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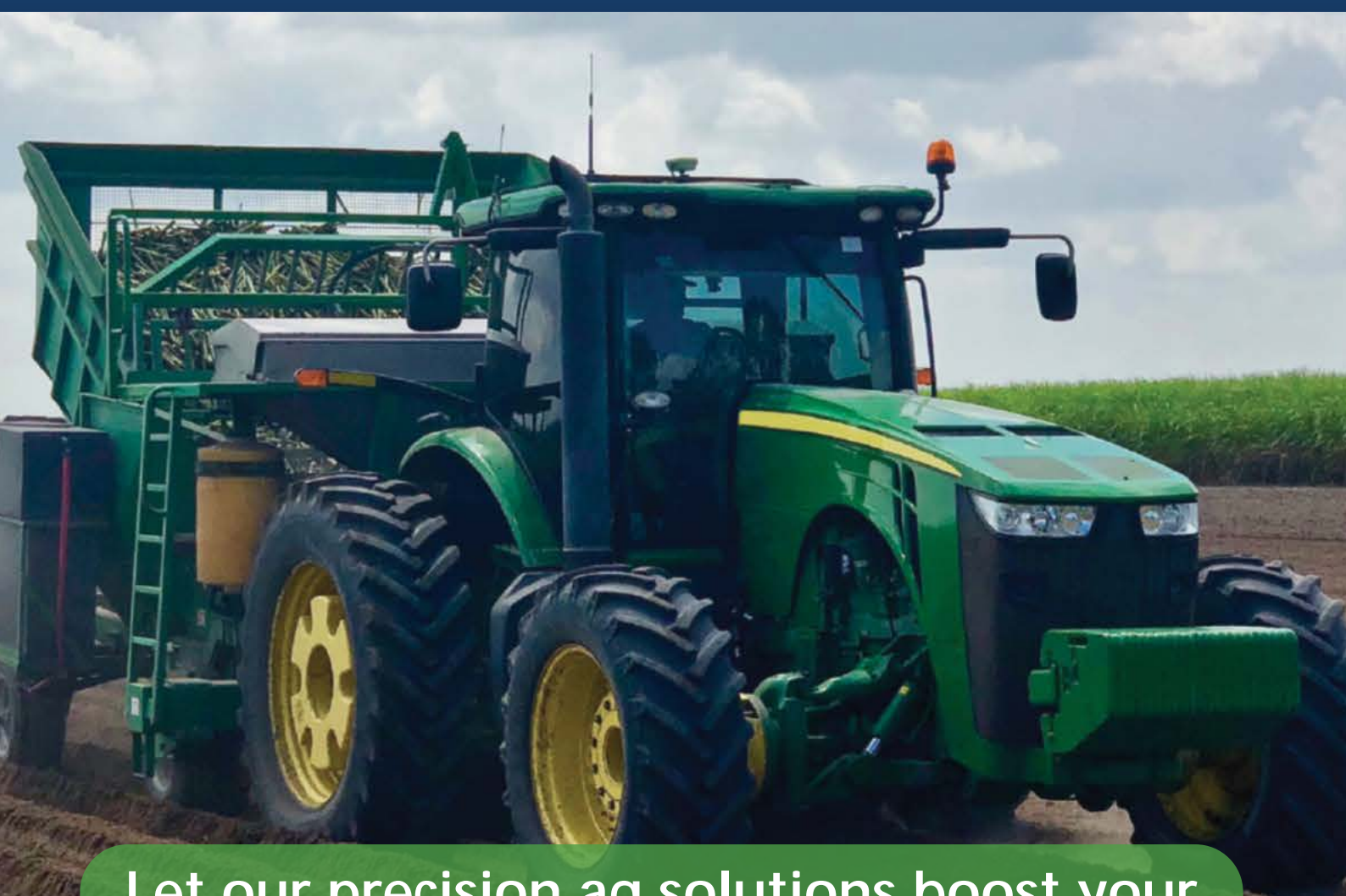


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COVER IMAGE: Tully grower David Singh uses a combination of paper and electronic records to keep track of his farming operations.

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People are the key to unlocking our future

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

"The truth is farmers and their families who work together to run their businesses know a lot, they give a lot, and together they can achieve a lot to address the issues that affect our industry both now and in the future."

A recent meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council provided a valuable opportunity to reflect upon the true depth of our industry's issues.

At the end of the crushing season, it's fairly typical for the last Council meeting of the year to focus on the end of season results, weather, CCS, mill performance and, of course, the sugar price and marketing. This occasion was no exception. But what was remarkable was the extent and variety of other industry issues that garnered debate.

Medium-term priorities and frustrations, including the price distorting policies of India and Pakistan, the impending review of bulk water prices, the glacial pace of delivering policy, pricing and tariff flexibility on electricity, and the emerging green shoots around the use of technology in cane analysis and auditing, were all discussed.

Also raised were the continuing pressures on accepted farming practices such as cane fires, the proposed release of reef regulations that will effectively codify in legislation the size and form of our industry, as well as the international pressures on chemical use, particularly 2,4-D and glyphosate.

The Council engaged, discussed and decided strategies on each of these issues. Council members also participated in robust discussions about climate change, the future for Smartcane BMP, and how we embrace our understanding of the psychological barriers to practice change and R&D adoption.

This, all in the space of two days, is a remarkable feat.

Our industry has some amazing people that somehow manage to balance the needs of their own business, family commitments and personal priorities, with their dedication to serving CANEGROWERS members through the enormous time and effort they put into their role on the Policy Council.

