

CANE

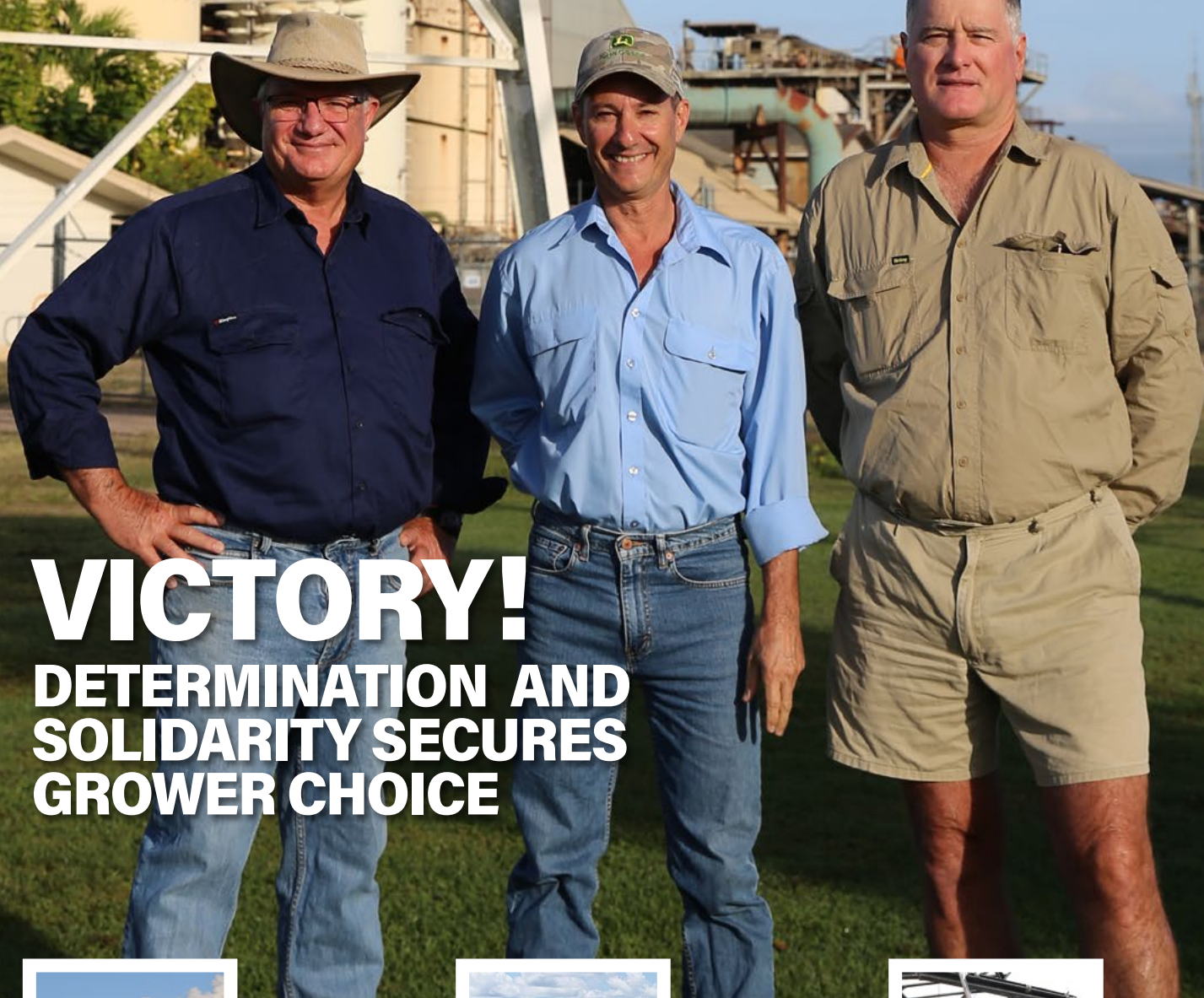
AUSTRALIAN

# GROWER



CANEGROWERS

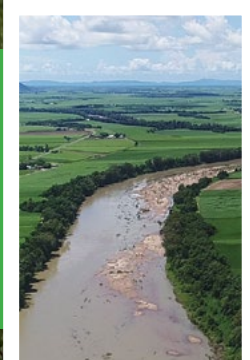
5 June 2017 Price \$9.95



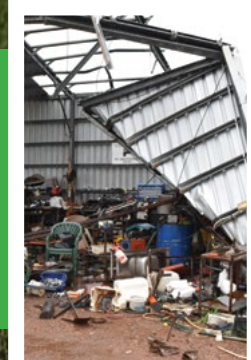
## VICTORY! DETERMINATION AND SOLIDARITY SECURES GROWER CHOICE



Mackay  
Sugar  
growers  
face \$2 per  
tonne levy



\$4 million  
funding  
for water  
quality  
projects



Post-Debbie  
cleanup is  
slow going  
for cane  
growers



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5 June 2017



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*COVER IMAGE: After a long and often bitter campaign CANEGROWERS Herbert River board members Michael Pisano, Paul Marbelli and Chris Bosworth are delighted that Grower Choice has finally been secured.*

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# Cane crush fires up

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Steam is billowing from the first Queensland sugar mills to fire up for the 2017 crush with an estimated 32.5 million tonnes of cane set to be harvested this season.

This provisional estimate is down on the almost 35 million tonnes of cane harvested in Queensland last season, but experience has taught us to be wary of estimates.

Cyclone Debbie and the drought in southern Queensland - in fact, the fickleness of weather generally - have conspired to affect our crop prospects.

But in recent years, the relatively new phenomenon of significant winter growth has increased production outcomes when we least expected it.

More than anything else, let's hope that our mills perform efficiently and that our harvest is a safe and injury-free one.

#### Water quality funding

I recently joined the Environment Minister Steven Miles as he announced a further \$4 million for improved water quality outcomes in the Central Region.

Some might say that \$4 million is a meagre sum in the overall effort to improve water quality.

However, this funding is less about the dollar figure and more about the partnership model of government working with industry and farmers.

I have continually warned governments of all persuasions that the 'big stick' regulatory approach will always achieve the lowest form of environmental outcome.

The best environmental dividends are achieved by governments and researchers working in partnership with farmers.

In my own region, a group of Sandy Creek cane growers is working with the State Government and other agencies to develop farming practices that retain agricultural chemicals on farm.

Similarly, in the Cairns Region a group of cane growers is working hand-in-hand with researchers to test the quality of water leaving cane farms.

I continue to be inspired by the willingness of cane farmers to engage productively with government and other stakeholders to tell our environmental story.

We are best placed to tell this story and it's important we continue to do so, to prevent the public being fed a false story by anti-grower green groups.

#### New South Wales

There is no doubt that the sugar industry's greatest success stories are those based on collaboration and mutual respect between growers and millers.

There has been no better example of this collaboration and respect in recent times than in the resurgence of the New South Wales sugar industry.

Recently, I spent two days in NSW speaking to industry leaders about their success in turning around the once-struggling industry.

How refreshing it was to see a business model based on the mill doing everything in its power to support growers, and growers responding by growing more cane.

By combining leadership, a focus on cane productivity and everyone (growers and the mill owners) understanding the simple strategy, the NSW industry is pushing its way to over 2 million tonnes.

We would be well served by following the example of NSW in parts of the Queensland sugar industry. ■



*"There is no doubt that the sugar industry's greatest success stories are those based on collaboration and mutual respect between growers and millers."*



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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Mackay growers confront \$2 per tonne levy

Mackay Sugar growers (in the Mackay area) will pay a \$2 per tonne levy for two years after a narrow majority of members agreed to the impost in an effort to shore up Mackay Sugar Ltd and prevent Australia's second largest sugar miller from sinking further into debt.

