

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

# GROWER



CANEGROWERS

28 August 2017 Price \$9.95



## CHANGING ATTITUDES

YOUNG CANE GROWERS  
EMBRACING SMARTCANE BMP



Senators  
urged to  
support  
Code of  
Conduct



Disaster  
relief delay  
for cyclone-  
affected  
farmers



Disunity is  
death for ag  
sector says  
industry  
leader



ADVERTISEMENT

# Now's the time to hand it in without penalty.



**Australian Government**

A joint Australian, state and territory government initiative

**NATIONAL FIREARMS  
AMNESTY**  
JULY - SEPT 2017

**Have a hand in making your community safer.  
Register or dispose of unregistered firearms.**

The National Firearms Amnesty is your one opportunity to hand in or register any unregistered or unwanted firearms, with no penalty. You may also be eligible to sell your firearm to a dealer. So if you'd like to help make a safer community, now's the time to act.

**PENALTIES APPLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 30:  
FINES UP TO \$280,000 • UP TO 14 YEARS JAIL**

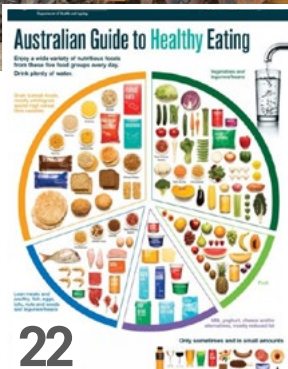
**Call 1800 909 826 Visit [firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au](http://firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au)**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

ICON10109

# CONTENTS

28 August 2017



## Features

- 4 Senators urged to back Code of Conduct
- 5 Harvest warning to "Look up!"
- 10 CANEGROWERS policy updates
- 14 Leader says disunity is death for ag sector
- 16 Young growers embrace Smartcane BMP
- 22 Pyramid or plate, which eating guide is better?

### Also inside:

- 2 Chairman's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 6 Regional round-up
- 12 QSL report
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Rainfall report

COVER IMAGE: Silkwood cane grower Luke Zammit is one of the growing number of young farmers who see Smartcane BMP as the best way to secure the industry's future. Read more on page 16.

**Editor:** Wayne Griffin

**Design, subscriptions and classifieds:**  
Jacqui Segond

Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

**Published every second Monday by**  
CANEGROWERS

Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,  
Queensland Australia  
ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone: 07 3864 6444; Fax: 07 3864 6429  
Email: [info@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:info@CANEGROWERS.com.au)  
Website: [www.CANEGROWERS.com.au](http://www.CANEGROWERS.com.au)

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039  
Volume 39 Number 17  
Printed by Printcraft  
23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

### Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)  
Within Australia \$160 inc GST  
Overseas (AUD) \$220

# Senator seeks to sell out farmers

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Our Queensland industry has only just emerged from three-year dispute over sugar marketing services. With everyone now getting on with growing, cutting and milling cane, it comes as a surprise that a Senator wants to reignite tensions.

At times, the sugar marketing dispute between growers and millers was hostile. But eventually the signing of an On-Supply Agreement between Wilmar and QSL and the settlement of Cane Supply Agreements between growers and Wilmar signalled relief for all.

I don't suggest that mills have been happy about the legislation that has guaranteed growers Real Choice in Marketing or the Federal Code of Conduct that will guide future negotiations, but for the greater good of the industry, everyone has moved forward and is working to rebuild damaged relationships.

Now, almost out of left field, New South Wales Senator David Leyonhjelm has introduced a motion to disallow the Code of Conduct.

This Code provides a framework for resolving commercial disputes between growers and millers and ensures that negotiating strength is equalised between farmers and regional milling monopolies.

The need for this was recognised by Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Commissioner Mick Keogh who told the ABC in April that it had been clear to him that growers don't really have a choice of which mill they supply, creating a situation where market power could be used by millers to increase margins at the expense of what growers are paid.

So it beggars belief that a Senator who has had no contact with Queensland's 4,500 cane farmers or their representatives could be so audacious as to reignite the dispute and seek to disallow the Code.

I have no doubt that Senator Leyonhjelm thinks he is acting in the national interest, but it is totally unforgivable for him to embark on this course of action

without reference to growers who have \$14 billion of assets at play and at risk in the Australian sugar industry.

It appears to us that Senator Leyonhjelm has chosen to do the bidding of large foreign-based milling companies and sell out the interests of Queensland farmers.

Not surprisingly, growers are seething. CANEGROWERS with the other grower representative groups will do all that we can to defeat Senator Leyonhjelm's motion.

I have invited Senator Leyonhjelm to come to Queensland to talk with CANEGROWERS, to afford us the opportunity to explain the importance of the Code and to lay to rest some of the untruths being articulated, not least of which is the claim that the industry is struggling under the Code.

Since it was announced, several milling companies have made multi-million-dollar investments to improve their capacity, upgrade facilities and construct new cogeneration projects.

What the Queensland sugar industry needs now is certainty and stability – for growers and millers to get on with business. ■

***“This Code ensures that negotiating strength is equalised between farmers and regional milling monopolies.”***





# CANE COUNTRY WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED



## ACCESS THE BEST CANE-SPECIFIC COVER ON THE MARKET

Queensland is a beautiful place to live, but it can also be volatile and unpredictable. Making sure you have the right insurance cover is so important.

### Get the right cover

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers have access to a range of insurers to provide you with the most competitive cover.

### No fees for members

As a membership service, no broking fees apply for CANEGROWERS members.

### We come to you

CANEGROWERS Insurance brokers will visit you on farm to talk over your insurance needs.

### Help to lodge claims

If something goes wrong and you need to report a claim, we are here to assist you during the claims process.

**Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!**

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Senators urged to back Code of Conduct

CANEGROWERS is contacting every Senator in the Australian Parliament urging them to reject a bid by a New South Wales politician to scuttle the Sugar Industry Code of Conduct.

The Code was put in place in June this year by the Federal Government but Senator David Leyonhjelm of the Liberal Democratic Party has introduced a motion that it be disallowed.

The motion must be considered within 15 sitting days, likely in October.

A CANEGROWERS letter to all Senators points out that a multi-party inquiry by the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee recommended a Code be implemented for the sugar industry and this was reinforced by a subsequent Federal Government Taskforce.

**The Code importantly seeks to prevent milling companies from abusing their regional monopoly power in negotiations with growers and their collectives.**

The Code was an important final step in a series of measures which secure grower choice and competition in sugar marketing services.

The guarantee of grower choice is written into the Queensland Sugar Industry Act and the Code sets out the rules for negotiating the various agreements which make it a reality.

The Code importantly seeks to prevent milling companies from abusing their regional monopoly power in negotiations with growers and their collectives and provides a mechanism for arbitration should there be a deadlock.

CANEGROWERS will follow its letters to Senators with discussions explaining the importance of the Code to sugarcane producers and the industry dynamics which make it a necessity.

CANEGROWERS is seeking to meet with Senator Leyonhjelm who, prior to introducing his disallowance motion in the Senate, had not sought any information or advice from a grower perspective. ■



## Timely reminder to 'look up' this harvest season



Ergon Energy says the driver of a harvester which brought down powerlines in the Burdekin recently did the right thing by staying in his vehicle until help could arrive.

The harvester was operating at Giru when it hit the lines.

Ergon's Customer Delivery Manager Charlie Casa says on the same day an excavator working at Tully also brought down powerlines.