The Council is not built on the back of the complex issues of policy, science and strategy. Instead it is built on an overwhelming sense of collaboration and unity.

The issues discussed are affecting farmers right across the state and, as individuals, everyone is battling them.

But as the Chairman noted in his address, unity, resilience, cooperation and dedication are the hallmarks of the industry organisation that understands that by working together we can endure any challenge.

The Policy Council is composed of representatives from each cane supplying districts across the industry.

These people will often be heard to say, in the classic sense of Australian self-deprecation, 'What would I know? I'm just a farmer'.

The truth is farmers and their families who work together to run their businesses know a lot, they give a lot, and together they can achieve a lot to address the issues that affect our industry both now and in the future.

Next year, CANEGROWERS will enter a triennial election process. If you want to be a part of having a say in the future of your industry, I recommend you talk to your local CANEGROWERS Policy Council representative.

There are plenty of issues to prepare for and therefore plenty of jobs to share around. But next year is a great opportunity to understand the role you can play to work together to secure a profitable and stable future for your business, your community and your industry.

Any CANEGROWERS office can assist with further information. ■





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A FEAT analysis was undertaken to calculate estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application. The estimated variable costs were based upon information supplied by fertiliser contractors surveyed, within the Herbert cane growing region (2012). The analysis considered the various fertiliser placement options and various options for the number of rows treated during an application. These figures are indicative of costs associated with fertiliser application methods found within the Australian cane industry.

Estimated variable costs associated with fertiliser application.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia's WTO move a welcome step

CANEGROWERS congratulates the Australian Government for taking a lead role in ramping up the global pressure on India to bring its sugar industry subsidies back within World Trade Organisation rules.

"By lodging a Counter-Notification Notice with the WTO, Australia is flagging that this is a serious issue of significant concern at the highest global level," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"While this Notice does not resolve the problem of subsidised Indian product distorting the world sugar price, it takes the very real difficulties of Australian farmers into an international forum and places further pressure on the Indian Government to change its sugar policies."

"We applaud the Australian Government for drafting the Notice and providing the opportunity for other countries to express their concern also by adding their names to it, further drawing global attention to this serious world sugar industry situation.

"While this Notice does not resolve the problem of subsidised Indian product distorting the world sugar price, it takes the very real difficulties of Australian farmers into an international forum and places further pressure on the Indian Government to change its sugar policies."

The Notice calls into question the historic and ongoing payments being made to Indian farmers in excess of allowable supports under WTO rules.

"This Notice clearly outlines the basis of our claims that India is breaching its WTO obligations," Mr Schembri said.

"WTO rules allow market price supports of up to 10% of the total value of production but the Indian payments in recent years have been above 90%, even hitting 99.8% in 2015-16."

The Notice covers price supports provided by the Indian Government to its sugar industry between 2011-12 and 2016-17 which totalled more than US\$51 billion.

The Notice does not include payments from state governments in India or the further support package, worth US\$800 million, announced last month.

"India's ongoing and blatant disregard of the rules is having serious implications for the world sugar market and the profitability of Australian growers who are totally exposed to the global sugar price," Mr Schembri said.

"The need to activate a WTO dispute process against India has not changed and we are urging the Australian Government, along with the governments of other sugar exporting countries, to progress this as a matter of urgency."

The Notice will be considered during the WTO's Committee on Agriculture meeting scheduled for 26-27 November. ■

NEW EXTENSION OFFICERS APPOINTED

The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership has appointed five new extension officers to work with cane growers as it continues to gear up to deliver a water quality program to reduce nutrient and pesticides running off into the Reef.

Jordan Villaruz, previously team leader at Tully Cane Productivity Services, is taking on the role of Regional Extension Officer based in Gordonvale, while **Michael Nash** is taking on the role of Extension Network Leader based in Ingham.

Three district extension officers have also boosted the team with the new recruits joining partners CANEGROWERS Cairns Region, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd and Mossman Agricultural Services.

The extension team is providing one-on-one advice and support to cane growers as part of the Australian Government's Reef Trust III program.

Cane growers in the Wet Tropics are encouraged to contact their local extension officer. To find out contact details go to www.wtsip.org.au/team



PROJECTS TO TACKLE FERAL DEER

In a bid to tackle the escalating threat of feral deer, the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions has brought together five state and territory governments, three local councils, three universities, and three private environmental groups, to form Australia's largest deer management research collaboration.

The collaboration will work on four innovative projects to develop best practice management feral deer toolkits and to better understand the role of feral deer in the transmission of disease to livestock.

The projects are already underway and over the coming years the Centre will provide land managers with the research outcomes.

For more info visit www.invasives.com.au

CANE GROWERS CHAMPION CALLS TIME ON CAREER

CANEGROWERS will farewell one of the organisation's longest serving and most committed champions at season's end, with Herbert River manager **Peter Sheedy** calling time on almost half a century in the sugar industry.

Thanking Mr Sheedy for his service during a special presentation at this month's Policy Council dinner in Brisbane, CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** noted the extraordinary contribution of the Sheedy Family to the sugar industry over many years.

"Tonight Peter brings down the curtain on his contribution to the sugar industry, which is a staggering 47 years," Mr Schembri said.

"But, in fact, we are actually bringing down the curtain on the contribution of a single family of over 190 years."

Mr Sheedy's father worked in the industry for 45 years, while his brothers



Retiring CANEGROWERS Herbert River manager Peter Sheedy with his wife Elizabeth and Chairman Paul Schembri.

