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Source: Assessment of potential benefits of EEFs in sugarcane cropping systems by Weijin Wang et al, Queensland Department of Environment and Science. Significant difference, P <0.05.

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**FEATURES**

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**COVER IMAGE:** Mackay cane grower Michael Galea is one of a number of farmers participating in Queensland Farmers' Federation's microgrid project. Read more on page 24.

**CONTENTS IMAGE:** What's behind the world sugar price surge? Pictured: Raw sugar being loaded into a ship's hold. Read more on page 16.



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## Rise in potentially deadly incidents

The 2021 harvest is just two months old and already there have been six serious incidences of sugarcane harvesters or haulouts coming into contact with overhead powerlines or poles.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland recorded ten such incidents for the whole 2020 season. To have so many so early in the season is a worrying escalation.

There is concern that an influx of workers new to the industry and with limited harvesting and farming experience is a factor.

This year's incidents have been in the Burdekin, Mackay/Proserpine, Bundaberg and Cairns regions.

In the latest tragic reminder of the dangers of operating farm machinery around powerlines, a 25-year-old man died and six others were hospitalised after a pineapple harvester he was driving hit powerlines on a farm near Yeppoon in July.

His death is in addition to the eight deaths recorded by Farmsafe Australia in the first seven months of 2021. Read more about its latest report on page 8.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said nearly every farming family in Australia had



a story to tell of a loved one injured or worse in a farming accident.

"Farms are complex and busy operations and farmers are generally juggling a lot of tasks and responsibilities," Mr Schembri said.

"We must be the most multi-skilled people in Australia, even before you factor in the pressure and stress that goes with running your own business.

"With so much going on, there is a lot that could go wrong."

Mr Schembri said while growers aren't big fans of rules and regulations, they understand the importance of ensuring workplace safety.

"Whilst we might feel that there are too many rules, if

we are being honest, we do understand the importance of them and of keeping our workplaces, our farms, and our work practices safe," he said..

"After all, we don't want our people, our family to become part of next year's statistical review."■



## Performance anxiety

Sugarcane growers are reporting a frustrating start to the 2021 season, with widespread rainfall and poor mill performance hampering harvesting operations in many districts throughout June and July.

Far Northern Milling (Mossman), MSF Sugar (Gordonvale), Wilmar Sugar (Burdekin, Sarina and Proserpine), Mackay Sugar, and the Isis Central Mill (Childers) have all reported operating issues in recent weeks.

With global sugar prices currently at a five-year high and still rising, growers are anxious to see the entire crop harvested in a timely manner.

Turn to Regional Round-up on page 34 for a district-by-district update.■

## Electrical safety course is now free

With safety around powerlines of particular concern in the sugarcane industry, CANEGROWERS welcomes the decision of TAFE Queensland to remove the fee on Rural Electrical Safety Awareness training.

TAFE has a one-hour online induction program designed specifically for farmers and their employees. Anyone can go to the website and complete the training.

The course was developed with input from CANEGROWERS Mackay and covers hazard identification, risk control and risk assessment tailored for workers on farms.

The course can be found on the TAFE website

<https://tafeqld.edu.au/courses/18936/rural-electrical-safety-awareness>

Ergon Energy has resources to assist with risk identification and awareness including windscreens stickers to record vehicle heights and rotamarkers which are installed on powerlines to increase visibility.

Look up and Live is an interactive map of the electricity network and is available at [lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au).■

## BILLION DOLLAR BLOW

Indian sugar export subsidies have cost Australian cane growers and millers more than one billion dollars in lost revenue over the past four years, a new report has found.

The Green Pool Commodity Specialists report, commissioned by the Australian Sugar Milling Council, found Indian Government sugarcane price regulation was causing large production surpluses and India's subsidised exports had contributed to substantially lower global sugar prices.

The report concluded that Queensland cane growers and sugar millers have been losing almost \$5 million every week since 2017 as a result, saying:

*"India's sugar export subsidy programme since 2017/18 has become virtually institutionalised. India is now a structural exporter of sugar, with subsidies on exported sugar of up to one-third of an Indian mill's cost of production of raw sugar."*

*"Besides export subsidies and regulated cane prices, India's government also fixes domestic sugar prices well above global prices and provides soft loans to milling companies to build ethanol distilling operations to utilise sugar and processing by-products."*

*"The decision of India's government to financially support significant levels of exports (initially compulsory) has had a real and perverse impact on the global market."*

Australia, Brazil and Guatemala made a formal complaint to the WTO in February 2019 regarding the harm caused by the Indian subsidies. The WTO panel's report on the complaint is expected to be handed down during 2021.

"Over the past four years, these subsidies have hurt Queensland growers, millers and sugar industry employees, their families and communities," ASMC head of economics and trade David Rynne said.

"ASMC is commissioning further analysis to determine the wider impact on the regions and the State's economy."

"The Green Pool report concluded that India's current sugar production of more than 33 million tonnes exceeded its domestic sugar consumption of about 26 million tonnes. This excess subsidised production means export subsidies are likely to be an ongoing feature for many years if it is not reined in," he said.

ASMC and CANEGROWERS have praised the Australian Government for its advocacy on behalf of the sugar industry to date and urged continued support for growers, millers, dependent businesses and regional communities which continue to feel the impact of price distortions in the global sugar market.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said the Australian Government had strongly backed the industry through the WTO case, but with concerning reports the Indian Government may be considering another package of export subsidies, it is clear that maintaining the collective effort of our diplomatic representatives to the Indian Government will be crucial.

"We are hopeful the WTO will find against the Indian subsidies because the economic pain for Australian growers, millers and sugar communities could be profound and prolonged if they continue," Mr Schembri said.

"We will be sharing the findings of this report with the Australian and Queensland governments, and our local parliamentary representatives. We want to work with them to ensure progress on the path to a fairer global market for sugar." ■

*"The economic pain for growers, millers and sugar communities could be profound and prolonged if Indian subsidies continue."*

### ESTIMATED REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF IMPACTS:

- **NORTHERN REGION - \$212.5 MILLION**  
including the mills of Tableland, Tully, South Johnstone and Mossman
- **\$151.2 MILLION IN THE HINCHINBROOK REGION**  
including the mills of Victoria and Macknade
- **\$306.8 MILLION OVER FOUR YEARS IN THE BURDEKIN REGION**  
including the mills of Pioneer, Inkerman, Kalamia and Invicta
- **\$276.9 MILLION IN THE MACKAY AND WHITSUNDAY REGION**  
including the mills of Farleigh, Marian, Racecourse, Plane Creek and Proserpine
- **\$106.6 MILLION IN THE BUNDABERG AND WIDE BAY REGION**  
including the mills of Isis and Millaquin and the now closed mills of Bingera and Maryborough

## CANEGROWERS embraces virtual meetings

CANEGROWERS Policy Council members held their first-ever individually, fully virtual meeting on 20-21 July, with grower representatives dialling in from all 13 districts, many from their homes and others from their local CANEGROWERS office.

While Policy Council meetings have made increasing use of video conferencing technology since COVID-19 restrictions made travel more difficult, this is the first time all Council members connected direct from their districts rather than travelling to Brisbane or regional hubs.

"We decided a virtual meeting might work best, not just because of the increased difficulty of travelling during the pandemic, but because this is an extremely busy time of the year for growers and it's important to remember that all CANEGROWERS Policy Council members are themselves growers and need to attend to their own farming businesses," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"The meeting was a great success. We are all very used to using this technology, with the advantage that at the end of each session, growers could head out to the paddock or the shed and get some important work done on farm."

"Becoming more comfortable talking about industry issues in this format also allows opportunities to engage with more growers across the industry. Expanding our conversations, listening to growers and harvesting ideas direct from them is at the heart of the role of the Policy Council and while it has been thrust upon us, the technology will be a powerful tool for CANEGROWERS for many years to come."

During this meeting the Council heard updates from CANEGROWERS' Environment and Sustainability, Farm Inputs and Research, and Economics and Trade committees, progressing policy development in each portfolio.

There were also presentations from SRA (Strategy Implementation and Recruitment), JCU (Work Health and Safety) and Green Pool commodities (sugar market). ■

## Reef tops agenda in LNP meeting

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and CEO **Dan Galligan**, along with representatives from Queensland Farmers' Federation, met with Queensland's Shadow Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef, **Sam O'Connor MP**, in July to discuss the LNP's position on Great Barrier Reef policy and associated regulations.

With a Katter Party Bill seeking to roll back the latest tranche of reef regs set to go before the Queensland Parliament later this year, Mr Galligan said it was important the LNP clearly understood the industry's concerns.

"It's important to speak with all sides of politics to discuss the issues and understand their position on reef policy," Mr Galligan said.

"But it's equally important to ensure that they not only hear, but understand the concerns that growers have over these unnecessary and unfair regulations, especially ahead of any vote on the Katter Bill later this year." ■

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# ON NOTICE

## Rules change for oversized agricultural vehicle access to public roads

Growers and contractors may need to replace their current permits to access public roads with oversized agricultural vehicles, after a number of transport notices were revoked.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) revoked three agricultural notices that apply to the sugar industry on 2 August 2021. These are:

- Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016
- Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Northern Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016
- Queensland Heavy Vehicle Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Bundaberg Region 5.0m wide)

**“Agricultural vehicles 3.5m to 4.0m width are able to access critical roads with either a level 1 pilot and a pilot or roadside signage and a pilot.”**

“This was always expected and planned in the change to the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Notice 2021 (No.1) which replaces these notices,” CANEGROWERS Industry Manager Burn Ashburner said.

The conditions for access are slightly improved for growers under the new notice, Mr Ashburner said.

“Under the National Notice ag vehicles 3.5m to 4.0m width are able to access critical roads with either a level 1 pilot and a pilot or roadside signage and a pilot.

“It is important that growers and contractors who have current permits for agricultural vehicles check them to ensure they don't refer to any of the revoked notices. If they do, then a new permit will be required,” Mr Ashburner said.

CANEGROWERS members can find more information on road access in different mill areas in the Member Resources section on the CANEGROWERS website, [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au). ■

For more information on the National Notice or to apply for a permit, use this QR code below to visit the NHVR website.



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# Spotlight on a risky business

Youth and inexperience can be a dangerous combination, as a quick look at Australia's road toll figures will prove. But when it comes to farm fatalities, it seems older generations are most at risk.

According to Farmsafe Australia's latest report, men accounted for almost 83% of all farm fatalities in 2020, with 62% of those fatalities being over the age of 45.

"A commonly perpetuated myth on farm is that it is the young adults, with their over confidence and lack of long-term experience, that are most at risk on farm. Yet year in and year out we find that males over the age of 50 are the most likely to be fatally injured. It seems that experience isn't always the best indication of safe practice," the *SaferFarms 2021* report says.

**"Males over the age of 50 are the most likely to be fatally injured."**

Tragically, the report also discovered that children under the age of 15 accounted for almost 14% of farm deaths in 2020.

"Farms provide such a unique and exciting opportunity for our children to learn while they grow, and talking to them about safety in the farming environment is critical," Farmsafe Australia Executive Officer **Stevi Howdle** said.

"We need to make sure that we set clear and consistent boundaries, teach them where the risks and hazards are, how to

react in an emergency and how to safely engage in age-appropriate tasks with the appropriate adult-supervision."

Unsurprisingly, the *Safer Farms 2021* report found that quad bikes were the leading cause of death (21%) and injury (39%) on Australian farms, closely followed by tractor accidents (death 19%/injury 13%).

It also seems that Queensland farmers may be most at risk, with 60% of all reported injuries (76) and 27% of deaths (16) in 2020 happening on Queensland farms.

And 2021 isn't looking much better with 56 injuries and nine deaths recorded in the first seven months.

As well as breaking down the figures, Farmsafe Australia interviewed 215 farmers, including seven sugarcane growers, to find out what safety issues 'keep you up at night'.

They found that animal handling is the leading worry amongst farmers (47%), despite accounting for just 18% of farm injuries in 2020, with no fatalities recorded. This was followed by operating machinery (40%), motorbikes and quad bikes (26%), and tractor accidents (23%).

Only 43% of sugarcane growers interviewed had safety policies and procedures documented on their farms, compared to 100% of fruit growers and 67% of cotton growers.