"In both cases the lines came down on the machinery. The operators did the right thing and stayed in their machines for their own safety until our crews removed the lines," he said.

Ergon says machinery should not generally be operated within three metres of powerlines.

More information on working around powerlines can be found here:

[www.ergon.com.au/network/safety/business-safety/the-outdoor-workplace/working-near-powerlines](http://www.ergon.com.au/network/safety/business-safety/the-outdoor-workplace/working-near-powerlines). ■

*Pictured: (left) CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CEO Dan Galligan led a delegation of growers to Canberra earlier this year to discuss the Code of Conduct with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Treasurer Scott Morrison.*



## Cyclone Debbie Cat D funds delay

Nearly five months after Cyclone Debbie crossed the north Queensland coast, farmers are still waiting for a package of assistance.

\$58.61 million for a Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Category D exceptional circumstances package was approved last month, jointly funded on a 50/50 basis by the Commonwealth and State Governments.

It includes a \$2.1 million to assist agriculture which CANEGROWERS understands would provide for the employment of recovery officers and access to technical advice for farmers.

Category C disaster assistance is already providing help directly to farm businesses.

Representing a range of agriculture industries affected by Cyclone Debbie, Queensland Farmers' Federation President **Stuart Armitage** has expressed frustration that the Category D package is yet to reach affected farmers.

"Unfortunately, the shortcomings within the current disaster recovery system are not new and past learnings have not been heeded," he said.

"Following the Cyclone Marica Agricultural Recovery project, QFF highlighted concerns with the timeliness of administrative processes and pointed out that they were detrimental to the effectiveness of on-ground recovery.

"The fact is, the quicker you get assistance on the ground the better the recovery results."



QFF is pushing for a 'shovel ready' industry recovery program that can be activated straight after an event to get the assistance needed on the ground as soon as possible. ■

# LOOK UP FOR YOUR MATES

Contact with overhead powerlines can kill.  
So for your sake and your mate's, please look up and live.  
For electrical safety information specific to your industry,  
visit [ergon.com.au/lookupandlive](http://ergon.com.au/lookupandlive)



# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

## Mossman

Mechanical issues along with a scheduled maintenance day impacted throughput in Week 10.

With a crushing rate of 323 tonnes/hr, 42,728 tonnes of cane was processed for a mill average of 13.25CCS.

Coastal growers supplied 29,667 tonnes for a mill average of 13.08 CCS, while Tableland growers supplied 13,061 tonnes for mill average of 13.57CCS.

To date, supply to Mossman Mill is cutting below estimate in most districts. At Week 10 (13 Aug) Mossman Mill had processed a total of 383,661 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.31 CCS.

126,805 tonnes of Mossman cane supply has been toll-crushed by MSF.

## Cairns region

Farmers and contractors are making the most of the fine weather across the region and getting quite a lot of planting achieved.

MSF, in consultation with CANEGROWERS, continues to adjust cane transfers in line with the estimates for both mills.

QSL CEO Greg Beashel and Grower Relationship Manager Daniel Messina attended the CANEGROWERS Cairns Region August Board Meeting and brought Directors up to speed on the sugar market.

Project CaneChanger is being rolled out across the region with shed meetings to commence in the coming days.

Refinement to the Cane Analysis Program and the adoption of industry best practice around NIR are being finalised with the implementation of NIR to happen at South Johnstone during the 2017 season.

## Innisfail

Fine weather has allowed for harvesting operations to proceed unhindered. However, the mill had an unavoidable 25-hour shut down to allow a number of urgent repairs to be carried out.

The crop is currently cutting out at 104% of pre-season estimate. The expectation is that it will drop back when the late cuts of 2016 start to be harvested, as continued dry weather will dry the standing crop. CCS levels continue to be very poor.

As of 19 August, the crush was one-third of the way through, which is on par for the season. The estimated finish date is now 24 November.

## Tully

Continuing dry conditions have boosted CCS and assisted with planting, which is nearing completion in the region. CCS results were in the high 13s for most of the week ending 19 August giving the seasonal average CCS a boost to 12.4.

The crop estimate is falling in the dry conditions and there is some concern that the late harvested ratoons from last year that have not been harvested yet will have a further negative impact on the estimate.

Smartcane BMP numbers are increasing in both the number of growers benchmarked and accredited. This is a credit to all involved, given that this is the busiest time of the year.

The SRA Harvest Project trials commence in Tully at the end of this month and will involve seven harvesters and groups. Representatives of CANEGROWERS Tully and Tully Productivity Services had the opportunity to meet with the SRA Board and funding panel this month to discuss projects and the role of SRA in extension and adoption.

WITSIP project extension staff are successfully working with Tully growers, assisting with Site Specific Nutrient Management Plans in an effort to meet the 2020 Water Quality Guidelines and improve grower profitability. The announcement of the Major Integrated Project is expected by the end of this month and the project panel is confident that there will be a positive result for the Tully and Johnston Catchments.

## Herbert River

Ideal harvesting conditions have prevailed for the past fortnight. The sunny days and a fresh burst of mild weather from 20 August is helping sugar levels in the crop to accumulate. A rise of 0.6 units of district average CCS for Week 10 of the harvest was very welcome.

The crop is cutting out at 111% of original estimate and 106 % of latest estimate. The official estimate remains at 4.9 million tonnes, upgraded from an original 4.7 million tonnes. Week 11 of the harvest will see the first 2 million tonnes milestone reached.

The Harvest Optimisation Week trial commenced on 20 August. A significant industry effort is going towards supporting harvesting groups which have signed up to observe protocols for optimising the harvesting and pour rate speeds for a full week, with the cane from the co-operating groups all being processed at Macknade mill.



## Burdekin

Burdekin mills crushed a total of 373,558 tonnes of cane in Week 10 (ending 19/8) despite extended stops for cleaning and maintenance at both Pioneer and Inkerman.

A total of 3,379,731 tonnes of cane has been crushed to date, representing just over 40% of the estimated crop.

Average weekly CCS levels were 14.47 units in Week 10, with season to date at 13.59.

The best performing variety on a regional basis is still Q183 with 22% of supply and 14.93 CCS. Q240 was the highest variety supplied at 29% and 14.53 CCS.

Kalamia and Invicta's A-side had scheduled stops on Tuesday (22 August). Invicta's B side had a scheduled stop on Thursday.

There was another reminder of the need to take care around cane railways when a cane train collided with a haulout exiting a siding on Sunday 20 August.

Fortunately there were no serious injuries and only minor damage.

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS  
AND PHOTOS?

Find CANEGROWERS on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia)

## Mackay

The three Mackay Sugar mills crushed a total of 222,846 tonnes for week ending 20 August. The only significant stop for the week was recorded at Farleigh Mill, with repairs to both No 2 mill scraper plate and the primary juice tank.

Marian Mill conducted a successful maintenance day with all jobs completed as scheduled. Total cane crushed for the season is 2,076,417 tonnes or 39.93% with an average PRS of 12.27.

## Plane Creek

A much improved weekly throughput of 62,182 tonnes has brought the season total to almost 500,000 tonnes.

Plane Creek Mill has now crushed more than 40% of the district's total crop.

Average weekly CCS was 14.20, well up on the previous week's average of 13.66 units.

The average bin weight was slightly higher at 3.77 tonnes.

