reliance on cane farms to support council revenue.
- On average council rates make up around 4% of the annual operating costs of Queensland cane farming businesses.

It concluded that:

*"Most councils have a revenue and rates policy together with their own set of principles as to how rates are determined. However, there is little publicly available information explaining why a particular rate applies to a cane farm."*

*The resultant outcome can be rate bill shocks that can impede investment and economic growth across Queensland.*

*There is an opportunity to improve the way rating practices occur for cane farms across Queensland councils with a view to ensuring no adverse or unintended consequences when a land value reassessment occurs and the impact this may have on the final rate bill for each cane farm."*

In Queensland's southern growing region, where growers have been hit with massive rate rises – up to 235% in one instance – CANEGROWERS Isis and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS have joined forces with other farming groups to demand the Bundaberg Regional Council reverse recent rate increases.

The 'Stop treating our farmers like rubbish' campaign has widespread support in the community, receiving over 2,400 signatures to date on its petition calling for fair and equitable rates. It also has the backing of the local Labor and LNP state MPs.

"We have seen unexpected and large rates bills in some areas having a huge impact on the profitability of cane farms," Mr Galligan said. "It is vital that increases are kept at reasonable levels. Councils have the power and discretion to cushion any shocks, so the viability of businesses is not put in jeopardy."

"It is important too that CANEGROWERS district staff and elected representatives have a clear pathway to discuss with councils their service delivery to the agricultural sector and the rates charged for those services."

"With the CANEGROWERS district office structure, we are on the ground across the state in close contact with all councils and this analysis will help inform their discussions about how rates are set."

"It will contribute to the close relationship that exists between our industry, represented by CANEGROWERS, and many of our important local councils." ■

*Pictured: Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Director Dean Cayley wants the Bundaberg Regional Council to reverse recent rate increases.*



## Yellow Canopy Syndrome - the mystery remains

After years of extensive research, the final report from Sugar Research Australia's YCS program leaves two big questions unanswered - What causes Yellow Canopy Syndrome? How do we stop it?

First discovered in north Queensland during the summer of 2012, YCS has spread throughout most cane-growing regions and can now be found as far south as Maryborough.

As the name suggests, the mysterious disease manifests as a yellowing of leaves and usually occurs after a rainfall event following an extended dry or high stress period.

It is a form of induced leaf aging, which typically occurs during the peak growing period between December and March, the Sugar Research Australia report says.

"YCS will kick a crop when its down," CANEGROWERS Industry Manager **Burn Ashburner** said. "When it's already losing yield or stressed, YCS kicks in as a further stressor.

"When YCS is present the translocation of sucrose from the leaves to the stalk is interrupted, but the SRA project did not find out why or how to stop it happening.

"No vector, disease, genetic or nutrient link has been found. Instead, reducing stress to the plant is considered the best way to control YCS," Mr Ashburner said.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said growers would be understandably disappointed with the outcome of the research effort.

"Whilst we appreciate the effort that has gone into it by many people, especially SRA research staff and the growers who have assisted with the project, it is concerning that the only advice on mitigating YCS at this time appears to be managing the crop to reduce stress," Mr Schembri said.

"Although the study says that yield loss does not appear to be significant, we know that individual growers have seen big impacts from YCS.

"There seems to be no rhyme or reason as to why one farm can be highly impacted, yet a neighbouring farm not

impacted at all. Even paddocks within farms that are separated by a headland can experience different impacts."

Mr Schembri called for research to continue, noting it took researchers more than 80 years to identify the cause of chlorotic streak.

"There should be some form of active, ongoing monitoring of the issue across the industry with plans to ramp up research again should the current situation change.

"Just because the cause can't be found now, doesn't mean it won't be discoverable in the future. Just look at what happened with chlorotic streak," he said.

The final industry update from SRA's YCS Integrated Research Program can be found on pages 16-18 of this edition. ■

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## CANEGROWERS hosts a global conference

Late on a Monday night in June, the CANEGROWERS office in Brisbane connected to similar grower organisations in around 30 countries to host the 2021 World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) conference.

If it weren't for COVID-19 travel bans,

the global delegates would have been in Australia visiting farms and discussing common issues in person.

The next best thing was presentations about the CANEGROWERS organisation from CEO Dan Galligan, the Australian sugar industry from Chairman Paul

Schembri and a virtual visit to Vice Chairman Owen Menkens' Burdekin farm.

These were interspersed with snippets of videos from the CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour series. The presentations prompted questions and discussion.

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# CEO COMMENT

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By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS



## FROM OPINION TO ACTION

Recently I spent a fruitless 45 minutes on the phone to my internet service provider. The call ended not with a resolution, but with a request for me to hold the line so that I could answer a short survey about their service.

It's an approach that many large service providers are taking to obtain customer feedback, but I often wonder what really happens to all the data they collect.

At CANEGROWERS, we use surveys in a very deliberate and purposeful way. We only ask members to spend your valuable time providing feedback and answering survey questions when we really need your opinion AND we intend to take action based on the information we receive.

For the most part we rely on our very credible and highly representative structures - from district offices through to the state policy council and state board of directors - to bring the voice of growers into the decision-making process.

But it is equally important for us to reach out and hear from all growers across the industry to seek ideas and input into the future of the organisation.

It has been many years since we last embarked on such a broad initiative, but over the coming weeks that is exactly what we intend to do.

Every single member will be contacted and provided an opportunity to have a say about your CANEGROWERS.

The survey will provide a platform for growers to share their views on the value the organisation has given to their business and, even more importantly, the chance to shape how we do our work in the future.

I urge members to grab this opportunity, with the knowledge that the information you provide is as valuable to us as the time it took for you to contribute.

The information will join that which came from our recent leadership forum and the constant pipeline of insight and priorities from our district offices.

Most importantly, we will share what we learn with you.

Unlike my call centre experience, you will know that your insight into CANEGROWERS and the industry is being heard by real people who care about the industry and the bright future we see that it can deliver based on us listening to your views about your future. ■



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Senior entomologist says there is little evidence the coconut rhinoseros beetle attacks cane.

## Beetle considered "very low risk"

Recent media reports of a destructive new pest potentially winging its way to Australia on a mission to chew through Queensland's cane crop may have worried some growers, but a top entomologist says there's no cause for concern.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle popped up in the Australian media in June, after it reportedly "bulldozed its way across the Pacific in just a few years" to be "now on our doorstep" in Papua New Guinea.

News reports claimed the beetle, which as the name suggests primarily attacks coconut palms, had developed a taste for various crops including pineapples and mangoes and "loves sugarcane".

However, SRA's lead entomologist Dr Kevin Powell who has previously worked and taught in PNG says there is little to no evidence the beetle is a threat to sugarcane in the field.

"Sugarcane is not a major host, it's not even a minor host," Dr Powell told *Australian Canegrower* from his base at SRA's Maringa Research Station near Cairns.

**"Sugarcane is not a major host, it's not even a minor host."**

"I know from my own experience in PNG over the years that this beetle is ubiquitous and attacks coconut and oil palms, but I've seen no damage to sugarcane."

Dr Powell said the coconut rhinoceros beetle has been present in PNG for decades, but had been effectively managed through the use of a virus developed by Australian scientists decades ago.

"Maybe now there is some resistance to that biological control and it's not as effective so there is more damage from the beetle."

But that increased damage is evident in the beetle's natural food source, palm trees, not in sugarcane, he said.

"I've spoken to a colleague in PNG who has worked on sugarcane for decades and he knows of no damage to cane from this beetle. I also spoke to the QUT

researcher quoted in the media and he has also told me there is no damage to cane.

"Unlike fall armyworm, which has only been seen causing very limited damage to cane bordering maize crops in Australia but has the potential to be destructive, so we have to keep a watching brief - I'd consider the coconut rhinoceros beetle very low risk to the sugarcane industry." ■



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# FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

## OUR SUGAR IS IN DEMAND!

The city of London seems a world away from the cane fields of Queensland at the moment but it was from the UK capital that Australian cane growers received some very good news recently.

On the sidelines of last month's G7 Summit in London, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an in-principle Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Sugar is often considered a sensitive product in international trade negotiations, with many countries trying to shield their domestic producers from competition through a range of protective mechanisms. In fact, almost 70% of the world's sugar never crosses an international border.

But with 85% of our production exported, market access is vital to the success of our Australian industry.

The planned Australia-United Kingdom FTA delivers a substantial outcome us.

For many years, Australia's access to the UK has been restricted to around 9,000 tonnes, shared with the rest of the European Union.

Under this new deal, that access will increase to 80,000 tonnes once the agreement enters into force and will then continue to climb by a further 20,000 tonnes per year over the following eight years - reaching a potential 250,000 tonnes.

What's more, that tonnage will be entirely duty and tariff free, making it far more competitive for Australia to export to the UK.

What does this mean for Australian cane growers?

Unfortunately, it doesn't mean the price of our cane will go up overnight, but it does mean that Australian growers can confidently go about their business, safe in the knowledge that our sugar can be sold to a range of countries and that our sugar is in demand.

The value of market diversity can't be understated. The more markets we can sell our sugar into, the more countries that want it, the easier it will be to extract the full premium for Australian sugar from the marketplace.

This FTA doesn't mean we will see Australian sugar exports to the UK return to the heights of 50 years ago. Since then we have developed valuable markets in the Asia-Pacific region which will remain the mainstay of our exports.

However, an important opportunity now exists to grow our industry. Often the production limit of an industry is capped by the demand from its customers.

Potentially the handbrake on Australian sugar production has now been released by another 250,000 tonnes.

In that context, I hope that the Queensland Government will acknowledge that we have a world class sugar industry producing a high quality product operating in Queensland.

We very much need a Queensland Government to work with our industry, particularly with workable environmental regulations, so that we can reach the potential that this FTA offers.

The sugar industry is responsible for the jobs of 40,000 Australians. This trade deal can potentially increase that along with regional economic activity.

We need to keep our feet firmly on the ground. The Australia-UK FTA doesn't solve all of our problems overnight but it does create more stable and secure markets for our sugar in an era of growing international trade tensions.

### Industry consultation welcomed

FTA's don't happen by chance and I want to acknowledge the leadership of Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan (pictured) in bringing this deal to a successful conclusion.

Mr Tehan took a particular interest in our industry and stayed in close contact with CANEGROWERS whilst this agreement was at a critical stage of negotiation. ■





MAIN IMAGE: LiquaForce Mackay Sales and Agronomy Advisor Don McNichol with LiquaForce Managing Director Cameron Liddle on site at the new factory at Mackay Port.

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# NEW KID ON THE BLOCK IN MACKAY TAKING SHAPE!

Construction on the new **LiquaForce** liquid fertiliser factory at the Mackay Port is forging full steam ahead. The site has progressed from a bare slab to most of the shed frame erected over the month of June, with committed builders powering on despite the lure of Mackay show week!

Mixers have also arrived for installation for the next phase of development.

The ever-growing demand for liquid fertiliser products throughout the Mackay region is something **LiquaForce** is proud to support. The new Mackay plant is on track to open in the second half of 2021 to future proof supply of premier liquid fertiliser products for cane growers from the Whitsundays to Carnila.



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# YELLOW CANOPY SYNDROME (YCS)

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

By Gerard Scalia

*Through Sugar Research Australia, more than 30 scientists and support staff have worked on the YCS issue in five distinct projects with an overall estimated investment to date of \$10.2 million.*

*YCS remains a priority and will continue to be the subject of investment in the future however not at the high level of funding that has been committed to YCS in recent years. Although the integrated research program structure has ceased, SRA will continue to invest in YCS to achieve practical solutions, balancing investments with the many other requirements of the industry.*

The YCS integrated research program has completed a major report into its progress. Key findings from the research are as follows.

### YCS SYMPTOMS, IDENTIFICATION, CROP AGE AND SEASON

YCS is a condition of the mid-canopy (leaf +3 to +6), affects all varieties and has been confirmed as far south as Maryborough. It presents as a golden-yellow colour of the leaf blade and usually expresses after good rain following a dry or high stress period. YCS can occur in both rainfed and irrigated crops.

