



AUSTRALIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY: issues and actions





SUGAR is Queensland's 2nd largest agricultural export adding \$3 billion to the economy each year...

To continue as a vibrant and valuable contributor to regional communities, it needs an environment in which cane growing businesses can flourish. Committing to these actions will secure the livelihoods of the tens of thousands of Queenslanders who rely directly and indirectly on this historic industry.

1. Guarantee fair costs of production

Rising costs undermine farm business earnings and hurt Australia's international competitiveness.

Electricity bills have gone up 130% in nine years while power companies have delivered record profits to the Queensland Government.

ACTIONS

- Reduce electricity prices by 33% by taking actions such as writing down Ergon's regulated asset base by 50%.
- Introduce a suite of fair tariffs for food and fibre production.
- Support on-farm energy efficiency and alternative energy projects to \$10m over three years.
- Fully fund and speed up the transition to local management for irrigation water supplies. ■

2. Grow a competitive and prosperous sugarcane industry

Queensland's sugarcane growers need a competitive sugar marketing environment and continuous development and improvement within the industry to prosper and plan for the future.

ACTIONS

- Maintain legislation that supports grower choice and competition in sugar marketing services.
- Reinstate and maintain Queensland Government funding to Sugar Research Australia, in real terms, to \$4.3 million pa.
- Commit to a long-term and larger biofuel mandate with opportunities for growers to share in the opportunities.
- Invest in water and road infrastructure to support continual industry development. ■





3. Support industry sustainability programs

Queenslanders are among the world's most efficient and innovative producers of sugar.

Industry-driven programs, such as Smartcane BMP, enable growers to care for the environment, especially the Great Barrier Reef, while boosting productivity and profitability.

ACTIONS

- Commit \$7.2 million to Smartcane BMP over four years.
- Commit \$9.6 million to four-year program addressing the water use efficiency, power use efficiency and productivity nexus. ■



4. Create an environment that promotes productivity

Productive and profitable cane farms support regional families, communities and the Queensland economy.

Regulations, when poorly designed or implemented, hurt farm businesses, stifle innovation and reduce performance to the lowest acceptable standard.

ACTIONS

- Remove regulations on farming practices in Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Base achievable water quality targets for Great Barrier Reef catchments on science.
- Recognise Smartcane BMP as the most enduring way for industry to meet obligations to improve water quality.
- Ensure Queensland transport permits are efficient for agricultural industries.
- Maintain provisions for vegetation management for high value agriculture and high value irrigated agriculture land. ■



A BIG INDUSTRY DRIVEN BY GROWER CONFIDENCE



Australia is the world's second largest exporter of raw sugar



80% of Australia's raw sugar production is exported



\$2.5 billion export value to the Australian economy



17,400 direct jobs, and 80,800 indirect jobs supported by the sugar industry

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CANEGROWERS

CANEGROWERS is the peak representative body for Australian sugarcane growers.

Since 1925, we have been the voice of growers to governments, industry and communities.

A network of 13 district companies and more than 80 elected office holders keeps our focus firmly on supporting profitable, productive and sustainable cane farms.

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