Barry, Terry and Miles were employed in the industry for 45, 34, 23 years respectively.

"That is a contribution I don't think will ever be surpassed, not in my lifetime anyway."

Mr Schembri said he, like many others in the industry, drew inspiration from Mr Sheedy, especially through some of the darker days, such as during the

confrontation with millers over sugar marketing.

"People like you simply refused to cop what was being dished up to us.

"That great passion of the Sheedys came through and that fired me up ... you were a great inspiration to me," he said.

Mr Sheedy will retire in late December. ■

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MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY

Mossman Mill growers look to a future free of sugar price volatility

An ambitious plan to build Queensland's first bio-precinct in Mossman could free local growers from the shackles of a volatile global sugar market, those behind the project have claimed.

CANEGROWERS Tableland Chairwoman, **Maryanne Salvetti**, said that if successful, the Daintree Bio-Precinct plan could see all raw sugar produced at Mossman Mill going into the manufacture of innovative biodegradable plastic products.

"Our major plan is to build a plant that will make a chemical that goes into producing bio-plastics," Mrs Salvetti said.

"The feed stock for that plant will be all the sugar that is produced by the mill, so we won't be supplying sugar onto the world market."

Mrs Salvetti, who is also a director of the Far Northern Milling (FNM) group that is driving the project, said it was time to look for alternatives to raw sugar exports to help secure the industry's future.

Bio-plastics, she said, have the potential to significantly increase returns to growers.

"It will definitely be more profitable (than exporting sugar). It will provide a substantially higher return to growers than what the average sugar price has

been for the last five years," she said.

"The price of sugar has hit \$500 a tonne just three times in nearly 20 years, so honestly, if the industry doesn't look at alternatives it's not going to survive in the long term, that's the reality of the situation."

The proposed chemical plant would form part of the larger 47-hectare bio-precinct, located adjacent the Mossman Mill.

The precinct would provide a base for businesses dedicated to the production of clean, green technologies and "projects that will align with the mill and add value to our feedstock," Mrs Salvetti said.

The project received a major boost this month, with the Federal Government committing \$20 million to support the purchase and upgrade of the mill.

The funding, which will be delivered through the Community Development Grants program, is subject to the completion of a positive business case and a significant funding commitment from the State Government.



The FNM group has also lodged a funding application with the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (NAIF), which is currently being assessed.

"This is a grower-led and grower-owned initiative, with a number of Tableland growers and almost all Mossman growers involved," Mrs Salvetti said.

"It may be that we have to take on an investor with a small stake, that depends on the NAIF funding, but ultimately the growers will own the majority of it."

"We've had very positive discussions with the State Government about funding. They're just waiting to see the business case to make sure it all stacks up."

If the project gets off the ground, it will be business as usual for the first two or three seasons as the chemical processing plant is constructed.

During that time the mill will undergo maintenance and upgrades to ensure it can cope with the demand of the new plant.



Pictured: Advance Cairns CEO Nick Trompf, Douglas Shire Council Mayor Julia Leu, Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch, CANEGROWERS Tableland Chairwoman Maryanne Salvetti and Cairns Chamber of Commerce CEO Debbie-Anne Bender.

"It will definitely be more profitable (than exporting sugar). It will be a substantially higher return to growers than what the average sugar price has been for the last five years,"

Mrs Salvetti participated in the recent 'Convoy to Canberra', which saw a group of Tropical North Queensland's business and community leaders travel to the capital to lobby the Federal Government for more spending in the region.

The trip, which was organised by Advance Cairns, helped secure the \$20m federal funding commitment.

"We're extremely grateful to all sides of government for their support and for recognising that growers are trying to make a difference out there and are really trying to be masters of their own destiny, Mr Salvetti said.

"We wouldn't have been able to get this far without the government funding and the support of the growers and the support from the Douglas Shire Council."

Advance Cairns CEO Nick Trompf said the news was exciting for the region, as the purchase of Mossman Mill would not only preserve an important and historical industry in the short-term, but provide for ongoing jobs growth driven by innovation.

"We are excited to see such a positive outcome for Mossman Mill as it demonstrates the effectiveness of industry groups collaborating and working together to draw attention to the needs of our region," he said.

"The Mossman Mill Transition Project was a key election priority taken to Parliament House last month during the Cairns TNQ Convoy to Canberra, and is a great example of a grass-roots campaign driven by growers that became a key election pillar for the region."

Federal Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, is also supportive of the project saying it would have a transformative impact on the region.

"Building on the 560 jobs the mill already supports, this transition project is expected to create an estimated 86 new long-term jobs, which is a major boost for the town and region," he said. ■

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

Mossman Mill finished the 2018 season on Monday 5 November.

A total of 819,231 tonnes of cane have been processed for a mill average of 13.98 CCS.

Coastal growers supplied a total of 553,396 tonnes for a mill average of 13.70 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied a total of 265,835 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.24 CCS.

To-date 253,957 tonnes of Mossman Mill contracted cane has been toll-

crushed at the Tableland mill. Toll-crushing is continuing with a further 45,000 tonnes of cane to be crushed. The Tableland Mill on track to finish the season in early December.

We remind grower members that our CANEGROWERS Mossman AGM will be held on Wednesday 28 November 2018, commencing at 1pm at the Mossman Bowls Club hall.

QSL representatives will be attending and available to chat with growers.