The decision follows a dismal mill performance in 2015-16 that saw the company record a \$26 million loss, one of its biggest in recent years.

Continual mill breakdowns resulted in the longest crushing season in recent memory for Mackay growers in 2016 and almost 400,000 tonnes of cane was left in the paddock at season's end.

In February, a report compiled by capital raising firm Kidder Williams recommended Mackay Sugar raise \$140 million immediately to spend on mill maintenance and pay down some of the company's \$212 million debt.

The Kidder Williams report also suggested asset sales, most notably Mackay Sugar's 30 megawatt co-generation plant.

The decision to impose the \$2 per tonne levy, to be reviewed after two years, follows months of discussions between grower and mill representatives.

A recent member survey conducted by CANEGROWERS' Mackay Area Committee found the majority of growers were against selling the mill,

while a small majority of respondents were in favour of the temporary levy.

"This has been an incredibly difficult decision," Mackay Area Committee Chairman, **Paul Schembri**, said in a letter to growers.

"Our survey results indicated that 60% of growers do not want to sell the company and 51% want to pay the contribution.

"We can't ignore your wishes, as you recorded in the survey, but equally the opposition to the contribution is substantial."

However, grower representatives are cautiously optimistic that improvements to mill performance will negate the impact of the temporary levy on cane growers.

"I ask you to understand the wider picture here," Mr Schembri said. "The \$2 a tonne contribution is significant, but by shortening the season slightly and picking up 0.6 units of CCS it returns the \$2 a tonne in full."



## NEW-LOOK SRA WEBSITE

Sugarcane growers and millers now have improved access to the latest information about their industry-owned company, Sugar Research Australia, through a new-look website.

Available at [www.sugarresearch.com.au](http://www.sugarresearch.com.au), the site contains information on SRA's research investment as well as practical information on sugarcane growing and milling.

"Informal feedback from our investors was that our old site was difficult to access and navigate. We have listened to their requirements and created this improved website in response," SRA CEO Neil Fisher said

"The new site includes information and fact sheets for growing and milling the crop, details about SRA's research investments, information for research collaborators, as well as our corporate information and publications.

"The new-look website presents information in a clear and modern way for our investors and other industry stakeholders."



## DO YOU SUPPLY CLEAN SUGARCANE FOR JUICING?

At CANEGROWERS we often receive inquiries from market stalls, cafes and shops in Queensland and interstate which are looking for sugarcane to juice.

If you would like to be added to the list of growers and businesses we send back, please let us know by emailing [info@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:info@canegrowers.com.au) ■

"The \$2 a tonne contribution is significant, but by shortening the season slightly and picking up 0.6 units of CCS, it returns the \$2 a tonne in full."



# Grower Choice wins through on eve of harvest

***Relief and pride have greeted the news that CANEGROWERS members who supply Wilmar Sugar mills in 2017 will be guaranteed a choice of marketer for their economic interest raw sugar.***

"After watching months of negotiation and mediation, it is with relief that we acknowledge the crucial On-Supply Agreement (OSA) between Wilmar and QSL has been signed," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan told the media when the announcement was made.

The OSA clears the way for Cane Supply Agreements (CSAs) to be finalised for CANEGROWERS members in the Herbert River, Burdekin, Proserpine and Plane Creek milling areas.

The long campaign for grower choice was triggered in 2014 by Wilmar moving to take a monopoly marketing position – telling growers it would market all of the sugar coming from its mills, including the sugar in which growers have an economic interest (GEI sugar).

Through the determination and persistence of CANEGROWERS members and staff, and with political support from the Liberal National Party, Katter's Australian Party and the independent MP for Cook, that move was resisted.

The final pieces of the puzzle guaranteeing grower choice are now falling into place.

Competition has been guaranteed in the provision of sugar marketing services in Queensland.

"This has been a long and arduous journey but one that CANEGROWERS and our members have been proud to fight and determined to win," Mr Galligan said.

"The 2017 season starts with our members, on whose hard work and investment this industry is built, able to

make the sugar marketing choice that they believe is best for their business.

"They have fought and won against a plan that railroaded them into the marketing decisions that the milling company would make in its own interests."

With the On-Supply Agreement now in place, CANEGROWERS negotiating teams in the Wilmar mill districts have been in the final stages of ensuring the collective Cane Supply Agreements for growers were compatible with it.

Members who supply Wilmar Sugar will be notified by their local CANEGROWERS office when and where their collective CSA is ready to be signed.

In the meantime, decisions can be made about pricing pathways for 2017. QSL and Wilmar have mechanisms in place to start the process. ■

**Michael Pisano, Chairman of CANEGROWERS Herbert River, is glad the OSA between Wilmar and QSL is in place and Cane Supply Agreement talks can now move forward.**

"For us, negotiations towards our CSA are limping along and we are seeking ongoing meetings with Wilmar to conclude the outstanding issues," he said.

"I am cautiously optimistic we can conclude the CSA negotiations soon and for a normal start to the season in the Herbert River district.

"The mills have nominated 13 June but we've not agreed to it. Once the CSA is in place, we'll be able to work on what would be an appropriate date.

"Our members are determined not to sign any agreement that they are not entirely happy with just to get the season underway – we want to make sure it's a good agreement."

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Herbert River board members Michael Pisano, Chris Bosworth and Paul Marbelli.*





# CANEGROWERS welcomes partnership approach to improving water quality

The Queensland Government has announced a \$4 million funding boost for on-ground projects in the Mackay Whitsunday and broader Central Queensland region aimed at reducing run-off into waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

Minister for the Great Barrier Reef **Steven Miles** said the government would soon call for expressions of interest from organisations which could work with landholders and land managers to deliver on-ground works.

"The Central Queensland area is at the heart of the Great Barrier Reef and reducing the run-off of pesticides, nutrients and sediment is a priority," Mr Miles said.

Mr Miles said funding would be available to organisations such as private industry, natural resource management groups, producer groups, landcare, government organisations, universities and community groups.

"These local groups are best placed to help landholders make changes that will improve their property and also bolster our efforts to improve the quality of water flowing to the Reef.

"We know that improving water quality is our best chance of building the Reef's resilience and helping it recover."

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** welcomed the announcement, saying the real significance of the funding was not in the dollar figure attached, but in the partnership model of government working hand-in-hand with industry and farmers.

"The 'big stick' regulatory approach will only ever achieve the minimum environmental outcome. By working hand-in-hand with farmers, the government can hope to achieve far greater results."

"I have always said that the 'big stick' regulatory approach will only ever achieve the minimum environmental outcome," Mr Schembri said.

"By working hand-in-hand with farmers, the government can hope to achieve far greater results.

"I continue to be inspired by the willingness of cane farmers to engage productively with government and other stakeholders to tell our environmental story.

"We are best placed to tell this story and it's important we continue to do so, to prevent the public being fed a false story by anti-grower green groups."

The funding is being provided through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program, which is the government's response to the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce.

"We're working through the finer details now and want to see projects start as quickly as possible," the Minister said.

Organisations wanting to be notified when the expression of interest opens should email [officeofthegbr@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:officeofthegbr@ehp.qld.gov.au) ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri speaks with Minister for the Great Barrier Reef Steven Miles.*





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"Cane growers can use ENTEC with confidence and they don't have to worry about where their fertiliser is going."

Robert Silvini Ingham





# Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

## Sustainable sugar and Coca Cola

I remember an advertisement when I was young which featured vibrant teenagers drinking Coke and bouncing inside a giant orb on the ocean. "Coke ads life," was the tagline and it reflected a time when soft drink was just a fun part of a growing up.

Move ahead 30 years and, while soft drink is still fun, it needs to meet the expectations of the consumer. It must be produced sustainably – ingredients, packaging, water and labour.

