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**CONTENTS IMAGE:** Zenan Reinaudo recently became CANEGROWERS Herbert River's first-ever female board director. Now she wants to encourage more women to take on leadership roles. Read more on page 24.



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## Fall armyworm detected in the Burdekin

After almost two years munching its way through Australia's corn and maize crops, the ferocious fall armyworm (FAW) set its sights on something a little sweeter last month, with the exotic pest detected in a small block of cane in the Burdekin region.

"The block where the FAW was detected is young late plant cane and had a high level of grass weeds present in the block, these grass weeds have been controlled, and it is suspected that the population of FAW has subsequently moved to the remaining grass in the block, which is the sugarcane crop," Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS) said in a social media post.

"There is less than one FAW per stool, and damage is minimal, so there is no requirement to spray or control the fall armyworm at this stage. It is worth noting that there were crops of corn and sorghum in the near vicinity of this affected block. BPS staff and SRA entomologists will continue to monitor the situation and provide advice if the situation changes.

"Neighbouring blocks have not had FAW detected in them. Growers are encouraged to remain observant and contact their local advisor if there are any concerns.



"Previous detections of FAW in sugarcane (Atherton Tablelands) has resulted in minimal damage to the crop at the time, and no control operations were required. More information about FAW is available on the SRA website." Visit [sugarresearch.com.au/pest/fall-armyworm/](http://sugarresearch.com.au/pest/fall-armyworm/) ■



*Pictured: Fall armyworm found in the Burdekin on young plant cane. Photo by Jasmine Connolly (Burdekin Productivity Services).*

## AgDay photo comp

Photographers of all levels of expertise are encouraged to capture Australians at work in agriculture to celebrate the theme of this year's National Agriculture Day, Friday 19 November.

The AgDay #AgVenture Photo Competition is a joint initiative of the National Farmers' Federation and Syngenta Australia and entries are now open.

"As they say, a picture tells a thousand words and we're excited to see in photo form, examples of Australians enjoying careers in agriculture," NFF President Fiona Simson said.

"So much of agriculture lends itself to great pics: whether it's the rough and tumble of the cattle yards, a harvest team about to do its thing in a bumper wheat crop, or the exacting work of a plant breeding laboratory."

Submit your AgDay #AgVenture Photo Competition entry at [www.agday.org.au/2021-photo-competition](http://www.agday.org.au/2021-photo-competition) entries close at 5pm on 19 November. Winning entries will be announced the following week. ■

## STL elections

Congratulations to Cairns Region grower Stephen Calcagno (left) on being re-elected to the Sugar Terminals Limited board in recent elections, and to newly elected grower director, Mackay's Tony Bartolo (right). Pictured here with STL Chairman Mark Gray. ■



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# WTO decision speculation

Trade umpire expected to rule against India in export subsidies dispute.

As this month's magazine went to print, there were unconfirmed reports that the WTO Panel hearing Australia's case against Indian export subsidies had made its determination.

While government officials would not confirm if Australia had received an advance copy of the Panel's decision, overseas news outlets were already reporting a victory for Australia, Brazil and Guatemala in their joint case against the India's price-wreaking policies.

As early as mid-October, Brazil's largest financial newspaper, *Valor Economico*, was reporting the Panel had ruled against India.

In a 13 October article, headlined *Brazil wins WTO dispute over India's sugar subsidies*, journalist Assis Moreira wrote that the Panel's decision had already been presented to all parties.

*'Brazil scored an end-to-end victory against India in the World Trade Organization sugar dispute ... The final decision of the panelists has already been sent to the (co-complainants) and is expected to be announced by the global entity by the end of this month ... The WTO's decision in this dispute should signal that India will need to amend its legislation on export subsidies and domestic support for sugar.'*

The Brazilian news report came on the back of an earlier report in the Indian media that suggested the Indian Government had accepted it was unlikely to win the case.

On 17 September, Indian financial daily newspaper *Mint* quoted an unnamed Indian government official as saying:

*"There is not much hope of us winning the case. But we have the option of going for an appeal and the case may linger on as there is no appellate body at present."*

In the online article, headlined *Sugar subsidy dispute may leave India with bitter taste*, *Mint* also claimed the Indian Government had tried, unsuccessfully, to delay the WTO proceedings.

*India sought to delay proceedings at the panel citing supervening circumstances*

*because of the pandemic, as a result of which physical meetings could not be held.*

*"Our stated position is that there has to be physical meeting because it is impacting our due process. Due to covid-19, managing inter-ministerial consultation is also a major challenge. We presented all those facts before the panel, but the panel insisted on virtual meetings because the other parties wanted it," the official said.*

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said that while growers looked forward to the Panel's announcement, they wouldn't start celebrating prematurely.

"We're hopeful of positive result, but we'll wait until the WTO Panel announces its decision before we start popping the champagne," Mr Schembri said.

"From the very beginning we've been confident that once the Panel was in possession of all the facts, they would have no option but to rule against India's market-distorting policies."

Domestic price supports in India that led to over production of sugar, and subsequent government payments to assist mills to export that excess sugar, had the effect of suppressing the world sugar price, Mr Schembri said.

It was these price-wreaking policies, which cost the Australian industry over \$1 billion in lost revenue over four years, that prompted the Australian Government to take action against India at the WTO.

"Whatever the outcome in Geneva, I'd like to thank the Australian Government for pursuing this case so doggedly on behalf of the sugar industry," Mr Schembri said.

"Of course, if the Panel does rule against India, the Indian Government will have the right to appeal that decision. Given the current absence of an appellate body at the WTO, an appeal could draw out proceeding for years.

"We would call on India, the government and the industry, to instead work together to comply with any WTO rulings and bring its activities back into line with international trade rules," Mr Schembri said. ■

*"From the very beginning we've been confident that... the Panel would have no option but to rule against India's market-distorting policies."*

# CODE SECURED

Government rules out changes to industry Code of Conduct, says further reviews unnecessary

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to maintain the sugar industry Code of Conduct as is, saying it provides a back-up for hard-won choice in marketing arrangements and future-proofs members from protracted disputes with millers.

Milling companies had been pushing the government to implement a number of changes identified by a previous review in 2018.

However, a recent post-implementation review conducted by the Australian Government concluded that the Code provided a net benefit to the industry.

As a result, the government has clarified its position and confirmed that no further reviews or amendments will be required.

In a letter to CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** outlining the government's position, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia **David Littleproud** said the decision to rule out future reviews of the Sugar Code would allow the industry to move forward and focus on growth and innovation.

"The government is acting on your concerns that amendments were unnecessary," Minister Littleproud said.

"Removing the requirement for a further review will allow the code to remain in force unchanged. This will allow both cane growers and sugar millers to maintain their focus on growth, innovation and investment.

"I would also like to thank CANEGROWERS for its constructive engagement with the Post-Implementation Review of the Sugar Code and advise that this review will soon be finalised."

Mr Schembri said the government's strong support of the Sugar Code would give growers security and confidence in the industry's future.

"The government's decision not to amend the Code and to rule out any future reviews is a win for growers and will only increase confidence within the industry," Mr Schembri said.

"The federal Code was instituted in April 2017 to ensure that growers would be protected should state legislation guaranteeing choice in marketing ever be repealed.

"Thankfully that hasn't happened, but there is no guarantee it won't happen at some future date, so having this Code of Conduct in place provides a fall-back mechanism in situations where commercial agreements which respect growers' freedom of choice can't be reached.

"I'd like to thank the government, and Minister Littleproud in particular for his open and honest engagement on this issue. This is an important issue for sugarcane farmers and the communities they support. Those growers and communities have a little more security today because of the minister's decision." ■



*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri with Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen. Mr Christensen was instrumental in getting the Code passed by parliament in 2017.*

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# Growers set to drive sugar industry forward

Work to secure the Australian sugarcane industry's future has been given a major boost with the confirmation last month that CANEGROWERS and other industry peak bodies would partner with the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) to develop the first whole-of-industry shared vision and roadmap to 2040.

CRCNA Chief Executive Officer Anne Stünzner said the roadmap will identify the future forces likely to impact the industry, establish agreed priorities and provide insight into the skills, resources, innovation, and infrastructure needed for future success.

"For more than 100 years, the sugarcane industry has been a major economic and social contributor to regional communities across Queensland and northern New South Wales and has demonstrated a thirst for innovation and new technology," Ms Stünzner said.

"While the industry faces economic, environmental and social challenges, there is significant opportunity to expand to become a multi-product, 'sugar plus' industry with potential for alternate markets such as biofuels and bioplastics."

CANEGROWERS, Sugar Research Australia, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, and the Australian Cane Farmers Association are backing the initiative, with funding also provided by CRCNA and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri welcomed announcement of CRCNA's participation and the additional funding, saying it would help develop a strategy to secure the industry's future.

"Almost a year ago industry leaders came together – growers, millers and researchers – and agreed on the need to work

together on a strategy to take us to 2040 and beyond," Mr Schembri said.

"Now with the confirmation of support from the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia, this goal can move forward as we work with organisations across the Australian supply chain to give this vision some clarity and action."

Representing the majority of cane growers along Australia's east coast, CANEGROWERS is proud to play a significant part in the first whole-of-industry process for a shared Sugarcane Industry Roadmap, Mr Schembri said.

"It is important that grower voices are heard at every step of the way as this project progresses because growers are the foundation of the Australian sugar industry, without us it would not exist."

"We take our responsibility to the regional communities which rely on the sugar industry seriously and we have confidence in the future and the ability of growers to adapt and innovate, as they have done continuously over the 100-year history of our industry."

"Of course, we cannot do it alone and that is why working with the milling sector and our researchers along with enabling policy from governments is so important. While producing raw sugar for export may always be a key part of our industry, the time is right to take stock, work collaboratively and map the priorities that will take us forward." ■



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# SUGARCANE GROWERS TAKE SAFETY SERIOUSLY

As part of National Safe Work Month, the new *CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Guide for sugarcane farms* was launched at Isis grower **Jeffrey Plath's** Farnsfield farm in October.

The WHS Guide is designed to help growers assess their businesses and remain compliant with WHS legislation.

"Rural industry has a high rate of workplace accidents in Australia, so safety needs to be an integral part of farming operations," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"Growers are busy, frequently juggling loads of different and occasionally dangerous activities. The very nature of growing sugarcane uses heavy machinery and equipment, creating inherently risky situations.

"Every business owner knows the importance of safety, but it can be hard to find the time to do the checks or keep the records effectively, instead relying on their personal experience and knowledge."

Growers like CANEGROWERS Isis Deputy Chair Peter McLennan and Jeffrey Plath are committed to on farm safety but say it can be overwhelming to know where to start.

"The game's evolving all the time," Peter said.

"And the way we farm is evolving. This guide provides a great tool, it's a one-stop shop for growers."

With a suite of user-friendly checklists, registers and forms, the guide is designed specifically for growers, to not only raise awareness but also to help understand the legislative requirements of the *Qld Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*.

CANEGROWERS engaged James Cook University experts to develop the guide as a practical resource. The guide is divided into useable sections, unique to the business of growing sugarcane and providing the ability to keep documentation handy in a digital or hard copy as the individual grower prefers.

"Safety is on every farmer's mind," Jeffrey said.

"Farming is a risky business and we all strive to have a safe working environment.

"It's of paramount importance as far as I'm concerned. This document will provide the framework for what we need to do to comply with our legal obligations."

By implementing WHS measures growers can reduce potential risks, and revise and manage farming practices to avoid workplace incidents.

"All of this means less downtime and therefore less expense in the long term for the grower but most importantly, it means a safer working environment," Dan Galligan said.

"In the end, many of our workplaces are also family homes. The people who work and live on our farms are our most valuable resource and part of our community."

CANEGROWERS is committed to supporting growers to do all they can to ensure the safety of workers and families. ■



*"Farming is a risky business and we strive to have a safe working environment"*



*Pictured: Jeffrey Plath, Dan Galligan and Peter McLennan discuss WHS practices on Jeffrey's Farnsfield farm. Photo credit - Joanne Hall.*

*The CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farmers can be found on the members resource page of the CANEGROWERS website. Use your phone to scan the QR code, above, to log in and access the Guide.*

## Harvester incident leaves Burdekin residents in the dark

More than 3,000 people were left without electricity when a cane harvester brought down high-voltage powerlines in the Burdekin last month.

"Thankfully the harvester operator wasn't injured but fallen powerlines are a life-threatening hazard, anyone involved in an incident that brings down powerlines should STAY in the vehicle, CALL 000 and WAIT for help," Ergon Energy's Community Safety Manager Aaron Smith said.