The continuing dry weather is providing good harvesting conditions.

About 4,700 tonnes of standover cane with an average CCS of 11.88 units was crushed for the week.

The highest CCS recorded for the week was 17.20 from a rake of Q208 plant in the Mt Christian Productivity District.

## Proserpine

Harvesting conditions in Proserpine have been favourable over the past few weeks, enabling the mill to recover from the later than normal start.

Week 7 (ending 20/8) was particularly productive with 97,661 tonnes crushed, the highest weekly throughput for the year so far.

This brings the year-to-date total to 567,963 tonnes, which is a little over a third of the revised crop estimate of 1.6 million tonnes.

Average weekly CCS has steadily increased and is currently sitting at 12.88 for the year to date.

Supply of KQ228 has declined sharply over the past few weeks as the CCS for this variety begins to taper off.

Consequently, varieties Q208 and Q240 now dominate weekly supply as their respective CCS continues to improve in the drier conditions.

While the mill is currently ahead of budget, there are concerns that a majority of the blocks affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie are yet to be consigned. Harvesting conditions and weekly throughput will undoubtedly begin to decline once crews being harvesting these blocks.

Growers are reminded that the Exceptional Circumstances Recovery Grants Program closes on 13 October.

Growers seeking assistance with their applications should contact the Proserpine office immediately on 07 4945 1844.

The objective of the trial is to obtain good data on how much cane and sugar is recovered from the paddock and how the optimised cane supply handles at the mill.

Sugar Research Australia's board of directors and senior staff visited the Herbert on Thursday 17 August. They took the opportunity to see presentations on major SRA activities in the Herbert, including work to quantify cane and sugar losses associated with current day harvesting practices, a field trial to assess the effect of waterlogging on eight current varieties grown on heavy clay soils and the Herbert's enhanced variety improvement program.

The visit provided an opportunity for good interaction with local industry representatives.

Continues page 8 ►

## CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

### Isis

The end of Week 8 has seen a total of close to half a million tonnes crushed for the 2017 season.

Rain in the first week of August resulted in 19 hours of lost production time that week, but another good crushing week in Week 8 saw a total of 71,399.45 tonnes of cane pass through the rollers.

CCS has risen steadily for an average of 14.01 in Week 8, with a year to date average of 13.15

Spring planting will soon be getting underway around the area. Growers are reminded it is essential that good farm hygiene practises are implemented across your farm and between farms.

All sugar cane machinery movement between quarantine regions is subject to inspection under Biosecurity Qld regulations and if you intend to move machinery between regions please contact Bruce or Andrew at Isis Productivity Services at least one week prior to your scheduled movement date. This allows time for the processing of the necessary permits etc.

### Bundaberg

Bundaberg mills processed 96,137 tonnes of cane for the week ending 19 August, bringing the total crushed for the season to 733,741 tonnes. The weekly average CCS at Bingera was 14.57 units, an increase of 0.40 units and 14.61 at Millaquin, an increase of 0.44 units. This brings the season to date average to 13.51 units.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar have agreed to increase the base CCS by 0.40 to 13.70 at both mills. This increase should be reflected in the cane payment advice to growers next on 29 August.

The major varieties supplied for the week were Q240 (29% - 14.67 CCS), followed by KQ228 (18% - 14.83 CCS) and Q208 (17% - 14.69 CCS).

### Maryborough

Production continued apace in Week 4 with 46,000 tonnes processed, bringing the year to date total to 119,040 tonnes. This represents 20% of the estimated crop.

CCS has steadily built to 13.55 for season to date.

Mill operations have been steady with no unexpected time loss for the last three weeks.

Conditions remain dry and in the last week have gone from almost summer-like conditions to almost winter in the space of three days.

There is a prospect of some rain in the district, which would be well timed for the planting currently underway.

### Rocky Point

Rocky Point Mill resumed crushing on 9 August after a breakdown of the Cogen ceased crushing on 31 July 2017.

As at 20 August (Week 8), the mill had crushed a season to date total of 122,145 tonnes at an average CCS of 12.44.

The cogen broke down once again during the evening of 21 August, with a 'no harvesting until further notice' advice. Hopefully this stoppage is only brief.

Weather is dry and unseasonably warm for this time of year. Some rain would be welcome.

A number of growers have started planting. ■

## Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

### ROUND UP YOUR SUPER

If you've had more than one job, it's likely you have more than one super account. Multiple super accounts means multiple fees, so it makes sense to have all your super in the one place.

Combining your super enables you to better track and manage the growth of your super and most importantly, it may make a big difference to your balance.

It's not just other super accounts you could round up and contribute to your overall balance. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) holds more than \$14 billion in lost super.\*

Lost super is money the ATO collects if a super fund can't reach you because you've moved house or changed names. Although your lost super won't incur fees, it also won't continue to earn you returns as it's not invested.

Why round up your super?

- Pay one set of fees and grow your super faster.
- Keep track of your super.
- Have more control over how it's invested.
- How to round up your super

There are a number of ways you can track down your super accounts and find lost super. If you're an AustSafe Super member we offer a search and combine tool. With a few simple clicks you can find and consolidate all of your super into the one account. Simply visit [austsafe.com.au/findmysuper](http://austsafe.com.au/findmysuper) to start the quick and easy search.

Alternatively you can also utilise the ATO website to locate and combine your super. Go to [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) and take control of your super today.

Spending a few minutes now rounding up your super, could really assist in reaching your retirement dreams. ■



*AustSafe Super is the industry super fund for rural and regional Australia, and has been committed to looking after members' super throughout their working life, and into retirement for over 25 years.*





ReefAware

# ReefAware.

## A unique new tool for weed management in sugarcane.

ReefAware is a decision support tool from ADAMA that allows canegrowers, agronomists and other agricultural professionals to map paddocks and get instant location based information. The App provides a simple stop-go indication to support land managers minimise environmental impact and maximise herbicide efficacy close to the Queensland coastline.



Scan here  
to download



**Brett Hansen**  
Commercial Manager Central  
QLD  
0429 448 315

**Jonathan McDonald**  
Market Development Manager  
QLD and NT  
0408 206 601

**Jake Sullivan**  
Commercial Manager - South Eastern  
& Far Northern QLD  
0428 684 775

**ADAMA**  
Simply. Grow. Together.



# Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Economics with Warren Males

## Biosecurity

I bang on about biosecurity quite a bit. This is because I, like our Deputy Prime Minister, think it is very important for the prosperity of our agriculture industries.

Biosecurity, like environment, is an area we don't tend to think about unless something drastic happens.

But while environment is dealing with the legacy of the past, biosecurity is about preparedness the future.

The cane industry has taken biosecurity seriously over the years. We have self-imposed biosecurity zones, an on-farm biosecurity manual and a plant breeding program that builds in tolerances to disease risk.

CANEGROWERS is part of the Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee and recently attended a workshop to determine if Fiji Leaf Gall, a disease affecting some cane varieties in the central region, southern region, Rocky Point and NSW, could be eradicated.

The committee agreed on the objectives and actions required to declare an area free from Fiji Leaf Gall in cane growing regions of Queensland and New South Wales, which can lead to a declaration of eradication.

The committee also supported a request from the Central Regional Variety Committee seeking endorsement for the removal of the Fiji Leaf Gall disease threshold there.

Previously the threshold was 7 and the proposal would see the threshold removed and the release of Q253A in 2017. Extensive surveillance and sentinel data was presented, which supported the decision.