YCS is a form of induced leaf aging (senescence) and is therefore best detected early in development to reduce misdiagnosis. Starch iodine staining of the midrib prior to 8am, together with key visual YCS characteristics (canopy position and colour) is a quick method of diagnosis in the field. A YCS identification test kit was developed by SRA to assist industry service providers.

YCS development and expression occurs during the peak growing period of December to March with highest severity typically noted in mid-February. This coincides with the time of accelerated growth rate due to high light intensity and temperature and a longer day length. Symptoms exhibit in the mid-canopy of crops of different ages at the same time

and severity is strongly correlated with growth rate. Hence, younger and more actively growing crops typically display higher levels of YCS severity than more mature crops.

Crops do recover from a YCS event with yellowing usually subsiding from April and no longer visible by May.

### PATHOGENS

Molecular screening for the presence of pathogenic organisms (phytoplasmas, bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa) in soil, plant tissue and sap was unable to consistently identify the presence of such agents prior to, and during, the development and expression of YCS. Samples were collected from fields, glasshouses and quarantine facilities, representing the main commercial varieties grown widely throughout Queensland.

Transmission studies using leaf tissue, juice and setts from YCS affected cane show that YCS is not caused by the transfer of an agent through these sources. Evidently, no biotic agent is consistently present during YCS development and expression. This suggests the primary cause of high sucrose accumulation in the source

leaves of the mid-canopy is not due to a pathogen disrupting sugar transport. YCS is not a disease.

### INSECTS AND MITES

Under experimental field conditions, a high concentration of a broad-spectrum insecticide promoted an increase in internode growth and effectively suppressed YCS expression by preventing the accumulation of high levels of sucrose in the leaf. As pathology studies have been unable to consistently identify any potential insect-vectored phloem blocking pathogen, it can be concluded that insects are impacting growth directly. While insect involvement in YCS development has been confirmed in trials, the direct impact of a specific insect (or mite) in YCS development has not yet been determined.

*Pictured: (above) YCS at SRA lab in Indooroopilly and (right) an example of YCS symptoms in the field while Dr Frikkie Botha and Davey Olsen (both former SRA staff) discuss YCS diagnosis in the Burdekin.*

Therefore, it is likely the broad-scale removal of insect and mites reduces stress on the crop, redirecting resources from defence to stalk growth.

However, as environmental triggers influence the abundance of insect and mite species at any one time, this type of biotic stress impact on growth rate will vary within and between seasons. Therefore, the consistent use of a nonspecific broad-spectrum insecticide or miticide is not a sustainable or viable option to manage YCS. The outcome of 1ha strip trials conducted under commercial conditions in three districts in 2019–2020 showed the efficacy of a broad-spectrum insecticide to be inconclusive.

## NUTRIENTS AND HEAVY METALS

Nutrient testing of soil and plant tissue confirmed YCS is not caused by nutrient deficiencies, heavy-metal toxicities, or compromised nutrient mobilisation within the plant. However, elevated levels of silicon and reduced magnesium content were detected in all YCS samples across all leaves. Increased silicon uptake is typical of plants under stress. Once accumulated, silicon is no longer mobile within the plant.

However, magnesium levels returned to normal after recovery, implying the previously recorded reduction was due to mobilisation of resources out of a leaf that was prematurely aging. Intensive field trial monitoring of leaf numbers shows induced senescence causes YCS stalks to always have two fewer attached leaves than green counterparts. The addition of magnesium to either the soil or as a foliar spray had no impact on YCS incidence or severity.

## CROP STRESS

Crop age and growth regulator trials together with physiological studies identified growth rate to be the key driver of YCS. Research showed that YCS-like symptoms can be induced or mitigated by manipulation of stalk/internode growth (sink strength). Either abiotic or biotic stress can cause growth rate impediment and sink limitation, leading to the development of YCS. Therefore, any stress factor that impacts upon plant resources that would otherwise be used for growth is the cause of YCS.

Environmental stress response expressed through gene expression, products of metabolism and protein levels is consistently represented across all samples sets. Stress shield chemicals induce temporary stay-green effect and offer no long-term protection against the development and expression of YCS.

## PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

YCS is a physiological disorder in response to reduced export of sugar from the source leaf (supply) to the stalk and roots (demand). In YCS this disruption may be caused by a limitation to internode size or a possible partial physical restriction in the sucrose transport system. An imbalance between supply and demand will cause sugars to accumulate in the leaf and this is exacerbated when sucrose production is highest during the peak photosynthesis and growth period of November to March.

Several physiological changes such as decreased photosynthetic rate and internal leaf CO<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>i</sub>), reduced stomatal conductance, uncoupling of

the photosynthetic electron transport chain, changes in carbon partitioning, reduced translocation in vascular bundles and disruption to cell membrane integrity already occur in the leaf tissue before visible yellowing. Reduced translocation of assimilates out of the leaf results in sucrose accumulation and downregulation of the photosynthetic genes.

Accumulation of sucrose above an upper tolerance threshold leads to underutilisation of incoming solar radiation, major disruption to the photosynthetic machinery, photooxidation, destruction of chloroplasts (contain green pigment) and leaf yellowing. Gene expression data and protein levels support a general impact on leaf metabolism which is consistent with changes to source leaf metabolism.

Therefore, leaf yellowing is a response to, and not the cause of impeded growth rate.

As symptoms progress the leaf undergoes premature aging in response to the metabolic disruptions caused by growth disruption.

## SOIL BIOLOGY AND ROOT HEALTH

Soil treatment studies of soil biology show that YCS is not caused by a soil borne agent. Root examinations also show YCS does not cause poor root health or changes to root system structure.

However, it is evident from pot trials that restricted root growth increased the prevalence and severity of YCS. As the root system is a major carbon sink, any limitations on root growth should therefore be removed or managed to



reduce the risk of YCS development. (It should be noted that YCS affected crops are primarily influenced by a limitation to internode growth in the zone below the symptomatic source leaf of the mid-canopy – the proximity of this sink limitation causes a more immediate source leaf response).

### VARIETY ASSESSMENT

Sampling and leaf sugar content analysis across all commercial varieties showed similar upper tolerance levels of sucrose accumulation. Assessment trial studies attributed variations in YCS expression to differences in canopy cover and shading of the mid-canopy.

However, variation is also influenced by environmental and climatic conditions which heavily influenced water availability, sink strength (demand), photosynthetic rate and radiation use efficiency (supply). The collective data does not support a genetic predisposition for YCS in commercial varieties throughout the regions.

### YCS DISTRIBUTION AND INCIDENCE

YCS has been confirmed from the North Queensland Wet Tropics to Maryborough in the South East. However, the incidence of YCS within a region, and between regions and districts, will vary seasonally and from year-to-year due to the episodic nature of YCS. Robust data of prevalence and distribution is unlikely to be obtained

without a unique diagnostic test to distinguish YCS from the many other forms of sugarcane leaf yellowing. Such a diagnostic is likely unachievable given that YCS is a physiological disorder linked to more than one growth limiting causal agent.

### CANE YIELD AND CCS

Irrespective of the field trial investigation or analytical method employed, biomass studies showed no correlation between YCS and yield or CCS. YCS is driven by reduced growth. Therefore, yield loss precedes YCS development and expression. It is this period of impeded growth that influences the magnitude of any yield (TCH) penalty. Thus, it is the intensity, duration and scale of the growth stressor, be it biotic or abiotic, that is the cause of crop yield loss and not YCS per se. Photosynthetic data suggests an approximate 2% yield loss directly attributed to YCS yellowing.

### MANAGING YCS

Preventing the slowdown of growth by reducing stress (abiotic and biotic) on the crop prior to and during the peak growing season will lower the risk of YCS development and expression and is therefore key to managing YCS.

Site-specific crop assessment to identify growth limiting factors (above and below ground) sits at the centre of any YCS management program.

Therefore, whichever farming practice removes or reduces the most dominant stressor/s impacting crop growth will be the best management option to prevent or mitigate YCS development.

### YCS AND CLIMATE

The emergence of YCS in Queensland during the summer of 2012/2013 is aligned with a significant and consistent increase to mean temperature as identified by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. This change has endured for almost a decade and has seen an increase of approximately 0.5°C during this period, contributing to increased incidence of severe weather events, rainfall variability and stress on crops throughout Australia. This increased environmental stress in addition to other stressors (abiotic and biotic) linked to a changing climate may be associated with impacts on crop growth and the physiological response exhibiting as YCS. It is not possible to rule out the appearance of some other unknown factor around 2012/2013 that has induced this physiological response.

*SRA acknowledges the funding contribution of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries towards this research activity.*



### YCS SYMPTOM PROGRESSION



## CLOSE CALL PROMPTS SAFETY REMINDER

A sugarcane haulout vehicle recently hit this power pole in North Queensland. While the timber pole fractured it luckily stayed upright and the live power lines didn't fall.

Ergon said the accident was a reminder to download and use the Look Up and Live App which pinpoints the location of 1.7 million poles and 178,000 km of overhead powerlines in Queensland.

There were 146 incidents involving contact with overhead powerlines in Queensland last year.

"Contacting a powerline can be deadly, cause serious injuries and damage machinery – we've seen pieces of plant and heavy vehicles burnt to the ground," Community Safety Manager Aaron Smith said.

"The app gives pilots and drivers another view before they do their own reconnaissance, particularly if it's a farm they're not familiar with, so they can have an informed discussion with the farmer about powerline safety," Aaron said.

The app allows users to order powerline markers and request safety advice tailored to their site. It is available from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Contains 27% water-soluble silicon, 14% plant available calcium (Ca) plus essential trace elements

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# Mineral Mulch



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Refined not mined alternative to entrenched agricultural products such as Lime and Gypsum with the added benefit of silicate and other trace elements.

- Increased yields to an average of 21%<sup>2</sup>
- Improves crop tolerance against salinity, waterlogging, nutrient deficiency, heat and UV Stress preventing leaf freckling<sup>1</sup>
- Beneficial in stimulating natural plant defences against fungal pathogens<sup>1</sup>
- Provides strength to cell walls; contributes to stalk strength and helps resist lodging<sup>1</sup>
- Acts as an enzyme regulator in sugar synthesis, storage and retention in sugarcane<sup>1</sup>
- Assists plants to resist biotic attack by insects (e.g. stem borers) and disease<sup>1</sup>
- Alleviates the toxicity of metal ions (Fe, Al, Mn, Cd, and Zn)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE NUTRITION MANUAL June 2019 Chapter 21 : Silicon (Si) 91

<sup>2</sup> 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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# QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 28 June 2021.

## Sugar



- Raw sugar prices floated in the mid-high 17 US cent range for the first half of June, peaking at 17.93 USc/lb for the July 2021 contract before an overwhelmingly bearish trend saw the contract collapse more than 150 points down to a low of 16.32 USc/lb.
- Commodities across the board suffered some heavy blows as a result of the hawkish US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on 16 June. The Fed altered its forecast to anticipate two interest rate hikes in late 2023, compared to its March prediction of zero. Speculators, who hold large net-long positions in several commodities, liquidated a sizeable portion of their position by removing their investments from commodities and likely shifting them into US Dollar treasury bonds in an attempt to chase higher returns.
- The Indian government announced a major policy target change whereby gasoline blended with 20% ethanol (E20) will now be sold from 2023. This accelerated target should incentivise Indian millers to consider investing in ethanol distilling capacity and has the potential to absorb a portion of the Indian cane crop.
- Closely watching:** Brazilian harvest statistics, macroeconomic influences, speculative activity and overall technical indicators.