After a spate of incidents involving vehicles and machinery across Queensland, Ergon Energy Network has developed some lifesaving tools – the *Lookupandlive.com* mobile app and spinning powerline markers (rotamarkers).

Mr Smith said it was a powerful combination to reduce incidents in high-risk industries.

"Contacting a powerline can be deadly, cause serious injuries and damage or destroy machinery, so we are continually working with industries like agriculture and aviation to improve safety.

"After 259 incidents involving contact with overhead powerlines in the last year, we are encouraging more people to download the free *lookupandlive.com* app, which pinpoints the location of 1.7 million poles and 178,000 kilometres of wires across Queensland.

"Considering the location of electrical infrastructure was critical when planning planting, spraying, using grain augers, crop dusting, irrigating and harvesting," Mr Smith said.

"The *lookupandlive.com* app helps you plan safe work near the electricity network with access to interactive geospatial maps, powerline safety advice tailored to your site and guidelines, including exclusion zones.

"It will help you decide which control measures are needed to protect you and your mates on site, from safety observers and physical barriers to requesting a planned power outage or ordering rotamarkers. "

CANEGROWERS members can access a 50% rebate on the cost of rotamarkers, the discount applies to up to 10 rotamarkers for each farm. For more information <https://www.qff.org.au/media-releases/rotamarker-rebate-improve-farm-safety/>. ■



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# CEO COMMENT

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By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

## ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE

It was way back in 1992 that global leaders gathered at the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro and established an international treaty to combat 'dangerous human interference with the climate system.' Almost three decades later, world leaders are still grappling with the thorny issue of tackling climate change.

More than 200 leaders and an estimated 36,000 delegates are reported to have attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) meeting in Glasgow this month.

The gathering was hailed as the most important climate meeting since Paris 2015 – where signatories agreed to keep global warming below 2 degrees.

The goal of COP26 was more ambitious – an agreement to keep any temperature rise to just 1.5 degrees.

For that intent to be realised, countries will need to focus not only on achieving net-zero by 2050, but on the steps they'll take along that path to reach an interim target by 2030.

In this regard, Australia has been tracking fairly well. We have a national target of a 26-28% reduction by 2030 (set by former Prime Minister **Tony Abbott**), but we're actually on track to see a 35% reduction.

For all the politics and posturing associated with the science of climate change, and even more so the associated targets to mitigate its impacts, the economic impact of global commitments is really where most of us will notice the change first.

Few occupations in the world could be more attuned to managing climate change than farmers. It is a bread and butter issue for all of us in agriculture.

The emissions reduction targets being hammered out by governments across the world will shift the economic goal posts and, over the short to medium term, will deliver more disruptions than the long-term trends in climate variability.

For 15 years, Australian governments have struggled with climate policy. With our industries entirely trade exposed and large portions of our economy reliant on traditional energy and the mining sector, it's no wonder the road has been long and difficult.

But while the national debate has raged, the States and Territories have mostly gone their own way. Queensland set a net zero by 2050 emissions target back in 2017. This aligned us with the ACT, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, each of which have also committed to the same goal.

We cannot spend any more time debating what path we should be on – we are already on it.

Industries such as ours need to be prepared, to understand our exposure, protect the existing rights of growers, and wherever possible deliver some advantages out of what will be a major shift in investment priorities for business and government.

For CANEGROWERS and the Australian sugar industry this is not a new topic. Back in 2007, SRA conducted the first industry Life Cycle Analysis. A body of research that looks to track and measure the carbon emissions from every step of our supply chain.

Working with industry last year, SRA recommissioned this work and a new study is currently underway. When completed in 2022, it will give us the critical data to show how emissions intensive our production systems are and, in so doing, shine a light on to the opportunities that a natural converter of energy like cane production can deliver in carbon capture.

As countries and companies scramble to meet their emissions targets, they will look for partners to build technology or offset their emissions through trading carbon credits.

In theory, farmers have an opportunity to play important role in this process. Being at the table is important. But making sure you have the knowledge and skills to negotiate a good outcome is the perhaps the only way to ensure you're not on the menu. ■





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## Real-time water quality monitoring data for growers

A local scale water quality monitoring project that provides meaningful and timely data to growers in the Tully and Johnstone catchments will get a \$3million boost.

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon announced the \$3 million cash injection in Cairns last month. The funding, part of the government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, will see water quality monitoring undertaken over the past four years as part of the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP), continue at 25 locations.

Minister Scanlon said the two biggest threats to the reef are water pollution and climate change.

"The government has already invested \$15 million in this MIP and due to its success and job creation for the local community we are pledging this additional funding," Minister Scanlon said.

The project has achieved unprecedented buy-in from the local community on water quality issues bringing together CANEGROWERS Tully and Innisfail, Australian Banana Growers, farmers, scientists, industry experts and Traditional Owners, with 80% of local farmers having already taken part in the project.

*Continues next page* ►



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The grassroots, farmer-led monitoring program is answering growers' questions around water quality by directly sharing relevant nutrient, sediment and pesticide data from local catchments.

"Growers value and appreciate high quality local data that's provided within useful timeframes. The local-scale monitoring of streams, paddock run-off and ground water enables us to build understanding about pollutant loss pathways and helps growers make informed paddock management decisions," said MIP Water Quality Project Leader, Alicia Buckle.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Grower Services Manager Deb Telford said the monitoring program had a huge impact in the district.

"To stop the momentum of this project would have been disappointing. This announcement is exciting and is a positive step forward for the next three years.

"Grower engagement for this project has been encouraging and successful, we've had growers say we should have had this 10 years ago." ■

*Emma-Lee Harper, pictured on the opposite page, checking on a Paddock Monitoring platform and MIP staff at a water sampling site; pictured (L-R) Shai Ivey (Mamu), Emma-Lee Harper and Romain Kobel (MIP). Photo credit: Terrain Natural Resource Management.*



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# FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The operating environment that the Australian Sugar Industry operates in today has changes markedly. When I was elected to the Farleigh CANEGROWERS Committee in 1983, the industry was highly regulated. In 1983, there was little if any environmental scrutiny and our sugar was sold at a regulated domestic price and via long term contracts.

How things have changed!

We are now highly exposed to the world price and we are constantly having to prove our environmental credentials.

Today the world sugar price is critical to our profitability, we are face scrutiny of our environmental practices and our farm practices are subject to regulation.

These factors have compelled the industry leadership to come together to begin to formulate a strategy to ensure the economic and social sustainability of the Australian sugar industry.

Last year, the boards of CANEGROWERS, the Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA), the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC), and Sugar Research Australia (SRA) started meeting on a regular basis to plan for our collective future.

Part of this process is identifying threats and barriers to our future development, while also acknowledging the opportunities that might lie ahead.

It is important to stress that going forward, the production of sugar will always be the mainstay of our economic engine.

The potential of new opportunities with biofutures and bioenergy, bioplastics, and pharmaceuticals, has long been recognised and they are coming closer to being a reality.

The Industry Roadmap process will be an opportunity to test the business case for these opportunities.

More than anything else, the real opportunity in this strategy planning process lies in the potential for the industry to organise itself and apply resources to manage some of the larger challenges that we face - around the environment and sugar in the diet.

The funding for this industry planning work has been provided by the Co-Operative Research Centre for Northern Australia with the state and federal governments also acting as partners.

History has always shown that the support of government is usually guaranteed when an industry can create a single vision. So, we must take this opportunity to create one for our industry.

Of course, there are many stakeholders and representative groups involved in this process. Some have even suggested there are too many growers and milling representative bodies to achieve consensus.

However, with an industry that operates along 2000 km, regional diversity has always been a feature of our operations.

Even with this diversity and the many representative organisations involved, I am confident that we can come together and formulate a strategy for the future.

It would be ill-advised to suggest that this process will come up with any magical silver bullets to overcome all of our problems and challenges.

But the fact that the industry is discussing our collective future is itself a huge positive step for our industry.

Sometimes the most important step is the first step - and we have taken it together.

## SRA

Sugar Research Australia's recent Annual General Meeting was significant in that long-serving industry stalwart Dr Ron Swindells retired as Chairman of the research organisation.

Ron is well known in the industry and has served in many capacities, not least as CEO of Mackay Sugar and Chairman of the Sugar Research Institute, amongst many other roles.

I take this opportunity to farewell Ron, but more importantly to thank him for his dedicated service to the industry and for guiding SRA in recent years.

The measure of someone is their capacity to lead organisations, not only through the good times but also to apply a steady hand in the difficult times. Ron Swindells did that in spades.

CANEGROWERS now welcomes Rowena McNally as the incoming Chair of SRA.

Rowena has a long association with the Queensland sugar industry, having spent several years as the Sugar Industry Commissioner and Chair of the Sugar Authority, as well as various roles with Queensland Sugar Corporation. I am confident she will make an important contribution to SRA.

Research and development is a critical factor in maintaining our international competitiveness. ■

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HS-EHD210S2	EHD 210	yes	2.10m	85-unlimited*	Included
HS-EHD240S2	EHD 240	yes	2.40m	100-unlimited*	Included

\* HP rating unlimited at 540rpm PTO speed when friction clutch is correctly adjusted.

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HS-EHD210ES2

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INC 2 WHEELS

#### Specifications

Product Code	Model	OH&S Compliant	Cutting Width	Tractor HP	Rear Wheels
HS-EHD180ES2	EHD 180E	Yes	1.80m	70-150	Optional
HS-EHD210ES2	EHD 210E	Yes	2.10m	85-150	Included
HS-EHD300ES2	EHD 300E	Yes	2.97m	100-160	Included

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# Empowering choice

Four months on from Ergon's decision to pull the plug on traditional irrigation tariffs, many growers are finding a little bit of research can lead to big savings on their quarterly power bill.

On 1 July 2021, Ergon discontinued T62, T65 and T66 - tariffs long favoured by irrigators for pumping water to their crops. These were replaced by new set of transitional tariffs - T62A, T65A and T66A.

However, with peak usage and fixed charges between 12% and 32% higher, growers faced the prospect of significantly higher power bills.

In an acknowledgement of the burden being placed on irrigators and regional businesses, the Queensland Government introduced the Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme (ETAS), which caps price rises at \$500.

Unfortunately, the ETAS is only a band aid solution, with the rebate amount decreasing annually over nine years, meaning irrigators will eventually bear the full brunt of Ergon's price hike.

Rather than sit back and watch their power bills rise year-on-year, growers like Burdekin irrigator Joe Linton are taking matters into their own hands, researching the best tariff to suit their individual business needs.

After weeks of research and with the help of a local consultant and the CANEGROWERS online Electricity Tariff Selection Tool, Joe switched to Tariff 33, a decision he estimates will save him almost \$7000 over 12-months.

"Tariff 33 has the restriction that they only guarantee you 18 hours of power a day. In saying that it could be on 24/7, but if Ergon needs to load-share, 33 is the first that they will turn off," Joe said.

*"The tariff itself is a very cheap. They give it to you cheap because they have the ability to switch it off."*

"It's really the hot water tariff that everybody gets, and most people are aware that it turns off pretty regularly. But what we've discovered is they actually have three relays on that tariff that they can turn off separately. The first one is Tariff 33 hot water, then they have air-conditioning, and the final one is Tariff 33 other, and that's we're on."

While Joe concedes that switching to a controlled load tariff might not be an option for everyone, he believes for many growers the potential cost savings could trump the inconvenience of an interrupted supply.

"Because we furrow irrigate in the Burdekin and we work on sets - the time it takes for the water to get from the top end to the bottom end of the paddock - controlled load can be an issue.

"Under Tariff 33, if there's an outage, the water could be three-quarters of the way down when the power switches off. Then you have to physically go out and start it again.

"That can be an issue, especially depending on the time of the day. A lot of people start irrigating late afternoon so they can let it run through the night. In that situation you can be home in bed, and you wouldn't know the pumps have cut out until you get up in the morning and realise the water hasn't come through.

"That can happen anyway if you get a power flick or someone's hit a power pole or something, but it's obviously more likely to happen on this tariff.

"But the tariff itself is a very cheap and they give it to you cheap because they have the ability to switch it off."

Power outages are less of a problem on Joe's 129 hectare cane farm, with 58.8 hectares under an automated trickle irrigation system.