Because we place value on biosecurity, the industry is in a great position to manage these issues as they arise.

I urge growers and our industry to continue to be vigilant on biosecurity, as it is one of the best insurance policies we have. ■



## Modernising the electricity grid – where to begin?

The Deutsche Group recently analysed Australia's CPI data, comparing the price inflation that is driven by the private sector with that where prices are set or strongly influenced by government policy.

The findings are as simple as they are compelling.

Over five years, price inflation driven by the private sector was a relatively modest 5%. But when governments were involved, the price outcome was very different. Over the same period, prices set or strongly influenced by government were up 27%.

Needless to say, electricity prices fall into this latter category. Australia-wide electricity prices were up 25%. In Queensland, the electricity prices irrigators pay are more than 26% higher over the past five years.

Unconstrained by the need to be competitive just to stay in business, governments simply pass their cost pressures back to consumers in the form of higher prices.

In 2006, to address a market failure at the time and pass network investment risks to consumers during the mining boom, the rules were changed. The rules requiring optimisation of the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) were turned off.



With the optimisation constraint removed, the guaranteed return on investment provided in the electricity regulatory pricing framework created the perfect environment for the natural monopolies to over-invest in their network capacity.

Ergon and Energex had a wonderful time, investing strongly. The more they invested, the higher prices went and the more profitable they became.

Economic circumstances have changed. The mining boom has subsided and electricity demand is falling. With network operators continuing to take advantage of the incentive to increase their profits by over-investing in capacity, a new market failure has emerged.

In this new environment, an important first step in modernising Australia's electricity grid will be to turn on the pre-2006 RAB optimisation rule.

Optimising the RAB will reduce the impact of unsustainably high electricity prices on the international competitiveness of Australia's export oriented industries and the communities they support.

This is one of the key recommendations CANEGROWERS made to the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and the Environment looking at ways to modernise Australia's electricity grid. ■







## Harmonisation of Agricultural Vehicle Regulations

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is developing a new National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Notice (new notice) that will apply to all participating jurisdictions under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).

Currently Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania provide authorisation for the operation of agricultural vehicles and combinations through a number of transitional notices.



In Queensland, the following are the main notices currently covering the sugarcane industry:

- *Guideline for excess dimension agricultural vehicles and agricultural combinations, Form 14, Version 4 (updated October 2013)*
- *Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1)*
- *Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Northern Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1)*
- *Queensland Heavy Vehicle Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Bundaberg Region 5.0m wide) Dimension Exemption Notice 2017 (No. 1)*

There is an undertaking by NHVR that with harmonisation (the new notice) none of the above notice conditions will be lost. There are, in my understanding, two ways in which this can happen.

Firstly, the main body of the 'new notice' will provide the necessary conditions to leave the Queensland sugarcane growing regions in the same position or better than they are currently.

Secondly, if there are gaps, there will be schedules attached to the 'new notice' that will be Queensland-specific to ensure that conditions are the same or better.

The above, while offering the comfort of the familiar, means that there will be no harmonisation. Instead, things will stay the same and this is not good enough.

In the NHVR 2017 Drafting of the Agricultural Vehicle & Combination Notice Issues Paper, the Queensland coastal zone conditions are more restrictive than the rest of the coastal zones.

There is no apparent reason for this, except that it is already in place and therefore has been carried forward. Where is the harmonisation?

CANEGROWERS will work with the National Farmers Federation and relevant Federal and State governments to address this issue and look for a more workable result from harmonisation. ■

# QSL Monthly Sugar Report

Current as of 12 August 2017



By QSL General Manager Trading and Risk Dougall Lodge

## Sugar

### WHAT HAPPENED?

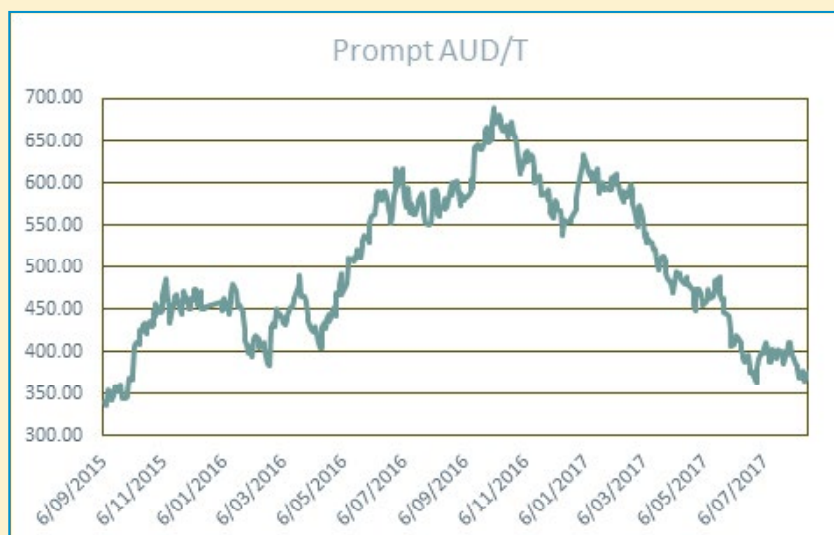
The ICE 11 raw sugar market traded in a relatively tight 13-15 c/lb range for most of the past month, touching lows below 13 c/lb while the AUD/USD defied most analysts' expectations and strengthened to above 0.80. These two features combined to keep AUD returns below A\$400/metric tonne (mt) in the spot position for most of the month.

Thankfully, the forward prices have remained a bit more resilient than the spot prices, and 2018, 2019 and 2020 levels all hit intra-day trading highs above \$450 per mt.

The Brazilian harvest has been progressing very strongly, and the ratio of sugar versus ethanol has been higher than expected. The pace of sugar production is at record highs and, if it continues, we expect to see a larger surplus of Brazilian sugar to be delivered to the Oct 17 contract. A delivery to the exchange may be the best home for this sugar as it will then not have to be discounted to compete into traditional North Africa and Middle East markets; as well as China where the additional safeguard tariff is now in place. This surplus is potentially going to be felt by the market in the months to come.

Contract	Latest Settlement US c/lb	Monthly Change US c/lb	High US c/lb	Low US c/lb
Oct-2017	13.45	-0.65	15.12	12.94
Mar-2018	14.17	-0.67	15.78	13.78
May-2018	14.41	-0.50	15.85	14.03
Jul-2018	14.63	-0.35	15.92	14.30
Oct-2018	14.95	-0.26	16.10	14.92
BRL/USD	3.1472	0.29%	3.2148	3.1087
Ethanol Parity	14.48			

Source: Bloomberg (Current as of 18 August 2017)



Ethanol prices have been well supported and have been at or above sugar levels for the month. The price disparity does not seem to be impacting production yet. Some milling companies are talking about increasing their production ratios but so far it would appear that they are going to maximise their sugar for the near-term.

After buying back around 3 million mt of their sold positions early in the month, which helped the sugar market stabilize and reach highs of around 15c/lb, the speculators have since piled back in, selling a massive 2.5 million mt back again over the past

fortnight. This position may prove to be helpful to supporting prices for a short while in the lead up to the Oct 17 contract expiry, but it may also prolong the pain if speculators bet that sugar prices will remain under pressure and decide to roll their sold positions into the Mar 18 contract and beyond.