In addition to water replenishment targets, Coca-Cola has introduced a sustainable sugar target. By 2020 this company plans to source 100% of its sugar from sustainable sources.

With this in mind, Coke has developed its own Sustainable Agriculture Guiding Principles (SAGP). It has also recognised Bonsucro as meeting the company's sustainable sugar needs.

Since 2015, CANEGROWERS has been working with Coke to provide a pathway for Smartcane BMP accredited growers to meet the company's sustainable sugar needs.

In 2016, Smartcane BMP received conditional approval for meeting Coke's SAGP's and can therefore support Coke's sourcing requirements for sustainable sugar until the end of 2017. Smartcane BMP is also fully aligned with Bonsucro.

CANEGROWERS is providing aggregated Smartcane BMP data to Coke to support its sustainable sugar aims. CANEGROWERS also communicates quarterly with Coke to discuss the Smartcane BMP program with a view to extending the approval for meeting the sourcing requirements for sustainable sugar through 2018 and beyond.

In May, CANEGROWERS met with Coke in Sydney to discuss Smartcane BMP, sustainable sugar and Bonsucro. The meeting was constructive and gave CANEGROWERS the opportunity to talk about the Queensland sugar industry, CANEGROWERS role, industry programs, initiatives and challenges around the Great Barrier Reef and sustainability.

Coke is keen to progress a discussion that moves towards better aligning a shared vision of what sustainable practice looks like in the Australian market.

CANEGROWERS is keen for Coke to support the efforts growers are making for the Reef and their business futures.

A follow up meeting is planned for July. ■



## Enabling innovations

CANEGROWERS, through its membership of the National Farmers Federation (NFF), is involved with a wide range of industry issues.

At a recent meeting of NFF's Innovation Committee the 'digital divide' was discussed. This is the problem of more and more innovations becoming available online, but growers being unable to access or use them.

Even though cane growers, being relatively close to towns along the eastern seaboard, are considered fortunate in their level of mobile coverage compared to more remote agricultural industries, this digital divide is still an issue.

NFF is a member of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network and work is being done to make the Commonwealth Government fully aware of the effect this divide can have on the future of agriculture.

Some of the issues being addressed are mobile phone access, the universal service obligation, broadband speed, NBN role out and roaming to share mobile networks.

## Gene technology

The Innovation Committee was also given a presentation by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on the options to change regulations to accommodate new techniques like gene editing.

Even conventional plant and animal breeding is a form of gene manipulation, so the definitions of what needs to be regulated and the regulatory path (cost) that is required to be able grow and sell a product is fraught with conflicting issues.

There are different opinions within Australia as to what should be regulated and how stringent the regulations should be.

However, from an industry point of view, our trading partners must also find the regulations provide an acceptable product and thus, international considerations must be assessed in the process. Sugarcane is no exception to this dilemma.

These are big issues which will certainly affect the world competitiveness of cane growers into the future.

It is vital that we have the strong representation through NFF and CANEGROWERS to ensure that we have a say in these developments. ■





## Economics with Warren Males

## Never a dull moment

It's been an interesting fortnight.

As expected, China's sugar safeguard investigation team released its report recommending the immediate introduction of safeguard duties on sugar imports, a move designed to support domestic producers.

Levied at an additional 45%, the total duty payable on the affected imports will be 117.5%.

Needless to say, this will be a disincentive to the official sugar trade into China but, with China's sugar production expected to fall well short of consumption, there will be winners.

The clear winning candidates are the smugglers and the managers of China's strategic sugar stockpile. Both will reap the benefit of China's sugar prices being well above world prices.

It is less clear if the target group, Chinese

cane farmers, will reap much benefit. Their sugarcane prices will remain high, likely not much more than the present USD80 per tonne of cane.

China's cane production is not growing and farms are small, many less than a hectare. It appears a different approach to China's farm policy is required.

CANEGROWERS is working to minimise the impact of China's decision on Australian sugar exports.

## Electricity trials

Applications for Ergon's agricultural tariff trial are now closed.

CANEGROWERS is working with the Department of Energy and Water Supply to ensure successful applicants have the new meters installed promptly.

The trial is an important step in collecting data on the way electricity is used in irrigated agriculture.

The data will be used to help Ergon design new tariffs for when existing irrigation tariffs (T62, T65 and T66) are no longer available in 2020.

## FMD Accounts

On another front, working with the NFF, CANEGROWERS is encouraging Australia's Big 4 banks to make farm management deposit (FMD) accounts available to farmers as off-set accounts to their farm debt, as enabled by the legislative changes introduced in 2016 but not yet implemented.

To date, the Rural Bank is one of the few banks to make FMD accounts available as offset accounts. ■



CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager **Matt Kealley** and Smartcane BMP Manager **Mick Quirk** met with **Coca Cola** in Sydney.



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# NEW WORK ON SOLDIER FLY

update on SRA's investment and approach

By Neil Fisher, CEO, Sugar Research Australia



At its April Board meeting, SRA's Board of Directors announced its decision on soldier fly research investment, commencing July 2017.

Chemical trials are already underway at locations including Bundaberg and Mackay, while SRA is also conducting variety trials to assess and understand the varietal differences for soldier fly impact.

More information on this work, which is being led by **Dr Karel Lindsay** in Mackay, should be available towards the end of this year, after these trials are harvested.

Dr Lindsay, along with SRA Leader for Pest, Disease and Weed Management, **Dr Andrew Ward**, has established collaborative working relationships with productivity services organisations, growers and millers in infested soldier fly regions.

It is important that these relationships continue to ensure our research and management strategies are tailored to the needs of these regions.

In addition, the SRA Board has heard from many investors who believe the organisation needs to get 'back to basics' on soldier fly - to better understand exactly what the soldier fly larvae are doing to cane and what this means for the rest of the growing season and ratoon crops.

The Board is focussed on ensuring that SRA continues to invest in Strategic Basic Research.

This experimental and theoretical work is undertaken in specified broad areas in the expectation of useful discoveries.

It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

To achieve this, the Board has approved the recruitment of a post-doctoral researcher within the University of Queensland to work on soldier fly.

Dr Ward has commenced discussions with UQ about this work.

He and a representative from UQ will visit a soldier fly site in early June so that they can scope this new project.

By finding a talented and enthusiastic researcher, we have an opportunity to better understand the fundamentals of soldier fly and deliver positive outcomes for growers.

SRA will commit the investment to ensure that this researcher has the operational budget to meet with stakeholders and

understand soldier fly in sugarcane regions.

Dr Lindsay's important work will continue, and he will also be part of the steering group for the UQ post-doc project.

If you have any questions about this investment, please contact Key Focus Area Leader, Dr Andrew Ward, on [award@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:award@sugarresearch.com.au) or 0401 564 312. ■

*Pictured: (L) A female soldier fly;  
(R) Searching for soldier fly larvae as part of  
SRA research trials at Bundaberg.*