***“Farmers need to not be not complacent ... once they’re a bit more informed they’ll start to realise the differences in value from one tariff to another.”***

*Pictured: After researching the different tariff options available to him, Burdekin irrigator Joe Linton estimates he will save over \$6,500 per year by switching to Tariff 33.*

Despite this, he’s pressing Ergon to introduce an alert system to notify customers when their power supply has been interrupted.

“I don’t actually know if the power has been cut off in the time we’ve been on Tariff 33 to be honest, because the system we have it on is a trickle system and it’s fully automated, so it’s been programmed to cover that.

“If the power has been flicked off during the process, the computer will restart the pump and just continued the cycle to ensure the crop is getting the water it needs,” he said.

“Still, I have put in a fairly strong request into Ergon to provide an SMS or an email to notify the tariff holders when the tariff has been turned off and when it’s been turned back on again.

“They’ve indicated that they will do it, but they haven’t put it as a high priority at this stage.”

Of more concern to many growers will be the requirement to upgrade their meter box, Joe says.

“Tariff 33 is what they call a secondary tariff, and you must have a primary tariff at your site. It’s like your house essentially, you have a primary tariff and then 33 for your hot water, so you must have two meters in your box.

“That’s maybe an issue for some growers because their meter box may not have the capacity to take two meters and may need to be upgraded.

“That means engaging an electrician, putting a new meter in and having the cost of upgrading the system.

“That’s obviously a hindrance, but in the scheme of things you need to work out if the cost involved will be less than the savings you’ll achieve.

“In my case, based on the last 12 months of kilowatt hours used, I am going to save over \$6600 in one year by switching from Tariff 20, which is the default tariff I was put onto, to Tariff 33.

“Tariff 20 is 22.551c/kWh whereas 33 is just 14.313c/kWh, both ex-GST. That 9c makes a huge difference over the course of a year.

“So even if you do have to spend a few thousand upgrading your meter box, which is a real concern for some people, chances are you will be able to breakeven very quickly. After that it’s all savings.”

While encouraging his fellow irrigators to consider switching tariffs, Joe says growers need to do their own research to ensure the tariff they’re selecting is in fact the best option for their circumstances.

*Continues next page ►*

"Before you make any switch you need to run the numbers and do the comparisons," he said.

"Do your research and, if you need to, get a consultant in to help you out. Marry all the information together and then make a decision once you have some knowledge, because if you just sit back and let Ergon dictate what you get, you're probably going to be worse off."

He also had a word of warning about relying too heavily on Ergon's call centre for advice on what you can and can't do in terms of tariffs and incorporating on-farm solar systems.

"The one thing that I've noticed is the inconsistency of the information from Ergon," he said. "That is probably one of the biggest problems. You call them up to get some information and one day you'll get told one thing and another day you'll be told something completely different.

"The end result will be that farmers will need to not be complacent. Actually get off their backsides and go and check it out for themselves, because once they're a bit more informed they'll start to realise the differences in value from one tariff to another."



CANEGROWERS has developed a new online Electricity Tariff Selection Tool to help members choose which tariff best suits their individual business needs.

The spreadsheet tool allows growers to enter their monthly and annual electricity usage details, as well as pump capacity, to automatically determine the best tariff for their farm.

There is also a factsheet explaining the Queensland Competition Authority's 2021-22 Electricity Price Determination

and the changes to Ergon's tariff structure.

Members can visit the Member Resources section of the CANEGROWERS website for access to a range of resources and tools, including the Electricity Tariff Selection Tool.

If you have any questions or need assistance accessing or using the tool, please contact your local CANEGROWERS district office. ■

## THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY AG LIME ON YOUR SOIL

Neutralising value and particle size are the key indicators of quality Ag lime and is a requirement for your soil, not only for fertilizer to be effective, but also promote a high yield from your crop. Ag lime with a higher neutralising value will assist treating acidic soil, while Ag lime with a greater proportion of fine particles will increase soil pH. The key is finding Ag lime with a high neutralising value, which means you will need to apply less of the product to achieve a balanced result. Therefore, saving you money!

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## Mackay is a sweet spot for innovative technology

World-leading technology is helping propel Mackay's sugarcane industry into the limelight. Mercurius Australia, supported by the Queensland Government's Jobs and Regional Growth fund, will use their patented REACH™ (Renewable Acid hydrolysis Condensation Hydrotreating) technology to convert a range of biomass feed stocks, including sugarcane bagasse, into 'drop-in' fuels that can be tailored for use as jet fuel or diesel, as well as bio-based plastics.

The pilot project will commence operations at the Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Biocommodities Facility in Mackay and will be fully operational for a three-month period.

Representatives from QUT will work alongside Mercurius to examine the technology and by-products to explore the feasibility of commercialisation.

"Queensland was the best location for us to run this pilot plant and we hope to see success so we can move forward with plans for a larger demonstration plant," Mercurius CEO and Technology Development Director **Karl Seck** said.

"The potential broader economic and environmental benefits derived from our REACH™ technology is significant for both the region and the low carbon intensity biofuel industry and we are excited to get started."

QUT project leader **Dr Darryn Rackemann** welcomed the progress on the pilot project.

"This is transformative technology and to be part of the pilot process is fantastic," Dr Rackemann said.

"QUT will be looking into the commercial opportunities from the REACH™ technology, which could lead to producing renewable fuels and chemicals in Queensland, creating new jobs and opportunities for regional communities."

What do innovations and new technology applications mean for growers' futures? The exact quantification of pilots like Mercurius' biorefinery plant, just one of several companies exploring biofutures options, may not be immediately known, but the potential is encouraging.

"I have been sugarcane farming for 40 years and right from my early days in the industry there has been an undercurrent of a need for the industry to diversify," CANEGROWERS Mackay

Chairman **Kevin Borg** said. "The difference today is that the technology has advanced significantly.

"CANEGROWERS Mackay has been part of the Biofutures Leaders Group here in Mackay and we're pleased to see this pilot plant right on our doorstep.

"This is a great initiative that will do well for our industry and by industry I mean millers AND growers. Growers look forward to being part of any value-adding project by way of co-investment and must be included in the value chain." Mr Borg said.

Recently the Energy and Biofutures Roundtable was held in Mackay, where representatives of all levels of government and key industry representatives gathered to create an actionable plan. With the growing attention on lifestyle choices and the increase in industries sourcing ethically and sustainably produced commodities, the timing may just be right for the sugar industry to grab hold of innovative alternatives like Mercurius' jet fuel alternative.

"The challenge we have is with government actions," Mr Borg said. "On the one hand, they want to regulate us to the point where our production and viability could suffer, but then turn around and want to talk big about projects like this one. I feel they can't have it both ways.

"It is my view that these initiatives will be a value-add to sugar production, but sugar will continue to remain the main source of income."

With the world sugar price currently on the up, the industry is in a positive place. The more politicians, researchers and entrepreneurs that become interested in sugarcane's diverse uses, the more the potential of the industry is raised – and that has got to leave a sweet taste in any grower's mouth. ■

# QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 1 November 2021.

## Sugar



- After the Oct21 ICE 11 contract expired at 19.83 USc/lb, the Mar22 contract spent most of October trapped between 19.60 and 20.40 USc/lb as the market awaited fresh news on the final size of the Brazilian crop.
- The much-anticipated UNICA report for the second half of September came in slightly above market expectations for the fortnight but accumulated season figures are still well behind last year. During the two-week reporting period, 35.3 million tonnes of cane were harvested and 2.2 million tonnes of sugar produced, down 12.57% and 21.52% respectively compared to the same period last year. Almost 467 million tonnes of cane have been harvested and over 29 million tonnes of sugar has been produced so far this season. The sugar mix continues to fall away, down to 43.46%, as a larger portion of the remaining cane is used for ethanol production.
- In India, the Indian Sugar Millers Associated stated that they believe consumption is rising towards 27 million tonnes and that exports are likely to be closer to 6 million tonnes compared to 7 million last year. October 25th is the slightly-later-than-usual expected start date for the harvest, with exports of raw sugar not expected to start before December. There has been no further news on the status of an export subsidy.
- **Closely watching:** Final Brazilian crop data, Indian export subsidy news, macroeconomic influences, including COVID-19 and speculator activity.

## Currency



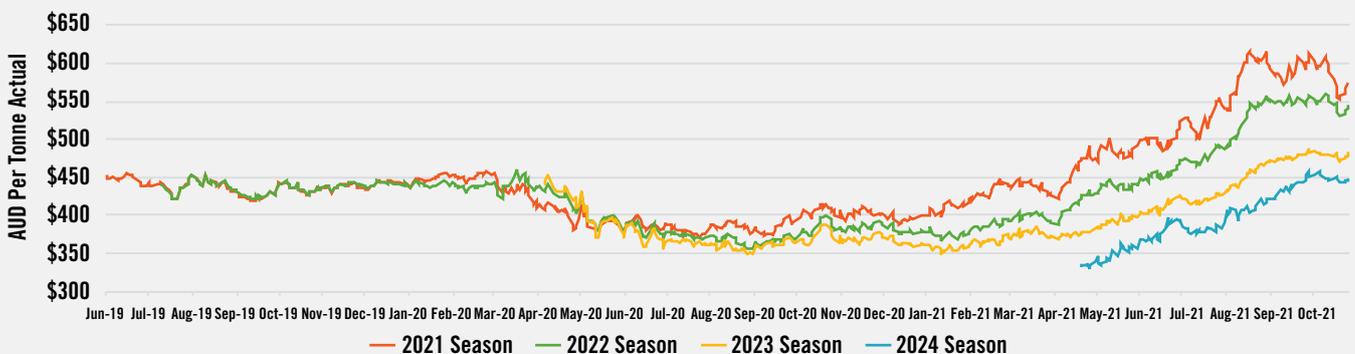
- October was a strong month for the Australian Dollar (AUD) which gained almost 5% since the monthly low of 71.92 US cents on the first day of the month. Support from rising commodities prices as well as market expectations of a Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) interest rate hike in 2024 lead the AUD to highs of 75.46 US cents towards the end of the month.
- The RBA October minutes confirmed they are confident they will not see conditions for a rate hike until 2024, despite the market disagreeing with this view and pricing in a 70 to 80-point hike in 2022.
- The AUD was further boosted by reports China started unloading Australian coal from long-term storage as the energy shortage becomes tight and coal supply depletes. This news comes after China banned imports of Australian coal last year after trade tensions soured.
- Oil markets continued their strong run, with West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil breaking through \$US80 last week for the first time since 2014 after the OPEC+ group agreed to maintain the existing arrangement of increasing production by 400,000 barrels per day starting in November.
- **Risks Ahead:** US inflation and interest rates, RBA commentary, Australian COVID recovery, and the potential Evergrande default.

## KEY INDICATORS

	1/11/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Oct21)	19.25 USc/lb	-0.24 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.64 BRL	+0.34 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US83.36/barrel	+\$US6.11
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	20.07 USc/lb	+1.66 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	158,000 (net long)	-51,000

	1/11/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7511	+\$US0.0216
\$US Index	94.15	+1.06
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.41 CNY	-0.05 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,605.38	+156.40
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 1.11.21, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Seasons.

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

# QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

## Grower Pricing



- > QSL growers continue to lock in high levels of pricing in the 2022 Season, with the 2023 and 2024 seasons also now attracting significant attention.
- > As at 20 October 2021, growers using the QSL Target Price Contract had achieved up to \$560/tonne for the 2022 Season, \$485/t for the 2023 Season and \$455/t in the 2024 Season (all tonnes gross actual).
- > All growers have access to QSL's 'Fill Highlights' on the QSL website. These are regularly updated to show the most recent grower-pricing order fills, what level was achieved and on what date. To access via the website, click on the link in the 'Daily Price' box at the top right-hand corner of the home page at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au). QSL Growers receiving the Daily Price SMS can also access the latest fills by clicking on the blue link at the bottom of each text message. This takes you to the same QSL web page and Fill Highlights table.
- > Keen to get more market news? Then don't miss our weekly market podcast or fortnightly video market updates, available via the QSL Facebook page and QSL App. You can also find our weekly Market Update and Daily Market Snapshot on the QSL website at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au), with QSL Direct growers able to access additional market reporting under the 'Market Reports' section of their QSL Direct accounts.

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 1.11.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## Are speculators driving sugar prices?

Sugar speculators are sophisticated investors that buy and sell sugar futures contracts, contributing to the liquidity of the sugar market. They are not interested in taking the physical sugar as a product, instead they typically hold futures contracts in the short term in order to profit from sugar price movements.