### GOING FORWARD

Demand from India is likely be muted as we are now almost through to their new season, so the market will be focused on supply-related variables coming from Brazil and the speculator position.





While the outlook for Brazil's supply of sugar remains on the high side and we continue to move closer to the new crop supply being sold by producers from Thailand, Europe and India, it is expected commercial buyers will likely try and wait for lower price levels to emerge. Speculators or Brazilian millers buying back their sold positions may be the only support we'll see in the next month, but this volume is fairly considerable. Timings of the producer selling versus the speculator buying will be watched closely.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Ethanol parity is higher than sugar now. Any buy-backs of Brazilian millers' sold sugar positions and diversion to ethanol would be supportive for prices. The market is also watching closely to see if Brazil's cane and agricultural yields show any signs of weakening (fingers crossed!)

## Currency

### WHAT HAPPENED?

The Australian Dollar (AUD)/US Dollar (USD) exchange rate continues to remain well supported but this is due more to US weakness and commodity strength rather than the strength of the Australian economy. The Australian Reserve Bank and Treasury remain concerned about the consequences of a continued strong AUD.

The main driver of the AUD/USD strength is that the US economic outlook remains clouded and the outlook shared by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is being interpreted by the market that there is less likely chance for more interest rate increases in the near-term. Most analysts are now expecting only one rate increase at most for the balance of 2017.

#### DISCLAIMER:

*This report contains information of a general or summary nature. 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. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial product or investment advice. 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 Market Cost Drivers

Market Cost Drivers	Prompt (Oct17) A\$/MT as at 18.8.17	2018 Season A\$/MT as at 18/8/17
Current Market	\$371.33	\$419.26
Sugar Fundamentals - Global exc. Brazil	●	●
Sugar Fundamentals - Brazil	●	●
Macro Issues/Specs	●	●
AUD/USD	●	●

- Trend is more favourable to positive \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is neutral to \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is less favourable to \$A/mt returns.

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7929	228 pts	0.8041	0.7813

Source: Bloomberg (Current as of 18 August 2017)

Exacerbating this situation is that the hedge fund/speculator position has been selling the USD, and it is now at its highest net-sold level in around five years, despite the equities market being at record high levels in the USA. US manufacturing indicators were reported lower than expected during the month, and none of the Trump administration's proposed infrastructure and other councils seem to be coming together to be able to resolve some of these structural issues. Confidence is low.

Commodities have been helping provide support to the AUD/USD. Iron ore is back up near \$80 per mt, and metal prices (aluminium, zinc, steel, nickel) are also up on the back of increased Chinese demand. Oil has also recovered

to head back up towards \$50 per barrel again.

### GOING FORWARD

Structurally, the AUD/USD should be poised for a correction downwards, but bigger forces in the USA are at play and providing support. Any positive change to the USA outlook will provide the catalyst for a break downwards in the AUD, but until then we are seemingly in a new range of around 0.75-0.80 for the near-term.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Any developments in USA politics and North Korea/Russian tensions could impact the AUD/USD.

# DISUNITY IS DEATH FOR AG SECTOR

Ag industries that fail to unite with a single voice risk being ignored in the corridors of power - that was the central theme of keynote speaker David Foote's address to industry leaders at the Rural Press Club's Ekka Breakfast in Brisbane this month.



The managing director of Australian Country Choice, one of the world's largest vertically integrated beef supply companies and the major supplier to Coles for more than 30 years, Mr Foote said politicians had become too timid to drive change and he bemoaned the lack of strong leadership in today's society

"Our political leaders have become gun-shy about driving change because in the current climate it seems the change could be them," he said.

"That's where I think we've driven politics to and why we get this single term outlook.

"Even the fire and brimstone union leaders of the past ... where are they? They used to be on the news, they used to be in the paper. Have they gone to sleep as well?

"Have we just all gone vanilla? Are we all wearing cardigans?"

Mr Foote joked that despite a dearth of leadership there is no shortage of 'peak' bodies.

"If I'd just jumped off the plane from China. I've bought a property ... in north Queensland and I've decided I want to be a part of the (beef) industry.

"I need a good organisation to represent me, so I go to Google to work out who I should choose and quite quickly it comes up with AgForce, because it's a peak

organisation representing Queensland rural producers.

"Then I look at Queensland Farmers Federation, it unites 16 of Queensland's rural peak industries to represent the sectors.

"Cattle Council of Australia, it's a peak producer organisation representing Australia's beef. The Red Meat Advisory Council, it's a peak producer organisation representing Australia's meat and livestock. National Farmers Federation - yep - another peak body representing farmers. Australian Live Export Council, a peak body representing live exporters. Australian Lot Feeders' Association, a peak body representing the feedlot industry.

"It's starting to sound like a mountain range to my friend from China - everything's a peak.

"How does he choose, how does he determine the path for him that will truly represent his interests and his industry? It's quite confusing."

And it's not just the beef industry that struggles with disunity, Mr Foote said, other sectors were just as divided.

"How confusing must it be for the politicians who are being presented to by those peak organisations? Are these bodies truly representative of the masses? Is everybody the boss?"

Mr Foote highlighted the Chemists Guild of Australia as shining example of how a single, united voice can be an effective advocate for industry.

"The two major retailers have been trying to get chemist shops into supermarkets for 20 years. They are no closer today than they were 20 years ago because of one single group representing 5500 community pharmacies."

Recalling a recent meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce at an industry event, Mr Foote said it became obvious that industry needs better lines of communications with policy makers.

"I said, 'Minister who do you seek for sector advice?' He struggled a bit after he rolled out the fifth private name - there was not one reference to an industry body or peak council.

"In fact, he mentioned a guy and company that hadn't been together for over 15 years. That's the advice he's relying on.

"I asked same question of a former Minister for Agriculture and he said 'David, it doesn't really matter because generally I just ask for industry consensus on a matter and then I'll proceed.

"So they play with us, because we're not a united voice. They use it against us ... disunity is death!"



## Regional Variety Committees approve **NEW CANE VARIETIES**

Sugar Research Australia's Regional Variety Committees have approved two new sugarcane varieties for release in 2017.



### SRA9

The Central Regional Variety Committee (RVC) has approved the new variety SRA9 (QN81-289 x Q166), which is being propagated for release in 2017.

SRA Leader for Crossing and Selection, Dr George Piperidis, said that SRA9 had performed well in final assessment trials (FATs) in 2002, 2007 and 2009, but it had been previously discarded in the region due to concerns with smut.

"While it is rated intermediate to susceptible to smut, at this stage Mackay Area Productivity Services have not observed smut in SRA9 observation plots, even under high smut pressure," Dr Piperidis said.

"This is something that growers will need to be aware of and closely monitor."

In trials, SRA9 yielded good tonnage of cane per hectare and proved highly resistant to pachymetra, leaf scald and mosaic virus.

Flowering has not been observed and its fibre quality was within the parameters.

### SRA10

New variety SRA10 (QN92-157 x QN91-3898) has been approved for limited release by the Northern Regional Variety Committee.

SRA10 is recommended for limited release because it has shown a yield decline in the second ratoon compared to the standards in 2012 field assessment trials (FATs).

Despite this decline, cane yield was equal to the mean of the standards used when averaged across plant to second ratoon.

SRA is continuing to collect additional ratooning information from trials.

CCS was consistently higher (on average 0.5 units) than the mean of the standards in all FATs and similar to Q250.