## CROP ESTIMATES

| DISTRICT / Mill                     | CRUSH START DATE       | ESTIMATE (Tonnes) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MOSSMAN</b>                      | <i>District total:</i> | <b>1,200,000</b>  |
| Mossman (Mackay Sugar) <sup>1</sup> | 5 June                 | 896,000           |
| <b>TABLELAND</b>                    | <i>District total:</i> | <b>426,000</b>    |
| Tableland (MSF) <sup>1</sup>        | 30 May                 | 730,000           |
| <b>CAIRNS REGION</b>                | <i>District total:</i> | <b>1,151,500</b>  |
| Mulgrave <sup>2</sup>               | 13 June                | 1,371,500         |
| <b>INNISFAIL</b>                    | <i>District total:</i> | <b>1,830,952</b>  |
| S. Johnstone <sup>2</sup>           | 13 June                | 1,610,952         |
| <b>TULLY</b>                        |                        |                   |
| Tully                               | 1 June                 | 2,700,000         |
| <b>HERBERT RIVER</b>                |                        |                   |
| Macknade                            | TBA                    | 4,700,000         |
| Victoria                            | TBA                    |                   |
| <b>BURDEKIN</b>                     |                        |                   |
| Invicta                             | 13 June                | 3,197,000         |
| Pioneer                             | 6 June                 | 1,804,000         |
| Kalamia                             | 6 June                 | 1,597,000         |
| Inkerman                            | 6 June                 | 1,802,000         |
| <b>PROSERPINE</b>                   |                        |                   |
| Proserpine                          | 4 July                 | 1,370,000         |
| <b>MACKAY</b>                       |                        |                   |
| Farleigh                            | 5 June                 |                   |
| Marian (1st train)                  | 6 June                 | 5,300,000         |
| Marian (2nd train)                  | 14 June                |                   |
| Racecourse                          | 8 June                 |                   |
| <b>PLANE CREEK</b>                  |                        |                   |
| Plane Creek                         | 20 June                | 1,180,000         |
| <b>BUNDABERG</b>                    |                        |                   |
| Bingera                             | 26 June                | 1,748,000         |
| Millaquin                           | 19 June                |                   |
| <b>ISIS</b>                         |                        |                   |
| Isis Central                        | 26 June                | 1,250,000         |
| <b>MARYBOROUGH</b>                  | <i>Prospective</i>     |                   |
| Maryborough                         | 15 July                | 540,000           |
| <b>ROCKY POINT</b>                  | <i>Prospective</i>     |                   |
| Rocky Point                         | 12 June                | 471,620           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        |                        | <b>32,268,072</b> |

*Note 1: 304,000 tonnes of Mossman's Tableland District cane will be toll-crushed at Tableland MSF Mill.*

*Note 2: 220,000 tonnes of South Johnstone contracted cane will be crushed at Mulgrave Mill.*

## Tableland mill kicks off 2017 crush

Queensland's crush is underway, with MSF's Tableland mill the first cab off the rank in 2017, kicking off the season on 30 May.

Tableland mill manager Pat Ryan said the absence of a wet season on the Atherton Tableland will negatively impact on cane yield, with this year's estimate currently standing at 730,000 tonnes, down from 819,000 tonnes in 2016.

Overall, Queensland's crop estimate is down by more than 2 million tonnes on 2016 figures, with the drop mainly attributed to a drought in southern cane growing regions and the impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Just two days after Tableland kicked off the crush, Tully mill cranked into action. Mackay's Farleigh Mill had been scheduled to start crushing on 30 May, but this was pushed back to 5 June following heavy rain in the region.

# PLAN FOR NEXT SEASON TODAY

[www.ioa.land](http://www.ioa.land)



# POST-DEBBIE CLEANUP IS SLOW GOING

By Wayne Griffin

Life is gradually getting back to normal for Queensland cane growers battered by Tropical Cyclone Debbie. But more than two months on from the devastating storm, progress is still slow, with many growers waiting to have insurance claims processed so they can get on with the real work of rebuilding.

"I've been so snowed under with insurance claims, I just can't get my head around everything - it's insane," local cane grower **Tony Hinschen** said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited his Proserpine farm recently.

"You don't realise just how much you've been affected until you start documenting everything.

"I seem to spend a lot of time these days either filling out forms or on the phone to the insurance company."

It's a familiar story. The trail of destruction left in Debbie's wake is so widespread that insurance companies are flying in assessors from around the country and from overseas to help process thousands of claims.

If anyone understands the scale of that destruction, it's Tony. As the local SES incident controller he witnessed first hand the damage to buildings and infrastructure.

"I don't think I saw my house in daylight hours for about two weeks. I was out before sun-up every morning and didn't get home until after dark," Tony said.

"Most of the newer houses around, the ones built after Cyclone Ului, weren't really damaged at all, but some of the older houses lost their roofs.

"Most of the damage was probably to sheds and infrastructure. In fact, just to get into town on that first morning after the storm, I had to get the backhoe out and push our shed roof off the road.

"The immediate challenge was getting people access to and from their homes. Everyone needs that so they can look after themselves and so emergency services can get to them if required. ►







*"We've cleaned up as much as we can, now we're just waiting for the insurance company to decide if they're going to pay out for the sum insured or rebuild."*

*Pictured: (left) Tropical Cyclone Debbie snapped and flattened cane crops across Queensland's central growing region; (above) The roof was torn off Proserpine grower Mark Blair's shed; (inset) Two months later, Mark is still waiting on insurance money to repair the damage; (right) Cane grower and SES volunteer Tony Hinschen spent weeks helping with the post-Debbie clean up. The satellite image shows a trail of debris through his Proserpine farm.*

"After that it was all about tarping damaged roofs, clearing debris, things like that. It was a busy couple of weeks."

Like every other grower in the region, Tony's cane crop took a battering from Debbie and the losses are expected to be significant.

"It's a waiting game at the minute. We won't really know how much we've lost until it's been harvested but we're estimating about 30 to 40%."

"That loss isn't covered by insurance, so we'll just have to absorb it. You don't make a lot of money growing cane at the best of times, so this kind of loss is going to make it difficult for a lot of people."

Tony wasn't the only grower to lose a shed to Debbie with his neighbour **Mark Blair** one of many other growers in a similar situation.

"Every day I'm on the phone to the insurance company to find out when the claim will be processed," Mark said.



*Continues page 14...*





The roof of Mark's shed was shredded when Cyclone Debbie tore through the Proserpine district.

The sheer force and duration of the Category 5 storm also tore the structure's concrete footings from the ground.

"We've cleaned up as much as we can," Mark said. "Now we're just waiting for the insurance company to decide if they're going to pay me out for the sum insured or rebuild."

Up the road, Lindsay Altmann understands well the destructive power of 200+ kilometre an hour winds.

Two months on he is still waiting to hear if his family home will have to be demolished.



*"It's just the price you pay sometimes for living in paradise! Cane growers are a tough mob and they're reasonably stubborn ... they're just getting on with it, what else can you do?"*

"We've done a few basic repairs to the house," Lindsay said. "My young fella's a chippy so he fixed up the roof and we boarded up the wall, but there's no point doing too much because we don't know if the whole thing will have to come down.

"I'm not complaining, that's just the way it is. I just want to know either way and if it does have to come down I want to know what that entails.

"The frame is solid hardwood, so it's strong as anything. If it had been pine it would have fallen to bits in that wind.

"Having said that, the whole house has twisted a bit and that's cracked concrete pillars and sheeting.

"The structural engineers have been out to assess the place but we're still waiting on the report."

Despite the significant damage to his home, sheds and crop, Lindsay is philosophical about Debbie.

"You've just got to get on with it. These things happen, it's life," he says.

"It's the price you pay sometimes for living in paradise.

"Cane growers are a tough mob and they're a reasonably stubborn lot too. You won't hear them complaining too often.

"A lot of them have been through this type of thing before, so they're just getting on with it, what else can you do?"

While Proserpine growers bore the brunt of Debbie's terrifying winds, further south, Mackay growers were faced with a different, albeit no less destructive, cyclonic force. ►

*Pictured: Two months on from Cyclone Debbie, Lindsay Altmann is still waiting to find out if his home will be demolished. In the meantime he's making the best of a bad situation. (above) Turning a fallen tree into a temporary clothes line after the previous one was destroyed in the storm.*





Further towards Mackay, Eton grower **Ray Abela** lost five tractors and a harvester to floodwaters, while a lifetime's collection of power tools also went under.

"We didn't get any structural damage, but basically everything that was in the shed below the level of the water that came from Debbie was lost," Ray said

"The tractors were all written off. We had an excavator that was sitting out the front of the shed with a track off - written off. The harvester was written off as well.