The speculators' position is closely monitored by sugar market participants as it has the power to drive prices up or down if speculators decide to either buy or sell a position in the ICE 11 market. If speculators believe that sugar prices are going down, they can start a selloff to avoid losses, dragging prices further down, or inversely, if they believe that sugar prices are going up, they may start to buy sugar, pulling prices up further.

For the past six weeks the sugar market has been stuck trading sideways in a 19.50 to 20.30 USc/lb range. Speculators sat patiently holding their position just above 200,000 lots net long and when they decided to leave the sugar market, prices broke the range on the downside. With a lack of fresh fundamental news from Centre South Brazil, speculators likely became uninterested in the stable ICE 11 market and moved their

investments into other markets, chasing more volatility and higher returns. You can find regular updates on the position of speculators in QSL's Weekly Market Update.

## NET SPEC POSITION VS. ICE 11 SPOT PRICE



Current as of 1 November 2021

# KEEPING IT CLEAN THROUGH A VIGILANT APPROACH

Republished with permission from Sugar Research Australia



The Fasano family at Mossman have instigated a strict regime when it comes to managing RSD and keeping it off their farm.

Far North Queensland cane grower **Glen Fasano** reckons that there is only one approach to be taken when it comes to ratoon stunting disease – and that is to treat it very seriously.

Glen and his sons Scott and Michael grow about 35,000 tonnes each year in the Mossman district. Together, over the last 10 years, Glen said that they had "gotten serious" about RSD management.

"The research information from SRA is clear – it says yield losses can be between 5 percent to 30 percent, or more," he said.

"At no extra cost, we can chase that gain in production by keeping RSD out of the farm. For us this means we plant using cane that was hot water treated the previous year or one year away from hot water treatment. It is very rare that we are two years away from the hot water tank when using cane for plants."

He also said that they have expanded their leased area over the years as their

business has grown, and in doing so they needed to clean up blocks, which has also prompted them to be especially careful about machinery hygiene.

"We always sterilise before we go into plant cane and first ratoon cane when harvesting. We then 'double-sterilise' if we are coming out of a known RSD block. That means we sterilise, we move the machinery, and then we do it again

"When planting, anywhere moving between varieties, we have a full clean out and sterilise, and that includes not just the harvester, but also the planter and the bins.

"It's not a five-minute job, but it is worth it. When we get our test results back and they are all negative, that's quite rewarding to see."

He added that they also were very wary of the risk that comes with volunteer cane.

*Pictured: Glen Fasano understands the importance of keeping ratoon stunting disease off his farm in the far north Queensland and has implemented some strategic measures.*

*“Keeping on top of RSD is not just about clean cane – but also a clean fallow”*

"Keeping on top of RSD is not just about clean cane – but also a clean fallow. Clean fallow is the first step, and clean seed is the second. Any volunteer plants in there will just spread it right through the block."

He said that having a high level of vigilance for RSD was especially important given it is so hard to see and to truly identify yield losses.

"If a contaminated block goes 85 tonnes per hectare, and you don't know it's contaminated, then that's just what it yields.

"That's why it is important to take all the precautions."

### **FARMING SYSTEM**

The Fasano family have also been making of changes to their farming system in recent years.

This includes widening their row spacing to 1.9 metres and more recently growing peanuts during the fallow.

They are five years into the transition to wider rows from a 1.65m spacing. This change was prompted by a particularly wet harvest in about 2014.

"We had a crop of plant cane on some of our country near the coast and we had a lot of trouble getting in there," Glen said. "Once we did get in, the machinery annihilated it, and I just couldn't see the sense of planting cane and seeing it destroyed like that."

They then started the discussion: 1.8m? 1.9m? Or 2m?

"In the end we measured the harvester, and it is 1.9m, so that is what we went with."

So far, they haven't had a wet harvest like that to really test out the new row spacing, but Glen said that they had seen good results in their wetter country, where the haulouts have cut trenches but their stool was intact.

### **LEGUME FALLOW**

With the peanuts, this change occurred about three years ago, when Scott and Michael Fasano travelled to Gordonvale for a workshop about peanuts run by MSF Sugar through the Project Uplift program.

"We were really just looking for a break crop, but we got very enthusiastic about peanuts and saw that there can be decent financial rewards," he said.

They are now on their third crop of peanuts and said that it remained a learning curve.

One of the first steps they took was to invest in their own equipment. This included purchasing second hand equipment such as planters and harvesting equipment from various parts of the State from nearby on the Atherton Tableland to as far south as Ingham.

"If you had of asked me five years ago if we could grow peanuts in this part of the Wet Tropics, I would have said that you couldn't do it," he said. "But with

controlled traffic, we've managed to spray when we need to spray, and the 1.9m is working well with the peanuts, with the nuts on 800m centres on the beds."

They aim for planting in January, into a fallow block that was harvested reasonably early in the previous year's crush, to give them time to ensure there is time to break up the trash.

They also use an agronomist from Tableland Fertilisers to assist and said "when he says to spray, we spray". ■



# Drive to inspire more female leaders

Since the foundation of Queensland's sugarcane industry, women have played an integral role in the industry's growth and success. From long hours picking rocks or planting cane by hand to days driving modern farm machinery, women have always contributed in the paddocks. Since the beginning too, managing farm records and finances has often fallen to women in family farming businesses.

Yet, despite all of this work, women have been under-represented in leadership roles. Now there's a push to change that with growers like Zenan Reinaudo in the Herbert River district stepping forward.

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BY WAYNE GRIFFIN

In recent years, women have become more visible in the sugarcane industry. There's a growing number of female productivity officers and agronomists, scientists and researchers, all of them working to increase yields and protect crops. Most Smartcane BMP facilitators are also women, and if you walk into any CANEGROWERS office you'll generally be greeted and assisted by a woman. But if you walk a little further, into the boardroom, it's a different story.

In June this year, just three of the 76 grower representatives sitting on

CANEGROWERS district boards were women - less than 4% of elected grower representatives.

That number improved slightly in July, with the appointment of **Zenan Reinaudo** as the first ever female director at CANEGROWERS Herbert River.

The 46-year-old joins an impressive, but short list of women in leadership roles within CANEGROWERS over the years.

There are **Anna Attard** in Bundaberg and **Susan Bengtson** in Isis, along with Rocky Point director **Michelle Fischer**, who is

also a member of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council currently on boards. In the far north, there have been former Mossman director **Liza Giudice** and Tableland's chairwoman **Maryann Salvetti**, both of who now sit on the board of the grower-led Far Northern Milling venture.

Like her peers and predecessors, Zenan hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the challenges facing the industry. First, though, she wants to learn as much as possible about those challenges and the growers she's representing.

Despite marrying into a respected cane-growing family more than 20 years ago, Zenan has only been working in sugarcane for a little over 18 months.

The Reinaudos have a long and proud history within the Herbert River sugarcane community, spanning more than a century.

Today, brothers Michael and Darren are one of the district's largest growers, cutting 150,000 tonnes of cane each year across 2,400 hectares, under the name RFC Agri Services. Eight members of the family work on farm, including Michael's father Nelson, uncle Victor, niece Mikaela, brother-in-law John and nephew Callan.





***"I had no knowledge of farming whatsoever back then. I wasn't even sure where Ingham was."***

*Pictured: Zenan and Michael Reinaudo grow 150,000 tonnes of cane across 2,400 hectares in the Herbert River district; (opposite) the family has produced a book celebrating their long and proud history in the region.*

The wealth of industry knowledge and experience within the family is impressive, but Zenan's background is far from the cane fields of north Queensland.

"I grew up in Hobart, Tasmania, so about as far away from sugarcane as you can get," she said when *Australian Canegrower* visited her office on the original Reinaudo family farm, one of 23 the family owns or leases.

"I met Michael in 1994 when we were both in the Air Force. We joined up on the same day and were there for three years, based in Williamstown. Michael was a chef and I worked in procurement.

"Michael always wanted to come back to work on the family farm at some point. So, when we left the RAAF in '97, I came back with him.

"We got married and we now have three children that were all born and raised here on the farm.

"I had no knowledge of farming whatsoever back then. I wasn't even sure where Ingham was," Zenan joked.

"It was a tremendous culture shock for me, especially as I was still quite young but Michael has a great family and they were really lovely, so I settled in quickly

enough. It's definitely home now and it has been a great place to raise the kids."

With the Air Force behind her and the kids at school, Zenan was ready for a new challenge, and in 2011 she began pursuing a new career in social work.

"After I'd had my children, I felt that I really wanted to go to university, I really had a desire to study and social work was something I was really interested in," she said.

"Being here and having a great family around me, I had the opportunity to do that while the kids were still young. Michael's mum was a very supportive grandma, so I was very lucky. I studied full-time in Townsville, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made."

Straight out of university, Zenan got a job as a case manager in the aged care sector.

"I had a lot of clients that I looked after and it was really enjoyable, but it was also a high stress job," she said.

"There are a lot of factors you have to deal with - not just the clients' needs, but also the needs of their families, the organisation's needs - you've got to work

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*“As someone coming from a completely different field ... I thought maybe I could bring a different perspective.”*

with all of that. But seeing clients achieve their goals made it very rewarding.”

Despite loving social work, after five years in the challenging role, Zenan was ready for a change. This coincided with a major expansion of the cane-growing business, presenting her an opportunity to work on the family farm.

“We’ve undergone significant expansion in the last few years and Michael needed more support in the business, doing a lot of the day-to-day administrative tasks that were just getting too big.

“It was an opportunity for me to completely change what I was doing and join the family business and it enabled him to go off and actually farm.

“I look after a lot of the business and financial side of things, like cane pays, wages, bills, the day-to-day work of keeping the business side running. It’s completely different to what I had been doing, but I really enjoy it.”

Zenan had barely settled into her new role when she was approached earlier this year about a casual vacancy on the CANEGROWERS Herbert River board.

“I was just plugging away here doing my own thing and then a notice came

out that they were looking for another board member. I was approached about it and, after I good hard think about it, I decided that it would be a really good opportunity, so I applied,” she said.

“There was a bunch of reasons for that decision, not least that it would be a huge learning opportunity for me to be in the room and working closely with a group of people who have the wealth of industry knowledge that the board members have.

“But also, to perhaps bring a different lens to some of the issues, as someone coming from a completely different field and not previously having that day-to-day, on-the-ground role in the industry. I thought maybe I could bring a different perspective.

“I think, having worked in different fields, first with the air force and then with the social work, you learn different skills along the way and have different life experiences that can help bring a different perspective.

“The social work skills in particular are transferrable, in terms of communication, working with people, listening to their stories, understanding their concerns.



"I'm really interested in people and issues, and I think the skills that I bring certainly support that.

"As a social worker you learn to work with people, not in conflict with them, and that's what I want to do with cane farmers - work with them to achieve the best outcomes for them and the industry."

Zenan believes she may have one more ace up her sleeve when it comes to being a successful board member.

"Not originally coming from the area or the industry, I think maybe I don't have some of the baggage that can go along with that. And that might be a good thing," she said.

"At the end of the day, we're all working towards the same goal. We want the best outcomes for our farmers, and I really believe in working together to support each other to achieve those goals. That's what I'm about."

Although initially concerned about working in such a male-dominated space, Zenan has found her fellow Herbert River board members very welcoming.

"I was nervous taking on the role. I suppose the fact that I'd be the only

woman on the board played a role in that, but everyone has been welcoming, explaining things to me and giving me the backstories.

"They've all been really supportive," she said.

"I've still got a lot to learn in the role, but I'm really excited about the future and looking forward to working with growers and the different industry bodies.

"I think it's really important that we do work together - all the different industry representative bodies - we don't want to work within silos. We don't want to lose sight of our purpose."

More than anything, Zenan hopes her time on the board will encourage more women to consider taking on leadership positions within the industry.

"There's a lot of women doing great work in the industry, usually behind the scenes, and I just thought that maybe me doing this now might be the encouragement they need to put their hands up for a representative role," she said.

"I'm not an 'out there' person. I'm not one to seek publicity or anything. Even being involved in this article is not something I'm really comfortable with.

"When the opportunity came up, I thought, this is bigger than my personal shyness.

"It's important for the industry moving forward that we have more women taking on leadership roles, and if my story can help some other women step forward, well that's bigger." ■

*Pictured: Women have become more visible in the industry over recent years. (above) Zenan talks nutrient management plans with Farmicist agronomists Heidi Hatch and Claire Bailey; and (below) getting some love from office buddy, Halle.*



# TURNING THE TIDE ON CLEAN SEED UPTAKE

By Jessica Turchet

Plane Creek Smartcane BMP Facilitator



Over several years, Plane Creek Productivity Services (PCPSL) has noticed a downturn in the use of clean seed sources from the region's three whole stick distribution plots.