"We are well aware that most of the tools and machinery that are used on farm, coupled with the environment and the livestock, make for a highly dangerous worksite," Ms Howdle said.

"However, the thinking and subsequent work practices of those who live and work on farm can have a major impact on safety outcomes.

"We know that fatigue often plays a part in injury and fatality. We also know that mental stressors such as financial strain, drought, labour shortages and family drama can take our minds off the job at hand, putting us at even greater risk." ■

For more information on farm safety practices and to access the *Safer Farms 2021 Report* [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au)



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# CEO COMMENT

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By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS



## HARVEST TIME – OUR MOST CRUCIAL TIME

There is a seemingly never-ending list of variables that need to be managed if we are to achieve profitability, productivity growth, and sustainability in agriculture.

Management of weather variability, maintaining and building soil health, variety selection, and timing of farming operations all come into the mix.

CANEGROWERS works to assist growers to manage those elements that can be managed and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

To beat the odds and get a crop ready for harvest is challenge enough, but the job is not done until the harvest and crush is complete.

The cost of leaving the crop behind is significant, both in terms of income and opportunity.

In the sugar business we are experiencing an all too rare but significant bump in the world sugar price. This is presenting real opportunities for farmers to capture value.

We operate in a commodity cycle, so we know this current cycle will switch gears at some point.

The services that CANEGROWERS has been delivering this year through our Pricing Essentials training and CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service has received valuable feedback from the growers involved.

It can be simply summarised – being proactive, working with your marketer and making astute financial decisions can be a wise choice to manage risk exposure.

Of course, at this point in the season, with harvest in full swing, it is not easy to focus on the financial and marketing aspects of the farming business.

This year has seen a particularly frustrating start to the season in many regions, with wet weather and poor mill performance delaying and disrupting harvesting operations.

As we see in the district roundups in this magazine, it has been a real wrestle for many areas to gain any momentum around harvest 2021.

Our staff and CANEGROWERS representatives are at the coal face of these issues working for members.

While also managing their own farming businesses, CANEGROWERS elected grower representatives are also working with milling company representatives to identify problems and find solutions to get the harvest and crush on track.

There are problems and challenges a plenty. Solutions and confidence that we will get the job done is what is required. Farmers, harvesters, mill workers, sugar terminal operators all have to work together to make our supply chain work as efficiently as possible and in turn extract the highest value out of the crop. There is nothing new in that.

However, there are stresses and strains across the industry as everybody works hard to make this happen. We have done this before and together, I am sure, we will do it again. ■



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## Chemical use requirements change

Growers using Schedule 7 poisons, such as Paraquat, Diquat and MSMA, are now required to hold two competencies after changes to the minimum training requirements came into effect in June.

The new requirements are the result of amendments to the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulations* by the Queensland Government.

Anyone using agricultural chemical products containing S7 poisons must now have a statement of attainment for the following two units of competency:

- AHCCHM304—Transport and store chemicals
- AHCCHM307—Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (or their equivalents).

For cane growers, this is relevant to any use of Paraquat, Diquat, and MSMA products. These products must now be applied by people with the required competencies.

It is no longer acceptable to have untrained people applying chemical while being supervised by someone with the required training.

Many growers, including Smartcane BMP-accredited growers, already have the required competencies. These competencies do not expire.

For more information on where to obtain chemical use competencies contact your local CANEGROWERS office ■

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# FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

All 22 mills in Australia are now crushing cane. The first mill to start in Australia, the Tableland Mill has already been crushing for two months.

While it is still relatively early in the season, it appears the Queensland crop will exceed its pre-season estimate of almost 30 million tonnes.

In northern districts, harvesting operations have been hampered by significant rainfall throughout June and July.

Areas around Bundaberg, Isis, and Maryborough have also received rain.

However, unlike in the north, where the wet weather is a source of frustration to farmers and mills alike, growers in the parched southern-growing regions have welcomed the downpours.

Some mills have started the season with mechanical failures and other problems, leading to repeated stoppages. These mill reliability issues need to be overcome as soon as possible as this crop is critical to our viability as growers.

Sugar prices are stronger and it will be a matter of great disappointment if we don't capture the maximum value of the crop we have in our fields.

We can't control the weather, but as an industry, we can control how efficiently we crush the crop.

I know mills need a good season as well and I acknowledge that mill personnel are working day and night to rectify these problems.

Let's hope that milling performance improves.

More than anything else, we hope that the weather now holds up and gives us fine, clear days to make inroads into the crop.

## India's export subsidies

Recently, the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) commissioned an independent analysis to ascertain the economic impact of India's export subsidies on Australia's sugar industry.

CANEGROWERS was invited by the ASMC to support the release of the final report. It made for some grim reading.

The report found that the Australian sugar industry has taken an economic hit to the tune of \$1 billion over the past four years.

This is a substantial drain on our revenue streams. For growers, it equates to a loss of approximately \$5 per tonne of cane for each year over four years.

The Australian sugar industry operates with clearly defined economic linkages to regional economic activity.

Put simply, if grower and mill revenues are down by a billion dollars, then businesses who rely on supporting us such as providers of steel, oil, fuel, spare parts, repairs, etc suffer too.

We calculate that the impact on regional economies is in the realm of \$4 billion of reduced economic activity.

Clearly export subsidies not only hurt our industry revenue – they whack our regional communities and businesses even harder.

In July 2019, the Australian Government along with the Brazilian and Guatemalan governments filed a formal complaint to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) alleging that Indian government measures to assist sales of surplus sugar to the world market were in contravention of WTO rules.

Formal hearings have now been concluded and we await the interim findings of the WTO Panel considering this complaint.

I know Australian growers feel that this WTO process is long and complex, but at the end of the day the time and effort will be worth it.

What is at stake here is not just the welfare of the Australian sugar industry, but the welfare of the regional communities we live in as well. Let's hope we get the right result. ■



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# What's driving the World Sugar Price?

Wet weather and poor mill performance have hampered harvesting operations in several regions, leaving many growers shaking their heads in frustration. But there is one source of solace for Queensland's cane farmers - the surging world sugar price.

For years, the global sugar price has floundered, often at or below the cost of production for Australian growers.

From a high of more than US23c/lb in early 2017 the ICE11 price crashed to US10c/lb in mid-2018. For the next 14-months it traded in a broad range between 11-14 USc/lb.

In late-2019 and into 2020 prices recovered strongly, peaking at almost US16c/lb. The outlook was optimistic. Then along came COVID-19.

The pandemic changed everything. Reflecting the worldwide impact of the virus, sugar prices collapsed, falling below US9c/lb, well below the cost of production.

With lockdowns in many nations, sugar consumption fell, as did oil and ethanol use because of the travel restrictions. A complex range of other factors was also present; Brazil sugar mills began producing less ethanol and more sugar, India was producing surplus sugar and subsidising exports, and risk-averse speculators were shorting the sugar market.

"If prices had stayed at those levels, it would have been a very difficult time for the Australian sugar industry," CANEGROWERS Head - Economics Warren Males said.

However, by mid-2020 it was clear that the market had turned, with the prompt sugar price more than doubling over 15 months and trading at US18.42c/lb just as this magazine went to print.

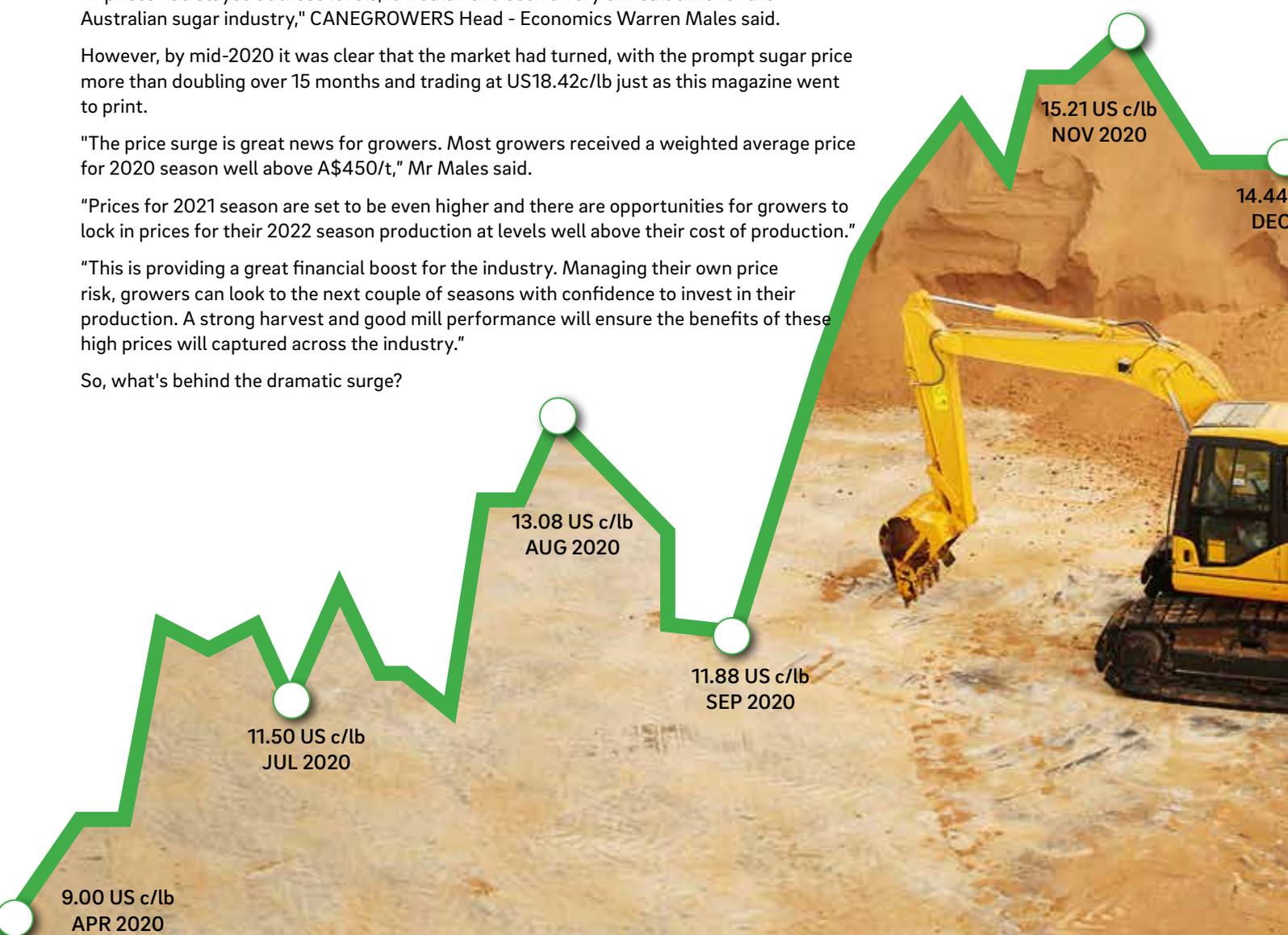
"The price surge is great news for growers. Most growers received a weighted average price for 2020 season well above A\$450/t," Mr Males said.

"Prices for 2021 season are set to be even higher and there are opportunities for growers to lock in prices for their 2022 season production at levels well above their cost of production."

"This is providing a great financial boost for the industry. Managing their own price risk, growers can look to the next couple of seasons with confidence to invest in their production. A strong harvest and good mill performance will ensure the benefits of these high prices will be captured across the industry."

So, what's behind the dramatic surge?

"The price surge is great news for growers and is providing a great financial boost for the industry."



## BRAZIL

There has been a dramatic turnaround in outlook for the CS-Brazil cane harvest.

At the beginning of the year, most analysts were predicting 596 million tonnes of cane would be harvested in CS-Brazil.

However, the drought that commenced in 2020 has extended well into 2021, reducing cane yields and expectations for CS-Brazil's cane crop.

During July, these expectations were further dashed by a series of widespread frosts. It is now likely that fewer than 550 million tonnes of cane will be cut, with some analysts suggesting the final figure could be as low as 510 million tonnes.

How quickly the CS-Brazil crop recovers for the 2022 harvest will be keenly watched by all.