"The house is high set so the water didn't get high enough to get into the upper level, thankfully. But it flooded the garage and living space underneath, resulting in the loss of all the furniture and other possessions."

While Ray's insurance claim for the tractors was processed relatively quickly, he, like many other growers, was faced with the prospect of the insurance payout not being enough to cover all of his losses.

"The insurance payout would never cover the cost of actually replacing the machinery that's been written off, but they'll let you buy it back from them at your own risk, and you just have to hope you can fix it," Ray said.

"You can insure it again, but it won't be covered for anything to do with the event that it was written off for.

"The power tools and other things, we haven't received a cent for any of that yet."



It's a story Koumala cane grower **Jim Swan** knows all too well.

"We had five tractors go under, but only one was insured. The insurance company wrote it off and we bought it back from them. We're hoping the young mechanic here can fix it.

"The sheds have all been destroyed. They were all insured, but we've now been told that the insurance won't cover them against rising floodwater.

"As for the cane, we don't know what we've got until we get into it.

"A lot of the stools are just sitting on top, so probably half of it will be alright and the other half will have to be ploughed out."

While the damage to sheds and cane is significant, for Jim, it's the loss of the little things that upsets him the most.

"There's so much stuff you've accumulated over the years and it's just gone. You have to start over again." ■



*Pictured: (top) Eton grower Ray Abela lost five tractors and a shed full of power tools to the flood, not to mention the damage to his cane; (right) Debris marks the high water mark at Jim Swan's Koumala farm. The flood water was so powerful it washed away an old cane-cutters quarters that has stood on the property for more than half century, leaving just the twisted stumps behind (bottom).*





## Wilmar Growers: Pricing with QSL

During recent weeks QSL has been issuing Grower Pricing Agreements (GPAs) to Wilmar Growers keen to use QSL pricing and marketing services.

Under the new Marketing Choice arrangements, the GPA is a contract between QSL and a Wilmar Grower which details the conditions under which that Grower will allocate their Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) to QSL in order to access QSL's marketing and pricing services.

The GPA only needs to be done once, and then remains valid from its date of execution until the end of QSL's On-Supply Agreement with Wilmar.

To obtain a GPA, Wilmar Growers are asked to complete the pre-registration form which is available in the Wilmar Growers section of the QSL website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) or from QSL offices.

Once this form has been processed by QSL, a GPA will be issued to the Grower via email, with a hard copy also available from their local QSL office.

You can then return your GPA by:

- Dropping it in to the local QSL office
- Emailing a scanned copy to [qsldirect@qsl.com.au](mailto:qsldirect@qsl.com.au)
- Posting a signed hard copy to GPO Box 891, Brisbane, Qld, 4000.

### CHOOSING QSL

It is important to note that while Wilmar Growers must have a GPA to access QSL pricing services, submitting a GPA to QSL does not mean that you have officially chosen QSL – it just means that we have made preparations for you to access our system.

**To choose QSL, you must select QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer within your Cane Supply Agreement and allocate a percentage of your GEI Sugar tonnage to be managed through the QSL system.**

If you wish to access any QSL pools or pricing products – including the QSL Harvest Pool – you must choose QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer and allocate a percentage of your GEI Sugar tonnage to QSL.

Your 35% mandatory QSL Harvest Pool allocation (and up to 5% for the US Quota) is then applied to the GEI Sugar allocation you have nominated to manage through the QSL system.

Once QSL receives notification of your GEI Sugar nomination, your GPA will be activated and you will be issued with the log-on details for our new Grower portal – QSL Direct – so that you can commence pricing. See the *QSL Direct* section at right for details.

Those Growers who choose QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer within their CSA but have not yet completed the necessary GPA documentation will be required to complete the GPA process before they can start pricing with QSL.

### QSL Direct: an online grower portal

Under the new Marketing Choice arrangements for Wilmar Sugar Growers, these growers must now deal directly with QSL in order to access QSL's marketing and pricing services for the 2017 Season and beyond.

QSL Direct is an online grower portal that has been designed to enable this, and allows Wilmar Growers who have elected QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer to:

- Monitor their QSL GEI Sugar tonnage and allocations
- Nominate GEI Sugar tonnes to QSL-Managed Pools and Grower-Managed Pricing Products
- Place, cancel and monitor orders for Grower-Managed Pricing Products
- Receive QSL Payment Advice Statements
- Add or change business and banking details
- Access GPA details
- Access sugar market information and the latest QSL news

Please note that Wilmar Growers will not be able to gain access to QSL Direct until they have nominated QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer within their Cane Supply Agreement and have a GPA in place with QSL (see the *Choosing QSL* section, left, for details).

Your QSL Grower Services team is currently running regular training sessions in how to use QSL Direct. Please contact your local QSL office for details.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

*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. The report does not constitute financial, investment or product advice, a risk management strategy, a recommendation to invest in any of the pools described in this report, or an offer or invitation or recommendation with respect to any of the pools. You should read the Pricing Pool Terms, which will be available on the QSL website, and seek your own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to the Pricing Pool Terms and selecting pools.*



# Choosing QSL: a guide for Wilmar Growers

Under Marketing Choice arrangements, Wilmar Sugar Growers now have a new process to access QSL marketing and pricing services. This process is outlined below:

1

## SUBMIT YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

- ▶ If you have not already done so, please complete and return your QSL Direct Pre-Registration Form.
- ▶ You should have received a copy of this form via email or in the mail. You can obtain another copy from the QSL website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) or your local QSL regional office.
- ▶ Your Pre-Registration Form is used by QSL to create your Grower Pricing Agreement.



2

## SUBMIT YOUR QSL GROWER PRICING AGREEMENT (GPA)

- ▶ The Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) is your contract for marketing and pricing services with QSL for the 2017 Season and beyond.
- ▶ Your GPA will be emailed to you and a QSL representative will contact you to ensure you have received your GPA and explain the process moving forward.
- ▶ Please note: While your GPA will be processed when you submit it, it does not come into effect until QSL has an On-Supply Agreement in place with Wilmar Sugar and you have chosen QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer within your CSA.



3

## NOMINATE QSL AS A MARKETER OF YOUR GROWER'S ECONOMIC INTEREST IN SUGAR (GEI SUGAR) IN YOUR CANE SUPPLY AGREEMENT (CSA)

- ▶ When completing your CSA within the Wilmar Sugar GrowerWeb system, you need to nominate QSL as a GEI Sugar Marketer and allocate a percentage of your GEI Sugar production to QSL for marketing and pricing services.
- ▶ This GEI Sugar marketing allocation within your CSA covers all of your GEI Sugar, not just your forward or committed pricing. If you only want to use QSL for marketing and pricing services, you should assign 100% of your GEI Sugar Marketer allocation to QSL.



4

## YOUR GPA WITH QSL IS ACTIVATED

- ▶ Upon confirmation of your GEI Sugar Marketer allocation and CSA from your Miller, QSL will activate your previously submitted Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA).
- ▶ If you have not yet submitted a GPA to QSL, one will be issued to you via email and a QSL representative will contact you to discuss the process moving forward.
- ▶ Please note: You cannot access QSL marketing and pricing services until you have both a valid CSA and GPA in place.



5

## YOUR NEW ACCOUNT ON THE QSL DIRECT ONLINE GROWER PORTAL IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ACCESS YOUR PRICING OPTIONS

- ▶ Once QSL has activated your GPA, you will receive an email with details of how to access the QSL Direct online portal for the first time.
- ▶ You will use the QSL Direct portal to:
  - ▶ Nominate pools
  - ▶ Place and track pricing orders
  - ▶ View production data
  - ▶ Monitor payments from QSL
- ▶ The QSL Direct User Guide details how to use the portal and will be available on the QSL website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)), with additional support available through local QSL regional offices and the QSL Direct helpline.