Tableland

The CANEGROWERS Tableland AGM will be held on Wednesday 28 November from 6.30pm at the Mareeba Soccer Club. Please RSVP to Bronny on 4092 6065 by Friday 23 November.

Tableland growers supplying Mossman Mill completed the season on 5 November. Growers supplying or being toll-crushed through Tableland Mill are expected to finish in the first week of December.

CANEGROWERS Tableland welcomes the announcement by the Federal Government of \$20M funding towards the grower acquisition of Mossman Mill, subject to a successful business case being put forward by Far Northern Milling.

Innisfail

Scattered showers across the district brought some welcome moisture to the plant crops.

The official notification for the finish of crushing has been sent out by the mill with the expected finish to be on 18 November.

CCS has continued to be in the high 14s, but is expected to fall due to the recent rain.

The final total tonnes crushed is expected to be around 94% of the pre-season estimate.

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Tully

At the time of writing, 85% of the estimated crop has been crushed. The seasonal average CCS is at a record 14.4 and still rising.

Dry conditions prevail across the district and while some areas have had 20-40mm of rain, it is still very dry. This will impact on next year's crop.

Despite a 32 hour mill breakdown caused by a boiler tube failure, the harvest should be complete by the second week of December.

Grower meetings will be held in late November to consult with members prior to contract negotiations.

Herbert River

At the end of Week 22 (week ending 10/11), 4,208,117 tonnes of the current crop estimate of 4,770,000 tonnes had been crushed.

District average CCS has now reached 14.17 which is the brightest part of the 2018 season.

Mill reliability has taken a tumble in recent weeks with some significant stoppages, mainly at Victoria mill, reducing mill throughput when CCS is at its high point for the season and adding days to the season length at significant cost.

It appears the crush could conclude by the end of November if the weather holds and the mills can get back to normal throughputs.

The Cane Changer program is planning some interesting and engaging activities before the end of the year, which will provide a great forum for growers involved to set the record straight on environmental stewardship.

Directors of CANEGROWERS Herbert River will meet with Wilmar's Operations Manager on 22 November to discuss the learnings and consider possible actions from the recent study tour to Isis and Rocky Point mill areas, which focused on the potential gains from harvester optimisation.

Talks were held on Friday 2 November between CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Wilmar to open dialogue on a review of the Collective CSA.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg
farewells Communication Manager Sonia Ball



Burdekin

Burdekin district mills are now in the final throes of the 2018 crush. Kalamia Mill was the first to finish, with the last cane tipped on Thursday 8 November. Next was Invicta on the 10th, followed by Pioneer on the 12th. Inkerman is expected to finish on Thursday 15 November after the last maintenance clean was conducted earlier in the week and a short delay caused by some showers that fell through some of the Inkerman area on Friday.

As of Week 22 (week ending 10/11) the Burdekin cane crush looks likely to reach about 8.02 million tonnes of cane.

Invicta Mill had the highest weekly CCS of all the Burdekin mills in Week 22 with 16.01.

The Burdekin season to date average is now sitting at just over 15.

Just over 298,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the Burdekin's four mills in Week 22 which takes the total crushed to 7,960,343 tonnes.

Best performing varieties for the week on a regional basis were Q183 at 15.88 CCS and 45% of supply and Q208 at 15.92 CCS and 20%, followed by some low percentages of Q252 and Q240 at 15.55 and 15.36 respectively.

2018 has been a reasonably safe season and all growers, harvesting contractors and mill employees should be acknowledged for their co-operation and endeavours to maintain and improve safety levels.

Proserpine

Proserpine's 2018 crushing season wrapped-up on 20 October and growers are now concentrating on the next crop.

At just over 1.56 million tonnes, the crop was smaller than expected, however the season average CCS of 14.95 compensated to some degree.

The district continues to miss the crucial forecast storms and is in desperate need of rain.

Growers are reminded that the joint AGMs of CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Sugar Services Proserpine will be held at Hotel Metropole on Friday 23 November commencing at 2:30pm.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar mills crushed 180,342 tonnes of cane for the week ending 4 November, bringing the total year to date figure to 4,556,258 tonnes of cane. PRS for the week was recorded at 15.20 with the year to date at 14.28.

Crushing was completed at the three Mackay Sugar mills, Farleigh, Racecourse and Marian by Friday 9 November.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has farewelled Comms Manager Sonia Ball (pictured left), who has resigned to take up a position at QSL.

Chairman Kevin Borg presented Sonia with a gift for her eight years of dedicated service. Kevin commented that while Sonia will be missed by her co-workers and grower members, it was heartening that her experience would not be lost to the industry.

Isis

The 2018 crushing season at the Isis Central Sugar Mill concluded at 8:35am on Tuesday 30 October. The season spanned 133 days, commencing on June 18. The earlier than normal finish is the result of a number of factors, including the extremely dry conditions experienced from May through to early October which resulted in a decline in crop yield, and also good mill reliability which saw minimal lost time for unplanned stoppages.

The Isis Mill crushed 1,202,300 tonnes of cane during the season, which ranks as the 7th highest tonnage in the mill's 120-year history.

Mill reliability was very good with over 93% availability. This is testament to the dedication of the entire workforce at the Isis Mill. The skill set in this business which has been processing sugarcane since 1897 is first class.

This was evident as the last cane rolled into the tippler on Tuesday morning when a large section of the workforce gathered around Alan Roser, known affectionately as "Bindi", who has been at the Isis Mill since 1969. Alan, who is about to retire, has contributed significantly during the past 50 years to the maintenance program at the mill and it is through diligence like his that the mill down time is kept to a minimum.