*Continues next page...*



US c/lb  
2020

17.79 US c/lb  
FEB 2021

14.71 US c/lb  
MAR 2021

17.48 -US c/lb  
MAY 2021

13.45 US c/lb  
JUN 2021

18.42 US c/lb  
JUL 2021

## THAILAND

Two years of severe drought and a switch in crops from sugarcane to cassava saw a sharp downturn in Thai sugarcane and sugar production over the past two years.

Thailand's cane harvest fell from 135 million tonnes in 2017/18 to just 66.7 million tonnes last year and its sugar make fell from 14.7 million tonnes in 2019 to just 7.7 million tonnes.

This dramatic collapse in production left the East Asian sugar market in deficit and led to very high regional premiums for sugar across the region.

This year higher cane prices and improved weather conditions are expected to see an increase in area planted to sugarcane. A bigger Thai crop is likely. Just how big remains to be seen.

## INDIA

With heavy supports for sugarcane and sugar production, India has consistently large production surpluses.

Last year, India produced almost 31 million tonnes of sugar, around eight million tonnes more than it consumed.

Six million tonnes of these exports were heavily subsidised. As prices rose, a further million tonnes were exported without subsidy.

It appears the big winners of the India's subsidies were the world's food and beverage manufacturers who were able to source cheap sugar.

The outlook is for another big Indian cane crop when the 2021/22 harvest kicks off in October.

Having challenged India's subsidies at the World Trade Organisation, Australia, Brazil and Guatemala, along with the rest of the sugar world, are eagerly awaiting the WTO Panel's findings.

## GLOBAL DEFICIT

The world sugar supply situation appears to be tightening.

Forecasts of lower production in Brazil, question marks over the size of the Thai crop recovery, and uncertainty over whether India will continue to subsidise exports of its surplus sugar are constructive.

Some analysts are now suggesting global sugar consumption will exceed production for the 2021/22 crop cycle.

This outlook is supportive of sugar prices, as are expectations of firm oil prices and a likely need for additional ethanol to be produced in Brazil.

Market circumstances can change quickly.

But for now, there are opportunities for growers to manage their price exposure and to lock in profits for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.



*The crop in Brazil, the world's largest exporter of sugar, has been severely impacted by drought and frost, leading to expectations of a substantially smaller crop.*

## CANEGROWERS community news

### CANEGROWERS REMEMBERS

**Laurence 'George' Wah Day**, 91, died peacefully on June 28, he will be remembered as a true-blue gentleman and a legend of the Chinese-Australian community in Cairns.

The Cairns and District Chinese Association (CAD-CAI) issued a brief rundown of Mr Wah Day's life as a first-generation Australian son of migrant parents. "His father, Wong Wah Day, arrived in Cooktown in 1894, walked all the way to Cairns and later grew maize at Atherton," it stated. "When his farm was reclaimed by the Returned Soldiers' Scheme in 1920, he returned to Cairns, purchasing land at East Trinity to grow fruit and vegetables and to raise a family."

Mr Wah Day grew up working with his siblings on the family farm, growing sugarcane, prawns, bananas and lychees. His family and friends remember his selfless outlook, good humour, mentorship and community leadership.

CANEGROWERS passes on the community's condolences to his family and friends at this sad time. ■

### GETS A BIT WET IN NSW SOME TIMES...



*Pictured left: A North Clarence Co-op harvest operator ran into a bit of trouble while cutting cane in the Harwood Mill area NSW.*

*An excavator brought in to pull the harvester out also got bogged in the soggy paddock. A larger excavator and two in field track bins were required to help save the day.*

*"One excavator was hooked up to the side to stop it tipping over" local Tim Strange said. "The other dug a channel out the front to pull it out through. Then hooked that excavator to the front with the two track bins, and they all pulled, lifted and grunted together and out it came. Needless to say we did not cut that much cane that day."*

### INVICTA MILL TURNS 100

Invicta Mill will mark 100 years of crushing cane in the Burdekin at a special centennial event in the township of Giru on 13 August.

The 'youngest' and largest of the Burdekin's four mills, Invicta had a long journey to reach its final resting place.

It was originally located on the Richmond River in New South Wales, then moved to South Kolan, near Bundaberg, for a short time before being moved to Giru in 1921.

A dual-milling-train factory, it crushes about three million tonnes of sugarcane a year to manufacture about 440,000 tonnes of raw sugar. ■



**Got some news you want to share with the CANEGROWERS community send us an email [editor@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:editor@canegrowers.com.au)**

# QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 27 July 2021.

## Sugar



- > The ICE 11 October 2021 contract skyrocketed to highs of 18.49 USc/lb in early July amid fears of a widespread frost potentially providing further damage to the already underperforming Brazilian crop. Raw sugar prices then fell to lows of 16.73 USc/lb in the middle of the month before recovering to a high of 18.64 USc/lb at the time of writing.
- > Brazilian cane crush figures were above expectations due to a couple of highly productive weeks in the Sao Paulo state. The UNICA (Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association) report for the second half of June revealed cane harvested for the season to date at 210.9 million tonnes compared to 230.4 million tonnes at the same time last year, with sugar produced at 12.3 million tonnes compared to 13.3 million tonnes in 2020. Despite Brazil's cane and sugar production lagging last season by approximately 8%, the area harvested is actually 2.5% ahead, implying the current crushing season will likely end relatively early.
- > In India, high ICE 11 raw sugar prices have made exporting sugar viable without the government subsidy. Market researchers estimate a record 6.15 million tonnes of sugar have been exported so far this season. It is expected up to 6.5 million tonnes could eventually be shipped, filling some of the lost supply from the poor Thai and Brazilian crops.
- > **Closely watching:** Brazilian harvest statistics, macroeconomic influences, including COVID-19, and speculator activity.

## Currency



- > The Australian Dollar (AUD) spontaneously broke free of its long term 75-78 US cent range in July, collapsing to a low of 72.90 US cents. The shift lower appears to be driven by a global surge of the new Delta variant of COVID-19 as well as new lockdowns in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.
- > For the third month in a row, the US consumer price index (CPI) was much higher than expected, printing at 0.9% month on month – more than double the market consensus. Almost half of this figure can be attributed to a 10.5% month-on-month increase in used car prices which are now statistically 45% higher than at this point last year. Despite the US Fed continuously reassuring that this inflation is only transitory and is expected, markets remain fearful that it could be more enduring and lead to an earlier interest rate hike.
- > Domestically, the unemployment rate has fallen to levels not seen since December 2010, dropping from 5.1% to 4.9%. Despite the positive surprise, the numbers were hardly market-moving, as investors remain focused internationally.
- > Brent Crude oil prices plunged 7.36% lower to \$US66.50/barrel after OPEC+ came to an agreement to gradually increase supplies.
- > **Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, the Delta variant of COVID-19 and worldwide hospitalisations, RBA commentary.

## KEY INDICATORS

	26/07/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (JUL21)	18.17 USc/lb	+1.50 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.20 BRL	-0.17 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US74.1/barrel	+\$US7.66
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	16.74 USc/lb	+2.35 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	198,000 (net long)	-55,000

	26/07/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7375	-\$US0.0356
\$US Index	92.91	+2.90
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.48 CNY	+0.05 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,411.79	+255.93
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 23.07.21, 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



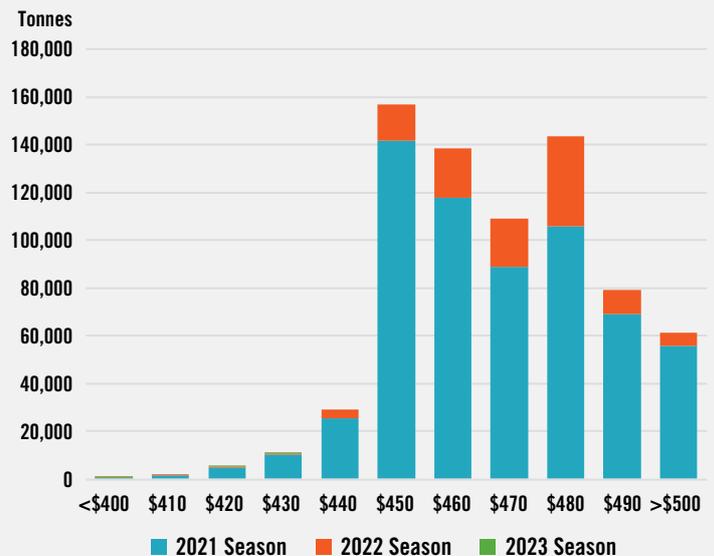
## Grower Pricing



- > The highest 2021-Season Target Price Contract order filled to date has been \$541/tonne actual on 23 July 2021.
- > Any 2021-Season Target Price Contract tonnage which was not priced by 21 June has now been rolled forward and an adjustment of -\$1.46 cents/tonne has been applied. This means that 2021 season 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.
- > As the forward sugar curve begins to normalise, 2022-Season prices have started to climb to attractive levels, with the highest 2022 Target Price Contract order filled so far being \$485/tonne actual.
- > QSL's weighted average 2021-Season managed-pool results as of 16 July 2021 are:

Harvest Pool	\$521/t IPS net
Actively Managed Pool (AMP)	\$526/t IPS net
Early-Start AMP	\$490/t IPS net
2-Season AMP	\$458/t IPS net
3-Season AMP	\$459/t IPS net

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 26.07.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## 2020-Season pricing results at a glance

QSL's 2020-Season results have now been finalised. Here's a quick pricing snapshot:

**+\$31/t**

(weighted average)

**Record QSL Shared Pool return**

incorporating \$2.38/t Loyalty Bonus



**Grower-managed pricing outperformed market average\***

**Target Price Contract**

**\$456/t**

gross actual weighted average

**Individual Futures Contract**

**\$444/t**

gross actual weighted average



**+\$1 million**

Extra returns generated by Self-Managed Harvest participants above the 2020 Harvest Pool return



Self-Managed Harvest growers outperformed the Harvest Pool by a weighted average of

**+\$26/t IPS**

**Best Performing Pools**

**Best 2020 result = \$702/t IPS net**  
– US Quota

**Best ICE 11 Pool = \$493/t IPS net**  
– Feb 2020 Guaranteed Floor



Note: All pool prices quoted, including Shared Pool references, have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

\* The 2020-Season ICE 11 market average result was \$429/tonne actual gross.

# WORKSHOP SPROUTS NEW SOIL HEALTH COACHES FOR GROWERS

An ever-increasing focus on regenerative farming practices was the reason behind a recent Soil Health Coaches Workshop in Tully.

For the growing number of farmers implementing regenerative practices, having access to a peer network that they can approach for advice is invaluable.

Soil Land Food's David Hardwick recently delivered a workshop in Tully for soil health 'coaches'.

He said the growers who attended already had a wealth of experience that they regularly share with others.

"These guys are already getting a number of calls a month from other farmers wanting to talk through ideas and results, or get a feel for how regenerative practices might fit into their farming system," David said.

"This workshop was about equipping those guys with tools to better support their peers through change."

The workshop included sessions on behaviour change theory, extension practices – and of course, lots of discussion – before finishing with practical communication training in the field.

"Implementing regenerative practices that improve soil health makes absolute sense for improving long-term productivity and profitability, but change isn't without challenges," David said.

"Soil health is a really important topic.

"Knowing how to communicate soil messages and understanding the process of change that people go through when they learn new things, helps support people through that."

Ingham cane grower Michael Waring said the workshop helped him learn how to

*"Everyone's at different stages – sharing relatable information is as much about listening as it is talking"*

*Pictured (opposite page): Peer-to-peer learning in the field with Tully growers; (far right L-R) Michael Waring, Chris and Mick O'Kane.*

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- 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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tell his own story in a way that would be relatable and relevant for other growers.

"There's no point rabbiting on to your neighbour about specific species of cover crop to use, if all they're wanting at this point is to find out about the benefits of cover cropping," Michael said.

"Everyone's at different stages – sharing relatable information is as much about listening as it is talking."

The Soil Health Coaching Workshops were made possible by the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project as part of its leadership training offered to farmers.

For more information on regenerative farming contact:

**Lower Wet Tropics Soil Care Group** - for farmers in the in the Herbert, Tully and surrounding districts. Phone Alan Lynn on 0419 722 101 or Michael Waring on 0428 771 361.