# General Biosecurity Obligation

Shared responsibility is fundamental to the future of Queensland's biosecurity



By Frank Fox, Biosecurity Queensland

In this second article about the new *Queensland Biosecurity Act*, the focus is on the concept of shared responsibility and the formal application of a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO). The first article in this series, last month, gave an overview of the new Act.

The General Biosecurity Obligation applies to everyone - whether they are involved in government, industry or in the broader community.

What it means is that every person has an obligation to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks.

However, the Act makes it clear that this obligation only applies to people who know or should reasonably know that a biosecurity risk exists. The test is 'reasonableness'.

Firstly, at the government level the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for administering the new legislation. That, in effect, is its principal biosecurity obligation.

Departmental staff carry out this obligation by continuing to regulate and monitor the activities of people who deal with biosecurity matter.

Staff may also deal directly with biosecurity matter when conducting surveys and sampling. Staff are required to be mindful of biosecurity risks and behave accordingly.

Local governments are also included. The Act requires them to maintain Biosecurity Plans to control invasive plants and animals. With the plans in place, council employees are then bound by their GBO to administer them.

Moving to industry, biosecurity features prominently in the support that peak industry bodies such as CANEGROWERS provide for their membership.

This is because biosecurity is linked directly to market access and to environmental outcomes.

Many industry bodies have recognised this by promoting Industry Biosecurity Plans and by supporting the adoption of biosecurity best practice at the farm level.

At the farm level, members will continue to manage pests and diseases to maintain business viability, to support market access and to meet environmental outcomes.

The new Act will continue to support that process by requiring people such as growers, farm workers, packers and truck drivers to exercise their GBO. ■

***"The Act also makes it clear that this obligation only applies to people who know or should reasonably know that a biosecurity risk exists. The test is 'reasonableness'."***







PICTURED: Rocky Point cane growers Lindsay (l) and Kevin Mischke (r) demonstrate how cane harvesters and haulout trucks work side-by-side to efficiently harvest the cane.

## RURAL DISCOVERY DAY 2017

More than 160 primary school students got a hands on introduction to the art of cane growing at the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Rural Discovery Day at the Brisbane Showgrounds on 18 May.

Students learnt how sugar is produced from paddock to plate, with dedicated Rocky Point farmers **Kevin and Lindsay Mischke** sharing their expertise and entertaining the crowd with their stories of old and new farming practices.

CANEGROWERS would like to thank the Mischke family for their continued support. We also wish Kevin Mischke a very Happy 90th Birthday, as he celebrates this milestone in June. To help educate our children, Kevin has attended every Rural Discovery Day since it began 14 years ago!

The effort is not wasted. The students enjoyed their day out of the classroom. They planted cane, handled cane grubs (in a jar), watched the milling process and discovered the many products made from sugarcane. The adventurous ones even got to taste sugarcane juice fresh from the stalk.

CANEGROWERS appreciates the support of all who assisted with this event. Your generosity helps to educate the next generation of Australian consumers and potential farmers. ■





# What is food's GI?

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team

## GI stands for glycemic index and using it can offer everyone health benefits.

All carbohydrate-containing foods and drinks produce glucose for energy that's absorbed into the bloodstream, but they do this at different rates.

The glycemic index, or GI, is a measure of the rate at which a food or drink increases blood glucose levels after you consume it. Lower GI foods provide slower release, more sustained energy.

### Which foods can have a GI measured?

The GI is only relevant for foods containing carbohydrates. These include starch and sugar-containing foods such as bread, rice, pasta, potato, beans and other legumes, fruit, milk and yoghurt, as well as foods with added sugars such as sweet drinks, cakes and biscuits.

Foods such as nuts, meat and cheese contain minimal carbohydrates and therefore do not have a GI.

### How does GI affect health?

Too many high GI foods in a diet can have adverse effects on health, increasing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, high levels of unhealthy blood fats (LDL cholesterol and triglycerides), and even weight gain.

Swapping high-GI foods for low-GI alternatives can help lower the overall GI of your diet. This is especially important for people with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes, who need to keep their blood glucose levels in the healthy range.

### How is it measured?

The glycemic index is measured on a scale of 0-100 and all foods are compared to pure glucose which has a GI of 100. Foods and drinks are classified as high, medium or low.

|                 |
|-----------------|
| High 70 or more |
| Medium 56 to 69 |
| Low 55 or less  |

You can't guess the GI of a food by its nutrition information alone, as there are often many factors at play.

Measurement is done using real people tested in a laboratory, and the University of Sydney leads the world in this field.

You can find out more about GI, and look up the GI of the foods and drinks that have been tested at [www.glycemicindex.com](http://www.glycemicindex.com)

### Examples of GI

Healthy low GI foods include dense, grainy and sourdough breads, oats, legumes, pasta, most fruits, milk and yoghurt.

High GI foods include white bread, rice and most potatoes, although there are lower GI varieties available.

You might be surprised to see that table sugar fits into the medium classification, not high, as is commonly believed.

| LOW  | MEDIUM   | HIGH  |
|--|--|---|
| Muesli, rolled oats, high bran content cereal                            | Wheatflake breakfast biscuit                                     | Puffed cereals  |
| Wholegrain sourdough bread, corn tortilla, lower carb breads             | Mixed grain bread, bread with oats, soy, barley, seeds and fruit | Most breads, scones, waffles                          |
| Legumes, eg lentils, chick peas, kidney beans, soy beans                 | Basmati rice, medium grain brown rice, wild rice                 | Rice crackers, rice cakes, corn cakes, water crackers |
| Regular wheat pasta, noodles, oats, quinoa, barley                       | Pumpkin, kumara  | Most rices, eg jasmine.                               |
| Dairy foods: milk, yoghurt, custard, ice cream                           | Pineapple, rockmelon, paw paw, cherries, lychees                 | Most potatoes   |
| Most fruits, eg apple, pear, orange, banana, grapes, mango, fruit juices | Cane sugar (sucrose)   | Vanilla cream wafer biscuit, plain sweet biscuit      |
| Sweetcorn, Butternut pumpkin, parsnip, taro, yam                         |  | Sports drinks   |



To help you choose lower GI foods, look out for foods carrying the GI symbol

### The GI of some foods is surprising

Many starchy foods have a higher GI than sugar, including most bread, potatoes and rice. These are still nutritious foods and need not be avoided altogether.

Rather, enjoy them in smaller portions and enjoy them in balanced meals where foods such as meat, fish, chicken and eggs will temper their glycemic effect.

Similarly, a medium GI for sugar doesn't mean that high sugar 'sometimes foods' like soft drinks and confectionery are OK to eat every day.





## How to use the GI

The most important foods to switch to lower GI are your everyday starchy staples, such as breakfast cereal, bread, rice, pasta and potato as these tend to have the biggest impact on the overall GI of your diet.

## How you can switch to lower GI foods and drinks

| HIGHER GI FOOD                         | LOWER GI ALTERNATIVE  |
|--|---|
| Puffed rice cereal, corn flakes        | Rolled oats (porridge), muesli, high-bran cereal  |
| Jasmine rice                           | Basmati, Doongara (Clever®) or Moolgiri rice, noodles                                     |
| White bread                            | Wholegrain sourdough, multigrain, soy-linseed bread, corn tortilla                        |
| Orange flavour soft drink              | Orange juice  |
| Jelly beans                            | Dried apricots  |
| Rice pasta (e.g. gluten-free)          | Regular wheat pasta   |
| Pontiac, Desiree potato, mashed potato | Nicola, Carisma and Almera potatoes, butternut pumpkin, sweet potato, parsnip, sweet corn |
| Rice cracker, rice cake                | Rye or wheat wholegrain crispbread  |

## The big picture

Not all high GI foods are unhealthy, and not all low GI foods are healthy. Common sense will tell you just because chocolate has a low GI, it doesn't mean you can eat lots of it.