The CCS exceeded expectations and is a talking point with the year to date CCS recorded as 14.65 units.

This is an excellent result and you would have to go way back to 1944 to find a better result where the year to date CCS from that year reached 14.86 units from the 148,538 tonnes of cane processed.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek wrapped up the 2018 crushing season on Friday 2 November, with the last bin tipped at 12.25am. The mill crushed just over 34,600 tonnes of cane in its final week, bringing the total for the 2018 season to 1.14 million tonnes.

Average weekly CCS dropped to 14.42 bringing the seasonal average to 14.70, which was above budget.

The highest CCS for the week was 17.30 from a rake of Q183 fourth ratoon from the Yukan productivity district.

Total for the year was about 90,000 tonnes down on the original estimate due to the drier than average conditions. Some rain in the final week disrupted harvesting activity but was beneficial to the growing crop.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Bundaberg

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Chairman Allan Dingle took time out to meet with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and local member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd in Gladstone this month.

Allan was able to brief the Mr Morrison on a range of issues, but electricity costs and the expected expansion of reef regulations were front and centre.

Allan said that to continue producing food and fibre and support regional jobs, growers needed the State Government to stop treating the network companies as cash cows.

He explained that if the profits sucked out of Bundaberg and the rest of regional Queensland stayed in the regions, the opportunities for youth and general employment would increase.

Allan identified that the recent ACCC report highlighted a number of actions required and he asked what the government's intentions were for some of the very practical recommendations in the report.

On the environment regulation front, Allan pointed out that much of the science upon which governments base their decisions was not as reliable as it needs to be.

This problem is particularly acute for the science of the Great Barrier Reef where it is likely that some of the funds to save the reef will not be spent on the most urgent environmental problems.

It is also possible that some legislation that is based on questionable science will result in little environmental benefit, but will cause significant costs to industry.



Rocky Point

Rocky Point has crushed a total of 291,437 tonnes to date, representing 73% of estimate (with over 100,000 tonnes still to crush). The seasonal average CCS is holding at 13.7.

The Cogen is still being plagued by boiler issues, with another two to three days to be lost this week.

The ground has now dried out after recent rainfall and the weather is perfect for harvesting.

Growers are hoping to get the bulk of our remaining cane off in the leadup to Christmas - mill, cogen and weather permitting. ■

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NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

Can we subdue the DIN?

By Mick Quirk
Manager Smartcane BMP



Project 25 gives growers an insight into local water quality.

In managing the Smartcane BMP program over the past few years, I have been involved in lots of discussions around nitrogen management with growers, advisers, researchers and policy makers. This month, I was fortunate to attend the excellent Nitrogen Research Forum in Cairns, co-hosted by CANEGROWERS.

The main focus of this forum was research updates on meaty topics like enhanced efficiency fertilisers, refining N rates for different soil types and seasons, improved estimates of mineralisation from soil organic carbon analysis, and monitoring the chemical composition of local waterways.

The heart of the issue is the concentration of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) in waterways, and the amounts of DIN contributed by cane farming. The forum also had wide-ranging discussions about DIN, water quality and reef health, which raised important questions for the industry and for programs like Smartcane BMP.

Who is 'making the DIN'?

Many growers remain uncertain about the amounts of N that escapes their paddocks and contributes to the DIN load in local waterways. Clearly, there has not been enough local monitoring of water quality, especially monitoring that is well-executed and involves growers. Project 25 in the Mulgrave catchment is a great example of what can be achieved with both grower input and good science.

Replicating Project 25 through all cane-growing areas may be the best way to get increased ownership and buy-in from growers, but this requires resources and expertise. With the benefit of hindsight, it's a shame that such activities were not in place five or 10 years ago, so we could now have discussions around farming practices and DIN based on local data.

What practices minimise the DIN?

For Smartcane BMP, nutrient management needs to be based on the SIX EASY STEPS program. This includes the amelioration of soil constraints, as well as sub-soil placement of fertiliser and timing of applications to minimise the risk of run-off and deep drainage. Research, including many on-farm trials, show these practices are consistent with both productivity and reduced losses of N.

What else can be done? One opportunity is the use of controlled-release or slow-release fertilisers to better match the availability of soil-available N to crop needs over the growing season. The research to date shows that the new products can have benefits, but these are highly variable from year to year. So, they will help, but may not be the game-changer we hoped for.

We hear a lot about the mathematical modelling that estimates the impacts of farm practices on water quality, and inform the Reef Report Card that is released each year. The model for cane farming is based on data from field trials testing a range of practices. Interestingly, the two factors that have the biggest impact on the estimate of DIN loss are the amount of N applied and the cane yield. The logic is that the more N is taken up by the crop, the less is vulnerable to loss from lateral or deep drainage.

This suggests that, once BMP practices for nutrient management are in place, the best option for further reducing DIN losses is to improve crop production. In other words, the best thing growers can do for the environment is to improve soil health, ensure soils have balanced inputs of all essential nutrients, negate the risk of weed competition or damage from pests and diseases, use improved varieties and increase irrigation efficiency.

Smartcane BMP covers all of these practices and BMP facilitators will support growers who want to explore and implement practice improvements.

Are we making progress?

In 2014, a nitrogen research forum identified the research priorities for helping reduce DIN losses in cane farming. The 2018 forum was a check-in for research that is under way to address these priorities, such as the use of EEFs and tools for on-farm refinement of N rates. Over the same period, CANEGROWERS and others have promoted and supported adoption of SIX EASY STEPS, nutrient management planning, increased irrigation efficiency, weed management planning and responsible chemical use.