## Currency



- The Australian dollar followed a similar trajectory to sugar prices across June, hovering around 77 US cents for the first half of the month, peaking at 77.76 US cents on 12 June before collapsing 300 points to its low of 74.76 US cents on 22 June as a reaction to the US FOMC meeting.
- Domestically, unemployment data published on 17 June briefly halted the slide. Full-time jobs are reported to be up by 97,500 and part-time up 17,700, with the unemployment rate now sitting at 5.1%, much lower than the expected 5.5%.
- FOMC Chairman Jerome Powell acknowledged the substantial increase in inflation but repeated his stance, stating the Fed are not phased and believe it is transitory as sectors of the US economy progressively reopen. Powell also announced there would be no change to the quantitative easing program and that they are taking a “meeting by meeting” approach to assessing the progress.
- Oil prices hit a two-year high at \$US72.69 per barrel. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+) has anticipated the need for an extra 1.4 million barrels per day in 2022, when it is believed that consumption may return to pre-pandemic levels.
- Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, COVID-19 vaccine news and economic recovery, Australia-China relationships, RBA commentary.

## KEY INDICATORS

	28/06/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (JUL21)	16.90 USc/lb	+0.23 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	4.93 BRL	-0.43 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US76.18/barrel	+\$US9.74
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	17.046 USc/lb	+2.65 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	185,000 (net long)	-68,000

	28/06/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7600	-\$US0.0131
\$US Index	91.85	+1.83
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.46 CNY	+0.02 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,280.70	+124.84
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 28.06.21, 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, 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

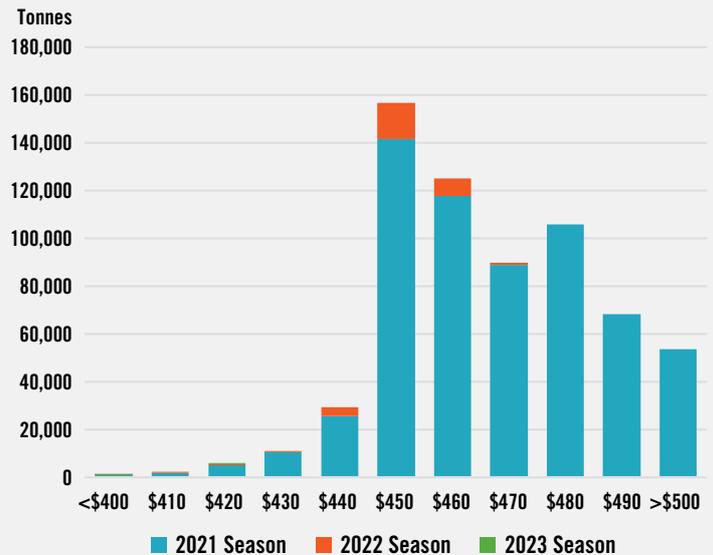
## Grower Pricing



- QSL growers had the chance to once again lock in 2021 Target Price Contract pricing at the \$500/tonne level (gross actual) during the past month, as the market rallied in the lead up to the July 2021 contract expiry. Next season has also started to attract pricing interest, with the 2022 Target Price Contract climbing above \$450/tonne in recent weeks.
- Target Price roll:** Any 2021 Target Price Contract tonnage which was not priced by 21 June has now been rolled forward and an adjustment of -\$1.46 cents per tonne has been applied. This means that 2021 Target Price Contract orders must now reach their set target + \$1.46 in order to be filled. The next roll deadline for this product is 20 September 2021.
- QSL 2021-Season Indicative Pool Prices (net IPS/tonne) as of 18/6/21**

2021 Harvest Pool	\$486
2021 Actively Managed Pool (AMP)	\$491
2021 Early-Start AMP	\$471
2021 2-Season AMP	\$456
2021 3-Season AMP	\$458
2021 March Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$434
2021 April Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$473
2021 US Quota Pool	\$745

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 25.06.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## Brazilian Crop Update

Brazil is well known for its ability to produce either sugar or ethanol, and the impact its production can have on world trade flows as the largest raw sugar exporter in the world. The current harvest has been closely monitored by the sugar industry, as the extremely dry weather in 2020 is expected to have a significant negative impact on Brazil's current crop and the world sugar supply.

There has been strong evidence of a large reduction in the volume of sugarcane in the initial crop reports published fortnightly by the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA). The most recent reports for the first half of June can be seen in the table below.

While sugarcane volume is down significantly year on year, the Total Recoverable Sugar (ATR) per tonne of sugarcane is

actually higher. It is highly probable the effects of the extremely dry weather have boosted the ATR resulting in a slight offset to the lower volume of cane.

The sugar/ethanol mix is floating around 45% sugar/ 55% ethanol, almost identical to the previous season. It is unlikely producers will change this mix at current market levels given the high returns on the forward selling many entered into at the beginning of the year with strong ICE 11 prices and an extremely weak Brazilian currency.

UNICA reports will be closely scrutinised for the remainder of the season as the global sugar industry speculates on whether there will be a short tail-end of the Brazilian crop and attempts to evaluate the total volume for the season.

	1st Half June 2020	1st Half June 2021	Accumulated to 16 June 2020	Accumulated to 16 June 2021
Sugarcane (millions of tonnes)	41,812	35,959	187,277	165,592
Sugar (millions of tonnes)	2,560	2,192	10,607	9,344
Total Recoverable Sugars (ATR)/tonnes of sugarcane	136.52	138.35	128.89	130.48
Sugar mix (% of cane used to make sugar)	47.06%	46.25%	46.12%	45.39%

# Ways to boost your super before retirement

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Here are some practical ideas that you can implement right now to give your retirement savings a boost and help prepare for the next phase of your life.

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## Salary sacrifice

If you're still working, salary sacrifice contributions are before-tax payments you set up through an agreement with your employer. Money is paid into your super before you pay tax, which may reduce your taxable income. If you haven't reached your concessional cap in the last five years, you may be able to take advantage of the carry forward rules to really ignite your retirement savings. You may even choose to increase your salary sacrifice contributions while drawing regular payments from an *Income account*.

## Tax deductible contributions

If you aren't able to salary sacrifice or would just rather do it yourself, you can still make tax deductible super contributions by making a voluntary contribution from your after-tax pay, and then claiming a tax deduction.

## Voluntary after-tax contributions

You can make after-tax contributions on a regular or one-off basis, whatever suits. Generally, these contributions are made via BPAY®, direct debit, or payroll deductions through your employer. If you're under age 65 at the start of the financial year, you may be able to bring-forward two future years of after-tax contributions. This will allow you to contribute up to three times the standard cap at once. Eligibility rules apply.

## Downsizer contributions

If you're over 65, the government allows you to contribute up to \$300,000 (so, \$600,000 combined for a couple) from the proceeds of selling your family home, if owned for 10 years or more, into your super. This could offer a practical tax effective way to transfer any money you have left over from downsizing your home into a retirement income stream.

## Seek guidance to take that next step

Our financial advisers are here to help you feel better prepared for retirement and you can access expert financial advice, about your Sunsuper account, for no extra cost. This service is included as part of your membership.

Expert financial advice can make a big difference to your lifestyle now and after you stop work and give you confidence to take charge of your financial future. If you would like more information on the above topics, we're here to help. Contact us on **13 11 84** between 8.00am to 6.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday or visit [sunsuper.com.au](https://www.sunsuper.com.au).

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# HIGH HOPES

## FOR 2021 HARVEST



2021 estimate  
28,201,246 tonnes

In 2020 29,346,624 tonnes were harvested



340,396 hectares of  
sugarcane harvested  
in 2020



4.2 million tonnes  
of sugar  
manufactured in 2020



3,750 growers  
harvested sugarcane  
in 2020



2021  
22 mills in Australia

In 2020 24 Mills processed sugarcane



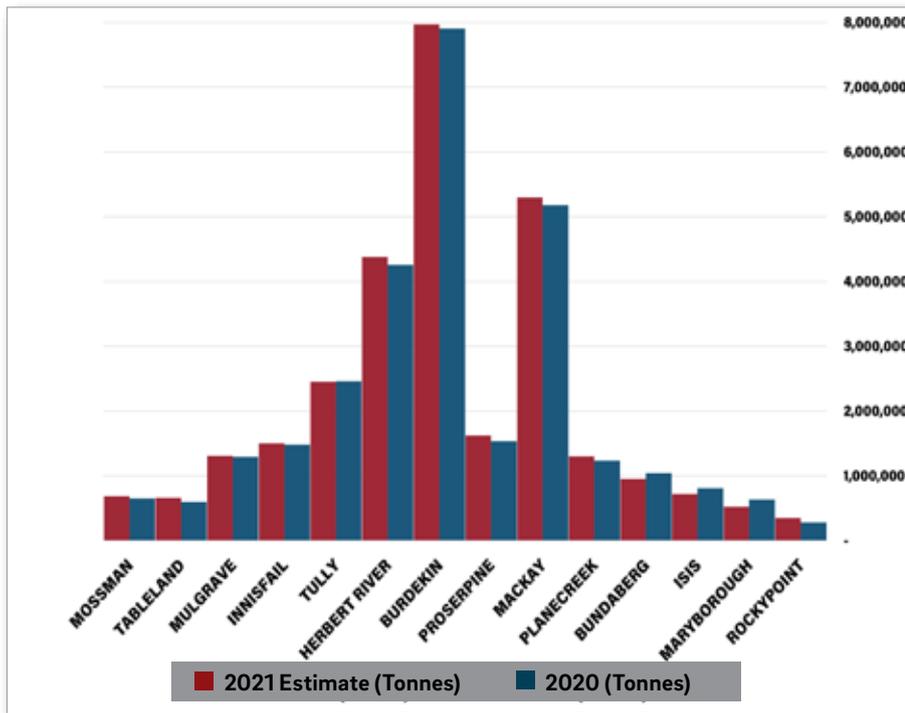
3.3 million tonnes of  
sugar was exported  
in 2020



*"It's been the most variable growing season I've witnessed with huge rain in the north and drought conditions in the south, but the good news is that sugar prices are hitting \$500 per tonne and we are feeling energised about our industry."*

**PAUL SCHEMBRI**  
**CANEGROWERS CHAIRMAN**

# 2021 estimates vs 2020 actual



MILL AREA	ESTIMATE START	FINAL CRUSH
MOSSMAN	15/06/2021	15/10/2021
TABLELAND	1/06/2021	10/11/2021
MULGRAVE	15/06/2021	14/11/2021
INNISFAIL	15/06/2021	13/11/2021
TULLY	12/06/2021	30/11/2021
HERBERT RIVER	15/06/2021	15/11/2021
BURDEKIN	8/06/2021	17/11/2021
PROSERPINE	29/06/2021	18/11/2021
MACKAY	3/06/2021	5/12/2021
PLANE CREEK	8/06/2021	15/11/2021
BUNDABERG	21/06/2021	14/11/2021
ISIS	28/06/2021	26/11/2021
MARYBOROUGH	28/06/2021	26/11/2021
ROCKYPOINT	5/07/2021	30/11/2021



## Optimism as harvest gets underway

Harvesters roared to life across the Tableland on 1 June, marking the start of what growers hope will be a better than average season for Queensland's sugarcane industry.

With an estimated Queensland crop of around 30 million tonnes and a world sugar price climbing towards \$500 per tonne, growers are going into this year's crush with a renewed sense of optimism.

"It's early days, but it's been a good start to the season, I think everyone is pretty positive," CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman Stephen Calcagno said.

"The crop is looking pretty good. It's probably an average crop in terms of tonnage, but so far the CCS has been good, certainly better than last year, so we're happy with that.

"It also helps that the sugar price is on its way back up and many growers have already locked in some decent prices through forward pricing. It just gives everyone that bit more confidence going forward."

Cairns isn't the only region enjoying higher than average CCS so early in the season. The Tableland, Tully and Burdekin have all recorded higher average CCS than the same period last year.

While crop estimates are up slightly in many northern districts, in the southern growing region, where drought-like conditions persist and land-use changes have impacted cane production, estimates are down, with Bundaberg, Isis and Maryborough all reporting estimates below 2020 figures.

*"It's early days, but it's been a good start to the season, I think everyone is pretty positive."*

"To be honest, it's probably about what you'd expect given the growing conditions we've had," CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino said.

"We're in our third year of extremely dry weather and reduced water allocation so it's not surprising the estimate is down.

"Hopefully we can get some good CCS to make up a bit of that shortfall."

Isis Mill has the added pressure of toll-crushing Maryborough cane following the closure of MSF's Maryborough Mill at the end of the 2020 season.