The GI is only one aspect to consider, and it doesn't overturn advice to enjoy a balanced diet with plenty of vegetables, fruits, grains and legumes. ■

# Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

## MENTAL HEALTH FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

While every job involves stress, running a small business has its own set of challenges. As a small business owner, it's possible you're dealing with stress that comes with cash flow concerns, a demanding workload, social isolation, working long hours and the ups-and-downs of super busy versus really quiet times. In order to stay on top of your game, you need to focus on both your business and your health and wellbeing.

## SEEK SUPPORT

One of the best things you can do as a small business owner is maintain a strong social support network. Your family and friends are the ones who will distract you from business pressures, listen as you vent your frustrations and help to keep an eye out for your health.

## EXERCISE IS KEY

Regular exercise can combat stress, so have a look at how this can fit into your day. Even 30 minutes a day can make a difference to your health.

## MAINTAIN A HEALTHY DIET

Eating well is important to regulating your mood, staying focused and looking after your physical health.

## SWITCH OFF AND RECHARGE

Finding a work-life balance can be difficult as a small business owner, especially when work feels like your whole life. It's important to schedule in some downtime in order to avoid burning out or having continually elevated stress levels.

Try out new ways to help you switch off from work. This might be through meditation or making time to socialise with friends, or it could be as simple as disconnecting from your digital devices to enjoy your favourite hobbies.

*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.*

For more information, please visit [austsafe.com.au](http://austsafe.com.au)





# ENTEC enhances yields for Ingham cane grower

*Supplied by Incitec Pivot*

After excellent growing conditions and plenty of rain during the season, Steve Gileppa anticipates harvesting another record cane crop.

With a few weeks to go before the harvest begins, Mr Gileppa believes his crop is on track to produce 16,000 or 17,000 tonnes, several thousand tonnes better than a few years ago.

Delighted with the yield improvements, the Ingham district grower largely attributes them to using ENTEC, a treatment that keeps nitrogen stabilised and available to the crop for months longer than standard urea.

In 2015, Mr Gileppa gave ENTEC urea blends a try on three-quarters of his cane blocks on the recommendation of Sibby Di Giacomo, branch manager at Ingham Farm Centre.

"The crop stayed greener for longer and our harvesting contractor noticed how much better the cane was looking," he said.

"I used ENTEC urea blends across the lot last year and it definitely paid off, with greener crops that grew more tonnes at an average yield of 90 t/ha.

"And driving around from block to block, this season's crop is looking even better, so ENTEC urea blends are the way to go."

Mr Gileppa explained that he reviewed his crop nutrition program after an outbreak of the mysterious Yellow Canopy Syndrome some years ago.

While researchers have yet to discover what causes the syndrome, Mr Gileppa saw it as an opportunity to revamp his approach to crop nutrition and address his concerns that the cane was lacking in nutrients.

"My wife Elda likes to study the soil test results, which are arranged every year through Gary Williams from Ingham Farm Centre," Mr Gileppa said.

Mr Williams is accredited to use Nutrient Advantage Advice to provide targeted fertiliser recommendations based on these soil test results.



"There's a mix of soil types here, so the soil test results are important for guiding our fertiliser decisions," Mr Gileppa said.

"I was looking for a slow release fertiliser when Sibby suggested ENTEC which holds the nitrogen in the stable ammonium form for longer and feeds the crop for longer during the growing season.

"Not only does the crop stay greener for longer, but the tops of the cane seem to be getting more nutrients too."

Along with ENTEC urea blends, Mr Gileppa is also improving the organic matter of his heavier soils with annual applications of mill mud and ash.

It's allowed him to drop fertiliser rates back by 65 kg/ha to 250 kg/ha compared with five years ago.

"With ENTEC urea blends, the tonnes are looking good and there's less risk of losses in areas prone to runoff," Mr Gileppa said.

Mr Di Giacomo from Ingham Farm Centre explained that ENTEC works by slowing down the bacteria that convert ammonium to nitrate, holding nitrogen in the stable ammonium form for longer.

This makes more nitrogen available to the crop when it's needed, while reducing the risk of losses to the atmosphere or due to leaching.

"By improving nitrogen use efficiency, ENTEC can make a big difference to cane yields, as growers like Steve Gileppa are finding," Mr Di Giacomo said. ■

*Gary Williams from Ingham Farm Centre (left) meets with local cane grower, Steve Gileppa, who says ENTEC urea blends are helping him produce better crops and higher yields.*



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Next deadline is **12 June 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.

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 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.gtmachinersales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinersales.com.au)





## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

STL shares for sale. Ph. 0429632383

Howard M130 Rotary Hoe. Genuine enquiries only. \$6,000 plus GST. Phone Alan on 0408665955

3T MSW Coulter Bin, Side Dresser Good Order, \$8,500 with GST. Ph. 0408456218

3 x JCB 2135 with 6 Tonne HBM Tipplers, Good Condition, \$44,000 each inc GST. Ph: 0437932489 or 0427337601

JD 3520, 2012 model, adjustable powerfeed roller, elevator extension, GPS, well maintained. Ph. 0427667964

### Herbert River-Burdekin

7ft Howard Slasher. \$5,000 + GST. Ph. 0427039775

FullStick Planting Outfit. J250 Harvester, two planters, stripper with topper and six trailers. \$8000+GST. Massey Ferguson 178 new fuel pump, fair condition. \$2000+GST. 450HP ACO Articulated Tractor, \$25000+GST for info call Mick 0437346341.

### Mackay-Proserpine

1 yard tumble scoop tractor drawn \$1320; single axle aluminium tray trailer \$330; haines hunter 773 \$62k Ph. 0408984560

FERTILISER BIN- 2T hydraulic lift trailerable side-dresser, 4 coulters and legs, can be fitted with disc-opener, in exc cond, suitable for 1.5m – 1.8m row spacings. \$9900 incl gst or open to offers. Ph. 0409221601 Koumala Massey Ferguson 2640 Tractor, 1982 model, good condition, \$11,990 inc gst. Ph. 0426263615

Fiat 600 clean and tidy runs well, reg \$7000, Shed Gantry 4400x3800x9mm \$700, Tyre 420/70 R24 continental near new \$900. Ph. 0407773929

Moller stonepicker, high lift bin. Very good condition. Contact John 0472768888

Merrill Wholestick Plant Cutter and Cane Trailers. Ph. Jason 0427132357

97 Cameco harvester, 600 hrs on fully rebuilt engine, Westhill adjuster on choppers. VGC Ph. 49588264

Ford 7700 approx 95 hp on high flotation tyres 20x8x38 rear 90% grip, 90x20 front 40% grip. 26" or 660mm clearance without draw bar hanger. Good condition for its age. \$11,500. Ph. 49595033 or 0448562003

Ford 4000 Y model with remotes approx. 62 hp, 14x9x38 rear 90% grip and 900x16 front 20% grip. Good condition for its age. \$6,600. Ph. 49598033 or 0448562003