A lot has been done and the efforts of growers need to be acknowledged. Smartcane BMP helps growers set the record straight about their achievements and ambitions. ■

BMP adoption:

SAVING TIME, INCREASING EFFICIENCY

The adoption of BMP has helped Walter Giordani lift his productivity above the zone average, something that he says is especially critical when sugar prices are depressed.



Walter Giordani has always had a strong connection to sugarcane growing and milling in the Herbert.

His father had grown tobacco in the region and worked in a local mill, and Walter also did his electrician's apprenticeship at one of the mills.

So when the opportunity arose in 2009 to purchase a cane farm about 20km south of Ingham, he jumped at the opportunity to get a foothold into cane growing.

The journey since then has involved a series of on-farm practice changes and accreditation to the Smartcane BMP (best management practice) program.

When he bought the farm, its cane yield was about 12 tonnes of cane per hectare (t/ha) below the productivity zone. He

has now shifted this to greater than 20 t/ha above the productivity zone average in recent years.

"When we first brought the farm, it was fairly run-down, so I was very keen from the start to get as much agronomic assistance as I could from the likes of Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited and (SRA-predecessor) BSES," he said. "I attended many functions and had a keen interest in all the new technology coming out, always with the goal of increasing production."

Major areas of improvement included laser levelling, regular soil testing, legume fallow cropping, GPS guidance and mound planting, minimum tillage and wider row spacings eventually out to 1.8 metres.

"I have an off-farm job, so I was also looking to introduce things to make farming easier knowing that my time is critical."

Through achieving substantial gains in the early years, he was encouraged to purchase another farm in 2013 where he is also implementing BMP.

Much of this work has been the subject of an SRA-funded project where the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) analysed the economic impact of Smartcane BMP adoption across six different farms in the Herbert and Wet Tropics.

According to DAF economist, Caleb Connolly, the economic analysis identified cost savings from lower fuel and chemical use, reduced labor

requirements and less repairs and maintenance.

"These cost savings were balanced against some additional costs from laser levelling, applying lime as a soil ameliorant and planting legumes as well as higher depreciation costs from new machinery purchases," Mr Connolly explained.

"Overall, the analysis showed the adoption of various BMP and improved practices has been worthwhile for Walter.

"Our analysis examined a yield improvement of 27% based on the farm's yield improvement in comparison to the productivity zone average. Even if the improvement had been only 11%, the investments made by Walter in laser levelling, GPS guidance, a stool splitter, bed renovator, legume planter, widening machinery and modifying a tractor for hi-rise spraying would have been profitable.

"The analysis indicated an improvement in annual farm operating return of \$429/ hectare, or about \$38,000 per year in total, after making the practice changes."

The accompanying environmental assessment by Senior Lifecycles Scientist, **Margeurite Renouf**, indicates that the changes on Walter's farm have resulted in less fertiliser application and a reduction in the potential for water quality impacts from nutrient loss.

"There has also been the added bonus of reduced fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions per tonne of cane."

Since the case study, Walter continues to introduce innovations.

He has started EM mapping at the farm and also bought his own mud spreader, which has been adapted to variable rate control and also used to apply gypsum.

He added that with the recent sugar price in the dumps, it was critical to maintain productivity.

"The price has forced us to put some plans on hold, but at the same time we aren't cutting back on inputs that would impact our viability. In my view there would be nothing worse than low sugar price and a low crop at the same time."

Growers are encouraged to consider

their own circumstances and seek independent advice before making changes.

DAF's Farm Economic Analysis Tool (FEAT) is one tool that's available to help growers consider the economics of their farming business.

To access FEAT and explanatory resources, visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/field-crops-and-pastures/sugar/farm-economic-analysis-tool. The six project case studies on the impact of Smartcane BMP on business and the environment can be downloaded from <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/sugarcane-economics>

- SRA acknowledges the funding contribution from DAF Queensland towards this research activity. ■

Pictured: (opposite) Walter Giordani has successfully implemented Smartcane BMP at his Herbert district properties. (Below) Investing in equipment that delivers efficiency is critical for Walter, who also works off- farm.



FNQ grower sessions explain QSL options

QSL will host a series of Grower Information Sessions in North Queensland this month in the lead up to the 2019-Season marketing nomination deadline for growers supplying MSF Sugar mills.

FNQ QSL rep Daniel Messina said the sessions, to be led by QSL Chief Operating Officer Robert Hines and QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations Bryce Wenham, would give growers an insight into current sugar market themes as well as the QSL pricing and payment options on offer for the coming season.

"It's a great opportunity for growers to have a chat with two key members of QSL's marketing team and ask any questions they may have in the lead up to the 2019 Season," Daniel said.

Growers are welcome to attend any of the following sessions:

EVENT	WHEN	VENUE
Mareeba Breakfast Session	7.30am Thursday 29 November	Jackaroo Motel, Mareeba
Mourilyan Evening Session	6.00pm Thursday 29 November	Sugar Heritage Centre, Mourilyan
Babinda Breakfast Session	7.30am Friday 30 November	RSL Hall, Babinda
Gordonvale Lunch Session	12 noon Friday 30 November	Parkview Tavern, Gordonvale

RSVPs are essential for catering purposes and can be made by contacting **Daniel Messina** on **0429 660 238** or via email at Daniel.Messina@qsl.com.au.