Cane will be trucked up the Bruce Highway to Childers where it will be transferred to train with the help of a specially designed transloader for the final leg of its journey to the mill.

"There have been a few teething issues with the transloader, but that's to be expected," Mr Mammino said.

"It's the first time this system has been used so we always knew there would need to be tweaks and adjustments once it got up and running.

"We'll just have to cross our fingers and see what happens, but I think once we

iron out those initial teething problems it should come good."

Rocky Point is the exception in the southern region with the crop estimate up almost 10% on 2020 and initial CCS testing returning impressive results, ranging from 13 to 15 units.

It's a welcome change for Queensland's smallest and most southernly district, which has had a rough run in recent years with dry conditions and constant mill breakdowns causing headaches for growers and even forcing them to haul cane over 80km south to NSW's Condong Mill.

At 7.97 million tonnes, the Burdekin's estimate is slightly down on last season, but growers are hopeful they can get across the 8 million tonne mark.

"It's a bit early to tell if we'll get to the 8 million mark. At the minute it's cutting over estimate, but I wouldn't want to make that call just yet," CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman Phil Marano said.

"It's been a patchy start to the season. We've had a bit of rain which has interrupted harvesting operations. In some areas it's been fine, but in other



parts of the Burdekin harvesters haven't cut for two weeks.

"On the positive side, CCS has been good, even with cutting in the wet, and more importantly the sugar price is high so there is plenty to be positive about."

*Pictured (opposite) Crushing commenced at the Tully Mill on Friday 11 June; (above) Maryborough cane is weighed and tipped in to cane train bins using the newly constructed transloader station in Childers.*

# Main Engineering

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# Dedicated advocate and skilled storyteller remembered

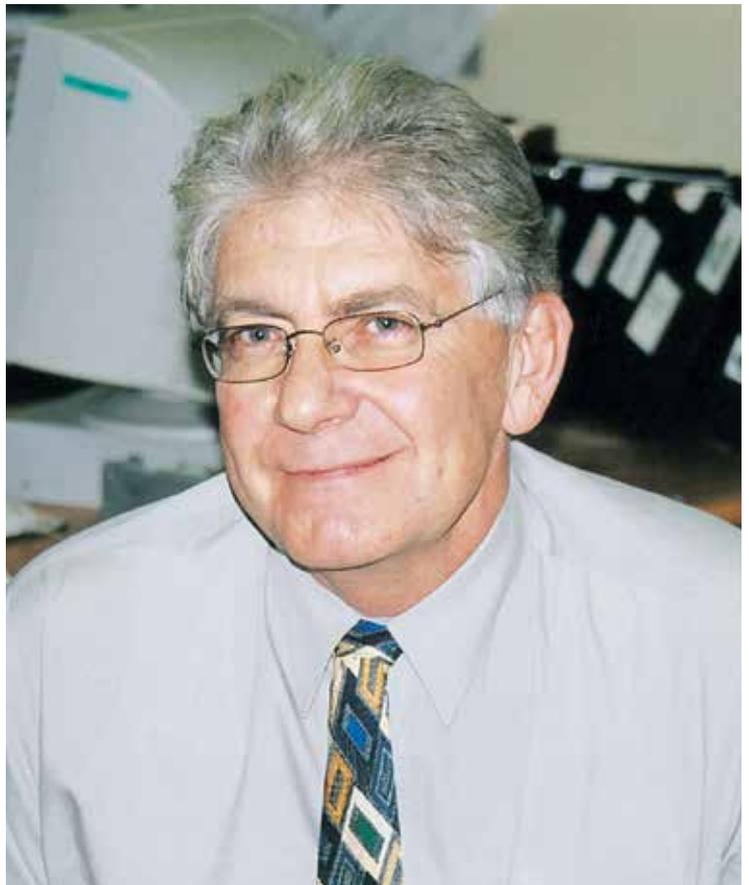
Bill Kerr, an admired and well-respected journalist, passed away in Brisbane aged 78, leaving a legacy of chronicles about life in rural Queensland.

Bill had a lengthy and distinguished career in journalism. He worked for CANEGROWERS from 1979 until his retirement in 2006, having previously been a rural journalist for Queensland Country Life (QCL) commencing there in 1964.

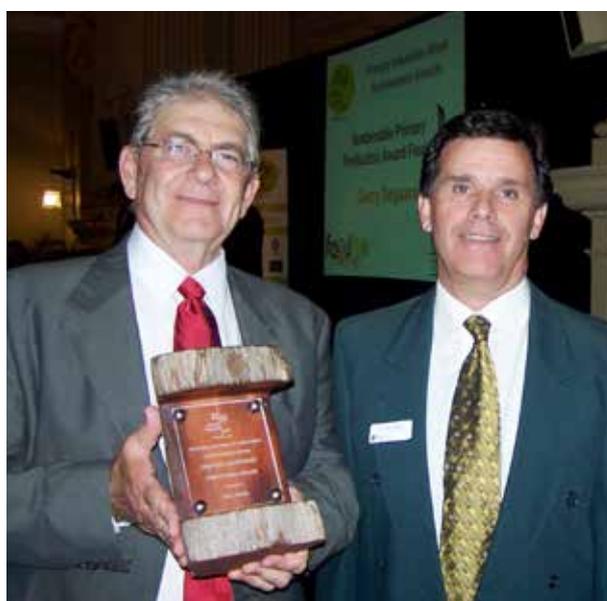
Bill's passion as a storyteller provided a plethora of books, articles, images and stories, for which he will be remembered.

Former colleague Helen Walker said Bill's biggest coup was in 1970 when Queen Elizabeth II visited Longreach. Writing in QCL on 10 June she quoted Bill as saying

"The royal visit was big and QCL editor Wallace Skelsey wanted pictures of the Queen with some of James Walker's Santa Gertrudis cattle, not planting a tree. Suddenly, the Queen, Prince Philip and Sir James Walker emerged for a quick stroll around the cattle pens. I knew the stud groom, so I prompted him to ask his boss if he wanted a souvenir photo of the Queen with a champion bull. The Queen couldn't reject her host's request. Her expression warned me not to push my luck, so I quickly snapped off a couple of shots and got the hell out of there."



*Pictured (right) Bill Kerr was a stalwart of the sugarcane industry for many years. Bill Kerr and Tony O'Dea (pictured below) from Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (now known as Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) since 2017) at the Primary Industry Week Awards in 2006 where Bill received his award for Service to Primary Industries.*



Bill was a founding member of the *Rural Press Club of Queensland* in 1972, where he subsequently served in a number of executive positions including terms as Treasurer, Secretary and President. He enjoyed the camaraderie and networking opportunities of shared interests with the Rural Press Club, QCL and CANEGROWERS. He was made a life member of the club in 1981.

Bill captured the times in his many articles for CANEGROWERS including overseas farm study trips in the late 70s to the USA, Mexico, Cuba and Jamaica with Queensland sugarcane growers.

He also covered some tumultuous periods within the industry including the 1984 crisis rally, known as the Cane Train Rally where 1,000 cane growers and their supporters converged on Brisbane and then Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke, to highlight their plights in relation to deregulation and the end of the sugar import embargo.

His talents were acknowledged throughout his long career including in 2006 when he received a Queensland Primary Industries Award for Service to Primary Industries in recognition of his contribution as a journalist and farming advocate.

As the son of a Sarina sugarcane grower, Bill wrote two books about the sugar industry. *Stand Together: The story of cane grower representation at Mackay* (2009), a historical record of the sugar industry and CANEGROWERS in the Mackay region and Bills' family are proud of his remarkable book *Tin Town Triumph* (2019) about the "bygone days of a family from Sarina".

Bill will be remembered as a true champion of the sugar industry. ■

# TWEAKS TO WEED MANAGEMENT HELP PREVENT STREAMBANK EROSION

By Terrain NRM

Farmers are switching to selective herbicides to manage weedy riparian zones while also encouraging tree growth.

Vegetation along waterways is important for stabilising creek banks. Tree roots hold the banks together and increase channel roughness, which means water flow is slowed down, preventing erosion.

Terrain NRM's **Ruginia Duffy** said some landholders in the Mossman area had expressed concern about thinning or receding riparian vegetation.

"Creek bank erosion is a major issue. Nobody wants to see their banks being washed away so it's understandable that farmers are worried by these changes to their riparian zones.

"Actively planting trees is time consuming and can be expensive. We've learned that making a small tweak to traditional spraying regimes – switching from a non-selective to selective herbicide – is an easy and effective way of improving riparian condition."

Favourable climatic conditions in the Wet Tropics means the natural seed bank in the soil – the seeds dropped by established trees or seed-dispersing animals – usually grow easily and unassisted.

However, when non-selective herbicides are used to control problematic weeds like guinea grass, native tree seedlings are also inadvertently sprayed out. Over time this hinders the riparian forest's ability to regenerate and repair itself, leading to thinning and receding, and eventually bank erosion.

**Marcus Bulstrode** from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries works with cane growers to support the development and uptake of sustainable farming practices.

"By switching from a non-selective herbicide like glyphosate to a selective like haloxyfop, you're able to control the grasses while promoting the growth of native recruits. The native recruits are fast growers and will soon shade out the weeds."

"Many landholders will already have a selective herbicide in their sheds, from using it to knock out sugarcane in their legume fallow crops," said Mr Bulstrode.

**Richard Padovan** is a cane grower in the Mossman District's Cassowary catchment. He changed his spraying regime after learning about passive revegetation through involvement with an erosion control project being delivered by Terrain NRM.

"It's been no big deal, and no extra work – and once the new trees are established it'll actually be less work," Richard said.

"I probably won't even have to spray my banks anymore because the trees will be doing the work for me."

The Mossman Integrated Catchment Repair project is funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program. ■



*Pictured: Mossman cane grower Richard Padovan (left) is using new revegetation techniques to help prevent riparian thinning (top); Terrain NRM's Ruginia Duffy and Richard Padovan (right) inspect vegetation along waterways in Mossman.*

# THE FRONTLINE AGAINST THE YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

Supplied by Wet Tropics Management Authority

Cane farms south of Cairns are at the frontline of the war against the invasive yellow crazy ant, and this year a large contingent of over 100 field workers carried out extensive surveys of headlands to map any new incursions. To the relief of all, they found none.

The Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) taskforce is a multi-organisation collaboration to boost the hunt for yellow crazy ants.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) coordinate the annual event, which took place 17 – 21 May 2021.

This year's event was the largest since the taskforce began eight years ago, with 113 participants from 11 organisations. In addition to providing valuable training in recognising yellow crazy ants, and infestation management techniques, the taskforce provides a significant amount of operational work. Participants focused on sugarcane headlands between East Trinity and Deeral, that have had active infestations within the last five years.

The taskforce surveyed 571ha across 233km of headlands, with excellent results – from 78,955 inspection points, only 68 suspect

ant samples were collected for further examination, with no yellow crazy ants detected.

The Authority introduced new technologies this year, aimed at improving mapping workflow and information delivery to participants.

An app was developed using ESRI ArcGIS Quick Capture for digital data collection on mobile devices for mapping of surveys in real time, allowing for forward planning during the day and providing instant feedback to teams - a significant improvement from the traditional handheld GPS units which required manual data downloading at the end of each day before processing and mapping the day's work. This is the first time the Quick Capture app has been used by the Queensland Government for such broad scale surveys.

A second new development was the use of Google maps for information such as known hazards, appropriate parking and access routes of the farms.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority wishes to express its gratitude to all participants and organisations involved, as well as all cane farmers and residents who allowed access to their properties.



On the final day of the taskforce, the Authority was presented with the "Queensland Pest Animal Team Award" for team excellence in pest animal management – a prestigious biennial award that honours the hard work, achievements, and contribution of all partners in the management of pest animals in Queensland.

Photo Credit: Kerry Trapnell

## REPORT

# YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

## CALL: **1800 CRAZY ANT**

4mm in length

P: (07) 4241 0525 | E: [yca@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:yca@wtma.qld.gov.au)  
W: [www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ant](http://www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ant) | Facebook: @ycawettropics

# CANEGROWERS Community News

## Baby update...

CANEGROWERS Maryborough reports grower Nathan Doyle and Renee Costello welcomed their first child, Miles Casey Doyle, on 30 May. Congratulations to all!