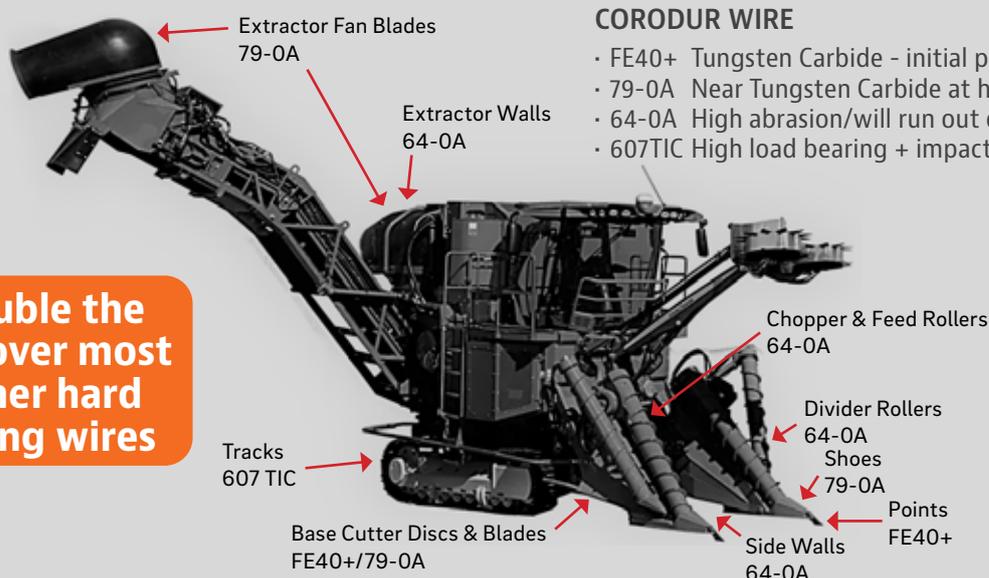
**Wet Tropics Soil Care Group** - for farmers in the Johnstone, Cairns, Mossman and Tableland areas. Phone Mareeba lychee farmer Mal Everett on 0439 829 159.

**Regenerative Cane Network** - for cane farmers across the whole of the Australian sugarcane industry – phone Ingham grower Michael Waring on 0428 771 361. ■

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# POWERING FARMING FUTURES

## ESTABLISHING A CASE FOR MICROGRIDS

BY KIM KLEIDON

With a Federal Government target and a State Government objective to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, the race is on to identify energy sources which fit the bill.

In 2019, the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) in partnership with Cotton Australia, successfully applied for federal funding for a feasibility study into the use of microgrids to replace, upgrade or supplement existing electricity supply arrangements in off-grid and fringe-of-grid communities.

For more than a decade, microgrids have been used in countries like the United States, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, Indonesia and India.

Originally designed to power off-grid regions, military operations or industrial projects, microgrids have proven to be so successful at maintaining grid stability, preventing blackouts and reducing energy costs, that the US is expected to more than double the 160 microgrid capacity in seven of its states.

The QFF study intends to show that with the right technology and regulations

in place, microgrids can also help modernise central grids to be resilient and affordable, whilst providing consumers with power of choice.

QFF Microgrid Project Officer **Madison Sturgess** is thrilled to be working with farmers and communities like the one she was raised in near Dalby on the Darling Downs.

After three years travelling between Washington D.C. and Haiti as a microgrid project officer, COVID brought her home unexpectedly and QFF quickly seized on her experience and expertise to collaborate with rural communities on its feasibility study.

"A microgrid has the potential to unlock a lot of power for the customer and the network, because it can resolve much of the demand on the grid at the customer level first, giving the customer more flexibility over their energy costs and

*"A microgrid has the potential to unlock a lot of power for the customer and for the network."*

*“Farms are often seasonal in their energy use, which is a challenge but also an opportunity for trading.”*

use while offering grid optimisation,” Madison said.

A relatively small study covering four regions, the QFF project aims to explore as many scenarios as possible, from horticulture in Wee Waa and a winery at Pokolbin, NSW - to a cotton farm in St George and sugarcane farms in the Pioneer Valley of Queensland.

All have been selected to deliver a case study: Single Enterprise (winery); End of Line/Edge of Grid (cotton farm); Large Scale Market (sugarcane); and Anchor Host/Hybrid (horticulture).

“It was really important to select four archetypes in agriculture that are replicable, practical and scalable. It’s important that this study identifies scenarios that are relevant to as many farmers and industry participants as possible,” Madison said.

“We’ll collect data from energy usage over 12 months and then virtually model what microgrids could look like for each scenario.”

Madison says the increased deployment of solar energy equipment in agriculture has highlighted the issue of unsustainable energy prices, ageing infrastructure and a transforming energy market.

“We see a rapidly changing dynamic on the existing grid, not just because of the

age, but due to the number of new types of customers as well.

“This is a really complex challenge to balance and manage, resulting in continuing price increases and less reliability. Farmers are changing their irrigation schedules as tariffs change and some are going off grid as a result of the unreliability and cost.

“Sometimes it is useful for a microgrid to be self-contained, however with the high seasonality of energy use on farms, there is of course a challenge but also an opportunity for local energy trading.”

The impacts of these changes affect whole communities and in regional or rural areas there is a generational connection, demonstrated by Pioneer Valley farmers participating in the study.

Farming on land first tilled by his great-grandfather **Johann Krieger** in 1885, **Paul McKay** is the fourth generation to witness great changes in both practices and technology adoption.

Rising energy costs for irrigation motivated him to seize an opportunity and install 30kw of solar panels in three locations across his 280 hectare sugarcane property in Palmyra (originally Crab Hollow).

*Continues page 26 ►*



*Pictured: Palmyra cane grower Paul McKay invested \$45,000 in a solar system but can now irrigate during daylight hours without incurring electricity charges.*

"There was a government incentive offered to farmers that was too good to pass up. I had the money to invest at the time and received 87% of \$135,000 back, so I was only out of pocket \$45,000," Paul said.

The whole process has afforded Paul the ability to not only schedule his irrigation from 6am-5:30pm when he floods or winches depending on the weather, but to do it without energy costs.

He compares that to other farmers who spend \$40,000 annually, meaning in one year he's recovered his investment. The energy generated by one system is also powering his house, sheds and, through return to the grid, possibly of all his neighbours.

By being involved in the study he hopes to understand how much of the power generated is used on farm and exactly how much is being returned to the grid.

"If we can run our farming businesses and communities on green energy, people might begin to see a positive side to farming for the environment."

Despite the small size of the study, the QFF-led project hopes to answer important questions about enhancing the competitiveness of farmers through optimised energy networks, the scale and location benefits, establish an approach to embedded solar generation, storage and energy sharing, along with identifying the benefits to utility services.

"What's really interesting in Mackay is the variety of motivations and interest in participating farmers," she said.

***"Microgrids are essentially a localised network where the energy is generated and distributed within the same area."***



The motivations range from, 'What have I got to lose?' to 'We are actively trying to decarbonise and leave little environmental impact on our community'.

"The level of proposed investment and curiosity is exciting," Madison said.

#### HOW DO MICROGRIDS WORK?

"Microgrids are essentially a localised network where the energy is generated and distributed within the same area," Madison explained.

"The energy doesn't have to be renewable technology, it can be diesel, wind, gas, solar, hydro, hydrogen, you could use biodigesters if you wanted to go waste-to-energy, the blend is completely up to the microgrid developer.

"There will often be battery storage and localised lines to distribute the energy to homes, other pumps or other farms."

Ergon Energy is on the project board which is creating an open dialogue and an interest from the utilities on this project.

"It's really exciting to have them involved," Madison said.

"They are aware of the shortcomings and the legal restrictions that they have to operate within as utilities, however I think interacting with this project is giving a very granular understanding and view of how this impacts farmers' day to day reality."

Michael Galea farms at Te Kowai, and through an energy audit identified opportunities to reduce costs by installing a variable speed drive pump.

He feels that regulation and legislation are some of the biggest challenges.

"We're Smartcane BMP accredited and comply with everything in relation to chemicals and nutrient management," he said. "Sometimes a cost-saving in that area doesn't necessarily make up for losses in yield.

"Irrigation poses other challenges to productivity, especially when it's dry. You spend all your time watering when you have other things to do and it's expensive."

Michael heard about the study through the Pioneer Valley Water Board which supplies his water allocation from the Teemburra Water scheme.

With a smart meter installed, he will soon be able to monitor his pump energy usage through an app on his phone.

Operating flood irrigation and high pressure winches, Michael admits there are areas to improve.

"We're looking into centre pivot systems to run on lower pressure, increasing efficiency and lowering energy costs," he said.

"We're also looking to install solar in those areas so we can irrigate during the day, further reducing costs. If we can share power, it has to be more efficient."

The general consensus among farmers around implementing change, focusses on whether or not governments of all levels will support them.

Madison sees that as necessary whenever any industry wants to innovate.

"The biggest challenge to microgrids isn't technical, it's regulatory. The process to apply for a microgrid, grid-

*Continues page 28* ►



*Pictured: Michael Galea refills and (pictured on the opposite page) the Solar PV reading on Paul McKay's 30kw solar system PUMP*



*"If you can build a microgrid in the remote, rural regions of Haiti with government support ... then in a country as wealthy as Australia, I'm sure we can absolutely find a way to make microgrids a reality."*

*Pictured: Paul McKay installed 30kw of solar panels in three locations across his Palmyra sugarcane property*

connected or stand-alone, is prohibitive for most projects with the way rules and regulations currently exist," she explained.

"Utilities are also under-prepared for the upgrades needed to accommodate grid-connected microgrids."

But, according to Madison, the problems are not insurmountable and that's why projects like this exist.

The Federal Government is keen to explore the existing scenarios and the limiting factors to undertaking microgrid projects and developing them.

If the challenges are regulatory, the data should identify what regulations need to change to enable them to go ahead.

"As far as I'm concerned, if you can build a microgrid in the remote rural regions of Haiti with government support, in a very restrained part of the world, then in a country as wealthy as Australia, I'm sure we can absolutely find a way to make microgrids a reality," Madison said.

Paul McKay feels confident that the concept will work, as long as the benefits to all parties are clear.

"Farmers need to see the benefit to them in cutting costs, but also the possibility of more 30kw solar systems on each farm in the network and then for each farm to make money throughout the season supplying power to the communities around us," he said.

"I think it's a win-win for everyone involved."

Whatever the outcome of the study, navigating the many challenges of farming and managing the irrigation load to sugarcane crops is considerable.

Getting reliability from tariffs or energy infrastructure will go a long way to instil confidence in the business future of farmers. ■

#### ENERGY AUDIT BACKGROUND FROM QFF

Energy audits conducted by QFF's Energy Savers program revealed considerable savings for more than 200 participants in 2019. The energy team installed smart meters across 50 farms in QLD, to monitor and model a potential aggregated energy offering to the spot market via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Fluxpower and WePower partnered on this feasibility project, identifying a total consumption of 2.97 GWh pa across all 50 farms, and proposed a fully firm PPA scenario at \$45.30/MWh energy price for large consumers (≥100 MWh pa) and 18.55c/kWh for small customers (<100MWh pa). The analysis concluded that an aggregated portfolio of agricultural customers has the potential to offer significant energy cost reductions to all users.

The next step to unlocking the value potential of rural energy prosumers is to explore microgrids and similar locally aggregated energy assets and customers. The Flow on Benefits of Microgrid project is exploring this by collecting and modelling 12-month data set of farmers across geography, commodity, and placement within the existing grid.

This data set will allow the project team to assess whether various microgrids scenarios could improve network stability, grid utilisation, on-farm energy resilience, uptake of solar on-farm, and in turn cost reduction.

Smart enabled energy resources and services have the potential to unlock affordable, decarbonised, localised, resilient energy for ag industry and rural communities.

# Using Variable Rate Application to Boost Profitability and Improve Environmental Outcomes

Supplied by Vantage BMS

With increasing input costs and a combination of environmental impacts, many farmers are exploring alternative technologies to meet their environmental requirements while boosting the profitability of their farms. One such technology with potential to address both concerns is Variable Rate Application (VRA).

VRA is when the rate of fertiliser, chemicals, ameliorant, and other farm inputs being applied are adjusted on-the-fly. VRA helps manage variability in fields by precisely targeting the optimal amount of input at the correct location, helping save money by using inputs more efficiently and minimising environmental impacts.