DEADLINES AHEAD

Growers supplying MSF Sugar mills are reminded they only have until **31 December 2018** to finalise their marketing nominations for the 2019 Season. Those keen to receive the QSL Loyalty Bonus are also reminded that to be eligible to receive this additional payment for the 2018 Season, they must:

1. Nominate QSL as a GEI Sugar marketer for the 2019 Season by 31 December 2018
and
2. Have a GEI Sugar marketing nomination in place with QSL for the 2020 Season as of 30 June 2019.

The QSL Loyalty Bonus was worth an extra \$1.50/tonne of sugar in the 2017 Season and consists of a share of the returns from QSL's corporate activities via the Shared Services Rebate and a Supplementary Commitment Premium. Eligible MSF Sugar growers will have the bonus incorporated into their Shared Pool element for the final Advance payment of the season.

Those growers who are not currently marketing through QSL are eligible to receive the QSL Loyalty Bonus in the 2019 Season if they nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Seasons by the applicable deadlines. For further information, call **Daniel Messina** on **0429 660 238**.

EARLY-START POOL SET TO KICK OFF PRICING FOR 2019

Keen to start pricing for next season but don't want to do it yourself? Then QSL's 2019 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool might be an option to consider.

This QSL-managed pool targets the best return by using the same pricing approach and tools as our popular Actively Managed Pool, but extends the pricing window across 18 months.

As a result of this extended pricing period, nominations for the 2019 Season Early-Start Actively Managed Pool close on **30 November 2018**.

Interested? Then make sure you read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au and complete your nomination before the end of this month. ■

Disclaimer: This update contains information of a general or summary nature. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this update should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. In addition, nothing in this update constitutes financial product or investment advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au before participating in any QSL pricing pool or product.

Supply an MSF Sugar mill? Don't miss your chance to market with QSL in 2019



Marketing nominations for next season close **31 December 2018** for growers in MSF Sugar milling districts.

Learn more about your QSL pricing and payment options at one of our local grower information sessions:

MAREEBA	7.30am Thursday 29 November at the Jackaroo motel (Mareeba conference room), Marbeebea
MOURILYAN	6pm Thursday 29 November at the Sugar Heritage Centre conference room, Mourilyan
BABINDA	7.30am Friday 30 November at the RSL Hall, Babinda
GORDONVALE	12 noon Friday 30 November at the Parkview Tavern, Gordonvale
MARYBOROUGH	Individual appointments available – call Cathy Kelly on 0409 285 074

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Daniel Messina on 0429 660 238.

Act NOW
to lock in
your 2018
QSL Loyalty
Bonus



MARYBOROUGH GROWERS

Keen to explore your in-season pricing options?

QSL has a wide range of QSL-managed pools and grower-managed forward pricing products available for the 2019 Season.

For a one-on-one appointment to discuss your QSL options, contact Cathy Kelly on 0409 285 074.

WHY CHOOSE QSL?



Owned by you, focused on you

We don't pursue our own commercial interests above those of the industry we serve.



Passing on the value

We're an income-tax exempt, pass-through industry service organisation. That means we pass on all net value created and don't 'clip the ticket'.



Pricing & payment options

Whether you want to make your own pricing decisions or prefer a managed pool, we offer a varied range of pricing and payment options.



Experienced professionals

Our Queensland-based marketing and pricing team leverages a range of global partnerships to serve our Members and their interests.



Above & beyond

Your dedicated QSL Grower Services representative is available to provide support and information when you need it.

TIME WELL SPENT

RECORD KEEPING BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH ANY INCONVENIENCE

By Wayne Griffin

Almost half of Queensland's cane-growing businesses are currently benchmarked in the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP. For many of those farms just one hurdle remains on the road to full accreditation, but it's the hurdle that many growers dread the most - record keeping.

It's a dread that recently-accredited grower and CANEGROWERS Tully Director David Singh once shared.

Already performing at above industry standard across almost all areas of his farming operation, David just needed the records to back-up his practices in order to achieve accreditation.

But like many growers, he balked at the idea of spending hours at a desk documenting his operations - hours that he felt could be better spent carrying out more important tasks around the farm.

"Record keeping is just one of those things that can be a real pain for growers, especially when you don't do it on a regular basis," David said, when

Australian Canegrower visited the Singh Family farm recently.

David operates a 1000 hectare cane and banana farm with his wife **Manjit** and sons **Randeep** and **Hardeep**, in the Kennedy Valley about 40 minutes south of Tully.

While David manages the cane side of the business, his sister **Kulvinder** and her husband **Narinder** look after the day-to-day operations of the banana farm.

The Singhs have farmed bananas in the area since 1985, and were the first to plant sugarcane in the Kennedy Valley in 1994. Today they produce 70,000 cartons of bananas annually and send more than 60,000 tonnes of cane to the Tully mill.

They've also recently expanded into avocados, planting 1600 trees in 2017 with plans for another 3000 trees in the pipeline.

Randeep, a fitter and turner by trade, is the farm's mechanic and maintenance man, while Hardeep drives a harvester for a local contractor when he's not working on the farm.





"I was in the same boat as everyone else in terms of keeping up to date with records. You'd do your jobs around the farm and you know you should be keeping a record of it, but instead you'd put it off and think, it's alright, I'll get it done later."

The family carries out all their own planting, fertilising and spraying operations, and will soon do all their own harvesting as well, with plans to purchase a new harvester and haulouts well advanced.

To say the Singhs are kept busy is a bit of an understatement. So it's no surprise that finding time to keep comprehensive records of his farming activities was quite far down David's list of priorities.