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

| Location          | Recorded rainfall (mm) |          | Average rainfall (mm) |      |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------|
|                   | 7 days to 9am          |          | Year to date          |      |
|                   | 22.05.17               | 29.05.17 |                       |      |
| Mossman           | 22                     | 14       | 1624                  | 1668 |
| Mareeba AP        | 13                     | 0        | 580                   | 702  |
| Cairns            | 10                     | 10       | 1237                  | 1551 |
| Mt Sophia         | 15                     | 27       | 2262                  | 2470 |
| Babinda           | 0                      | 0        | 1250                  | 3055 |
| Innisfail         | 70                     | 32       | 2278                  | 2525 |
| Tully             | 0                      | 0        | 1642                  | 2953 |
| Cardwell          | 60                     | 6        | 1342                  | 1608 |
| Lucinda           | 121                    | 1        | 1407                  | 1583 |
| Ingham            | 97                     | 4        | 1086                  | 1509 |
| Abergowrie        | 78                     | 5        | 714                   | 1379 |
| Townsville        | 157                    | 1        | 638                   | 847  |
| Ayr DPI           | 167                    | 0.2      | 767                   | 686  |
| Proserpine        | 119                    | 4        | 1261                  | 985  |
| Mirani            | 150                    | 0.4      | 1092                  | 1060 |
| Mackay            | 113                    | 0.6      | 1811                  | 1104 |
| Sarina (Plane Ck) | 92                     | 0        | 2432                  | 1225 |
| Bundaberg         | 60                     | 1        | 439                   | 560  |
| Childers South    | 62                     | 1        | 582                   | 472  |
| Maryborough       | 18                     | 0.4      | 385                   | 660  |
| Tewantin          | 34                     | 0.4      | 828                   | 1019 |
| Eumundi           | 28                     | 0        | 713                   | 995  |
| Nambour           | 22                     | 0.8      | 619                   | 996  |
| Woongoolba        | 54                     | 0.6      | 555                   | 745  |
| Murwillumbah      | 68                     | 0        | 964                   | 938  |
| Ballina           | 21                     | 2        | 966                   | 948  |
| Woodburn          | 20                     | 7        | 1191                  | 765  |
|                   |                        |          |                       |      |



### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS

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



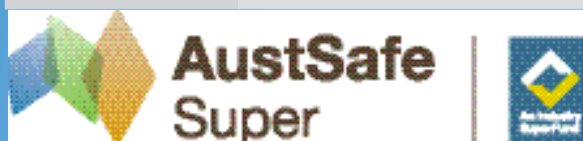
#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

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

**Johnny Farming Company**  
Phone (07) 4552 2577 or 0412 525 887 (John)  
or 0407 628 674 (Andrew)  
133 Schindler Road Mackay Qld 4740

WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS  
AND PHOTOS?

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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.



John Deere 4440, 7300hrs, VGC \$24,000 + GST ono. Ph. 0417775470

Tractor Tyres & Wheels x 2, Olympic 18.4 x 42 Gripstar, Including Wheels & Hubs, came off Case Magnum 7140. \$2,000 inc. GST. Ph. 0428236165.

1 x 6t cane bin trailer; super single tyres; no brakes fitted. \$2,000 ONO. Ph. 49585673 / 0448585673

AUSTOFT 89 7700 VGC for age, tracks GC. Ph. 0407054417 Sarina area

Toft 6000, good condition, Cat 3306 motor, 4ft vert arm primary, Toft 2 blade variable rotary chop, leg base cutter box, suit small contract or excellent plant cutter, is coupled up to 4 ton Raflo tipper rear delivery which enables to plant cane, harvest and cart cane by yourself—no wages. Bonel wide elevator planter available as well. Package deal or will sell separately. Suit someone starting up. Ph. 0427590159

120HP Kubota Tractor, 2800 Hrs, Good Condition, \$45,000 plus GST Ph. 0438503868

DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 49592260

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. 0438606578 (Mackay)

## Bundaberg–Rocky Point

Large Qty A/C pipes class C unused. Ph. 0423288639.

2009 Case 8000 Cane Harvester. 5800 hours. \$195,000 plus GST and Quinco 1 ton Fertilizer incorporator with plastic bin and stainless worm. \$8,000 plus GST. Good Condition. Ph. 41561409 or 0431044022

Uptan 80 mtr boom irrigator G/C. Ph. 0412370022

Tractor Tyre, PETLAS 480/170R26 suits John Deere 6600. Near new. Excellent condition. \$1,300 ono. Ph. 0408133860 or 41599242.

JI Case 1194 tractor 49hp 12 forward speeds 4 reverse, 2 speed PTO, PS, 3 point linkage, drawbar 3000hrs approx \$7,700; 7' Hooper Blade \$1,100. Ph. 0409866760

Qty 4" Aluminium Pipe \$30 / Length; 5 Row Howard Para Plow \$3,250; 2 off Wheel Rakes 4 wheels on each \$200ea; 2 Row Shielded Sprayer \$2,000. Ph. 0409866760

## Wanted

**STL shares wanted.** Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph. 0419717006 or 0408448227

Wanted sugar terminals shares. Ph. 0427556322

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418782815

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. Ph. 0418775698 all hours.

## Positions Vacant

Wanted experienced haulout driver for 2017 season, Bundaberg area. Ph. +61 7 41513354

Wanted: Experienced Laser Leveller driver for the Tully area, will be required to travel for work. Lev 1 Pilot Licence required. Ph. Mario 0429686230

Haulout Operator required 2017 season, Carmila area. Ph. 0407701298

Wanted: Harvester/Haulout operator must be mechanically minded with some experience. House available Mackay/Calen area for 2017 season. Ph. 0429010996

## Work Wanted

Seeking work for the cane haulout season around the Mackay and Sarina area. I have mechanical knowledge and car licence, not much experience in carting, but am willing and fast learner wanting to give anything a go. Ph. 0427378341 Kierian

Seeking work in FAR NORTH QLD. I am a Fitter and Turner by trade and a Diesel Fitter as well. I have HR truck license. Ph. Andrew 0459692939. My wife is also seeking work, she is a fully qualified cleaner.

Seeking a position in the TULLY AREA. Haul out or harvest operator. MC license, White card, LG grader ticket, One season harvester operator Sarina area. Ph. Colin 0458854475 or email: cowdygonefishing@hotmail.com

## Property

MACKAY area: Wanted 150+ac within 25min of Mt Pleasant with or without Cane any condition considered. Ph. 0429152949

INGHAM Cane farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph 0407635175

WALKERSTON area: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated. 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing. Ph 0418185663

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

(cents per tonne of cane)

| District Company           | Crop Insurance | Total Membership Fees (inc. GST) |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Mossman                    | Note 1         | 32.90                            |
| Tableland - Mossman Mill   | 3.28           | 52.00                            |
| Tableland - Tableland Mill | 3.28           | 33.76                            |
| Cairns - Mulgrave          | 2.10           | 44.56                            |
| Cairns - Babinda           | Note 1         | 42.25                            |
| Innisfail                  | Note 2         | 49.20                            |
| Tully                      | 2.50           | 33.01                            |
| Herbert River              | 2.86           | 46.61                            |
| Burdekin                   | 1.63           | 50.09                            |
| Proserpine                 | Note 2         | 34.00                            |
| Mackay                     | 4.27           | 48.99                            |
| Plane Creek                | 4.27           | 53.74                            |
| Bundaberg                  | Note 3         | Note 3                           |
| Isis                       | 1.79           | 46.94                            |
| Maryborough                | Note 2         | 32.90                            |
| Rocky Point                | 4.75           | 72.23                            |

NOTE 1 - Crop insurance provided free to members

NOTE 2 - Crop insurance included in general fee

NOTE 3 - To be published in the local Bundaberg newsletter







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

In recent years how we farm has been dictated by others. As Australian farmers, we would much rather have a system which works for us. A system which is about improving our bottom line and one we can use to market our sugar to the world.

The Australian sugarcane industry has worked together and built just such a system. Smartcane BMP.

Smartcane BMP will help Australia maintain its competitive edge in the increasingly competitive world market. Being able to show we are productive and sustainable producers of quality sugar is becoming increasingly important to our customers, and the Smartcane BMP system is the way we are going to show just that.

***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)