SRA Meringa-based Plant Breeder Dr Felicity Atkin said the performance factors, tonnes of cane per hectare and CCS were discussed at length at the 2017 Northern RVC meeting.

"While the issue of declining yield in the second ratoon crops of the 2012 series



was a matter of concern, the above-average CCS was considered a good reason by the RVC to release SRA10, but initially only in limited quantities until more ratooning data becomes available," she said.

"While fibre content was 1% below Q208 in trials, fibre quality tests were within the safe parameters for shear strength and impact resistance."

SRA10 is resistant to leaf scald and intermediate to smut and Pachymetra root rot. ■

*Photo: (above left) SRA plant breeding technician, Mikayla Bowman, examining the new central variety, SRA9; (right) New northern variety, SRA10.*

# CHANGING ATTITUDES

## YOUNG CANE GROWERS EMBRACING SMARTCANE BMP

By Wayne Griffin

In an industry with one of the oldest demographics in Australian agriculture, 36-year-old Luke Zammit is part of a growing community of young farmers embracing Smartcane BMP in the hope of providing Queensland cane growers with the social licence to operate and prosper well into the future.

A third generation cane farmer and qualified diesel fitter, Luke gave up a well-paid career in the mining industry to take over the family's 65ha cane farm at Silkwood, 30 minutes south of Innisfail.

"My grandparents came out to Australia from Malta in the early 1900s and started growing cane," Luke said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Zammit family farm recently.

"Then my Dad took over the farm and when he was ready to retire I bought it from him, in around 2008-2009."

At the time Luke was a fly-in fly-out worker in the mining industry, but with a growing family at home, leaving for work was becoming more and more difficult.

"I kept it going for about two years after we bought the farm, but it just got harder

to keep going away for work, so I decided it was time to come home to the farm fulltime."

During his years in mining, Luke ran cattle on the farm, because they were easier to juggle with his work commitments.

As he prepared to make the switch to fulltime cane farmer, he planted pawpaws and papaya to provide a constant cash flow.

Luke credits this experience in horticulture with giving him a different perspective on Smartcane BMP to some of his fellow cane growers.

"With horticulture, like when we had pawpaws and papaya, you had a food grade standard you had to work to. You had shed accreditation for food handling and all this kind of stuff," Luke said.

"I think BMP is a bit like that at the end of the day. A similar model but for cane.

"You have some farmers out there who might've never grown anything but cane







*"You have farmers out there who have never grown anything but cane and they're not used to having any kind of compliance system, but it's something that a lot of other food producers have."*

and they're not used to having any kind of compliance system, but it's something that a lot of other food producers have, so I'm not really too concerned about it.

"I think if you comply and you can try to get a premium for your product, it's a good thing."

Luke also recognises the important role of Smartcane BMP in helping Queensland's cane industry secure a social licence (or community acceptance) to operate.

"I think it would give all growers a better image if everyone complied to best management practices," he said.

"Once you do it, you have that proof that you're trying to do the right thing and the community will respond positively to that. I definitely think it's the way to go."

It has been a busy few years for the Zammit clan.

When Luke and his wife Larissa aren't working the cane farm, or running their hydraulic and diesel fitting business,

they're running around after their three young girls, **Rylee, Danni and Tayla.**

"It's a bit hectic between the farm, the business and the family," Luke said, "But it's great, we've been very lucky."

"Cane farming is a lifestyle and we just love it. We've got the loans and the bills like everyone else, and there's always that uncertainty that comes with farming, but for us, it's just what we love." ■

*Pictured: Larissa and Luke Zammit love the cane-growing lifestyle and want to ensure the industry has a long and prosperous future.*





## Convert simple changes into time and money with LiquaForce

Supplied by LiquaForce

There's not a farmer in the world that doesn't ponder how to make the most of every hour in the day, and Herbert River cane grower Des Mizzi is no different.

"The family farm had around 300 acres of cane, but we've downsized in recent years," Des Mizzi says.

"These days I work fulltime at the sugar terminal and run my 100 acres of cane predominantly on the weekend.

"Striking the work-life balance proves to be a juggle at times!"

**"So many farmers are a one-man show, so time-saving techniques are great where you can find them."**

To help achieve this work-life balance, Des has made the switch from traditional granular fertilisers to liquid fertiliser with the assistance of Ingham-based company, LiquaForce.

"I first started using the Liquid Ezy3 products about six years ago in some pretty remote areas of the farm. I was working by myself and couldn't believe how much time I was saving using the liquid applicator," Des said.

"So many farmers are a one-man show, so time-saving techniques are great where you can find them.

"One year I noticed the neighbour had a really impressive crop happening and he told me he was trialling Liquid Ezy3.

"I had some leftover from the other farms, so thought I may as well trial it on the home block and see if I couldn't get some similar results."

Des said he noticed a significant change. "The cane grew fast and it was quality cane. It's continued to perform incredibly well," he said.

The impressive results convinced him to completely switch from granular to liquid at his property, which lies between the foothills of Mt Cordelia and the mighty Herbert River.

"I had a good quality stainless steel granular applicator, so I set about converting that after I heard of a few other people doing similar things in the district," he said.

"There was a lot of trial and error and a lot of taking things on and off a few times to get it to work the way I wanted it to.

"Once I had it running the way I liked, I also invested in a flow-meter to monitor how much was actually going in to the paddock.



"The family farm had around 300 acres of cane, but we've downsized in recent years," Des Mizzi says.

"These days I work fulltime at the sugar terminal and run my 100 acres of cane predominantly on the weekend.

"Striking the work-life balance proves to be a juggle at times!"

To help achieve this work-life balance, Des has made the switch from traditional granular fertilisers to liquid fertiliser with the assistance of Ingham-based company, LiquaForce.

"I first started using the Liquid Ezy3 products about six years ago in some pretty remote areas of the farm. I was working by myself and couldn't believe how much time I was saving using the liquid applicator," Des said.

"So many farmers are a one-man show, so time-saving techniques are great where you can find them.

"One year I noticed the neighbour had a really impressive crop happening and he told me he was trialling Liquid Ezy3.

"I had some leftover from the other farms, so thought I may as well trial it on the home block and see if I couldn't get some similar results."

Des said he noticed a significant change. "The cane grew fast and it was quality cane. It's continued to perform incredibly well," he said.

The impressive results convinced him to completely switch from granular to liquid at his property, which lies between the foothills of Mt Cordelia and the mighty Herbert River.

"I had a good quality stainless steel granular applicator, so I set about converting that after I heard of a few other people doing similar things in the district," he said.

"There was a lot of trial and error and a lot of taking things on and off a few times to get it to work the way I wanted it to.

"Once I had it running the way I liked, I also invested in a flow-meter to monitor how much was actually going in to the paddock.