While many attempts had been made to make clean seed more accessible for growers, all efforts to date had failed to produce the desired results.

Growers acknowledged that the time, labour, and equipment involved in cutting, carting, planting, and multiplying out from whole sticks was a major hinderance to the use of clean seed. Billet distribution had been discussed, but the logistics made it problematic.

With a region that is as geographically elongated and disconnected as Plane Creek, and few growers able to host this scale of operation on their farms, there was no ideal location for a clean seed billet plot.

In 2020, this downward trend landed Plane Creek last among all regions in terms of clean seed use as a proportion of mill area, with approximately 15 tonnes of clean cane going out across the area. This was a title that PCPSL manager **Damian Baxter** was keen to improve on.

"There are three very good reasons why Plane Creek needs a clean seed billet plot," Damian said. "The first reason is to maintain maximum productivity. Clean seed cane is free from sugarcane diseases such as Chlorotic Streak, Leaf

Scald and RSD, to name a few. These diseases alone have the potential for yield losses of up to 40% or more of the infected cane. By planting cane that is free from the risk of disease you are giving your crop the best start.

"Secondly, RSD is arguably one of our biggest threats in Plane Creek. Although it hasn't been detected in the Plane Creek Mill area for several years, it is right on our doorstep and increasingly impacting the mill areas to the north.

"Thirdly, if ever RSD or any other sugarcane disease made its way into the Plane Creek mill area, then a clean seed billet plot is going to go a long way to providing a path to a speedy recovery."

After much planning the billet plot became a reality this year, thanks to the generous support of Koumala grower **Neil Walpole**, who agreed to host the plot on his farm.

Neil assisted PCPSL to plant approximately 1 hectare each of the three major commercial varieties used in Plane Creek - Q208, Q183, Q240 - from clean seed on his farm.

This cane was two years from hot water treatment when planted, thanks to collaboration between PCPSL and the

*"RSD is arguably one of our biggest threats in Plane Creek, it is right on our doorstep and increasingly impacting the mill areas to the north."*

*The Koumala plot, pictured above, boasts a healthy crop of clean seed Q208, Q240, & Q183.*

Mackay Area Productivity Services, who provided the clean plant material.

Neil, who has been a Smartcane BMP accredited farmer of four years, maintains the plot to the same high standards he sets for the rest of his farm, producing a healthy crop of each variety for Plane Creek growers to utilise.

"In my thinking, you need volume in some of your planting, and the other problem is most planting these days is done with a billet planter," Neil said.

"In order to plant with a stick you have to have the equipment, but most farmers have moved past that and so the equipment is gone."

"The population of farmers is getting quite elderly, so you'd prefer not to do these things manually anymore," Neil joked.

"We only planted the three varieties, because most of the other varieties were closer to coming from a clean source than the older varieties, which people had just propagated from their original supply.

"We all realise that we were a long way away from hot water treated, and that is paramount to farm success, having a clean cane source."

When asked why he offered to host the plot Neil was frank.

"There was no problem with letting PCPSL use the block, it was there, it was available, and I just thought that's what you do.

"It was a requirement and a desire of other people around the area, and if we got the problems sorted out this year then it might become more prevalent.

"Time saved is just paramount, it just makes it so easy for the people in the area. I just think it's a good idea".

If there was one thing they could have done better, it would have been to utilise the weigh truck from SRA to distribute the cane further, but that wasn't possible in the end, Neil said.

"If you had that, the system would have been nearly perfect, and you could expand your horizons just a little bit further. If someone from further away could have gotten 4 tonnes to plant out,

then he and his neighbours are set for years, so that was disappointing."

PCPSL manager Damian Baxter was far from disappointed with the results.

"The results have been fantastic, with approximately 183 tonnes of disease-free plant material distributed this year. When looking back on the 15 tonnes taken last year, it really is encouraging".

Looking forward, PCPSL are keen to continue with a diversified approach to clean seed distribution and re-establish clean seed focus groups to engage more growers in the planning.

The challenge now is to find more hosts like Neil, so that growers in the north and south can boost their farm's resilience in bulk as well.

Neil is also encouraging others to put their hand up.

"If my harvester hadn't broken down, it would have been a glorious experience. It doesn't take long to go and fill up someone's bins, it doesn't take much," he said.

Records of Clean Seed purchase and/or Hot Water Treatment are a requirement of Smartcane BMP accreditation. ■

*"The results have been fantastic, with approximately 183 tonnes of disease-free plant material distributed this year. When looking back on the 15 tonnes taken last year, it really is encouraging"*

*Pictured: Q240 was eagerly taken up by Plane Creek growers*



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

 Harvest week - 19

 CCS to date - 12.19

 Tonnes to date - 591,638  
91.73% crushed to date

Mossman Mill has sent out the End of Crushing Notice to growers and contractors, naming Wednesday 3 November 2021 as the expected finish date. After a very rocky start to the crushing, this finish date is much sooner than was expected.

Improved factory performance, easing weather impacts, and a cut to estimate figure of 95%, all played a role in bringing the 2021 crushing back to the 22 weeks mark.

Unfortunately, the impacts of the wetter conditions ended up being felt in the poorer quality of cane and lower CCS readings, especially on the coast.

After 19 weeks of crushing, Mossman Mill had processed 591,638 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.19CCS. Coastal growers have supplied 424,970 tonnes of cane for an average of

11.72CCS, while Tableland growers have supplied a total of 222,735 tonnes of cane for an average of 13.87CCS, with 84,003 tonnes of that toll-crushed by Tableland mill so far.

CANEGROWERS Mossman will once again be involved in organising of the Mossman Christmas Street Party, to be held on Friday 17 December. The manager also renominated for the Douglas Chamber of Commerce Committee at the recent Chamber AGM.

CANEGROWERS had representation at the QFF and Jobs Queensland consultation workshop held in Atherton during October. The consultation process was to seek input and views to help shape the development of the Queensland Agricultural Workforce Plan and set priorities. One interesting

development to come from the workshop was the development of a website <https://farmreadyhub.com> which allows those seeking work to register so agricultural businesses looking for workers have one place to look for a suitable worker. The site also contains a lot of industrial information to assist the employer looking to engage a worker.

A Mossman representative will attend the Wet Tropics Waterways one-day Forum on 4 November at CQU in Cairns. The forum will showcase new and emerging innovations and technologies being used to improve waterway health. The forum's four main topics will be remote sensing, GIS and artificial intelligence; citizen science and behaviour change; water quality, and environmental restoration.

## TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 21

 CCS to date - 14.13

 Tonnes to date - 556,186  
88.28% crushed to date

The past month has been busy and the end of season is in sight.

Tableland Mill has advised that the final day of crushing will be 15 November 2021. As of 24 October, 87% of the crop had been processed. The top performing variety through this mill was Q240 with season CCS of 14.52 and 110.8 tonnes of cane/hectare.

Mossman Mill has end of crush has been set for 3 November 2021. As of 24 October, there was 20,952 tonnes to be harvested for the Mossman suppliers within the Tableland District. The Mill had a total of 53,550 tonnes left to crush.

CANEGROWERS Tableland Administration Officer **Angela Sturgess** recently participated on a panel to interview students for the Agricultural Futures Award run by Business Liaison Association. The high school students interviewed were all amazing and the panel was impressed by the confidence and knowledge these young adults demonstrated.

The directors have represented the interest of growers at several meetings this month. A review of marketing choice held by Synergy, Bargaining Agents meetings, and harvest group meetings.

Angela also attended Queensland Agricultural Industry Workforce Plan. It highlighted how important agriculture is to the economy. Issues and ideas were discussed in relation to finding and retaining a workforce to meet the demands of industry.

The Tableland CANEGROWERS AGM will be held at the Mareeba Leagues Club from 6pm on 18 November 2021. Invitations and supporting documentation will be sent out to all members.

## CAIRNS

 Harvest week -19

 CCS to date - 11.47

 Tonnes to date - 1,054,464  
80.49% crushed to date

The weather has changed to hotter, drier days, although some delays have been experienced in the Babinda area due to rainfall.

The CCS across the region remains very concerning for all stakeholders, in particular the declining CCS in Mulgrave.

Various reviews, papers and projects have failed to assist in any way.

After a consultation process with CANEGROWERS, SRA has designed a project to look at individual growers' data over the past two decades. Around a dozen growers will be involved in the process of benchmarking their

productivity over the period.

This project is still very much in the early stages and we thank these growers for cooperating.

The bean orders are coming in and we remind members if they wish to use the direct drill bean planter, please book your spot before things get too busy.

## INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 18

 CCS to date - 11.50

 Tonnes to date - 960,717  
64.05% crushed to date

CANEGROWERS Innisfail's extension team attended the Cassowary Coast Careers Day where they engaged with 200 students from years 9–12.

The Tully and Johnstone basins welcomed news of a further \$3 million in funding to continue the Local Scale Water Quality Monitoring that was established as part of the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Program.

As in the past, this local scale data will be communicated back to growers at shed meetings.

In October, the Board and staff of CANEGROWERS Innisfail celebrated **Margret Cameron** and her 25 years of service to the cane industry. Margret has been a constant source of support for both growers and the organisation and her contribution is much appreciated.



*Pictured: Queensland Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon in discussions with Terrain NRM CEO Stewart Christie, Water Quality Leader Alicia Buckle and CANEGROWERS Innisfail Grower Services Manager Deb Telford at the recent announcement of \$3 million in funding for local-scale water quality monitoring in the Tully and Johnstone catchments.*

## TULLY

 Harvest week - 19

 CCS to date - 12.68

 Tonnes to date - 1,845,564  
73.82% crushed to date

More than 70% of the 2021 crop is now harvested and crushed, following a number of strong crush weeks and dry weather. Growers have taken advantage of a change in the weather to finalise plantings that had been held up by wet weather. The district had a couple of storms mid-October, and the plant and early ratoons enjoyed

the rain without much disruption to the harvest. The CCS seems to have finished its early run at 12.7 and is being affected by sucker growth as much of the remaining crop is sprawled.

CANEGROWERS Tully will hold its AGM on Thursday 18 November at the Senior Citizens Hall, with QCGO CEO **Dan Galligan** as guest speaker.

Local Industry representatives from CANEGROWERS, Productivity Services and Tully Sugar have progressed several issues that were raised in the SRA Lead Local Expert Analysis and will be making presentations to growers after the season. There are several potential initiatives that can improve productivity and profitability of the Tully Industry.

## HERBERT RIVER

 Harvest week - 19

 CCS to date - 12.69

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

In Week 15, Victoria Mill crushed 138,000 tonnes at a CCS of 12.91. The mill had a maintenance day on Thursday that required dual train stops for a few hours to repair some leaks in injection water. Macknade Mill crushed 61,000 tonnes for the week at a CCS of 12.60. Macknade Mill had an extended maintenance day of 16 hours to repair a leaking front wall header on the boiler. The mill reported that rates after the stop were very good with improved bin weights and cane quality. The mill reported that the Herbert River crop continued to crush under budget and was again revised down from 3.97mt to 3.89mt.

In Week 16, Macknade Mill crushed 71,827 tonnes at a CCS of 12.2.

The mill had a planned stop for four hours to change shredder tips. Victoria Mill crushed 128,645 tonnes of cane for the week at a CCS of 12.98

Herbert River mills had crushed a total of 2.412 Mt, which is approximately 62% of the updated crop estimate.

In Week 17, Victoria Mill crushed 111,000 tonnes for the week at a CCS of 12.86. Macknade mill crushed 68,000 tonnes at a CCS of 13.02.

The mill reported a difficult week with a major breakdown on B 4 cane carrier gearbox. This resulted in B side stopping for over two days, impacting planned maintenance on A side mills. The mill managed to find some parts in Melbourne and had them air freighted

to site. Repairs were made and the mill started crushing again.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River organised a meeting with Wilmar senior management to discuss several items.

In Week 18, Macknade crushed 62,000 tonnes at a CCS of 12.9. Macknade Mill undertook a planned maintenance day during the week. Victoria Mill only crushed 106,000 for the week at a CCS of 13.1.

Victoria Mill sustained a major break down to B1 mill when the trash bar nose plate fell off. This required the stripping, repair and reassembly of the mill which, at the time of writing, was estimated to take 3 to 4 days around the clock.