Babinda growers Daniel and Karina Messina, featured in the April issue of *Australian Canegrower*, welcomed baby Amira into their family. Their daughter Marina is thrilled to be a big sister, look at that smile.



## CANEGROWERS remembers

Industry stalwart Bruno Camer passed away on Tuesday 18 May aged 89 years. Bruno dedicated nearly 30 years to the sugarcane community, representing CANEGROWERS members at the Burdekin and state level from 1973-1999. CANEGROWERS Burdekin Phil Marano reflected "Bruno was very approachable and very knowledgeable. He was always very generous with his time." Our sincere condolences go to Bruno's family and friends in particular his wife Teresa and children Karen and Glenn.

Long-standing Innisfail grower Alan Cole has passed away. Alan made a tremendous contribution to the industry over a 43-year period. He was a well-respected man and a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by many. CANEGROWERS passes on the community's condolences to his family and friends at this sad time.

## Got some news you want to share with the CANEGROWERS Community?

This is the place to share your family and community news, send us an email [editor@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:editor@canegrowers.com.au).

## STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION



CANEGROWERS sticker spotters are out and about in all sugarcane regions looking for vehicles proudly displaying their CANEGROWERS Growing Together bumper sticker.

Is this your number plate? If so, you're a winner!

563 YOV 070 XCS  
227 MUX 242 MTU

Can't find your bumper sticker? Need another one for another vehicle? Contact your local CANEGROWERS office.

### How to enter:

- ✓ Make sure your CANEGROWERS bumper sticker is on your vehicle
- ✓ Wait for one of the CANEGROWERS sticker spotters to spot you as you drive around your district
- ✓ Check the next *Australian Canegrower* magazine for a list of number plates
- ✓ If yours is listed, contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim a prize 07 3864 6444 [info@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:info@canegrowers.com.au)

## Cane Harvester Parts





# 1800 463 457

## AH 0417 662 137

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

# TIME TO GET OFF THE BENCH

By Kate Gowdie  
Smartcane BMP Manager



Benchmarking is the process of completing a self-assessment to evaluate your practices against the industry standards that underpin the Smartcane Best Management Practice program.

Very soon, growers who are registered with Smartcane BMP but have not yet benchmarked their enterprise will receive an email inviting them to do so.

Growers who benchmark their farming business are not required to complete Smartcane BMP accreditation. However, as frequently occurs following self-assessment, growers may find that their practices already meet or exceed the requirements and so decide to proceed to audit.

Benchmarking can also help growers identify practice changes that will benefit their business and bottom line.

Growers with multiple cane farming businesses can use the benchmarking process to compare practices between enterprises, while others may use the self-assessment tool to share information with external stakeholders like banks or insurers.

## HOW DO I BECOME BENCHMARKED?

- The first step is to register. You can do this yourself online or contact your local facilitator for assistance.

- Once registered, you can then complete the self-assessment or benchmarking process. This is where you assess your current management practices against the industry standards (BMP Standards) by completing a survey. You can complete this survey yourself or with a facilitator.
- You can also use the results of your self-assessment to determine your level of compliance with reef regulations (speak to your local facilitator to find out more).
- After benchmarking, you can then determine if there are any areas where you require more information or would like to implement something new or different, for example additional record keeping.

Data is stored securely in the Smartcane BMP database and cannot be accessed by any external party. Your data will never be shared without your consent.

For growers wishing to proceed to accreditation, there are some next steps.

## MOVING TO ACCREDITATION

- When you are satisfied that your practices meet the standards, you can undertake the pre-audit process. This involves a Smartcane BMP facilitator coming on-farm to assess your practices and records.
- Your pre-audit is submitted to the Smartcane Audit Office (Brisbane) and assessed for readiness for audit. If approved, you progress to a Smartcane BMP accreditation audit by a third party.

There is no cost to access any of these services or to undertake an audit. The Smartcane BMP program is supported by the Queensland Government until June 2022.

Speak to your local facilitator, contact the Smartcane BMP office or visit [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au) for further information. ■

*Your data will never be shared without your consent.*



**Benchmarking can also help growers identify practice changes that will benefit their business and bottom line.**

*Pictured right: The images show results of self-assessments in each of the three core modules of BMP – Soil Health and Nutrient Management, Irrigation and Drainage Management and Weeds, Pest and Disease Management. The percentages are the benchmark compared with industry standard or above industry standard.*

### Module Summary

Date: 21/06/21  
Grower: John Citizen

[Export to Excel](#)

Soil Health and Nutrient Management	% Agreement		Actions
	Industry Standard	Above Industry Standard	
1.1.1. Managing compaction	67%	17%	
1.2.1. Trash Management	100%	100%	
1.3.1. Use of Fallow	0%	0%	
1.3.2. Fallow Cover	100%	-	
1.3.3. Planting the Fallow	0%	0%	
1.3.4. Residue Management	0%	0%	
1.4.1. Prepared land for planting	100%	0%	
1.5.1. Tillage management in-crop	100%	0%	
1.6.1. Managing Chemical Soil Constraints	34%	0%	
1.6.2. Acidity and Acid Sulphate Soils	0%	-	
1.7.1. Soil Sampling and Analysis	100%	34%	
1.8.1. Calculating optimum nutrient rate	100%	0%	
1.9.1. Placement of fertiliser	100%	0%	
1.9.2. Timing of application	60%	-	
1.10.1. Calibration	100%	0%	
1.11.1. Record Keeping	86%	50%	

### Module Summary

Date: 21/06/21  
Grower: John Citizen

[Export to Excel](#)

Irrigation and Drainage Management	% Agreement		Actions
	Industry Standard	Above Industry Standard	
2.1.1. Calculating application rates	40%	0%	
2.1.2. Calculating how often to apply water	50%	0%	
2.1.3. Seasonal allocation	20%	0%	
2.2.1. Run-off and drainage mgt	50%	0%	
2.3.1. Irrigation water quality testing	34%	-	
2.3.2. Using effluent water	0%	0%	
2.4.1. Furrow irrigation	100%	0%	
2.4.2. Overhead high pressure	0%	0%	
2.4.3. Overhead low pressure	67%	0%	
2.4.4. Drip system	0%	-	
2.5.1. Surface drainage	100%	100%	
2.5.2. Subsurface drainage	100%	-	
2.6.1. Erosion	100%	100%	

### Module Summary

Date: 21/06/21  
Grower: John Citizen

[Export to Excel](#)

Weed, Pest and Disease Management	% Agreement		Actions
	Industry Standard	Above Industry Standard	
3.1.1. Canegrub management	0%	0%	
3.1.2. Rat management	100%	0%	
3.1.3. Other pests	100%	0%	
3.1.4. Disease management	50%	0%	
3.1.5. Product selection	75%	0%	
3.1.6. Weed management	88%	0%	
3.1.7. Chemical Training	100%	100%	
3.1.8. Chemical Application	100%	0%	
3.1.9. Chemical Storage and Disposal	25%	-	
3.1.10. Chemical Record Keeping	0%	0%	



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 1

 CCS to date - 11.14

 Tonnes to date - 3,428  
0.50% crushed to date

The first weeks of crushing at Mossman Mill have been plagued with various factory issues. Cane cut in week 1 was all stale. Coastal cane (2,438 tonnes) was allocated the deemed CCS of 11.0 for payment and Tableland cane (990 tonnes) was allocated the deemed CCS of 11.5 for payment. This was revisited after week 2 and fresh subsequent samples were allocated where possible.

All CANEGROWERS Mossman board members participated in the CANEGROWERS Leadership Forum in Cairns on 24-25 May. We also had two younger growers attend as guests,



to hear about the challenges of being a leader in an industry position and what the CANEGROWERS organisation does, both on a local level and in the broader sugarcane industry. Both **Ben McClelland** and **Wade Tibaldi** participated in working sessions and heard **Craig Foster AM** speak about the challenges he faced while playing for the Australian Socceroos, working with SBS Australia, and in his role as a member of the Australian Multicultural Council.

The new term of the Wet Tropics Waterway Partnership has begun and the first meeting was held in Cairns on 2 June. The group heard project updates and considered the draft of the next Wet Tropics Waterway Report Card based on data from 2019-20. The official launch of this Report Card will be in Cairns 27 July.

The Mossman Mill Cane Analysis Programme auditor, **Tracy Hay**, took part in the CANEGROWERS workshop meeting on 2 June. This was the first time Tracy had been able to be part of this annual event and it was an important opportunity for her to meet the extensive group of auditors who operate in mills throughout Queensland.

The first Bargaining Agent meeting was held with mill representatives on 3 June. The meeting received a number of updates about cane supply and transport, production and management issues and considered the deduction schedule for the \$2 Sustainability Levy for the 2021 season. The group also began discussions regarding the workings for the CoCoNutz project which is due to be coming online towards the end of the expected crushing timeframe. The Deemed CCS for Coastal growers has been agreed at 11.0 CCS as set out in the Collective Cane Supply Agreement.

## TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 3

 CCS to date - 13.17

 Tonnes to date - 76,413  
11.58% crushed to date

It has been a busy month with both the Tableland Mill and Mossman Mill starting their crush. The Tableland Mill fired up on 1 June, crushing 28,016 tonnes in the first week with CCS of 13.02.

Mossman Mill started crushing on 16 June but has experienced some mechanical issues, which the mill team is working hard to rectify. A Bargaining Agents meeting has been held with the Mossman Mill to review the Cane Analysis Program - amendments were made and adopted by all parties.

CANEGROWERS held a Leadership Forum in Cairns on 25 May. CANEGROWERS Tableland was represented by **Claude Santucci** (Chair), **Harry Phillott** (Director), **Luke Cabassi** (Guest), **Benjamin Rankine** (Guest), **Jason Salvetti** (Guest) and **Angela Sturgess** (Manager).

This was an opportunity for the younger generation of farmers to have input into the direction and approach of CANEGROWERS and to give them an awareness of the work that is being undertaken in the background. Feedback from the participants was that the issues discussed were varied and created a greater understanding of the role of CANEGROWERS.

There has been a strong uptake of clean seed from the approved seed plot, with a 50% increase on the 3-year average, reflecting an uplift in confidence across the district.



**Drewe Burgess** (Agronomist) attended a video conference with Energy Queensland to discuss the QCA final determination, obsolete tariff transition strategy and available comparison tools.

At the time of writing, the cool weather had not arrived and the district has been enjoying some glorious weather.

## CAIRNS

 Harvest week - 1

 CCS to date - 11.03

 Tonnes to date - 48,370  
3.69% crushed to date

Growers supplying Mulgrave Mill commenced their crushing season on 15 June. Across that region, conditions have been favourable for farming, with cold nights and sunny days. This has resulted in some good initial CCS and tonnage being reported by some growers in the first round. Unfortunately, growers were not as lucky further south, with inclement weather holding up operations at South Johnstone.

Planting is underway across the region.

Smartcane BMP continues to gain momentum with some of the region's large-scale growers now working through the accreditation process and aiming to achieve accreditation soon.

The direct drill bean planter is already being booked for upcoming fallow crop planting. Remember to book if you are interested. Two extra direct drill boxes have been purchased and fitted so the implement is now more efficient, planting three rows at a time.

As part of a pilot project, CANEGROWERS Cairns Region purchased and distributed six digital refractometers to members. The instruments will allow growers to obtain Brix readings from a stick of cane and get an idea of the maturity of the block. Those in the project attended an educational session with **Tony Rossi** and **Glenn Pope** (pictured) and are now keen to trial the refractometers.



## INNISFAIL



South Johnstone Mill commenced crushing on 21 June, after wet weather postponed the start date for almost a week.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail held its Annual General Meeting on 27 May. Amongst many invited guests was **Elisa Nichols**, Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef.

The meeting was a success with growers and industry representatives reflecting on the year that was and

looking ahead to the 2021 season.