Unfortunately, the implementation of VRA is not as simple as connecting a variable rate controller to a spreader and going to work. It requires an evidence-based application process.

## VRA Application Process

1. Observation – determine the level of variability across blocks
2. Evaluation and interpretation – determine causes of variability
3. Developing a variable rate application plan
4. Applying inputs at a variable rate

### 1. Observation

*Identifying the degree of variability across the farm and within each block*

Growers moving into VRA need to ensure the investment is warranted. The first step of the VRA process is to understand what the degree of variability is across your blocks during growing conditions. The best way to make an initial assessment is to review yield maps. If yield maps are not available, using commercially available remote sensing satellite imagery may be an option.

The greatest benefits of VRA occur where there is high variability of crop growth conditions e.g., soil fertility, plant available water, etc. If there is little yield differential within each block, then VRA may not be the appropriate tool.

### 2. Evaluation and Interpretation

*Understanding the causes of variability*

Understanding the causes of in-paddock variability as well as the ease and cost-effectiveness of addressing these causes, is the key to getting returns from VRA.

To do this, we advise working with trained consultants who have access to the appropriate data layers, computer software and equipment for compiling data.

You will need to collect additional information to identify and better understand the factors impacting crop yield.

We recommend accessing:

- Yield maps – over multiple years, if available
- Geographically referenced soil information from Soil Information Systems
- Crop health imagery - over multiple years, if available
- A digital elevation terrain model from your fields
- Your experience of farming these fields

### 3. Developing a Variable Rate Plan

Computer systems, such as Trimble's Precision Workbench, are used to aggregate and "crunch" the data to detect patterns in the multiple data layers. This software contains a Zone Management tool that reduces the time and effort required to define the number of zones, zone sizes, etc. The result is an accurate summary of past crop productivity patterns that can be used to make future management decisions for a field. These maps are an investment whose value, as a decision-making tool, will last for many years.

When developing the zones, it is worth remembering that typically 10-20% of a field under-performs. In the review, savings from reducing inputs across these high-risk zones should be considered. In some cases, the causes for the underperformance can be addressed over time, e.g. water management. But for now, aim to reduce your investment in these areas.

### 4. Applying Inputs at Variable Rates

Once the zones are created, they can be loaded into a GPS controller. Systems such as Trimble's Field-IQ makes it simple to automatically manage and control the flow and application of farm inputs. This system guides your equipment to automatically control the rate, location and timing of inputs.

If you are interested in adopting VRA or are wondering how you can take your precision ag implementation a step further, contact the team from Vantage BMS who have 40+ years experience in assisting Australian cane growers with technology implementation.





## MISSED OPPORTUNITIES?

Despite a soggy and stuttering start to this year's harvest, Queensland's cane growers eagerly anticipate over 28,000,000 tonnes of cane will be crushed by Christmas. But just how much value will be left in the paddock when the harvesters finally fall silent?

As every grower knows, there is more to sugarcane than sugar. For decades, sugarcane by-products have been used in a variety of ways, both on and off farm.

Molasses, long a sweet kitchen staple, is used in a variety of products, from fertiliser to cattle feed and even health supplements.

The benefits of cane trash as a garden mulch are well understood, while bagasse serves as a biofuel, generating renewable power for sugar mills and in some cases the surrounding communities.

With such diversity of use, is it any wonder that new innovations are gaining in popularity?

There are many products currently on the market that provide customers with eco-friendly alternatives manufactured using sugarcane.

These products range from tableware, food containers and paper products to kitchen items like cling wrap, garbage bags, straws and hand sanitiser. You can even find sustainable shoe soles.

Sugarcane's versatility is certainly dynamic and for start-ups like *Allbirds*, a San Francisco-based, sustainability-focused footwear company, it is seen not just as an alternative to traditional materials, but as a way to gain an edge with an increasingly savvy and environmentally-conscious consumer base.

*Allbirds* has launched a sustainable material called *SweetFoam*, a commercial sole material that is derived from renewable sugarcane, sourced from Brazil.

The journey to *SweetFoam* began when the company grew dissatisfied with the lack of eco-friendly, non-petroleum-based options available for shoe soles.

Whilst the number of sugarcane products like this are currently limited, and only a tiny proportion of those that do exist actually made here in Australia, the new wave of demand from consumers for eco-friendly products continues to increase.

This begs the question; how long it will be before these types of innovations become the norm?

Take a walk down any supermarket aisle to see the ever-increasing number of environmentally friendly household items. A visit to the **Australian Made** website, <https://australianmade.com.au>, heralds companies providing sustainable options using overseas sugarcane in their products.

With the growing focus on lifestyle choices that are sustainably sourced, the push for 'ethical' products provides an edge for companies that are willing to innovate and differentiate.

Companies are continuing to explore the endless possibilities of using sugarcane in their products.

As this exploration increases, providing optimistic opportunities for sugarcane use, and with local businesses and products championed, it can only be a positive sign for the sugar industry.

As the Paul Kelly and Kevin Carmody's famous song goes: "From little things big things grow". ■

## MACKAY MEETING BOOSTS BIOFUTURES PROSPECTIVES

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Biofutures is seen internationally as the next wave of economic development, providing opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth. The term encompasses a range of innovative scientific and industrial technologies designed to convert sustainable feedstocks or waste into bioproducts.

Bioproducts offer a renewable and environmentally beneficial alternative to existing conventional chemical and fossil fuel refining processes.

Potential raw materials include fermentation feedstock including sugars, liquor and molasses; sugarcane and green waste for use in biochemicals, biofuels and bioplastics; and sugarcane biomass for use in second generation biofuels or hydrocarbon replacement feedstocks.

Mackay's established agriculture and sugar industries, close proximity to Asia and willingness to diversify, positions the region to meet a growing demand for future food products in both domestic and international markets.

And the region is keen to lead the way, holding the *Energy and Biofutures Roundtable* at the Mackay Resource of Excellence in July.

Representatives of key industry sectors including CANEGROWERS Mackay and all levels of government gathered to create an actionable plan.

Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson told *The Daily Mercury* that the region was bursting with potential.

Cr Williamson said Mackay already had the components to attract the world players to the region and now it was just down to collaboration and marketing.

The global pandemic has focused the Queensland Government's attention on creating resilient regional economies with new business opportunities.

There appears to be a renewed commitment to projects that will withstand global disruptions, particularly in producing products locally which are able to be exported across the world.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chief Executive Kerry Latter said diversifying the use

*“The key is the whole value chain from the farming business to the end product sharing in the income stream”*

of sugarcane would give growers opportunities to multiply their income and invest in building their future.

“Biofutures has been talked about for many years, however, the timing is right around the world to show that now is the most promising I have seen,” Mr Latter said. “We are being told that genuine commercial players are eager to look at our region to base their manufacturing and export operations here.

“Sugar is a basic feedstock for bioproducts and future foods, and cane growers will grow much more of it if they are guaranteed a return on it. The key is the whole value chain from the farming business to the end product sharing in the income stream.

“This first meeting provided a successful opportunity to share information and collaborate between the different sectors. We achieved a collective mindset, a collective focus and a collective energy to drive this opportunity forward.”

The region's economy has historically been built on the back of sugarcane, and with the interest in growing a sustainable and diversified economic base through emerging investment opportunities, sugarcane will once again be a key player for the region.■



# DON'T LET YOUR ACCREDITATION WASH OUT TO SEA !



By Kate Gowdie  
Smartcane BMP Manager

Confused about nitrogen and phosphorus (N&P) budgets and what new regulations could mean for your Smartcane BMP accreditation?

Here's a list of frequently asked questions to help explain what's required.

## Q Can I use a N&P budget if I am Smartcane BMP accredited?

A Yes. As of the 1 December 2021, all growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday catchments are required to have a N&P budget. Since 1 December 2019, growers in these catchments have had the option to utilise N&P budgets on a voluntary basis, during this transition phase. Southern catchments will be required to follow suit in 2023. A regulated N&P budget simply puts the focus of government compliance on the total amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous applied to the farm relative to the totals recommended. It allows some blocks to be under and some to be above the recommended rate, as long as the totals applied do not exceed the farm caps.

Growers accredited in the Smartcane BMP program, or those seeking to become accredited, can utilise a N&P budget as part of their evidence for nutrient management; where the budget meets all regulatory requirements and shows sound agronomic justifications for any variances away from SIX EASY STEPS (6ES), for example, by using the new 6ES Toolbox. A N&P budget that does not demonstrate sound agronomic practices may result in the grower being ineligible for Smartcane BMP accreditation. If using an advisor, ensure they know the requirements of Smartcane BMP for nutrient management.

## Q Do N&P budgets allow for more flexibility for nutrient applications than Smartcane BMP?

A No. Smartcane BMP has always allowed for flexibility (within reason and where agronomic justification is demonstrated).

The Smartcane BMP program continues to operate at or above industry standard, as determined by a team of technical experts, based on best science and the best practices for the time. While Smartcane BMP standards will always meet government regulations as a minimum, the program's requirements may also exceed regulations. Smartcane BMP accreditation remains an alternative pathway to compliance under the Queensland Government's reef regulations.

A N&P budget should not be seen as an avenue to over-apply nutrients. It is simply a farm cap that provides a degree of flexibility, compared to the previous regulations which had no flexibility. Be aware that there is no regulatory requirement for the consideration of other nutrients when utilising a N&P budget.

As always, growers should seek advice and engage external services with care. If you are engaging someone to assist with your nutrient management, ensure the service provider meets the 'appropriate person' definition as stipulated in the regulations, they know the requirements of Smartcane BMP, and that they provide all necessary information required for both BMP and a compliant N&P budget including maps, management zones, crop status, soil types, soil tests and their justification for any deviation away from 6ES. If you are unsure about anything in your N&P budget, you should seek immediate clarification from your service provider before applying nutrients. There are many service providers that are offering to prepare N&P budgets for growers. Shop around, do your homework and if necessary, get a second opinion.

## Q I am a Smartcane BMP accredited grower and have a N&P budget prepared by a service provider that recommends I apply an extra 30kg of N on my plant cane blocks but keeps me under the whole of farm cap for N by making deductions on my 4th ratoons. The service provider assures me that the N&P budget meets regulations. Will this satisfy my Smartcane BMP requirements?

A No. Smartcane BMP adheres to best science, 6ES. The evidence shows that there is no response in plant cane to N rates above 6ES guidelines. Moreover, there is additional risk to DIN loss from the surplus N. This situation will not meet requirements for Smartcane BMP.

## Q I am a Smartcane BMP accredited grower. What do the new regulations mean for me?

A In all instances, the requirements for Smartcane BMP are superior to the new requirements under the regulations and there will be no requirement to change practices. Smartcane BMP accredited growers will need to include management zones on their farm map, if defined, calculate the recommended farm total for N&P before application, as well as calculate the total N&P actually applied across the farm after application.



## COMPARISON OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

A comparison of requirements between the new regulations and Smartcane BMP accreditation is outlined below.

COMPONENT	NEW REGULATIONS (INCLUDING N&P BUDGET)	SMARTCANE BMP REQUIREMENTS	ADDITIONAL ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR ACCREDITED GROWERS TO MEET NEW REGULATIONS
Farm map +/- other documents	Mill map (and/or other docs) with soils, blocks that were soil sampled, management zones (if defined)	Mill map (and/or other docs) with soils, blocks that were soil sampled Blocks with similar nutrient requirements typically used as 'management zones'	Include Management Zones, if defined, on your farm map
Identify soil constraints	Yes (if present)	Yes Required	No action required
Address soil constraints where feasible	No Not required	Yes Required	No action required
Soil samples and testing	Reduced set	Full set as per 6ES	No action required
Recommended N rate	6ES method; mud/ash deduction > 100 t/ha	6ES method; deductions for any other significant sources of N	No action required
Recommended P rate	6ES, account for mill/ash where >100 t/ha	6ES, account for mill/ash where >100 t/ha	No action required
Recommended rates of other essential nutrients	No Not required	Yes Required	No action required
Keep records for each block of the nutrients recommended and applied	N and P	All recommended nutrients	No action required
Calculation of total kg of N and P recommended for the farm, before applications commence	Yes Required	Not required	Calculation of total kg of N and P recommended for the farm, before applications commence
Calculation of total kg of N and P applied for the farm, after applications completed	Yes Required	No	Calculation of total kg of N and P applied for the farm, after applications completed
Other information required for the annual records of N and P	N and P applied previous year Crop yield from previous year	No	Have records of N and P applied in previous year and crop yield from previous year.