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# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BURDEKIN

 Harvest week - 20

 CCS to date - 14.41

 Tonnes to date - 6,746,600  
85.94% crushed to date

Crushing for the 2021 season is nearing completion, with the Burdekin on track for a November finish, barring any prolonged stoppages for wet weather and/or mill breakdowns. At the time of writing, the Burdekin had delivered 6,746,600 tonnes of cane, representing 85% of the adjusted estimate of 7,850,000 tonnes (the original estimate of 7,970,000 tonnes was reduced by 120,000 tonnes or 1.5%). The season-to-date CCS of 14.41 has been tracking below budget since the rainfall event at the end of August.

High sugar prices have boosted confidence in the industry, which the Burdekin community will benefit from. When business people are confident, they are willing to take on risk and invest capital back into their businesses and we are seeing this via both orders for new machinery and farm sales.

The availability of seasonal labour remains a challenge in the district and CBL attended a QFF event in the Burdekin on Growing the Agriculture Workforce: Consultation Workshop. This consultation will contribute to the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan to be prepared by the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Job Queensland, and Rural Jobs and Skills and Alliance.

An important milestone for the district was the celebration on 15 October of Invicta Mill's centenary at Giru. This event had previously been deferred due to COVID-19. It was great to see the history on display and to hear the stories of the past from long standing farming families and mill employees. It was a real tribute to the spirit of growers from yesteryear to have their own milling factory at Giru.

The miller also flagged that some of the components at Invicta Mill, pictured, are at the end of their effective life and that plans are in place for their replacement, which would also increase capacity to crush more tonnes of cane at this factory.

Communication on Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) remains a focal point and SRA hosted an update to growers, millers and agronomists with presentations from key SRA and BPS staff.

Whilst RSD is not a huge problem in the Burdekin at present, we need to keep on top of it as it could result in 5% yield loss across the district.

Testing for RSD has become more sophisticated in recent years and they are now detecting RSD in levels that would not have been picked up via the old testing methodology. One option to enhance detection is to test juice at the mill during harvest, and SRA is working with Wilmar to look at introducing this testing capacity in the future.

RSD is something we cannot become complacent with, and we can't fix RSD by testing alone. We can only address it by managing RSD through the use of clean seed cane, equipment sterilisation and removal of volunteers as RSD is spread by infected planting material and juice.



## PROSERPINE

 Harvest week - 17

 CCS to date -14.46

 Tonnes to date - 1,250,528  
79.15% crushed to date

As expected, the Proserpine crop has been further revised down to 1.58 million tonnes, the dry winter period being the main culprit. At the time of compiling this report, the mill had crushed just over 1.2 million tonnes, based on the revised estimate and expected factory throughput, harvesting is anticipated to finish on 18 November.

Rain in early September impacted CCS, however, there has been a steady improvement over the last four weeks which has seen CCS return to previous levels.

The season-to-date CCS now stands at 14.46.

The highest CCS sample during the last month was 16.87 from a rake of first ratoon Q208 from the Gregory Productivity District.

More recently, the district has been buffeted by severe storm activity. While very little rain has resulted, growers are reporting hail for the first time in many years. Hail in the Yalbaroo, pictured, and Elaroo districts measured as much as 16cm in diameter and is believed to have broken Queensland records.



## MACKAY

📅 Harvest week - 21

🌿 CCS to date - 13.95

🚛 Tonnes to date - 3,700,109  
67.63% crushed to date

Unfortunately, it looks like it will be a very long crushing season for Mackay/Plane Creek.

We're are now heading for the 75% milestone with Plane Creek at 68% and Mackay Sugar at around 60%.

However, further mill breakdowns in the past few weeks have continued to slow progress with mills struggling to get good weekly throughputs.

The finishing date for Plane Creek should be in the first week of December, while Mackay Sugar is talking about 20 December.

With a blanket curfew on our roads for heavy vehicles at Christmas time, the need for special permits from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to continue crushing throughout the period looks like a real possibility.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is working very closely with our state office in order for these permits to be available quickly if the need arises.

On a positive note, good yields are continuing with all Mackay mill areas cutting out slightly above estimate. Farleigh is at 102% of the original estimate, Marian area is 102.5% of the original estimate while Racecourse is at 103% of the original estimate.

CCS levels are also good. Plane Creek's season average is 14.25 while Mackay Sugar is 13.88.

CCS seems to have plateaued at this stage, but we have seen other years where CCS seemed to plateau - but then it took off again.

Early storms have dropped rainfall in a patchwork across the district. To date, the impact on crushing from these storms has been minimal.

### Bagasse storage problem slows crushing rates

Crushing rates at Racecourse this season have been limited by the rate at which bagasse can be removed from the factory.

Lack of storage space for any bagasse which can't be used in electricity generation means the rate of crushing is reduced as the mills have to stop crushing frequently to burn off the excess. As a result of this, growers are being asked to consider delivering more burnt cane into the mill.

A new pilot project announced last month by US company Mercurius and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to convert bagasse into jet fuel and diesel has been welcomed by CANEGROWERS Mackay. (see page 19)

### Determining the true value of irrigation

CANEGROWERS Mackay is currently one year into a three-year ground-breaking water quality project which seeks to prevent nutrient losses from farms and boost production by helping growers to optimise their water use through improved irrigation management strategies.

From an industry perspective the outcomes from the project should provide growers with better knowledge about the interaction between irrigation, soils, nutrients and hopefully pesticides in the future.

From a regional perspective it is hoped that this project will be a catalyst in identifying the true value of irrigation in both productivity gains and water quality.

The three-year irrigation project is funded under the Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Program by the Federal Government's Reef Trust Partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.



## PLANE CREEK

📅 Harvest week - 19

🌿 CCS to date -14.35

🚛 Tonnes to date - 1,046,905  
76.98% crushed to date

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# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BUNDABERG

 Harvest week - 18

 CCS to date - 14.30

 Tonnes to date - 761,080  
79.86% crushed to date

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 36,059.07 tonnes for the week ending 17 October 2021.

This brings the season-to-date to 710,416.11 tonnes. The average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar mills for Week 17 was 15.48 units. The season CCS average is at 14.24 CCS.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 17.60 units for variety Q208 Plant.

The four major varieties supplied for Week 17 to Millaquin were Q240A with 41.0% of supply and an average CCS of 15.71 units, and Q208 with 16.3% and a CCS average of 15.35, followed by KQ228A with 14.4% of supply and a

CCS average of 15.68 units, and Q252A with 7.3% supply and a CCS average of 15.70 units.

We are still on track for a mid-November finish, weather permitting.

## ISIS

 Harvest week - 17

 CCS to date - 14.02

 Tonnes to date - 527,071  
75.85% crushed to date

The 2021 Isis Crush is getting close to reaching a point of harvest equity between Isis and Maryborough cane supply. This will enable both districts to finish together in late-November or early-December, weather permitting.

The new *CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farms* was launched in Isis in late-October on the farm of local grower Jeffrey Plath.

The event got plenty of media attention and we'd like to thank Jeffrey

and fellow grower **Peter McLennan** for taking time out of their busy schedules to help promote safety awareness within the industry.

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

- Improving internal efficiencies to support membership to 'do more with less' by continuing to streamline processes and systems including conversion to Xero,

ORECO cane trash contracts, grower payroll and finance administration

- Reviewing our membership to enable the district office to better support our members and continue to offer value for levies paid
- Finalising the audits and preparing for the CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Productivity Ltd Annual General Meetings to be held on Friday 3 December
- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the independent review of the Isis Cane Analysis Program and actively working with Isis Mill staff to improve the reports and data we receive from them.

Assistance is also being provided to Isis Productivity Ltd to review grower membership and how they also can do more with less.



**Cane Harvester Parts**

**1800 463 457**  
**AH 0417 662 137**  
**neils.com.au**

Neil's Parts Australia

*Pictured: Joanne from CANEGROWERS Isis looks through the WHS guide with grower Jeffrey Plath at the recent launch of the CANEGROWERS WHS Guide held on Jeffrey's farm (see page 8 for more).*



## MARYBOROUGH

 Harvest week - 17

 CCS to date - 14.15

 Tonnes to date - 327,325  
-62.95% crushed to date

The race is on to see if we can successfully get all the crop in before the storm season blocks our path. There is not much else we can throw at the transport and transfer stations other than running as much as possible.

Harvest roster tweaks took effect in October. Supplying 5000 tonnes of Maryborough cane daily remains the target in order for the combined Isis / Maryborough crop to finish together.

We will be running through November, aiming for a 3 December finish.

The storm season has made an entry with useful but patchy falls across the district. Keeping harvesters operating and fields accessible is now the delicate balancing act.

Our local newsletter of 15 October contained plenty of information on soybeans. If you need a copy, give the office a call.

## ROCKY POINT

 Harvest week - 13

 CCS to date - 14.19

 Tonnes to date - 180,614  
53.04% crushed to date

The Rocky Point harvest has slowed down as a result of wet weather and mill/cogen stops.

We only just reached 48% at the end of Week 12, and do not believe we will get all our crop off this year.

As of 17 October 2021, total tonnes crushed to date are 163,224 at a season average CCS of 14.2. The estimate is currently sitting at 342,247 tonnes.

We have received approximately 160 mms of rain in the district to date in October, with more predicted.

In early October, after over a year of objecting to our latest land valuations, we have reached a negotiated settlement with the Valuer General's office of 15% above our previous unimproved land valuations. This will be applied to all the cane land in the district.

We still retain the highest unimproved values of any other cane growing district in Queensland.



# Drain Tech

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# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

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**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**



## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

## Review of River Improvement Trusts

River Improvement Trusts (RITS) were established through Queensland legislation in 1940 to be responsible for the planning, design, construction and financing of stream improvement works for the benefit of local communities. They have been primarily funded by local governments, which have an obligation under the Act to fund RITS in their area through annual precepts.

Several districts have recently expressed concerns that RITS are, in some cases, no longer achieving their purpose. So it is timely that the Queensland Government has commenced a review of RITS to determine if these trusts are delivering the outcomes required under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*, and to identify the changes required to address any deficiencies or gaps.

Following representations by CANEGROWERS, the review will now include face-to-face meetings with representatives from Mackay, Proserpine, Herbert River and Tully district organisations. Other districts wanting to have input can do so by video conference with the government review team – contact your local organisation to raise any issues and ideas you want to put forward.

There are currently 11 RITS operating in Queensland, with the following Trusts including areas of cane: Burdekin Shire, Cairns River, Cassowary Coast, Don River, Herbert River and Whitsunday Rivers.

Previous reviews in 1987 and 2009 have recommended that the functions of RITS be transferred to local government. Regardless of the mechanism, communities must be assured of adequate resourcing of critical stream improvement works to improve the flow of rivers, thereby correcting erosion problems, and to reduce the impact of flood waters.

## National Landcare Program

For many years the Landcare group was a mainstay of many local farm communities, providing opportunities for sharing ideas, issues, resources and influence. This led to many activities, assisted by Federal Government funds, to address problems such as weed control, erosion management, soil improvement and streambank stabilisation. But it is common to hear farmers lament the passing of Landcare groups from rural areas, with most Landcare activity now occurring in peri-urban environments.

The implementation of the regional NRM model in the early 2000s has taken autonomy away from local groups and, unintentionally, reduced farmer participation in the Landcare program.

There is a review underway of the current phase of the national landcare program (2018-19 to 2022-23). CANEGROWERS is contributing to a submission by the National Farmers Federation, and this will include the following points:

- Landcare should return to its traditional focus on delivering practical on-ground practice change to support sustainable, productive agriculture
- Landcare should address the lack of mainstream agriculture participation, noting that agricultural priorities now receive less than half the total funding allocated to the NLP2.

If you want Landcare to be relevant again to your farm and your community, please provide input to the review via the online survey, using the link for 'Survey 1: on-ground practitioners': [https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/nlp-phase-2-review/survey\\_tools/survey-1-on-ground-practitioners](https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/nlp-phase-2-review/survey_tools/survey-1-on-ground-practitioners). ■

It is common to hear farmers lament the passing of Landcare groups from rural areas, with most Landcare activity now occurring in peri-urban environments.



## Burn Ashburner

Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

### Managing risks

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A major risk for growers is injury to themselves, family members, staff, contractors or visitors. All growers are aware of this risk and in some way take steps to mitigate it. The new CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide, featured on page 8 of this edition, is designed to assist with improving safety and meeting legal obligations.