The final round of MIP shed meetings was held in early June with 65 growers attending five meetings over two days.

This round of meetings was held to update growers on the latest local scale water quality data.

As usual, feedback was overwhelmingly positive and it is hoped that we can continue to deliver something similar through alternate funding once the MIP has concluded.



## TULLY

 Harvest week - 1

 CCS to date - 12.17

 Tonnes to date - 80,717  
3.17% crushed to date

Crushing commenced on Friday 11 June, and just over 90,000 tonnes of cane were harvested and crushed in the first week. Despite showery conditions, the CCS was pleasing at just over 12 units for the week, a good start for Tully.

26 harvesting groups are operating this year and will harvest an estimated 2.5 million tonnes of cane from 29,000 hectares, so they have a big job in front of them. It is great to see that the number of harvesters with monitoring technology has increased since last season.

The Tully industry has a scheme to subsidise technology to assist the

quality of cane that is supplied, and last year's results provided the confidence for more to be involved.

Tully Sugar supported Queensland during the Callide Power outage, by firing up a bit early. The mill invested in significant additional generation capacity as a part of a 'Stay in Business' turbine replacement program. However, it is currently unable to supply more than the original 10 MW to the grid due to regulations.

Early planting was curtailed by rain in early June, however, it will get underway again as things dry out.

The 2020 fallow was larger than normal, so significant plantings are expected this year.

The Tully Sugar-supported Tully Variety Group has been active in undertaking demonstration trials of newer varieties, and the Tully Productivity Services has approved seed from its plots, one-eye setts, and tissue culture available.

It was pleasing to hear that Tully grower **Graham Maifredi** was recognised for his services to White Water Rafting in the recently announced Queen's Birthday Honours. Graham led the initiative to have Tully host the World Championships in 2019.

Continues next page ►

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 1

 CCS to date - 11.76

 Tonnes to date - 13,835  
0.32% crushed to date

The 2021 harvest season got underway on Friday 18 June, with Victoria Mill commencing crushing. It started with only a few minor commissioning issues as the factory settled into crushing.

The cane supply was very patchy with only around 6,000 tonnes of cane on the Friday.

On 21 June, mill representatives reported they were working through

the clarification mud filters and evaporators as they commission with juice and they expected to have sugar the following day.

In the first week of crushing, which only included two days, the district harvested 13,835 tonnes.

Both sides at the Victoria Mill and also Macknade Mill have now been commissioned and it has been reported

that they are in position for full cane supply.

The CCS results have been encouraging with an average of around 11.76 units.

The varieties that have produced best CCS result in the first week are Q232 with an average of 12.88 CCS, Q240 with 12.10 CCS, Q250 with 12.09 CCS, Q208 at 11.98 CCS and Q253 at 11.71 CCS.

## BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 2

 CCS to date - 12.97

 Tonnes to date - 525,258  
6.59% crushed to date

The 2021 season commenced as planned on 8 June and the bulk of the district's four mills got off to a reasonable start, except for Inkerman which was impacted by wet weather. This was followed by a breakdown in the new conveyor, which resulted in burnt cane being caught in the paddock. It would be fair to say that it was not the start that either Inkerman growers nor millers were looking for.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin (CBL) organised several events for growers in the month of June, including workshops conducted by Ergon and AgriTech Solutions on the new tariff changes effective from 1 July 2021.

These were informative sessions and they highlighted that there will be more work to do over the coming weeks to achieve the best tariff outcome for growers. CBL can assist with desktop tariff reviews using Ergon's Energy Analysis program and growers can also engage Steve Attard from AgriTech Solutions to review their needs in this area.

The CBL Board received a presentation from the Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee on the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring in the Lower Burdekin project. So far, 15 out of the proposed 20 water quality monitoring sites are up and running in the district, with only five more left to install - hopefully by the end of the year.

This looks to be a valuable project in terms of the data resources it will provide in monitoring water quality in real time.

Importantly, the results will be more meaningful for the Burdekin, given it will move the district from being judged on data from a very small number of sites, to a widespread outcome across the district from 20 different sites. The program which reports the data needs CSIRO to make some more enhancements to the app, but it is all a step in the right direction and the program can be viewed via <https://wq.1622.farm/> - Water Quality - Helping save the Great Barrier Reef.

The recent spike in sugar prices has everyone excited about a decent financial return for the 2021 season and there is even some talk of growers who diversified into other crops planting more area to sugarcane to try and capture some of the positive sentiment that is on offer.

The crop doesn't look too bad so far and although the estimate is for 7.97 million tonnes, it would be pleasing to see the district end the 2021 season with a crop that nudges the Burdekin back into the 8 million tonnes.

*Pictured: Bins on track for Invicta Mill (top); the BBIFMAC presentation to CBL Board (middle) and the Ergon Tariff Workshop in Home Hill.*



## PROSERPINE



Proserpine's 2021 crush is expected to commence on 29 June. Despite some useful rain over the past month, there has been no change to the pre-season estimate of 1.62 million tonnes.

The rain has certainly boosted early plantings and growers are happy with initial progress.

Productivity staff have been busy checking clean seed sources for RSD and growers are urged to contact SSP to organise testing prior to planting.

The annual Show Cane Awards were conducted at this year's Show Whitsunday. Champion six-stalks was awarded to **Swift Enterprises** from

Lethebrook Productivity Zone for their SP80-1816.

Lethebrook Branch again took out the award for District Exhibit. The CANEGROWERS Insurance Perpetual Trophy for overall exhibitor was awarded **BJ & BL Holcombe**.

## MACKAY



Harvest week - 3



CCS to date - 11.68



Tonnes to date - 158,123  
2.98% crushed to date

Plane Creek Mill's 2021 crushing season commenced at 10.14am on Tuesday 15 June. The factory had very few mechanical or production issues during the first week of operation.

However, widespread rain and showers in the middle of the week affected harvesting operations. This resulted in reduced crush rates and a lengthy cane supply stoppage.

The highest CCS for the week was 15.50, from a rake of Q208 first ratoon cane in the Dawlish productivity district.

### SUGAR EXHIBITION A HIT

For the first time in decades, a Sugar Industry Trade Exhibition returned to the Mackay Show this year.

The exhibition in the Sugar Pavilion and the area outside was coordinated by CANEGROWERS Mackay with individual displays put together by the sponsors of the Sugarcane Competition - and a few special guests - with the aim of showing the people of Mackay what a modern and innovative sugar industry looks like.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman **Kevin Borg** thanked the Show Association for recognising that the heart of a rural show is agriculture and in Mackay's case, it is the sugar industry which remains the backbone of the local economy.

Chairman of the sugarcane subcommittee, **Frank Perna**, said that thanks to a better season for most growers there had been some great cane around and the entries for the Sugarcane Competition were impressive.

Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS) displayed a new multi-variety planter they are trialling.

A special attraction at the Sugar Pavilion was a Virtual Tour offered by QUT of the Renewable Bio-commodities Pilot Plant which is physically located at Racecourse Mill.

This facility recently received a \$5.2 million upgrade from the Federal Government to support the development of regional bio-manufacturing industries in synthetic biology, green chemicals and future foods.

CANEGROWERS Mackay sponsored a \$250 gift voucher for one lucky visitor to the exhibition to spend on fishing gear at Tackle World Mackay. The winner was cane grower, **Lachlan McLennan**.



*Pictured: The Sugar Industry Trade Exhibition at the Mackay Show sugarcane competition entries were impressive (top); it was an exciting moment when the harvester arrived, thanks to McDonald Murphy (left); and (right) Frank Perna, Chair of the Sugar Cane Subcommittee addressed the media.*

## PLANE CREEK



Harvest week - 1



CCS to date - 11.93



Tonnes to date - 22,191  
1.71% crushed to date

Continues next page ▶

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BUNDABERG



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Chairman **Mark Pressler** and Director **Dean Cayley** attended the annual Bundaberg Promotion Night at Parliament House on 17 June. Designed to showcase the region, this event also provides opportunities to raise issues with ministers and other members of the Queensland Parliament – all of whom were invited to attend.

Three main items were on the agenda - rates, reef regulations and water security.

The rates discussion followed months of a verbal clashes between Bundaberg **Mayor Jack Dempsey** and the farmer consortium of Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, CANEGROWERS Isis, AgForce and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS over the unprecedented rates rises in June 2020.

More than 200 Bundaberg farmers have their rates more than double, while 64 got a 90% increase, 125 an 80% increase, 167 a 70% increase, 252 a 60% increase and 318 a 50% increase. One farming operation saw a rates rise of 235%.

These increases will continue to compound with each council rates round, unless the 2020 rises are reversed. A wide range of MPs were asked to show their support for

Bundaberg's farmers, who generate 25% of all Queensland produce despite huge challenges with water security due to the reduced capacity of Paradise Dam and drought.

Mark Pressler discussed the issue with **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** (pictured), noting that we need Mayor Jack Dempsey's rates rise cash grab on farmers to be reversed, and we ask that ALL ratepayers be protected into the future by making the State Government's 2017 *Guidelines on Equity and Fairness in Rating* mandatory, not left as voluntary.

The Bundaberg Farmer Consortium has received widespread support from the community and both sides of state politics, with Labor Member for Bundaberg **Tom Smith** and LNP Member for Burnett **Stephen Bennett** (pictured) publicly standing behind us.

A new report by Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions (QEAS), following a thorough investigation of farmland rates across the state, has delivered damning findings against Bundaberg Regional Council and recommended a 'simple fix' to reverse the damage.

The QEAS report, commissioned by CANEGROWERS, warns of the: "... dangerous situation when land values are reassessed upwards and councils take no action in their rating



practices - instead capitalising on revenue windfalls. The simplest fix for Bundaberg Regional Council is to adjust the agricultural category rate for 2021-22 to ensure overall bill or revenue neutrality compared to the 2019-20 financial year."



## ISIS



Most of the work over recent weeks has focused on a review of the combined Cane Analysis Program at the Isis Central Sugar Mill, as well as supporting members with decisions around electricity tariffs.

There was also a series of pre-season shed meetings held across the district at Wallaville, Cordalba and Alloway in preparation for this year's historic crushing season – the first combined with Maryborough. These meetings were well attended, with a lot of mixing and mingling and sharing of relevant industry information.

CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman **Mark Mammino** covered key topics including:

- the new electricity tariffs
- reduced water allocations
- our newly formed Bundaberg Food and Agricultural Alliance
- updates on the Bundaberg Regional Council rates campaign and Paradise Dam.

He also spoke about sugar price activity and recommended participation in the CANEGROWERS-TAFE Sugar Pricing Essentials Workshop.



## ISIS (CONTINUED)

Members raised the importance of promoting positive messages of the sugar industry at all levels.

Isis Central Sugar Mill Chairman **Darren Harney** spoke about the crush start date and potential delays and updated growers on the Wallaville rail line, the new transloader and progress on recruitment of the new CEO. It is anticipated the mill will announce the new CEO in July.



## MARYBOROUGH



By the time you read this report, Maryborough sugarcane should be getting toll crushed at Isis Central Sugar Mill.

In a season like no other, a lot of resilience will be required to ensure a successful crush occurs.

The transloader was tested in the week before harvest to help identify issues and bugs before the trucks and trailers start heading up the highway.

There has been plenty of uncertainty over the success of this piece of equipment so it will be a relief to see it operating.

From the grower perspective, double checking to ensure your loading pads are in good condition would be appreciated by the harvesters and hauliers.

Having attended the training for the new electronic ticketing system to be used by all harvesters, I can say that our journey forward does involve change, but the best way to deal with change is to be involved.

Isis Central Mill has now provided contact details to help with the harvest. Should you have any questions and you are not sure who to talk to, please give the CANEGROWERS Maryborough office a call and we can work through your issue to get to the right person.

This year will also see a change in the haulier operations with the electronic ticketing system, so we ask growers to be considerate as you may have new faces in trucks.

The pre-season meeting was held on 17 June with a strong attendance of around 50 growers. Thanks to the attendees for taking up the challenge to enjoy the BBQ and the beers as the hall fridge is much emptier now.