### WHERE CAN I GO TO ACCESS FURTHER INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE?

Visit the Smartcane BMP website [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au) and click on the resources, FAQs or facilitators tab for more information. ■

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 11.59

 Tonnes to date - 67,292  
9.86% crushed to date

Mossman Mill continued to have various mechanical and boiler tube issues through to Week 6 of the 2021 crushing. In five weeks the mill has processed 67,292 tonnes of cane for an average of 11.61 CCS, with the coastal growers supplying 49,135 tonnes of cane for an average of 11.37CCS.

A second Bargaining Agents meeting was held on 13 July, to talk about the crushing to date, milling performance and lack of availability, and the 2022 crushing season. On 13 July, Far Northern Milling released a letter informing employees and suppliers that the board had reviewed the company's financial position and cashflows had determined that Mossman Mill would be in a position to crush the 2022 season. At that time they were still awaiting a final decision from the State Government about an additional funding request for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Following the release of this letter from FNM, planting is starting to get underway. Some of the equipment for the CocoNutZ value add project to make sweet soy sauce adjacent to the mill has arrived in Townsville and was due to arrive at Mossman before the end of July.

The local Douglas Chamber of Commerce had a mill meeting and tour on Thursday 15 July to hear the latest from Far Northern Milling and the Daintree Bio Precinct. They met with mill manager Peter Dibella and DBP CEO Bronwyn Dwyer.

At the Mossman and District Show, CANEGROWERS Mossman sponsored the Class 2 – Collection of 3 sticks of 3 varieties in the Show Cane Display run by Next Gen and Mossman Agricultural Services. There were a good number of entries in the competition categories and we congratulate and thank everyone who participated. The winners were:

*Class 1 – 3 sticks of an approved variety (Sponsored by Next Gen)*

- First – D'Addona's Electrical & Farming (Q253)
- Second – R. Scomazzon (Q208)
- Third – M. Bruyn (Q240)

*Class 2 – Collection of 3 sticks of 3 varieties (Sponsored by CANEGROWERS Mossman)*

- First – M. Bruyn (Q240, Q183, SRA7)
- Second – Sarona Farming (Q240, Q253, Q208)
- Third – Padovan Harvesting (SRA7, Q208, Q183)

*Class 3 – Six heavy sticks of any one variety (Sponsored by QSL)*

- First – R. Scomazzon (Q107)
- Second – R. Porta (Q240)
- Third – M. Bruyn (Q183)

*Champion Exhibit (sponsored by Mossman Agricultural Services)*  
– R. Scomazzon (Q107)

*Most Successful Exhibitor (Sponsored by Far Northern Milling)*  
– R. Scomazzon



*Pictured: (Top) The Douglas Chamber of Commerce Chamber met to hear about the Far Northern Milling and Daintree Bio Precinct and paused for a photo during a tour of the No 6 mill (second picture). The Mossman and District Show display (pictured middle) and (above) the 2021 Champion Exhibit R. Scomazzon.*

## TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 7

 CCS to date - 13.68

 Tonnes to date - 189,106  
28.65% crushed to date

## CAIRNS

📅 Harvest week - 5

🌿 CCS to date - 11.01

🚛 Tonnes to date - 220,027  
16.80% crushed to date

Wet weather has impacted farming operations across the region. Growers supplying Mulgrave Mill have experienced good milling performance, whilst those supplying South Johnstone have not. Mulgrave area is holding estimate but it's still very early in the season.

The last group session of the Unlocking GPS Potential Course was held on 15 July. Growers came together to review the content and learnings from the course.

This course was initiated by CANEGROWERS Cairns Region in a collaborative funding approach with Honeycombes Cairns and the growers. We have received positive feedback from participants who found

value in the course and have enhanced their skills in the management of the data and the operations centre.

With some local discussions taking place regarding the Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services' funding model, CANEGROWERS Cairns Region remains very focused on the delivery of an effective service to enhance the productivity and profitability of our Babinda members into the future.

Growers continue to be engaged with the Smartcane BMP program, many working towards accreditation. Congratulations to **Donald and Cameron Reghenzani**, pictured proudly displaying their accreditation signage.



## INNISFAIL

📅 Harvest week - 5

🌿 CCS to date - 10.87

🚛 Tonnes to date - 151,978  
11.5% crushed to date

Wet weather has caused significant delays to both harvesting and planting in the Innisfail region. At the conclusion of week 5 (18/07/2021) South Johnstone Mill had crushed 151,978 tonnes with mill average cane payment CCS of 10.87.

To date, yields are tracking approximately 10% below the initial estimate across the area which is concerning for growers.

On a more positive note, industry stakeholders; MSF Sugar Limited, ACFA, CANEGROWERS and IBCPS worked together in less than ideal weather conditions to showcase the sugar industry at the Innisfail Show. The Show Cane Competition and sugar industry hub were a huge success with more than 220 entries across the different categories.



## TULLY

📅 Harvest week - 5

🌿 CCS to date - 12.31

🚛 Tonnes to date - 397,812  
15.60% crushed to date

It is not unusual for rain in Tully around this time of year, however 200mm in late June followed by a further 200mm in July has caused some disruption to the crush which had got off to a promising start with above average CCS.

The 2021 rainfall is currently one metre above the long-term average and planting and other farming activities have been delayed as a result.

The CCS has been impacted by the wet and seems to be marking time while the ground dries out.

Wet weather aside, it is expected that almost 500,000 tonnes of the 2.5 million tonne crop would be harvested and crushed by the Tully Show, which was scheduled for 23-24 July.

This means the season remains on track.

There was no Tully Show in 2020 so it will be interesting to see if there is a strong competitive showing of cane to showcase the industry. Thanks to the support of sponsors, Tully Cane Productivity Services and Tully Sugar staff, who organise the exhibit, and the growers who take the time to enter exhibits.

Another feature of the cane exhibit is the showcasing of the school colouring-in and essay competition. The Topic of the Essay 'What do you think sugar cane farming will look like in the year 2050?' has resulted in some imaginative writing.

We will aim to share some of the winners' thoughts and pictures next month.

Continues next page ▶

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 5

 CCS to date - 12.02

 Tonnes to date - 466,830  
10.66% crushed to date

Cane supply improved during Week 2 of the 2021 season, as more harvesters fired up and Macknade Mill began crushing. All mills were commissioned and produced good sugar. Cane supply short falls remained an issue, due to the majority of cane being transferred from south.

By Thursday, Wilmar had all three trains online. However a derailment on the main line to Macknade impacted supply on Thursday. Some break downs in locomotives also impacted bin delivery and loading. The mill team worked around the clock to fix these issues.

Approximately 134,000 tonnes were cut for the week. TCCS for Week 2 was encouraging, with an average of around 12.00

Week 3 was interrupted by heavy rain and the mill made the call to stop all harvesters as only a small amount of cane was expected. Victoria Mill stopped crushing at 6.45am on the Friday morning of Week 3.

The mill reported that they needed to manage bagasse stocks. 94,000 tonnes were crushed for the week with a mill average of CCS of 11.68

Week 4 was another challenging week due to more wet conditions. Macknade Mill started on Saturday night but had

to stop again on Thursday morning due to rain. Victoria Mill started up from a stop on Tuesday morning, on a single train and managed to keep enough supply to keep going. The mill reported that on Saturday morning it would run out of cane. The mill crushed only 72,000 tonnes in Week 4 with a mill average of 12.4 CCS.

Week 5 - loading began to improve on Friday with around 28,000 tonnes loaded. All three milling trains in district were going, although the mill was still running out of supply on one train each day. The mill crushed 151,000 tonnes for the week with a mill average of 12.05 CCS.

Following a resolution passed at the AGM in April which empowered the board to appoint an eighth director, CANEGROWERS Herbert River called for expressions of interest for this position in June.

Many high quality applications were received and following interviews with applicants **Zenan Reinaudo** was selected to fill the position until February 2022.

We would like to thank our members who expressed an interest in this position and welcome Zenan to the board.



## BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 6

 CCS to date - 13.64

 Tonnes to date - 2,016,312  
25.30% crushed to date

The Burdekin district is currently above budget in terms of tonnes crushed and CCS. The crop is looking solid and is holding to estimate.

Most of the mills have been performing well and have made good headway into methodically getting the crop off, except for Inkerman Mill at Home Hill which has been plagued with repeated stoppages from issues with their No 1 Boiler.

This is leaving growers shaken with a lack of confidence in the factory getting the crop off in a reasonable timeframe. There is some talk of the possibility of standover and not delivering committed sugar which has been forward sold at good prices, but hopefully this worst-case scenario can be managed and the crop harvested.

That said, it has been a frustrating start to the season for growers who supply Inkerman Mill, as the Burdekin has had a good run of sunny days and dry weather which these growers have not been able to capitalise on due to continued stoppages.

A meeting was held with Wilmar to discuss grower concerns with Inkerman Mill and the company advised that it has identified that the problem with the boiler was due to chemical carryover into superheater tubes causing deposits to impede heat transfer which resulted in tubes blowing out.

This was a new type of problem in a different section of the boiler and in response to our questioning about the need for a new boiler for this mill, Wilmar has given assurances that a new boiler is not required.

To try and catch Inkerman Mill up, CANEGROWERS Burdekin requested Wilmar increase the cane transfer to be crushed at their north bank milling assets. Wilmar has agreed to do this and this cane transfer across the Burdekin bridge may very well continue until season end if need be, albeit everything is subject to review with mill performance.

What we don't need now is any wet weather!

## PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 4

 CCS to date - 13.85

 Tonnes to date - 256,771  
15.65% crushed to date

Proserpine was officially due to commence crushing its estimated 1.64 million tonne crop on 29 June. However, actual crushing was delayed for two days due to some initial equipment start-up commissioning problems. The factory eventually settled into a regular rhythm by Week 3 and as at the end of Week 4 throughput had reached 256,771 tonnes.

Average weekly CCS has reached 13.85 which is more than a unit ahead of the same period last year. Highest CCS sample to date was 16.10 from a rake of Q240 from the Waterson Productivity District.

Field conditions are currently favourable for the harvesting sector with minimal rain forecast for the next few weeks.

## MACKAY

 Harvest week - 8

 CCS to date - 12.78

 Tonnes to date - 1,139,520  
20.95% crushed to date

Disruptions to Plane Creek Mill throughput included a broken rail in the Sarina town corridor on Monday morning and No.3 boiler ID fan relay failure later in the week.

Average bin weights exceeded four tonnes for the first time since the second week in October 2019.

CCS levels continued an upward path resulting in season-to-date CCS closing out just below 13 units.

The highest CCS was 16.10 units from a rake of Q183 4th ratoon from the Mainline productivity district.

A 12-hour cleaning intermission took place on Tuesday 27 July.

No crushing progress information is provided by Mackay Sugar.

### **The Mackay Energy and Biofutures Roundtable signals collective desire to attract industry**

Mackay's sugar industry could sweeten the deal when it comes to attracting world players to invest in the region's biofuture.

Representatives of key industry sectors and all levels of government gathered in July to create an actionable plan. The meeting agreed the region already had the essentials to attract world players including plentiful biofeedstocks, green energy, good quality and reliable water, and access to ports and airports.

The idea is that manufacturers who currently use petrochemicals to make plastics and other synthetic products

will use a clean green bioproduct in the future – and hopefully it will be made in Mackay. While the industry will continue to export bulk raw sugar to countries across the world, the cane can also be a feedstock for a whole host of clean green biofutures opportunities.



*Pictured: QUT's Heng-Ho Wong explains the research under way at the Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant to a group of cane growers in May.*

## PLANE CREEK

 Harvest week - 6

 CCS to date - 12.97

 Tonnes to date - 318,920  
24.5% crushed to date

## BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 4

 CCS to date - 12.92

 Tonnes to date - 132,318  
13.88% crushed to date

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 48,736.95 tonnes for the week ending 18 July 2021. This brings the season to date to 132,318.10 tonnes.