It is timely therefore, that the Rural Plant Code of Practice 2004 (the Code) is currently under review. This review will consider what changes are necessary to ensure the Code remains fit-for-purpose and supports the agriculture industry to meet legislative obligations and ensure worker safety.

Find out more and have your say at Rural Plant Code of Practice review - <https://www.oir.qld.gov.au/public-consultation/rural-plant-code-of-practice-review>.

What may not be understood by some growers is that since 1 July 2018, duty holders are required to comply with either an approved code of practice under the WHS Act or follow another method, such as a technical or an industry standard, if it provides an equivalent or higher standard of workplace health and safety to that required under the code of practice. Thus, growers should be aware of and comply with the Rural Plant Code of Practice.

The current code outlines:

- how to manage and identify risks from rural plant
- duties to provide safety information on rural plant
- principles for consultation between persons conducting a business or undertaking, workers and others

- preventative measures for the safe operation of rural plant
- management of specific plant risks for tractors, quad bikes, side-by-side vehicles
- electrical risks, working at heights or in confined space, and other specific risks
- training requirements

Another risk faced by growers is weather events. A pilot parametric solution to enable growers to access insurance cover for cyclone risk has been part of a project funded by the Queensland Government Drought and Climate Adaption Programme, and managed by Queensland Farmer Federation, University of Southern Queensland and Willis Towers Watson (brokers).

In simple terms, a payout for participating growers is triggered if a category 3 or above cyclone passes within 50km of the farm. This payment is not dependant on any assessment of damage and there is no restriction on the use of the payout. The payout can therefore be quick, often within 14 days.

CANEGROWERS has had input into this project over a number of years and with a possible underwriter being secured and premiums becoming more realistic, it is starting to look like a commercial offering may be a reality for growers to consider. We will keep tabs on progress. ■

“ All growers are aware of the risk of injury to themselves, family members, staff, contractors or visitors, and in some way take steps to mitigate it. ”

## Warren Males

Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



### Sugar subsidies - they're just not cricket!

Australia produces around 4.5 million tonnes of sugar each year from around 33 million tonnes of sugarcane. Almost 80% of the sugar is exported, with the balance refined principally for domestic use. There is strong demand for Australian raw sugar exports in the Asia-Pacific region. Reflecting the benefits of recent trade agreements, Australia's sugar exports are mostly sold in just three markets. Korea, Japan and Indonesia are the principal export destinations.

To ensure Australia's sugar exporters have access to a wide range of markets, CANEGROWERS places a high priority on having sugar included in all trade agreements. The Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be an important step forward when it comes into effect. It's also why sugar must be included in the Australia-European Union FTA.

CANEGROWERS efforts on the trade front are also about ensuring other countries abide by their international obligations. Sugar is produced in more than 120 countries. Most countries protect their sugar industries with domestic price support mechanisms that rely on border protection in the form of import tariffs, import licencing arrangements, import quotas (some issued under preferential trade agreements) or a combination of mechanisms.

India provides significant domestic support to its industry. These supports result in significant sugar surpluses. The subsidised export of this already subsidised surplus production has had a significant negative effect on world sugar prices.

Imagine how much higher world sugar prices would have been over the past few years if India had not been subsidising the export of up to six million tonnes of surplus sugar each year.

Many readers will recall the results of the Green Pool report, commissioned by ASMC and released earlier this year, that found

India's sugar supports and price regulations had contributed to substantially lower world sugar prices, costing Queensland cane growers and sugar millers an estimated \$1.1 billion revenue hit in the four years to 2020/21.

This is why CANEGROWERS is such a strong supporter of the action taken in the WTO by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala against India's excessive sugar subsidies. We are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the WTO case.

In September, the Indian government announced that it would not provide export subsidies for the 2021/22 season. It also announced the accelerated roll out of its roadmap for ethanol blending, which will see six million tonnes of sugar diverted to ethanol production by 2025/26. As this was happening, quoting unnamed government officials, Indian media was reporting there was 'not much hope of India winning the WTO case'.

The upturn in world sugar prices, combined with the agricultural productivity gains the Indian cane sector has made over the past decade, both increased cane yields and sugar recovery, and the ethanol roadmap mean India's domestic price supports and export subsidies to clear sugar surpluses are not required.

CANEGROWERS calls on India, a highly regarded global power and sugar producer to modernise its sugar policies, to commit to the elimination of all sugar export subsidies and, in concert with its ethanol roadmap, commence a program that will significantly reduce and phase out its domestic cane and sugar price supports.

To do otherwise, is just not cricket! ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males', written in a cursive style.

CANEGROWERS calls on India to significantly reduce and phase out its domestic cane and sugar price supports.



# New Laws for Company Directors

By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

There are many growers who operate their farming enterprises through company structures. Recently the Commonwealth Government introduced a number of new laws relating to directors. The following two topics are relevant to growers.

## A. DIRECTOR ID

A new system requiring director identification will be administered by Australian Business Registry Services (ABRS).

### 1. Director identification number

The director identification number is a unique 15 digit number you, as a director, apply for once and keep forever. It's designed to prevent the false or fraudulent use of your identity.

This ID number is yours forever, even if you change companies, stop being a director, change your name or move overseas.

### 2. Who must obtain a director ID

Any director, including people who are appointed as a director or an alternate director of a company, must obtain a director ID. A company secretary who is not also a director, does not require a director ID.

If you operate your farming business as a sole trader or a partnership, these new laws do not relate to you. They essentially apply to company directors.

### 3. When to apply for a director ID

Starting in November 2021 you must apply for a director ID if you meet the director criteria outlined above. Your deadline for obtaining your director ID depends on the date you became a director.

- Already a director, you must apply by 30 November 2022.
- Became a director between 1 November 2021 and 4 April 2022, you must apply within 28 days of appointment.
- From 5 April 2022 on, you must apply before appointment as a director.

### 4. How to apply

A director must apply personally. No one can do it for you. It is best to apply online by following these steps:

- Set up your myGovID
- Gather your documents, including your tax file number (TFN), your residential address and ID verification
- Login to ABRS and apply

It is free to apply for your director identification number, but you must apply for your own number and verify your identity. No one else can apply for the ID on your behalf.

### 5. More information

For more information on director ID visit the Australian Business Registry Services website. <https://www.abrs.gov.au>.

## B. DIRECTOR RESIGNATION – EFFECTIVE DATE

- A company is required to advise the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) within 28 days of a director's resignation.
- New company laws now provide that a resignation of a director will only take effect from the date of the resignation if the notice advising ASIC is lodged within 28 days.
- If the notice is lodged after that then the resignation takes effect from the date the notice is lodged with ASIC and not the date of the actual resignation by the director.

*(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. ■

## Ag machinery supplier fined for misleading customers

Agricultural machinery supplier Agrison has been slapped with a \$220,000 fine after admitting to misleading customers about warranties and after-sales services, in breach of consumer law.

The Federal Court also ordered the company to pay compensation totalling \$64,000 to four customers that bought tractors or wheel loaders.

Agrison admitted to making false or misleading representations that its tractors came with a five-year nationwide warranty and that, if the tractor was defective, Agrison would provide a replacement for all defective parts at no cost to the consumer for five years. However, not all parts were covered for five years or at all and the full cost was not covered.

The company also admitted it had misled consumers by claiming to have a national service network accessible throughout Australia, and that customers would be able to obtain all necessary spare parts for tractors within a reasonable time if and when required.

"The ACCC took court action after it received complaints from consumers who had experienced multiple significant failures with their tractors, such as faulty hydraulics, brakes failing and parts such as wheels falling off," Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Chairman Rod Sims said.

"Consumers rely on the representations made to them when they are looking to buy agricultural machinery, and the warranties given by the supplier and reliability of aftersales service are critical factors for consumers making these expensive purchases."

Justice Murphy said that "Agrison's conduct was deliberate and it was not isolated, having occurred over several years." ■

## Impending waste export ban on tyres

Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) is calling out to all farmers and farming communities to be vigilant as we get closer to the waste export ban on all whole used tyres, including baled tyres which comes into effect 1 December 2021.

TSA is concerned that as the ban nears, heightened activity of collecting waste tyres may occur. There is a possibility that unused or segregated farmland may be used to illegally dump or stockpile waste tyres.

Working together now is most important.

- If you see or hear of illegal dumping and stockpiling of waste tyres on your farm or in your local area, please advise TSA <https://www.tyrestewardship.org.au/>.
- For the disposal of waste tyres, visit [mytyresmychoice.com.au](http://mytyresmychoice.com.au) to find TSA accredited collectors and recyclers in your area. ■

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<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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# CANEGROWERS community news



## Angelo Puglisi and Kyrah Johnston off to the Mossman State High School formal

Angelo, pictured above, is the son of CANEGROWERS members Gerard and Teresa Puglisi.

After completing Year 12, he's aiming to obtain a trade that will help him become the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Puglisi Family to

grow cane on the family farm in the foot hills of the Daintree Rainforest.

## The Proserpine Cut Out Party

To celebrate the end of the crushing season this year, India Lade and her young farmer colleagues are hosting the Proserpine Cut Out Party on Saturday 4 December 2021 at the Proserpine Show Grounds.

The intention is to bring the sugarcane farming community together and acknowledge the hard work of the harvesters,

the contractors, and the sugarcane farmers. The Proserpine Cut Out Party will be a family-friendly event, catering for up to 300 people. Proceeds raised from the event will be donated to the Black Dog Institute. Contact India - [india.lade98@yahoo.com](mailto:india.lade98@yahoo.com) for details.

## Student reaps rewards from studying agriculture

As part of a national science competition celebrating the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, Dayna Linton, pictured, Home Hill State High School student and daughter of CANEGROWERS members, Jeff and Kristen Linton, took up the challenge to discover the role science and agriculture play in the sustainable production of nutritious and healthy food.

Dayna won a UQ FEAST Scholarships. UQ FEAST is a residential program held in the school holidays to provide students with insights into the rewarding science careers in the agriculture, animal, plant and food industries. Dayna is planning to study at UQ next year and will attend as a student mentor.

"The agriculture industry has had a huge impact on my life as my grandfather, uncles and father all work within it. This meant growing up around sugarcane, cattle and grain crops, and seeing the work that went into each of them firsthand,"

Dayna said.

"I've met many hardworking women in the industry, who have all been an inspiration to me. I hope that I can inspire other girls to get involved in agriculture too. I like to remind people that agriculture is an industry that will never die, as they will always need to eat."

We look forward to seeing where Dayna's adventures take her and congratulate her on her success.



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

# The weather is boss

Innisfail's Riordan family has been meshed in Far North Queensland's cane-growing community for more than 100 years, since James Riordan purchased land along the banks of the South Johnstone River in 1908. Now, more than a century later, James' grandson Jim Riordan recalls his life on a sugarcane farm as he retires from farming, ending the family's long association with the industry.

"I can only imagine how hard my grandfather must have worked clearing the land to plant cane with only draft horses and axes." Jim said.

Before purchasing the land, James worked at Goondi Sugar Mill and as a guard on the Innisfail Tramway. James and his wife Annie had a dairy farm and a small shop on the corner of Grace and Rankin Streets in Innisfail, where the Catholic Church stands today.

"My father Patrick (Paddy) took over the farm when my grandfather died, and he worked it until his own death in 1980. Dad served on both the Goondi and Mourilyan Mill Suppliers Committees and was on the Innisfail District Cane Growers Executive and the Queensland Cane Growers Council.

"I started working alongside Dad at the age of 15. We used to cut the cane manually back then, using portable rail and cane trucks. In 1968, we bought a mechanical cane harvester which I drove for two seasons.

***"Soil is like a bank account, if you don't put in then you can't take out"***

"The harvesters from those days wouldn't pass the WHS checks of today.

"In 1979, we started planting on our new land on Rifle Range Road, adjacent to the home farm. Sadly, Dad died before he could see any cane harvested off that land.

"After Dad's passing I, along with my wife Diane and my mother Mary, took over running of the farm."

Jim said while there were many challenges along the way, when things went right, it was absolutely perfect. He recalled an exceptional crop (around 1994) when they got the right amount of rain in July and the cane "went mad", for him it was the pinnacle season.

"Working on the farm was really a team effort, Diane helped out in so many ways, out on the farm as well, she did the books and all sorts of things when needed".

Jim saw many changes over the years including increasing government regulations and major technological advances in farming machinery as the industry moved from manual to mechanical harvesting. But the biggest challenge was always the weather.

"The weather is boss, always will be."