Representatives from Isis Central Sugar Mill, MSF Sugar and CANEGROWERS Isis were also able to attend and it was a good opportunity to meet the neighbours.

The subject of the CSA for 2023 was brought up during the meeting and remains the focus for the district board for the longevity of the industry.



## ROCKY POINT



The Rocky Point Mill start date has been pushed back to mid-July at this stage. Initial small mill CCS testing is coming in quite high, ranging from 13 to 15 CCS. The crop is looking good, and the soils are drying out nicely after recent rainfall.

Fire ants are rife in the area again. Time will tell if the most recent batch of bait supplied will be as effective as the last

batch. We are still pushing for aerial treatment of the entire district.

Harvesting of the soybean crop was finally completed on 12 June, with wet weather causing delays throughout the harvest period.

In total, the area harvested was 330 hectares with an average yield of 2.2 tonne per ha.

We are still having problems with Google Maps indicating that farm tracks are roads and sending unsuspecting travellers onto private properties to get lost or in some cases bogged.

If any other districts have similar problems or had any success rectifying the problem with Google Maps, we would appreciate your advice.



# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

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**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**



## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

### Katter Bill seeks to reverse reef regulations

CANEGROWERS has always opposed the Queensland Government's reef regulations on farming practices and takes every opportunity to voice that opposition and outline a different path forward for agriculture and the Great Barrier Reef to exist side by side.

Last month, CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman **Mark Mammino** and I went to Parliament House in Brisbane to tell members of the Health and Environment Committee why damaging and unjust reef regulations should be abandoned.

The Committee is examining the Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures Bill, put forward by Katter Party MP **Nick Dametto**. It seeks to wind back the 2019 reef regulations to those that were put in place in 2009.

CANEGROWERS supports any move to reduce the regulatory burden on growers and we have congratulated Mr Dametto for recognising our issues and putting a solution forward.

The CANEGROWERS written submission will suggest some improvements to the Bill, including removing the 2009 requirement for Environmental Risk Management Plans which were part of the 2009 regulations.

The 2009 regulations took the industry's **SIX EASY STEPS** program for nutrient management and used it to place a cap on application rates of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The additional regulations imposed in 2019 were intended to reduce nitrogen rates below what is optimum for economic returns, but CANEGROWERS was successful in arguing against this.

What we did end up with is yet more paperwork that will do nothing for either the cane crop or water quality and it puts a framework in place which could be used later to further restrict nutrient management.

#### Permits now required to develop new cropping land

From 1 June 2021, any farmer wanting to develop 'new' cropping land in the catchment areas of the Great Barrier Reef will require a permit if the area is greater than 5 hectares. New cropping land is defined in the regulations as land that has no history of cropping or has not been cropped for at least three of the previous 10 years.

Growers will need to demonstrate, in the application process, that there will be measures in place to minimise both sediment loss and the loss of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN).

Where the area to be developed is >100 ha, the application process is more onerous, requiring additional paperwork, risk assessment and mapping and it is not clear yet just how much information will be enough to satisfy the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and gain approval.

CANEGROWERS has complained to DES that these new regulations just duplicate existing requirements and impose unnecessary paperwork and costs. The government has not shifted on this fundamental issue.

However DES has been receptive to other feedback which makes the regulation and approval process simpler and more practical and it has indicated it is considering changes in the future in relation to:

1. Recognition of Smartcane BMP accreditation in the approval process;
2. Concerns about privacy of information; and
3. Ensuring that the reconfiguration of existing farming land can occur without triggering the 5 ha threshold. ■

“ These new regulations just duplicate existing requirements and impose unnecessary paperwork and costs. ”



**Burn Ashburner**  
Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

## Considering change from a position of strength

It is often said the best time to initiate change is from a position of strength.

With world sugar prices currently on the rise and a reasonable crop expected in most districts, 2021/22 is shaping up to be a stronger than average season.

But while the industry may be in a better financial position to take a risk, why change when sugarcane is profitable again?

What our members really need is increased farm profitability and this may require some change in thinking and approach.

It will mean either getting increased productivity from the existing land area or getting more money for current production.

Land is the productive unit, so optimising profitability on the land is critical. As an industry and as individual growers there are a number of areas to consider.

If there is land which is underperforming, this affects the whole industry. To get more from existing land, good farm management, including the adoption of best practice, is a critical building block.

A system to encourage the transfer of underperforming land to the best managers can make a big difference.

Increasing input efficiency is also critical. Irrigation (cane yield / water / power nexus), harvesting, nutrition, and labour efficiency are all areas to look at. Business cases need to be assessed.

Increasing input prices clearly erode profitability. That's why CANEGROWERS has put a significant effort into advocacy around water and electricity prices over the years.

Get big or get out has long been the catchcry of the industry and there is some logic behind it when you consider the economies of scale.

However, individual growers working and investing cooperatively can help achieve similar cost savings to large farming operations. Machinery is probably the best example of this, with some successful syndicates operating to ensure good utilisation of expensive equipment.

Diversifying on farm may also increase profitability, although ideally this will be through complementary break crops, with sugarcane production maintained.

Increasing profit can also come from making more from the current production.

For example, increasing revenue from sugar through trade agreements, forward pricing, getting value for sustainable sugar, and more efficient milling (shorter seasons) are possible ways to achieve this.

Diversification of products from sugarcane has been talked about for many years. There are a multitude of options and it seems logical that when there is a commercially viable option it will be developed in conjunction with existing millers. However, a new processor entering the market for sugarcane should not be ruled out.

There are also opportunities for alternative uses of sugar, fibre, molasses, mill mud and ash.

None of these issues are new, but maybe we need to have a greater focus on change while we are in a slightly stronger position. ■

|| What our members really need is increased farm profitability and this may require some change in thinking and approach. ||

**Warren Males**  
Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



## Time to consider your electricity options

The electricity tariffs (T62, T65 and T66) that irrigators have used to pump water for many years ceased at midnight on 30 June. Some new, transitional electricity tariffs (T62A, T65A and T66A) are now in effect.

Acknowledging that this could bring about electricity bill shock for some people, the Queensland Government has announced an Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme (ETAS).

The rebate is designed to limit the increase for customers moving to a standard business tariff to \$500 for each meter. To be eligible, the bill increase must be more than 5% and more than \$500. The rebate amount decreases each year and will be phased out over nine years. The ETAS rebate will be automatically applied.

Irrigators moving to the transitional T62A, 65A and 66A tariffs will not be eligible for the rebate.

From 1 July, depending on usage patterns, many irrigators will be able to avoid sharp price hikes, and may even secure significant electricity costs savings, by switching to small business tariffs (T20, 22A, T24, T24A or 24B) or to the control load (interruptible supply) tariff (T34).

Needless to say, reading the fine print on the new tariffs is as important as it is complicated. For example, tariffs 24, 24A and 24B come with significant demand charges depending on when electricity is used.

**Tariff 20** and **Tariff 34** are flat rate tariffs.

1. **T20** has a daily charge of \$1.21032 and a usage charge of \$0.22551/kWh.
2. **T34** has a lower daily charge, \$ 1.10983 and lower usage charge of \$0.16682/kWh.

**Tariff 24**, has a peak demand charge (\$73.402/kW/month) that applies when pumping between 10am and 8pm on weekdays during summer months (December, January and February).

If you pump during off-peak periods in the summer on T24, these charges do not apply. During the non-summer months, a smaller demand charge applies (\$7.376/kWh/ month) when pumping during these hours.

- The reward for using **T24** is a low daily charge \$0.5759 and a usage charge of \$0.1526/kWh.

**Tariff 24A**, has a smaller window (4pm to 9pm on weekdays) over which a demand charge (\$2.402/kW/month) is calculated.

- The daily charge for **T24A** is \$1.19789 and the usage charge \$0.21172.

**Tariff 24B**, has the same demand charge window as T24A (4pm to 9pm on weekdays) but a higher demand charge (\$9.58/kWh/ month).

- Like T24A the daily charge for **T24B** is the \$1.19789. But, at \$0.1867/kWh the usage charge is lower.

Those who confine their irrigation to hours between 9pm and 7am may find **Tariff 62A** useful. Its daily charge is \$1.0347.

- Between 9pm and 7am, its usage rate is \$0.16744/kWh.
- Outside these hours, its usage charge is markedly higher: \$0.52903/kWh for the first 10,000kWh/month and \$0.44313/kWh for remaining use in the month.

Given the price changes that have occurred, it is a very good time for irrigators to consider their tariff options.

For those who can irrigate outside of the 4pm to 9pm peak period, the control load T34 looks attractive. For example, a user with annual consumption of 50,000 kWh stands to save almost \$3000 by switching to T34 rather than T20.

Remember, with Ergon's dynamic load control system, electricity supply is not interrupted every day and when it is, it is usually for less than an hour.■

By switching tariffs many irrigators will be able to avoid sharp price hikes and even secure significant electricity costs savings.



# MULTI PARTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS

Last month, I outlined a number of recent court decisions where farmers had been successfully prosecuted.

Without wanting to be too dramatic, since that article was published a further significant prosecution has been completed against a Burdekin cane grower. In this case the grower was fined \$100,000 plus court costs of \$1100. No conviction was recorded. The unfortunate incident related to the 2017 death of a 27 year old man from heat related circumstances.

What is interesting from the case is that the worker who died was not an employee of the cane farmer. The worker was actually employed by a person who operated a farm produce packing business and supplied labour as part of that packing business to the cane farmer as a contractor.

You might recall from my previous article that the person who operated the packing business and who was the employer of the backpacker was fined \$65,000. Now the grower who engaged the contractor has been fined \$100,000.



*By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor*



My previous article also highlighted a case where both a harvesting contractor and also the farm manager were both fined as a result of burn injuries suffered by an employee of the contractor during cane burning.

It is clear from these cases that the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor is prepared to take action against not just the direct employer of the injured worker but also any other persons who have some control or management over the workplace.

It should be remembered that an employer or a business owner or manager (generally referred to a person conducting a business or undertaking) are responsible for the health and safety of themselves and everyone who visits the workplace. This includes workers, clients, visitors, contractors and volunteers.

In many cases this responsibility is shared by all those with control or management of the workplace.

These cases are examples of where different persons in different capacities operating in the same workplace each have and share responsibilities for work health and safety issues at the workplace.

*(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. ■

# Tell us what you think

The 2021 CANEGROWERS member survey is underway. Your participation will give us valuable insights into what you need. Importantly, your feedback will help CANEGROWERS to refine and improve products, services and advocacy activities to support your business today and for the seasons to come.

## How to participate

- The online survey will be open for three weeks and closes on Friday 23 July 2021.
- The survey link is being sent to all CANEGROWERS members via email.
- The questions are mostly multiple choice or require check box responses.
- All responses will be anonymous.
- The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

There is an opportunity to provide a more detailed responses in several open-ended questions towards the end of the survey.

## Why your participation is important

Queensland cane growers are in a changing operating environment.

Fluctuating sugar prices, increasing input costs, environmental challenges, regulation, land use changes, and community expectations put pressure on growers and their businesses.

But there are opportunities on the horizon for new income streams and products in addition to sugar.

These include food, fibre and biomass, biofuels, ethanol, green electricity, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, carbon credits and environmental payments.

While some of these are in the early stages of development, the industry is focusing on growth opportunities, revitalisation and diversification.

Land use in many sugarcane areas is changing rapidly. Farm businesses are diversifying into new crops and activities or focussing on getting larger.

The demographics of the industry are also changing.

Over the next 10 years, growers now aged in their sixties will be looking to retire. Business and family succession will be needed and younger

growers will be looking to consolidate or increase production and manage business risks.

Based on all of this activity, the CANEGROWERS survey questions will focus on:

- Demographics including age, district, and production.
- Where CANEGROWERS members get their industry and farming information.
- Satisfaction with CANEGROWERS products, services and activities.
- Opinions on the future direction for the Queensland sugar industry.
- Consideration of future needs and plans for member businesses.

## How we will use the survey results

The data will be aggregated and analysed to create a report which will be shared with CANEGROWERS districts, the Policy Council and the QCGO Board.