The average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar Mill for Week 4 was 13.17 CCS, with season-to-date CCS average of 12.92 CCS.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 16.00 units for Q240 OR cane.

The four major varieties supplied for Week 4 to Millaquin were KQ228A with 36.4% of supply and an average CCS of 13.02 units and Q240 with 24.2% and an average CCS of 13.66,

followed by Q252A with 10.7% of supply and a CCS average of 13.76 units and Q208A with 9.5 % supply and a CCS average of 12.99 units.

Bundaberg CANGROWERS is providing support to Katter Party MP Nick Dametto's private members' bill which seeks to reverse the recent round of reef regulations that unjustifiably included the Burnett Mary region in the reef regulation process for the first time in 2019. The bill is being considered by a parliamentary committee before being debated in the Queensland Parliament.

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## ISIS

 Harvest week - 3

 CCS to date - 12.39

 Tonnes to date - 31,005  
4.31% crushed to date

This historic 2021 Isis – Maryborough crush has commenced, albeit with some wet weather and commissioning issues at both the new transloader (pictured) and on the new Wallaville line. The Isis Central Sugar Mill is working to rectify these issues with a number of meetings occurring or planned on site and many staff hours spent at the sites.

The Isis Sugar Partnership has met to work together to improve and streamline the communication to ensure efficiency to get the crop off.

### Ergon

We are working very closely with growers to help them transition from obsolete tariffs, check their tariff suggestions from Ergon are accurate and await their rebate if eligible. To assist with this process we have created a tariff comparison tool with the help of Pat Daley (Daley Water Services), which has been widely used. It's great to see Ergon listening to our repeated requests and providing a dedicated business support team contact number and email contact.

### Ministerial visit

Recently, Regional Development Minister Glenn Butcher met with agricultural representatives in the region to discuss a number of issues in his portfolio including Paradise Dam, the irrigation discount and supports for agriculture.

He wanted to understand the issues facing farmers in the region so CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino took him for a farm tour and to see the new transloader facility moving Maryborough cane. Mr Butcher viewed his department's financial support for new bins at Isis Mill.



*Pictured above (left to right): Mark Mammino, chairman CANEGROWERS Isis, Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water and Darren Harney, Chairman Isis Central Sugar Mill*

## Cane Harvester Parts

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## MARYBOROUGH

📅 Harvest week - 3

🌿 CCS to date - 6.61

🚗 Tonnes to date - 2,377  
0.46% crushed to date

The first two weeks of harvesting were impacted by rain so assessments of how the season is shaping up are difficult to make.

The slightly earlier than normal start resulted in lower CCS and, as expected, early interactions with the transloader revealed some teething problems.

By Week 4 (when this report was written) it has become clear that the difficulties we're facing are far greater than anticipated.

The transloader is not dealing well with loads that have higher volumes

of leaf matter. While these loads are not common, when they do occur and the equipment becomes blocked from matter sticking to dividers and not falling completely into the rail bins below. In turn, the rail bins are overflowing and cane is building up around the track, which has caused small derailments.

After numerous attempts to rectify the problem and improve operations, we are yet to see significant progress.

The CANEGROWERS Maryborough Board has sought action from MSF Sugar to get the season back on track.

This has resulted in the offer of assistance of MSF staff, who are now working in Childers with their Isis peers on the numerous issues being experienced.

With the recent rains we are seeing more growth in the crop and can't afford for it to not be harvested.

We have investigated and observed the current situation and worked on possible solutions to get the season back on track and will be presenting these to Isis Mill in the next few days.

## ROCKY POINT

📅 Harvest week -

🌿 CCS to date -

🚗 Tonnes to date -  
% crushed to date

The Rocky Point season was due to begin on Wednesday 21 July with continuous crushing for the next 10 days. Unfortunately, due to wet weather, there was insufficient cane supply for the plant to warrant starting. The plan now is to begin crushing on Monday 26 July. Another limiting factor is that there is limited wood fuel available for the Cogen plant (which supplies power and steam to the Mill) to start up and boil out, so there needs to be consistent cane supply once we start. Small mill trials last week have yielded an average CCS of 11.2.

In July 2020, CANEGROWERS Rocky Point lodged 17 valuation objections for growers. In May 2021, the VG's office made its decisions and in most cases, left the valuations unaltered. Our only option after this decision was to appeal and take the matter to court. However, CANEGROWER Rocky Point Directors, along with our contracted representatives from a private valuation firm, obtained a meeting with the VG's office on 15 July. At this meeting it was negotiated that the VG would allow us to lodge new objections based on new information obtained during this drawn out process. We are hopeful that after we lodge new objections, the outcome for landowners will be more favourable.



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# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

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**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**



## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

### The reality of new regs for N and P

New regulations take effect from 1 December this year in all districts except for those in south-east Queensland. These regulations require a so-called 'nitrogen and phosphorus budget' to be in place before growers start fertilising blocks next year. But what additional requirements are there compared to the existing regulations?

The existing regulations already require soil testing, following N and P guidelines as per SIX EASY STEPS, record keeping and maps.

An analysis of the new regulations shows the additional requirements are:

- To show management zones on the farm map (but only if such zones have been defined)
- To identify soil constraints (but only if such constraints are present)
- Before starting fertiliser applications for the calendar year, to total up the amounts (kg) of N and P recommended for all cane blocks on the farm
- To have an 'appropriate person' verify the above documentation
- After finishing fertiliser applications, to total up the amounts (kg) of N and P applied to all cane blocks on the farm. This should not exceed the total amounts recommended
- To keep an accessible record of the total amounts of N and P applied the previous year
- To keep an accessible record of average crop yield from the previous year.

So, the additional requirements are not complex and not too different to the pre-existing regulations.

There is certainly no requirement for a whole-farm nutrient plan to meet these regulations.

The major change with the new regulations is that compliance visits will check on the total amounts of N and P applied, compared to the total amounts recommended, for the whole farm and not for each block.

This is useful, as growers won't need to be so mindful of matching the recommendations for every block, which means that fewer blends may get the job done.

However, the downside risk is reduced adherence to the soil and block-specific guidelines of SIX EASY STEPS. For example, growers (or their advisors) may think that production is optimised by altering N rates on blocks so these align with a factor like expected yield.

While this might seem intuitive, all the field trials show this strategy will likely lead to over-fertilisation of some blocks and under-fertilisation of others. Production will likely suffer.

Growers should be aware of these risks and seek advice from industry advisors who understand and respect the SIX EASY STEPS program including the new SIX EASY STEPS toolbox.

#### 'Nanny state' for nutrient management

CANEGROWERS continues to voice the industry's opposition to the regulations that require your farm nutrient management to be developed and verified by an 'appropriate person'.

Apart from being unnecessary, costly, and condescending, it also creates a dangerous precedent for other aspects of farm management. ■

|| Apart from being unnecessary, costly, and condescending, this 'appropriate person' requirement creates a dangerous precedent for other aspects of farm management. ||



**Burn Ashburner**  
Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

## Keeping safe this crush

The CANEGROWERS-TAFE Pricing Essentials professional development course for cane growers has been successfully delivered across the industry.

These workshops covered important topics such as the management of farm finances and the management of farm business risk, aimed mostly at production and price risk.

There are, of course, other significant risks that growers face every day. One of these is the safety of the growers and their families, friends, visitors, contractors and workers.

Risk assessment talks about the likelihood and consequence of something happening. I think everyone realises the potential consequence of a serious injury or death. However, perhaps the likelihood is underestimated, with attitudes like, "It will never happen to me", or, "It's ok, I've been doing this for years".

Unfortunately, all too often the wake-up call only comes when an incident brings home the reality of the risk level, particularly if the incident could have been prevented with a bit of forethought and action.

The season has only been going about four weeks and already CANEGROWERS has been notified by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland of six serious incidents involving harvesters, haulouts or irrigation equipment and powerlines. This compares to ten similar incidents for the whole of the 2020 season.

All of them had the potential to cause significant injuries or death, with workers exposed to live electrical wires. Tragically, the latest of these, in which a pineapple harvester contacted overhead wires, resulted in the death of a worker and the hospitalisation of six others.

Is this the wake-up we need to get our safety house in order? Perhaps the workforce is less experienced, or maybe experienced workers and growers are a bit complacent. Either way, growers are in control of doing something about it.

One of the simplest things to do for electrical safety is for growers and workers to do the rural electrical safety awareness online induction training for haulout and harvester operators. CANEGROWERS Mackay has worked with TAFE QLD to develop this training course and it is open to all growers.

The course will provide growers and their employees with a basic understanding of hazard identification, risk control and risk assessment specific to the rural industries.

The online course takes approximately one hour to complete and TAFE is planning for it to be free from August 2021.

To ensure safe operations, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, the Electrical Safety Office and Energy Queensland have guidance to raise awareness and provide strategies to manage the risks to cane harvesters from overhead powerlines.

These include:

- The Look up and Live mobile app is an interactive map that displays the electricity networks. It is available at [lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au)
- Ergon windscreen stickers to record vehicle height.
- Information on overhead powerline safety is available at [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au)
- Rotamarkers help avoid accidents and save lives. Ergon installs them for free, however you pay for the marker (approx. \$100). The rotating motion of these red and white markers draws the attention of operators and reduces the chance of operators having inattentive blindness and not seeing the powerlines when operating near them. ■

Tragically, the latest incident resulted in the death of a worker and hospitalisation of six others. Is this the wake-up we need to get our safety house in order?

## Warren Males

Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



### Active risk management instils confidence

Having a good risk management plan is a cornerstone of any profitable business. Sugarcane growing is no different. Putting the risks into perspective and developing an approach to managing those risks is not as daunting as some might think. The rewards can be significant as many participants in CANEGROWERS-TAFE Price Essentials course learned.

The first and arguably the most important step in developing a risk management strategy is to identify the different sources of risk. The next step is to understand the likelihood of the risk occurring - some risks are more likely to occur than others. The third step is to understand the consequences of the risk including the potential impact on farm profitability. Armed with this information, risks can be ranked and strategies developed to manage them.

Cane growers face a range of commercial, legal, political, farm system, sugar price and production risks. In the Price Essentials course, growers focussed on the core production and price volatility risks.

A critical success factor is to manage sugar price volatility so that income from cane production is consistently profitable and above the cost of production. To achieve this, pricing choices can take account of production risks and market circumstances.

The likelihood of events occurring can be ranked from rare to almost certain and the level of impact ranked from catastrophic (where the business would no longer be viable) to insignificant (where the impact would be barely noticeable).

Sugar price volatility means it is almost certain that growers need to manage the prospect of low sugar prices during a ratoon cycle. It also means that there will be times when prices more than cover costs of production, providing growers with an opportunity to lock in profits by forward pricing their GEI sugar.

In contrast, the resilience of sugarcane to different weather patterns and changes made to marketing structures, pool profiles and the ability to role prices forward means the likelihood of being overpriced and this having a negative impact on profitability was low.

A fundamental pillar on which a price risk management strategy is built is an understanding of the cost of producing sugarcane. CANEGROWERS Cost of Production tool provides a robust framework for understanding farm cost structures.

The Price Essentials course also introduced growers to the idea of a foundation approach to developing a hedging strategy. In this frame of reference, the first target is to do sufficient pricing to cover the underlying costs of production. This 'stay in business pricing' provides the foundation on which more opportunistic 'scale up' pricing decisions can be taken to take advantage of price upswings, while leaving some scope for unexpectedly high prices to be captured when and if they occur.

During the Price Essentials course growers drew this information together to develop risk treatment action plans and identify triggers for actions. For example, they began using the Cost of Production tool to help set price objectives. They were more actively monitoring market developments and more confident in their risk management decisions.

The Price Essential course will be offered again later in the season. It is part of CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service which aims to improve grower profitability through education and information for members which can assist with sugar marketing choices. It does not provide financial advice.

[www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service) ■



Putting the risks into perspective and developing an approach to managing those risks is not as daunting as some might think.

# DEALING WITH CONTRACTORS



## USE OF CONTRACTORS

Legal questions relating to the use of contractors are increasingly being raised, with many cane farming and related operations now being carried out by contractors engaged by the grower. The purpose of this article is to look at aspects of liability for contractor's actions and also shared responsibility for farm related activities.