**"It makes adhering to Smartcane BMP standards very easy, and it also means that I'm not having to get under a bag lifter and risk my safety."**

*Pictured: (page 14) Herbert River grower Des Mizzi found switching from granular to liquid fertiliser helped him achieve a better work-life balance.*

*(Above) Des converted his granular fertiliser box to use in the application of liquid fertiliser.*



**With over 30 years experience, Drain Tech can ensure you get every drill to the Mill.**

- Sub-surface Drainage
- High Pressure Drain Jetting
- Irrigation Mains
- Contour Mapping and Design

*~ Servicing growers from Mossman to Mullumbimby ~*

**Call Richard on 0428 528 054**  
[www.draintech.net.au](http://www.draintech.net.au)

# NEW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

## A CALL FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTRIBUTE



By Frank Fox, Biosecurity Queensland

*"Managing risk means smarter decision-making about how we prepare for, manage, and respond to biosecurity incursions."*

Growers may be aware that a draft biosecurity strategy for Queensland was circulated for broad community feedback earlier this year. The strategy itself stemmed from a capability review into the conduct of biosecurity in this state. These activities had been long overdue and they followed a series of serious biosecurity incursions into the state in recent years.

While comments on the draft strategy have been finalised, Biosecurity Queensland is now calling for industry partners to assist in contributing to the various themes contained in this new biosecurity vision.

The six main themes are outlined here and they are all designed to improve biosecurity outcomes.

### THEME 1: COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

This theme is about finding the leaders in our biosecurity system.

They are the mentors and the stewards that are willing to help others in the system move forward. They understand the value of networks and can work in collaborative models.

### THEME 2: EVERY QUEENSLANDER PLAYS THEIR PART

Getting people involved and changing their points of view about their role in managing biosecurity risk.

This theme is about the science of behaviour change and bringing biosecurity into the mainstream.

### THEME 3: EMPOWERED TO ACT

We will look at the broader environment that needs to be in place to help people and organisations change and take up leadership roles.

This theme incorporates ideas such as training, skills development, incentive programs and industry liaison roles.

### THEME 4: BRIGHT IDEAS AND BETTER WAYS

Innovation is one of the key ways through which we can manage risk in the future. Our partners view innovation as more than just drones and robots and want to see innovation rolled out in our operational, technical and business capability areas.

### THEME 5: VALUING AND BUILDING ON OUR INVESTMENTS

The twin ideas of doing more with existing resources and trying to build our future resource base. This can be achieved by getting the community to place a greater value on the concept of avoiding biosecurity risk.

### THEME 6: BETTER INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

Managing risk means smarter decision-making about how we prepare for, manage, and respond to biosecurity incursions. Better tools, systems and decision-making methodologies are the focus of this theme.

### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The purpose of this article is to advise members that CANEGROWERS will continue to contribute to this statewide initiative.

Members are strongly encouraged to look at the six themes and see where they might be able to contribute their business and technical background to provide input and recommend meaningful change. ■



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



**Look, be alert, call an expert**

# Pyramid or plate, and does it matter?

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team.

Do you remember the healthy eating pyramid? Or are you more familiar with the plate? We take a look at these two guides and how they can help you to eat better.

## THE PYRAMID

The Healthy Eating Pyramid was developed by the (then) Australian Nutrition Foundation, now called Nutrition Australia. This non-government, not-for-profit organisation aims to educate us about good nutrition. The Pyramid was first developed in 1986 and has changed very little since. The pyramid doesn't recommend specific amounts, but rather the right proportion of each of the food groups and types to eat. The messages are well accepted by nutrition experts, and The Healthy Eating Pyramid is still used by Nutrition Australia in their education activities today.

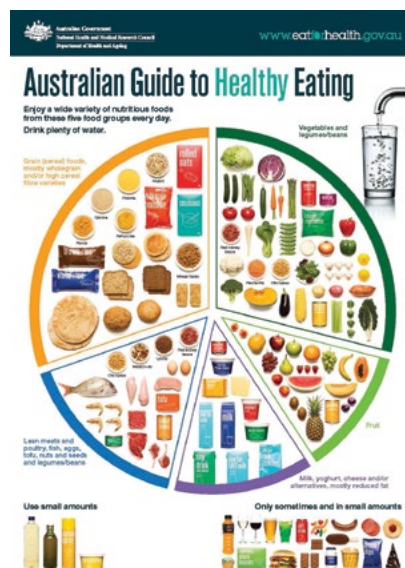


## THE DIET WARS

There is a lot of debate about the best diet for weight loss, health and wellbeing. The right answer is that there is no one best diet. We are all different and one size does not fit all. We have different likes and dislikes, cultural backgrounds, family profiles, food budgets, cooking skills and health conditions. There are many ways to put together a healthy balanced diet. What we do know is represented in these eating guides; a plant-based diet with plenty of vegetables, legumes, fruits, grains, nuts and seeds, along with some lean meat and dairy (or suitable alternatives), is a good way to go. There's no need to waste time and money buying low-carb, paleo or high protein diet products when what we really need to do is eat more healthy food and less discretionary foods. We need to make this commonsense more common!

## THE PLATE GUIDE

The plate (or circle) shaped Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (AGHE) is the government's nutrition education tool, and has been developed in conjunction with the Dietary Guidelines for Australians as a way to bring the dry nutrition science to life in real food. It was recently updated, but again didn't change a whole lot from the original developed in 1998. There are more detailed materials available that go with the Guide that outline how much of each of the food groups are needed for different age groups. You can go to [eatforhealth.gov.au](http://eatforhealth.gov.au) to find out how much of different foods from each of the food groups you should be eating for good health.



## DOES DIETARY ADVICE CHANGE TOO MUCH?

As you can see from both healthy eating guides, dietary advice for good health has changed very little. So why do many of us feel confused? Mostly it's because these guidelines get drowned out by marketing messages from food products, diet books and programs, cookbooks or celebrity entrepreneurs. With the rise of social media and celebrity culture, anyone can say anything without regard to facts or evidence. Unfortunately, even well-meaning friends or family can set us off on the wrong track. In short, when it comes to nutrition and health, don't believe everything you read or hear. If you're considering changing your diet, consult a suitably qualified health professional such as a GP or Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD). And remember this age-old pearl of wisdom that will still serve you well: Enjoy everything in moderation! ■

In fact, they are not nutritionally necessary at all, but food is more than just nutrients and we enjoy eating them. We just have to get the balance right and surveys show we aren't. Our last nutrition survey found just over a third of our daily kilojoules were coming from discretionary foods and drinks.



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

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

Next deadline is **4 September 2017**.

\* 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, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

## Beaulieu R.U.M.

### Attention Canegrowers

The first step in achieving a high yielding cane crop is a good strike and vigorous growth in the early stage of your crop.

**This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.**

**For a cost of around \$25 per acre  
Can you afford not to give it a go?**

For further information contact –

Burdekin & Northern Region call Wally Ford 0417 937 722

Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325

Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

**GREAT BARRIER  
REEF FRIENDLY**

Do you want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every fortnight?

To receive your free electronic copy, email us on: [editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au)



## JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

Australian Distributor

Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

- ☒ Tractor Tyres
- ☒ Earthmoving Tyres
- ☒ Truck Tyres
- ☒ Cars & 4WD Tyres

DROVER EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIA

UTV's, ATV's & AG BIKES

See website for more details

**P: 07 4952 2577 M: 0412 535 887**

[www.johnnyfarmingcompany.com.au](http://www.johnnyfarmingcompany.com.au)

E: [johnnyfarmingco@bigpond.com](mailto:johnnyfarmingco@bigpond.com)  
133 Schmidke Road Mackay 4740



**ROAD  
FREE  
COMPANY**

## Conversion Track System (CTS)



- Increase field access
- Over 65% reduction in ground pressure
- Increase stability and ride comfort
- Quick installation
- Available in 30" and 36" widths

Contact > Marney Strachan

**0408-162-085**

**Neil's Parts  
Australia**  
[www.neils.com.au](http://www.neils.com.au)

## Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

### 2007 JOHN DEERE 3510

#### Track Harvester.

8.1 litre engine, 3,000 hrs. from engine rebuild. 600mm elev extension. Full elevator rebuild. Standard topper. Recent pump overhauls. Reversing fan fitted to the cooling package. 8 blade chopper. Hubs resealed. GPS fitted. Very Good For Age.