CANEGROWERS has member surveys dating back to 2003, so where questions correlate to historic survey data, the analysis will offer insight into how the membership has changed over time.

The survey results will inform CANEGROWERS' membership engagement, provide insight into what members think and identify opportunities to improve products, services, and advocacy to support cane growing business needs.

CANEGROWERS is the peak representative body for Australian sugarcane growers, with a mission to provide representation, leadership and service, and to promote unity in the interests of its members.

To help us continue to be an effective, relevant and valued organisation, I encourage you to complete the survey and provide your honest feedback.

If you have any questions, please contact me on [matt\\_kealley@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:matt_kealley@canegrowers.com.au) or call me on 3864 6444. ■



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

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Next deadline is **20 July 2021**

\* 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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JOHN DEERE 2013 Model, 3520 Wheel Harvester. 9,075 machine hours, JD 375 HP engine 1,500 hrs from rebuild. 15" x 8 blade standard chopper system, plastic fuel tank, external touch screen on the console. Standard whole topper. Good Condition.

CASE 1999 – 2000 updates Track Harvester, Tilt cabin, Komatsu 325 HP, recent engine work, 15" x 8 blade differential chop. Shredder topper, D5 tyre tracks. Good Condition.

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### Mossman-Tully

Caterpillar elevated scraper 615C, in good condition. \$90,000.00 (incl. GST.) Ph: 0407590033 or 0407634564.

GCA-1050 Hooded sprayer \$20,000; M100 4WD Tractor PAVT 18.438 rear/14.928 front wheels \$20,000; 5 furrow Hodge rev plough \$1,500. (all GST inc) Ph: 0429652235.

2004 Cameco harvester VGC \$150,000 (GST incl). Ph: 0427655168.

Massey Ferguson 4270, 4-wheel drive with cab, 110hp, only 3000hrs, 18.4.34 tyres 60%, Good Condition. POA. 7ft Smart slasher Good Condition, new blades \$5,000 + GST. ONO. Ph: 0408770054.

1x 14.9.24 tyre and rim harvest Rennado fert bin. 1x 18.4r42 Firestone second hand in good condition. Ph: 0417791958.

Fiat F115 4WD with Cab '94 model, New Holland T5050 4WD air cab 1426 hrs, International 1466 purchased 1978. Ph: 0439654815 or 0427163519.

John Deere 7630 with 14 tonne Carta, Fiat 100-90 with Newton Bin. Harvester truck with 4000ltr fuel tank with a meter motor 65 articulated with 5000ltr water tank, 4" and 5" irrigation pipes, registered water meter. Weeder rake. Finger rake. Grubber. Gordonvale engineered 3 tyne ripper legs HBM Fertilizer Box. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0427163748.

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

### Herbert River-Burdekin

Complete planting outfit (all in very good condition) Tipper bins 2.5 tonne capacity each, 2007 Grizzly billet planter, Toft harvester rubberised, New Holland TS125A super steer and GPS. POA Ph: 0447154704.

Chemical storage cages, very solid construction, lockable. Hold 30 plus 20 litre drums. \$350.00. Ph: 0407630624 all hours.

MF 135 Hi-Clearance \$7,000. Howard broadacre boom 12m wide, folds back to 2.5m, New \$10,000. Set of base cutter discs for wide under slung, only cut 2000 tonnes \$500. Single bin trailer with singles \$1,500. Set of Coulters 4 disc, like new, 10m thick 4 x 5/8 holes \$400 set of 4.

1996 Mazda 4 wheel drive ute, needs repairs, sell as is \$2,000. All prices GST Excl. Ph: 0747761750 after hours. Ingham area.

### Mackay-Proserpine

Fairview 4t rear tipper \$3,000.00; Parkinson (Bonel) chain plant cutter \$800.00; 2 fan stripper \$500.00; Moller single chain planter \$4,000.00.

Ph: 49591765 after 7pm.

1 Howard 10ft slasher. Ph: 0402203829.

Trailco 125MM X 340MTR poly reel. Bonel 9 tyne heavy duty ripper (new legs). 120" Howard rotary hoe, excellent condition (chain side driven, always kept under cover).

2 X 6" poly footvalves (never used).

Ph: 0435111968.

20 lengths 5" aluminium pipes old Southern Cross fittings no rubbers. \$50 a length. Ph: 0428782202.

15 megs Kinchant Dam allocation water, on own deed. 50x9m lengths 4in irrigation pipes and sprinklers. All offers considered. Ph: 49545179 after 7pm.

Howard AH rotary hoes fully reconditioned - 1 x 100", 1 x 80". Howard AR rotary hoes fully reconditioned - 2 x 80", 1 x 50". Parts available for Howard AR & AH rotary hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph: 49595885 or 0407643441.



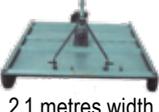
### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

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\$12,500 plus GST (\$13,750 incl GST)  
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.

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### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

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Bonel wind stripper with toper GC \$1,100. Ph: 0429600211.

Moller Sorter Planter. Contractors model, own hydraulics, liquid fertilizer, steering, 250lt lorsban tank. 700 lts fungicide tank. Suitable for small contractor or medium size farmer. Good condition. Ready to go. \$23,000 ono. Ph: 0408 733 793.

Tyres & Rims. 2 x 20.8 R42. Tread 10%. Cases good. \$2,200 ono. Ph: James 0408733793.

2 x 480/80 R46 tyres, as new. Clamps, wedges to suit New Holland. \$5,500 ono. Ph: James 0408733793.

Case track cane harvester 8800 2016 model; 10 T cane side tippers x 2. All in very good condition. Ph: 0408755453.

Avokah 4" irrigator - diffuser, impeller, bearings and seals recently replaced. Has twin hose reel, no hoses included \$3,000. Bonel stripper blower - twin fan, hydraulic topper with hydraulic height adjust \$500. HBM whole stick plant cutter - PTO driven base cutter and hydraulics, twin spool control bank for elevator forward/reverse and base cutter up/down \$500. Don Gough whole stick planter offers. All working. Gargett area Ph: 0427592578.

3 cylinder water cooled Perkins Direct coupled to a Southern Cross oil bath centrifugal pump (100 x 65 x 315) complete unit is on a 4 wheeled trailer, complete with a 800 litre diesel tank. Complete unit has only done 300 hours. 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.

Harvesting contract at end of 20/21 season. Includes JD570 fulltrack harvester, 3 x MAN TGA390 trucks w/ Griffcam 10T tippers, 4 x CASE powerhaults & misc harvesting equip. To be sold w/ 50,000 tonnes + cut. Harvesting 90,000 tonnes this season. Ph: 0410664890.

95' single axle, 10 tonne Carta double door elevating bin. VGC. New tyres. \$45,000 +GST. Ph: 0417427480.

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

## Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Broad acre boom spray. For 5 row boom Irven attachment to suit silvan sprayer. PH: 07 4134 0206

Track infielder Toft running gear. Bin 6tonne capacity hi lift \$27,000 + GST. Ph: 0447532490.

Upton Irrigator 90m stainless steel boom in very good condition. 15 chain of 4" hose. \$35,000 plus GST, ONO. Ph: 0427629122.

Gessner 3 row fertilizer bin with Angle Coulters. Gal bin & roll tarp. \$4,500 (inc GST). Acco 1952 A twin steer with 8 ton front

elevating bin ideal for planting. \$9,900 (inc GST). Ph: 0428221850.

Broadacre boom attachment sprayer to suit 5 row Silvan sprayer \$650 ONO. Ph: 0431519095.

Case cane planter and 2 x tipper bins with 3 separate tippers each. Ph: 0412133555.

Austoft 7000 secondary extractor hood in good condition \$350 + GST. Early model Austoft 7700 pump box \$550 + GST. Tandem cane haulout trailer suit 4 tonne roll on/roll off cane bins \$3,000 + GST. Ph: 0413584728.

Croplands Spray Unit-new pump, spraymate auto control, 6 Irvin legs & boom adjustable 1.6-1.8m \$12.1k; JD6910 \$27.5k; 24 plate Shearer offset \$4.4k; Bonel 4F sq rev plough

# Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (May 2021)	Month to date (1 Jun-28 Jun)	Year to date	Jan-Jun
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	76.6	38	2204	2228.8
Mareeba Airport	5.8	1.2	788.4	663
Cairns Aero	68.2	21.2	2168.2	1598.7
Mt Sophia	164	70	3055	2592.1
Babinda Post Office	226.5	74.3	3137.5	3257.9
Innisfail	162.8	67.8	2812.2	2700.9
Tully Sugar Mill	242	96	3904.8	3144.2
Cardwell Marine Pde	74.7	24.3	2067.8	1654.3
Lucinda Township	49	56.2	1658.6	1664.8
Ingham Composite	23.2	24.2	2860.3	1626.4
Abergowrie Alert	22	43	1447	1111.4
Townsville Aero	0	12.2	854.6	884.2
Ayr DPI Research Stn	3	14.4	863	723.6
Proserpine Airport	20	14.2	849	1082
Mirani Mary Street	10.9	63.4	627.8	1073.7
Mackay MO	105.2	31.6	943.8	1181.7
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	14.6	0	417.4	1295.6
Bundaberg Aero	7.4	39.2	244.6	605.1
Childers South	60.2	45.6	359.8	509.6
Maryborough	69.4	43	500.6	721.2
Tewantin RSL Park	123.6	51.6	1014.6	1004.2
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	70	0	885	1102.8
Nambour DPI - Hillside	125.4	25.8	923.8	1172.9
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	108	85.1	922.7	679.3
Murwillumbah Bray Park	128.1	16	1245.2	1038.3
Ballina Airport	46.6	14	1215.6	1135.2
New Italy (Woodburn)	55.4	24.2	1089.7	861.5



dream with your eyes open

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

\$5.5k; 7tyne HD subsoiler \$3.3k; Yoemans 5 tyne ripper \$3.3k. Ph 0408761463.

Ford 8401 tractor, 2x Ford 7000 tractors, 3x LNG 6 ton single axle tipper bins, 3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance, 4,500 litre diesel fuel tanker - is a complete trailer. Ph: 0427598333.

## New South Wales

3 Blade 12" Chopper drums for set cutter. Ph: 0402049645.

## Wanted

Solid 4 slat buttlifter for Case harvester. Ph: 0402203829.

3 row stool splitter fertilizer box w/double disc openers. Pref from Bundaberg area to Harwood. Ph: 0413082070.

Parts for Kubota B6100 with a d650 engine in particular, turf tyres/wheels, grille. Ph: 0447002293.

2 ripper tynes to fit Bonel or P & H trash incorporator. Ph: 0428221850.

Multiplyer Ph: 07 41340206.

Cane farm to lease Marwood/Balberra/ Sunnyside/Munbura locations. Ph: 0408011983.

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

## Positions Vacant

Plane Creek Mill Area - Koumala. Position available for a mechanically minded person

or fitter for on farm workshop. Will be working on general farm machinery as well as harvesting gear. Good package for someone that fits in our family run business. For more info call Rob 0410571342.

Plane Creek Mill Area - Looking for a truck driver for upcoming cane season to join our family run team. Twin steer automatic trucks with elevating tippers. A 6 out of 8 rosters. For more info call Rob 0410571342.

## Work Wanted

Worked on numerous farms throughout Australia doing various duties and tasks, currently located in Airlie but willing to relocate anywhere for the right job. Happy to work independently and in teams. Holds a current NSW class C license. Keen to work please phone Joe and Jodie on 0476622786. Haulout work wanted in the Burdekin. HR/UD licence. 4/6 tonne tipper, 20 tonne elevator, 2x6 tonne roll on/roll off, Case and Camaco harvester exp. Live in Townsville so will commute. 0459 717402 or [sarahcoffey73@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sarahcoffey73@yahoo.com.au).

## Property

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 - 200acres 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. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408880724.

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# Spotted anything unusual?

## NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit [planthealthaustralia.com.au/sugarcane](http://planthealthaustralia.com.au/sugarcane) for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,  
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

**☎ 1800 084 881**