Jim recalls the lessons learnt from his father, most importantly to recognise the critical role the weather plays in the area, especially as work often had to happen in wet soil.

"My Dad always said the soil is like a bank account, if you don't put in then you can't take out.

"My advice to the younger growers is ground preparation, put the effort into the soil and listen to the experts, like Sugar Research Australia (SRA). They have loads of answers and knowledge.

"Make use of the industry professionals, because you can't do it all on your own, and use contractors too."

Now that he's retired, Jim often reflects on the privilege of a life spent working on his family's property. It's a time filled with memories and stories that he is more than happy to share.

With his own family having careers off farm, he and Diane made the difficult decision to sell up and are now enjoying taking life a little easier.

These days he even has time to crack a few jokes with his mates at the local.

"I was having a beer at the local with a punter and an old farmer. The punter asked the old farmer, "Do you follow the horses?" to which the old farmer replied, "I did for years until I brought a tractor." ■



Jim and Diane Riordan with their industry productivity awards. 2003, 2007 and 2012 Zone Champions and the 2003 Highest tonnes cane per hectare – South Johnstone mill.



## Is your workplace thriving?



*Article developed in collaboration with SuperFriend*

Since 2015, SuperFriend has produced the Indicators of a *Thriving Workplace Report* as part of Australia's largest workplace mental health survey.

This year, they surveyed over 10,000 Australian workers to gain insights into the state of Australian workplaces and the mental health and wellbeing of their workers.

The Report has unique insights from COVID-19's profound impact on workers around the nation, highlights at-risk industries and populations, actions most likely to improve worker outcomes, and practical strategies for getting the best out of your people.

### **KEY CALL-OUTS FROM THE 2021 REPORT**

We're now into the second year of the pandemic and many Australian workers are still navigating their way through multiple lockdowns, social distancing and changing workloads.

SuperFriend have discovered that in the last 12 months:

- Over 50% of Australian workers experienced a mental health condition
- People who believe their workplace caused their condition increased from 6.6% to 8.9%, while 13.5% believe their workplace made their condition worse (up from 10.5%)
- Half of the workforce wants to work remotely to some extent and 3 in 5 of those workers want to work remotely at least 50% of the time
- 7 in 10 people in thriving workplaces say their workplace attracts the best workers. This is 8 times higher than workplaces that are not thriving
- 9 in 10 people in thriving workplaces feel they are able to use their strengths at work and are satisfied with their job
- 83.8% of people in thriving workplaces plan on staying for another year.

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*Disclaimer: \*As at September 2021. This article has been prepared and issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd, (ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975) the trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund (ABN 98 503 137 921, USI 98 503 137 921 001). Consider the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before deciding and Target Market Determinations (TMDs). Visit [sunsuper.com.au](http://sunsuper.com.au) or call **13 11 84** for a copy of the PDS and TMDs. Sunsuper is not a mental health service or employee wellbeing consultant and does not provide clinical advice or professional services. We've put this information together as general information only and as such it doesn't take into account your organisation's objectives, situation or needs, or those of your employees. You should get professional advice before relying on this information.*




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## Australian-made Flexidrag® - quality irrigation hose you can trust!

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*Flexidrag irrigation hose in action with excellent bend radius*

Reliability and ease of handling are the two key qualities farmers require most of a good travelling irrigation hose. Crusader Hose has invested heavily in technology and factory upgrades to manufacture a world-class quality hose perfect for the rigours of the irrigation market. Flexidrag® is the locally made travelling irrigator hose many Australian and New Zealand farmers trust most.

One of the most challenging hoses to manufacture is the travelling irrigator hose, as the demands are varied and numerous. The durability of the exterior, the weight of the drag, and its overall flexibility are three critical factors to consider. For any hose manufacturer to get it right takes a commitment towards excellence. Crusader Hose has over 35 years of experience developing layflat hose technology and is driven by a spirit of continuous improvement. The company has invested close to \$1 million in technology and factory upgrades to bring about the world-quality travelling irrigation hose, Flexidrag®.

A travelling irrigation hose is often called a drag hose as the irrigator pulls it along. A hose dragged from place to place is inherently subjected to more stress on its exterior than any other hose. In addition to the extreme UV conditions of Australia, the temperature range common in many farming areas of below zero to 50°C also demands a robust cover. Crusader Hose manufactures Flexidrag® to manage extreme weather.

Layflat Flexidrag® is made with a polyurethane (PU) cover. The hose's high-tensile textile reinforcement is encased in PU via the weave-through extrusion process giving Flexidrag® its tough exterior and interior. Crusader Hose believes Flexidrag® is superior to rubber irrigation hose because it is non-cracking. Cold flow properties make rubber crack along the seam. Cracks expose the textile hose, which can lead to premature wear and breakdown. Flexidrag® PU is UV stabilised to withstand extreme Australian conditions.

Flexidrag® is extruded with precise concentricity. This means the PU layer thickness is measured evenly throughout the length of the hose. Concentricity to this degree makes Flexidrag® lightweight and flexible. PU is also lighter in weight per metre versus rubber, thereby reducing energy requirements.

The flexibility and ease of handling make Flexidrag® a top performer in the field. It is compact, and longer lengths can be fitted

onto the irrigator reel compared to rubber hose or other imported brands

State-of-the-art technology gives Flexidrag® its small bend radius, which helps reduce kinking. It also allows Flexidrag® to work well at low pressures on laterals as well as with high pressures on guns.

Hasmik Yaylaian, CFO & Sales Manager at Crusader Hose, said, "The improvements to our drag irrigation hose bring Flexidrag® to world standard. We're in the second irrigation season since its development, and Flexidrag® is proving itself a top seller in the market. I believe we have created the world's best travelling irrigation hose."

For peace of mind, Flexidrag® is backed up by a pro-rata 10-year warranty. Made here in Australia, dealing with a local manufacturer is so much easier if you have any issues. When dealing with imports, waiting for factory test results can take six months and sending the hose overseas for testing is expensive.

*Flexidrag irrigation hose at sugarcane growers*



*Ms Yaylaian, CFO & Sales Manager of Crusader Hose*



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Next deadline is **16 December 2021**.

\* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**.

A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

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1 JAM 3 Row S/Steel Stool Splitter. 1.5T ON 30" Coulters \$25 + GST. Ph: 40676212. Babinda area.

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

## Herbert River-Burdekin

2010 Case 88 Cane Harvester Iveco Engine & all pumps. 2 seasons old. Machine in very good condition with GPS fitted chopper box fully overhauled. Cut 80,000T. Reasonably priced. Ph: 0417621625 or 0418778674.

## Mackay-Proserpine

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

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

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

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

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

Avokah 4in travelling irrigator with separate galvanised hose reel with 1 x 200m of 100mm hose and 1 x 100m of 100mm hose. \$7,500 + GST. Ph: 49595207.

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

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

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

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

FARM IMPLEMENTS: various including: McLeod 5-leg ripper; McLeod 2-leg ripper;

Double-row ratoon grubbers with arch; Hodge 4-furrow reversible plough; McLeod cutaway; Hodge Cutaway spinner; Cane break pusher; McLeod 3-row multiweeder; McLeod 3-row frame. Call for prices. Ph: 0417612883

Trailer mounted Southern Cross 125x80x400 pump fitted to a 45 KW CMG electric motor \$1,500 plus GST. Ph: 0427756564.

Avokah piston drive irrigator. Original owner, operator's manual. Uses 4 inch hose. Ph: 0429969549.

6 Tonne Farview Eng Side tipper. \$15,000. Ph: 0407761364.

HODGE 11 Tyne Ripper & Crumble Roller as new \$12,000 + GST. HOWARD 120 inch Heavy Duty Rotary Hoe & Crumble Roller \$8,000 + GST. HODGE Dual Row Side Dresser Fertiliser Box \$1,200 + GST. Ph: 0418186525.

Cow pea seed, 8.5t. Cleaned, graded and bagged. For more information Ph: 0407595218.

John Deere 3020 tricycle. 2 x 354 Perkins motors, one working the other spare. \$1,200. Ph: +61435550737.

Case Track Harvester 2016 8800, New Tracks, Sprockets & Elevator Chain, fitted with custom made Multiplier (Removable), has done 3 Seasons (to 2019). Everything serviced & work ready, 4691 Hrs; 1 x 10T



**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

Cane Side Tipper Bin; 1 x 10T Cane Side Tipper Bin on 2 Axle Trailer. Ph: 040875453 Proserpine area.

2 fan stripper \$500, Moller single chain planter \$4,000, 2 x Roberts 6t goose neck trailers \$5,000 ea, Refalo 1t side dresser \$500, Grubber & box \$300, Hodge upright planter \$300. Ph: 4959 1765 after 7pm.

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

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

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. Austoft 7000 Blade saver \$400 or near offer. Ph: 0427598333.

1x Massey Ferguson 102 cane harvester VGC Shredded - \$5,000 + GST, 1x 4 tyne Paraplow Ripper - \$4,000 + GST, 1 x Croplands Ute Boom Sprayer 1200L Approx-16M BOOM - \$5,000 + GST, 1 x 4 Row Janke Eliminator Mulcher - \$4,000 + GST, 1 x 1200lt Fuel Tank - \$300 + GST, 1x Grain Bin Trailer - \$1,000 + GST, 1x Side Dresser Fertiliser Box - \$800 + GST, 1X ½ Tonne Linkage Spreader - \$500 + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

### Wanted

Howard 100" rotary hoe with crumble roller in good condition. Ph: 0428724025.

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

### Work Wanted

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

### Property

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA

and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415881092.

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

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. 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 (Sept 2020)	Month to date (1 Oct-31 Oct)	Year to date	Jan-Oct
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	50.2	5.2	2619.2	2484.9
Mareeba Airport	19	27.2	924.4	695.1
Cairns Aero	11.8	8.2	2473.6	1735.6
Mt Sophia	266	25	3806.6	2929.7
Babinda Post Office	138.7	5	3811.5	3765.4
Innisfail	124.6	12	3330.6	3127.6
Tully Sugar Mill	191.5	41	4929.9	3639.2
Cardwell Marine Pde	17.4	8.5	2364.4	1808.6
Lucinda Township	32	3.6	1886.6	1847.4
Ingham Composite	25.8	6	3353.6	1790.9
Abergowrie Alert	18	6	1639	1227.5
Townsville Aero	7.2	4	1075.8	948
Ayr DPI Research Stn	4	4.4	1061.2	790.4
Proserpine Airport	13.8	38.8	1257.6	1186.4
Mirani Mary Street	2	15.4	1082.8	1190.9
Mackay MO	6.2	36.2	1292.4	1304.8
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	2.6	4.6	520.8	1437.4
Bundaberg Aero	10.8	83	575	788
Childers South	5.2	107.6	680	683.2
Maryborough	11.6	180.8	857.6	931.8
Tewantin RSL Park	11.2	101.2	1402.6	1321.6
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	0	57.6	1350.5	1387.1
Nambour DPI - Hillside	8.8	57.6	1354	1440.8
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	8	168.8	1364.9	865.9
Murwillumbah Bray Park	32.6	205.4	2148.3	1300.7
Ballina Airport	19.6	150	1907.8	1479.5
New Italy (Woodburn)	8.6	169.6	1719.1	1106.3



dream with your eyes open

# 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**



# Aussie Made Hose, for Aussie Made Farmers

The Australian Sugarcane Industry has been in dire need of a reliable locally made travelling irrigator hose designed for low-pressure irrigation and rough terrain.



Our Flexidrag® irrigation hose is Australia's leading drag hose for Sugarcane Farmers and is perfect for lateral move systems.

Flexidrag® is manufactured to world's best standard and features superior materials designed to withstand tough in-field conditions.

This smooth, flexible layflat hose can be easily stored when not in use and is available in diameters ranging from 40mm to 152mm and lengths up to 350m.



## FEATURES

**10  
YEAR**

WARRANTY

- ✓ Very flexible at low pressures
- ✓ Tight bend radius
- ✓ ≈ 20% Lighter than rubber hose
- ✓ Abrasion resistant
- ✓ Low coil volume for easy handling
- ✓ UV treated
- ✓ 10-Year pro-rata warranty
- ✓ Custom lengths

**Flexidrag® is Australian Made, by Australians, for Australians.**

So, if you're in need of an irrigation hose solution that is tough, robust, cost-effective and supports Australian manufacturing, choose Flexidrag®



Contact us today on +61 3 9720 1100 or email [sales@crusaderhose.com.au](mailto:sales@crusaderhose.com.au)  
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