### 1991 AUSTOFT 7000 Wheel

#### Harvester, Komatsu 240 HP.

Leg basecutter, STD Topper, 12" x 6 blade choppers, 4 blade choppers available. SUIT PLANT CUTTER, Good Condition For Age.

### NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500

Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

### NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS

Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track Harvester. No engine, crop lifters, 8 Blade Diff chopper drums, various hydraulic valves & Hydraulic motors.

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS  
Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.

Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas.  
New seal plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.

### Graham Twyford

48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay

Mobile: 0418 742 696

[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)

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



WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS  
AND PHOTOS?

Find *CANEGROWERS* on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia)



## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

3 x JCB 2135 with 6-tonne HBM  
tippers, Good condition, \$44,000  
each inc GST. Can separate.  
Ph. 0437 932 489 or 0427 337 601

### Herbert River-Burdekin

2000L diesel fuel tank on stand, \$1200+gst.  
Ph 0447 183 182

### Mackay-Proserpine

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder VGC.  
6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don  
Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo  
plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550  
4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC.  
Ph. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

1983 Toft 6500 harvester. As new  
walking gear, elevator chains and flights,  
4ft primary extractor with ceiling fan.  
Very good 3306DI engine and aircon.  
Toft rotary chop, very good older  
machine. \$24000 plus GST.  
Ph. 0407 176 828

2x Southern Cross 4x2 pumps on trailers  
Switch box, Murphy gauges and electrical  
cable approx 40kw \$7000 each ono.  
Foot valve on 15m 10-inch poly pipe. 600  
ltr spray tank set up for interrow \$600.  
Nelson big gun needs little work \$800.  
Ph. 07 4958 5762 after 6pm

Ford 7600 100hp with dual power trans,  
18.4x34 tyres. VGC \$12000.00 ono Ph.  
0438981167

Howard Crumble Roller, HO-  
CROLLCH365DT, brand new still in crate,  
fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT,  
2 rollers each@2M. \$4,422 GST inc.  
Ph. 0428 236 165

Campac 12m X 3m transportable donga. 2  
rooms interconnecting toilet/shower. Hot  
water system. 2 air conditioners. \$11,000.  
Ph. 0408 773 784

Bonel 3 row Hydraulic folding cultivator  
with rakes in G.C \$3000 ONO inc GST.  
Ph 0428 221 850

Case IH 8000 Cane Harvester. 5800  
hours. \$195,000 plus gst and Quinco  
1 ton Fertilizer Incorporator with  
plastic bin and stainless worm. \$8000  
plus GST. Both in good condition.  
Ph. 4156 1409 or 0431 044 022

Howard 3-furrow swing plough. Good  
condition. Isis area. Ph. 0427115152

### New South Wales

John Deere 1730 Maxemerge plus planter  
9 15" Rows, transport trailer & spares.  
Ph. 0419 433 608

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Yeoman 2-row minimum till fertiliser bin  
with Coulters and double disc openers,  
rollover tarp in G.C. \$6500 O.N.O inc GST;

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

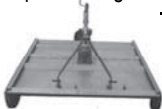
Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm) January–August
	7 days to 9am	Year to date	
	14.08.17	21.08.17	
Mossman	0	0	1624
Mareeba AP	3	0	600
Cairns	1	0	1322
Mt Sophia	1	0	2490
Babinda	0	0	1250
Innisfail	0.2	0	2591
Tully	4	0	1865
Cardwell	0	0	1363
Lucinda	0	0	1469
Ingham	Tce	0	1174
Abergowrie	0	0	789
Townsville	0.2	0	643
Ayr DPI	0.2	0	770
Proserpine	0.4	0	1265
Mirani	1	0	1102
Mackay	0.2	0.2	1833
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	2433
Bundaberg	0	0	456
Childers South	0.4	0.4	630
Maryborough	0.8	0.8	426
Tewantin	0	0	888
Eumundi	0	0	756
Nambour	0.2	0	675
Woongoolba	0	0	707
Murwillumbah	0	0	1217
Ballina	0	0.2	1379
Woodburn	0	0	1349

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
All bath bearings  
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)  
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.  
3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

#### Johnny Farming Company

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740



**AustSafe  
Super**



The industry super  
fund for rural and  
regional Australia

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



**Wanted**

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815

Tractor tyres – BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

WANTED: Billet planter. Ph. 0428 749 167

WANTED: 115 hp to 140 hp FWA tractor, in good condition. Ph. 0427 327 279

WANTED 4 post Rops and canopy for John Deere 3140. Ph. 0417 074 965

WANTED: Gessner ripper coulter or similar. Ph. 0408 562 046

**Property**

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407 635 175

**WESTCOTT  
ENGINEERING****HARVESTER BLADE  
RESHARPENING**

*We offer pickup and delivery  
for large quantities.*

\* Various sized resharpener harvester blades for sale \*

**Tungsten Hardfacing**

- EXCAVATOR TEETH
- BUCKET TEETH
- RIPPER POINTS
- BASECUTTER BLADES
- BASECUTTER DISKS  
(BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- HARVESTER SHOES  
(BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- FAN HARD FACING & BALANCING

**Phone Brendon 0428 220 789**

20 Westcott Rd, Homebush, QLD 4737



**Driven by growers. Used by growers. Owned by growers**

**Become part of the movement:  
Sign up to Smartcane BMP**

Contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator. Get recognised for what you are already doing.



[www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au)





# Liquid EZY3

Complete Nutrient Management Strategy



## Step 1 – Plant Starter

The unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and growth hormones, synthetic and organic, are the key to the success of PlantStarter. It is these nutrients at this critical early stage of germination that provide just the right conditions for growth, delivering potentially a 98% faster strike rate and 52% greater shoot length, compared to traditional granular fertilisers.



## Step 2 – Big Shot

Big Shot is a single application of high analysis N.P.K.S fertiliser incorporating 9% organic carbon base. This aids the microbial slow release of nitrogen fertiliser, which has not only been proven to stabilise the release of nitrogen, but also increase the efficiency of plant available nutrients. LiquaForce BigShot also gives growers the ability to add trace elements more consistently in their fertiliser program, offering the flexibility to create unique mixes specific for their requirements, including trace elements of zinc, copper, boron, or molybdenum.



## Step 3 – Valu N

LiquaForce Valu N is a nitrogen based foliar fertiliser. It is compatible with common industry herbicides, allowing the grower to get a single pass nitrogen application using aircraft or ground rigs combined with weed management programs – saving time, minimising labour costs as well as reducing energy consumption. Valu N is set to become more common as reef regulation steers industry to split applications of nitrogen.

### LIQUAFORCE PTY. LTD.

13 CHALLANDS STREET P.O. BOX 620 INGHAM QLD. 4850

CALL **07 4776 5711** OR VISIT **LIDDLES.COM.AU**

**Liqua**  
USE THE FORCE IN  
**FORCE**  
FUTURE IN FERTILISING