## LIABILITY FOR CONTRACTORS

The good news is that the general rule in law is that a grower is not liable for the acts of an independent contractor. The bad news is that there are always exceptions to the general rule. One exception is that a grower may well still be liable if they exercise a substantial degree of control over how the contractor performs their services. Also, if the contractor is doing what is specifically authorised and directed by the grower then that may result in the grower also assuming liability for actions of the contractor.

## SHARING OF LIABILITY

In an ever increasing way, governments are expanding the net for liability for all sorts of activities. Directors are being held accountable for some acts of the company. Business owners are being held accountable not just for acts of their employees but also their contractors. Under the Work Health and Safety legislation, growers are regarded



*By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor*



Photo credit: Craig Gilbert Photography

as persons who conduct a business and have responsibilities to provide a safe place and system of work. This duty extends not just to employees, but also to contractors and other persons who may visit the farm. Contractors also share a responsibility on farms as farms are often regarded as shared workplaces with shared responsibilities.

Under the National Heavy Vehicle laws, the chain of responsibility for transport safety has been extended to include the primary producer. Growers do have a duty to reduce risks related to transport tasks, although generally this duty is imposed on things the grower can control. Many other examples exist, including liability for causing environmental harm where the grower and the grower's contractor both have duties and responsibilities.

#### WHAT ABOUT PERMITS AND APPROVALS?

Some activities carried out by contractors require the obtaining of permits and authorisations. Examples can include vegetation clearing, drainage works, environmental activities and building works. Permits might be required from the local council or State and Federal government.

Growers should not just assume the contractor bears the responsibility to obtain any necessary permits. Have the conversation with the contractor and make sure there is a clear understanding of whether any permit is required and if so who should obtain it.

#### CONTRACTS

Having a written contract with your contractor is a good idea as it should clearly show who is responsible to do certain things. If a contract is too much trouble, growers should at least make a note in their diary or calendar of the essential terms of the engagement and who is responsible for the critical steps.

#### SUMMARY

A grower's responsibility for acts of contractors can be complex and the starting point of growers not being liable for the acts of contractors affords some protection but can be challenged in a variety of ways. The particular facts and circumstances of each case will always need to be considered on their merits.

To finish on another general rule, try to engage experienced and appropriately qualified contractors who hold liability insurance AND always maintain your own comprehensive liability insurance.

*(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. ■

# We hear you!

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Phase 1 of the CANEGROWERS 2021 Member Survey is done and dusted. Thank You to everyone who participated!

On average, it took about 13 minutes to complete the survey and that 13-minute investment of time by members will give CANEGROWERS tremendous insight.

An important part of being a membership-based organisation is listening to what members are saying and understanding why they are saying it.

I feel, as an organisation, we have a pretty good handle on the issues and there are many lines of communication between the organisation and member - but it is always useful to check in formally and seek feedback.

The survey results will inform CANEGROWERS membership engagement and identify opportunities to improve products, services and advocacy to support cane growing business needs.

While we're still analysing the data, the early results indicate that most growers rely on CANEGROWERS publications and services for information about the sugarcane industry.

As part of the member survey, participants were offered the opportunity to voluntarily add their contact details for follow-up and to connect with CANEGROWERS staff to discuss specific issues.

So far, we have made contact with 24 members who requested those follow-up calls.

The topics addressed have been varied, from the cane payment formula to reef regulations, value adding and diversification opportunities, land use change, mill performance, cane pricing and professional development.

## Online success

The last CANEGROWERS survey, conducted in 2010, was a telephone survey. The approach was to contact a cross-section of members via landline telephone and seek their views. It took about half an hour to complete.

A lot has changed since 2010!

There were 22.31 million internet users in Australia in January 2021 with Australians spending nearly 40 hours per week online.

Similarly, the ownership of smartphones in Australia has risen, reaching 18.6 million in 2017 and forecast to reach 21.5 million by 2025. In contrast, the number of households that own a landline telephone has dropped from 83% in 2011 to below 49% in 2019

People are now comfortable conducting business electronically, which is one of the main reasons why the 2021 CANEGROWERS Member Survey was done online, via a direct link sent out to members on email.

COVID check-in requirements have made us more familiar with using QR codes on our phones. The survey also made use of a QR code to direct members to the survey from their phone when they visited a CANEGROWERS office.

I received some feedback from a couple of growers saying that the QR code was an excellent way to access the survey and that CANEGROWERS should be using this technology more often.

Never have we had so many ways to access information or connect with our members. ■



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

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

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

Next deadline is **24 August 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.

### Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

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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.

CAMECO CH2500 Track frames, undercarriage rollers fitted, no hubs or chains. Case pumpbox 2006 model with pumps.

TOFT 6500 track frames, chains fitted and rollers, no drive hubs. Toft 6500 pumpbox and pumps.

HBM Single row planter 2014 model. Very Good Condition.

Whole Topper late model CASE as new complete with hydraulic valve. JD shredder topper 3510-3520.

1000 Litre plastic tank on a factory stand suitable for chemicals. New !!!

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

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**[www.gtmachinerysales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinerysales.com.au)**

### Mossman-Tully

Fiat F115 4WD with Cab '94 model, New Holland T5050 4WD Air Cab 1426 hrs, International 1466 purchased 1978. Ph: 0439654815 or 042716 519.

Water Allocation: 180 megalitres Little Mulgrave to Gordonvale Area. Ph: 0427163748.

Bonel one-and-a-half-ton stool splitter fertilizer box 3 point linkage stainless steel worm drive with lid and spare sprockets always in shed in good condition. Ph: 0418198177.

Expressions of Interest - 2014 Miller Nitro 5240, 3270 hours. 4,400L tank, 400L rinse tank. Hyd shift from 3m to 4m centres. 4 wheel steer. 26m boom with 250mm nozzle spacing. Set up to take Irvin Legs. Ph: 0427238320.

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

### Herbert River-Burdekin

Massey Ferguson 35 Forklift Tractor in running condition but needs some attention, power steering, heavy duty tyres, \$2,000. Photos available if required. Ph: 0428394004.

2010 Case 88 cane harvester Iveco engine & all pumps. 2 seasons old. Machine in very good condition, GPS fitted chopper box fully overhauled. Cut 80,000 tonnes. Reasonably priced. Ph: 0417621625 or 0418778674.

### Mackay-Proserpine

Hodge single row cutaway \$550; Superior twin fan trash extractor \$550; 4 x rims 18.4x34 with dual spacers and tyres \$275 each; Howard slasher 6ft EHD \$6,600. Ph: 49591750 or 0401 65694

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

2 fan stripper \$500, Moller single chain planter \$4,000, 2 x Roberts 6t goose neck trailers \$5,000 ea, Refalo 1 tonne side dresser \$500, Grubber & box \$300, Hodge upright planter \$300. Ph: 49591765 after 7pm.

Upright Trash Cane Planter always shedded. Make an offer. Ph: 0428782202.

Case Track Cane Harvester 8800 (2016 Model); 10 T Cane Side Tippers x 2. All in Very Good Condition, maintenance carried out & work ready. Ph: 0408755453.

Nuttall Lathe taper turning attachment gap bed 415 v single phase \$2,800 + GST. Ph: 0428782202.

15 megs Kinchant water allocation on own deed. 50x9m lengths 4in irrigation pipes and sprinklers. All offers considered. Ph: 49545179 a/h.

6000 Toft harvester, L10 Cummins engine, topper pump and motor rebuilt 12 mths ago, both wheel motors rebuilt 24 mths ago. Selling due to upgrade. \$10,000 ono. Ph: 0437503818.

23.1 x 26 rims and tyres to suit Toft 7000 '95 model \$2,200 for pair GST included. Ph: 0419710280.

McLean 6 roller half tracks to suit Toft 7000 in good condition, always in shed \$16,500 GST included. Ph: 0419710280.

Cane multiplier very good condition mounted on the front of a 298 Massey Ferguson works well. \$15,000 plus GST. Ph: 0427188079.

3 cylinder water cooled Perkins Direct coupled to a Southern Cross oil bath centrifugal pump [100 x 65 x 315] complete



### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS



3 metre width, 28 discs, All bath bearings \$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 SLASHERS



2.1 metres width Other sizes available are 1.2m & 1.8m

### Johnny Farming Company

Importers of tyres, plant & equipment, sheds and more..

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 533 887  
 133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

## Classifieds

unit is on a 4 wheeled trailer, complete with a 800 litre diesel tank. Complete unit has only done 300 hours. Ph: 043511968.

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 powerhauls & misc harvesting equip. To be sold w/ 50,000 tonnes + cut. Harvesting 90,000 tonnes this season. Ph: 0410 664 890.

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

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Acco 1952 A twin Steer with 8ton front elevating bin ideal for planting. \$8,500 (inc GST). Ph: 0428221850.

High clearance spray tractor: Farmliner 445 tricycle ex Bundaberg Sugar machine. 5 row Irvin Legs. Dual Tanks (1000L + 500L) and PTO Pumps. Bundaberg Area. \$19,000 + GST. Ph 0437209107.

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

Isis Central Sugar Mill shares - 29,835. Ph: 0422118466.

Broad acre boom spray. For 5 row boom Irven attachment to suit Silvan sprayer. \$1,500. Ph: 07 41340206.

### Wanted

Rack and turn table gear or complete turn table for Toft6000 elevator. Ph: 0408665955.

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

### 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 and Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine regions. Contact James on 0429621145.

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

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

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

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

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

## Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jun 2021)	Month to date (1 Jul-27 Jul)	Year to date	Jan-Jul
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	69.2	91	2313.2	2284.2
Mareeba Airport	1.4	3.6	790.4	668
Cairns Aero	40.6	54.4	2230	1629.3
Mt Sophia	152	112.6	3204.6	2674.4
Babinda Post Office	265.8	138.5	3402.6	3403.7
Innisfail	143.2	183.8	3029.4	2838.4
Tully Sugar Mill	284.5	197.4	4214.7	3295.7
Cardwell Marine Pde	34.3	28.4	2090	1686.6
Lucinda Township	67.4	84.4	1781.4	1717.8
Ingham Composite	38	86.3	2964.1	1664.8
Abergowrie Alert	51	34	1520	1145.7
Townsville Aero	12.2	5.4	872.2	898.8
Ayr DPI Research Stn	14.4	3.2	877.6	739.4
Proserpine Airport	14.4	8.2	863.2	1105.9
Mirani Mary Street	63.8	3	689.3	1110.1
Mackay MO	32	4.8	918.4	1221.6
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	26	0	438	1330.9
Bundaberg Aero	39.4	67	343.6	643.2
Childers South	47.8	84.6	432	546.4
Maryborough	49	50.4	530.8	772.1
Tewantin RSL Park	83.2	50.6	1032.2	1071.9
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	60.9	74.8	950.7	1177.3
Nambour DPI - Hillside	59	71.4	929.2	1223.8
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	34.3	52.2	901.2	712.3
Murwillumbah Bray Park	34.8	103.5	1255.6	1098.8
Ballina Airport	52.2	100	1328.8	1237.6
New Italy (Woodburn)	27.2	75.2	1136.7	916.4



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.



## 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 YOY 070 XCS**

**987 LWI 029 SWX**

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
- ✓ Check the next issue for your number plate

If yours is listed, contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim a prize **07 3864 6444**

[info@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:info@canegrowers.com.au)

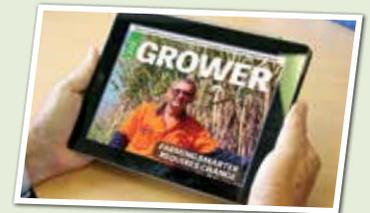
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## BUYERS BEWARE

Buyers please be aware of scam emails when buying online. Scammers may try to intercept emails between genuine buyers and sellers by sending the buyer a fake invoice with different account details for the payment. Buyers should check with the seller by phone for accurate account details before making payment.

## Want to sweeten your sugar profits?



**CANEGROWERS**  
MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE



**Information & education**  
Workshops, videos and newsletter updates



**Expert insight**  
Price and production forecasting



**Independent service**  
Does not favour one marketer over another

### Sugar Market Updates now available

CANEGROWERS members can use their member number to access exclusive monthly video market updates and supporting documents online now. Visit: [www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service)

# 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**