"I was in the same boat as everyone else in terms of keeping up to date with records," he said.

"You'd do your jobs around the farm and you know you should be keeping a record of it, but instead you'd put it off and think, 'it's alright, I'll get it done later'. But it ends up getting delayed and delayed until you've almost forgotten what it was you were recording."

Like many growers, David had already adopted most of the productivity-boosting practices encouraged by the Smartcane BMP program.

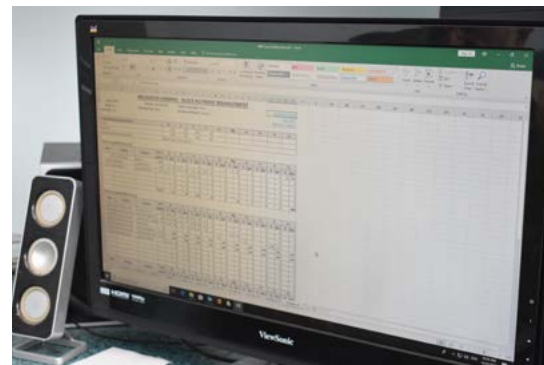
"We had a fallow management program in place, as well as a nutrient

management program based on SIX EASY STEPS.

"We started bringing in controlled traffic way back in 2003 and have been 100% controlled traffic for the past five years.

"That's probably where we've seen our biggest gains, to be honest.

Continues on page 18 ►



Pictured: Tully grower David Singh uses a combination of paper and electronic records to keep track of his farming operations. (Opposite): David keeps all hazardous chemicals securely locked away in a chemical shed and has even installed a shower for emergency use in case of a spill.



"I kept records mostly on maps or on scraps of paper that would be stuck in some drawer. You'd end up spending hours just looking for the bloody things."

"The combination of controlled traffic, consolidating paddocks and putting in spoon drains so we could increase row-length has really boosted our productivity.

"We've also started moving to zonal tillage, just deep ripping in the cultivation zone. Plus we've greatly reduced our use of residual herbicides."

David was ticking all the BMP boxes, except one, record keeping. But he was also determined to get his accreditation. So, with the help of his sons, he set about putting a system in place to record his on-farm practices.

Three years later he's amazed that he ever survived without it.

"Prior to BMP I kept records mostly on maps or on scraps of paper that would be stuck in some drawer. You'd end up spending hours just looking for the bloody things. But when I started down the BMP track I knew I just had to do it properly," he said.

"It wasn't so much the time required to do the thing, it's more putting that

time aside. As is the way I'm sure with most growers, other jobs kept getting prioritised. Eventually it was just a matter of setting that little bit of time aside and saying, this is it, I'm going to get it done."

While David admits it took a while to get a system in place that worked for him, once he had, he was surprised by how quick and easy maintaining his records became.

"It just all seems too hard at the start, but actually, once you get into the habit, it's much easier than you think.

"I've got the two boys on the farm with me and they're better at it than I am.

"I'll go out and do a job and then come home in the evening and write it up, but the boys will come in and grab the records folder from the office and take it out with them.

"As soon as they finish doing a paddock, they'll stop for five minutes and fill out the records and then they're on to the next job.

"When they get home in the evening they have nothing to do."



David uses a combination of paper and electronic records to keep track of his farming operations. These were created with the input of his third son Parmeet who works away from the farm but still has a keen interest in its operations.

Having a weather station on-farm that is linked to a phone app also helps make recording conditions like wind direction and wind speed much easier.

"We probably do half-and-half in terms of written and electronic record keeping," he said. "Certain things, like fertiliser applications, we'll record electronically. The reason for that is we'll often go back two or three years to see what was put on a certain block and it's a lot easier to chase up a block history when it's recorded electronically.

"When it comes to things like nutrient applications, having those records on hand can really help work out exactly what is required for each block and can ultimately help not just save money, but actually boost productivity and profits.

"It also allows you to easily compare the results from using different chemicals

from one year to the next, so you can determine what works and what doesn't.

"There are so many ways that these records make the year-on-year operation of the farm easier and more productive."

Now that he has seen firsthand the benefits and ease of record keeping, David is encouraging his fellow growers to give it a chance.

"People might say 'back in my day we didn't need to keep records, or we didn't need GPS or controlled traffic' or whatever it might be. But just look at any aspect of life, whether it be a telephone, or an airplane or medicine, any aspect of life you can think of, it's constantly evolving and improving," he said.

"Just because we're farmers doesn't mean we don't have to change with the times or we can't improve the way we do things.

"And I'm not talking about changing for the sake of other people or to align with what people outside the industry think.

"I'm talking about improving our own practices for the sake of the industry

and for our own farms, for the future of our businesses and ultimately for our livelihoods and the livelihood of the next generation of growers.

"The world is changing all the time, we're constantly finding new and better ways to do things right across every industry. Why would farming be any different?

"If you're going to sit still, you're never going to improve.

"For me personally, I like the challenge of changing and improving my business. It's something that gets me going and keeps me interested. Otherwise it gets mundane.

"Some people get a high by jumping off a cliff with a glider or whatever. Well, I get a thrill from trying something different and seeing if it works out. And there are plenty of times it doesn't work, but that's all part of it." ■

Pictured: (above) Randeep Singh is kept busy in his on-farm workshop; (left) controlled traffic combined with consolidating paddocks and installing spoon drains has enabled the Singhs to lengthen rows and improve productivity.

Policy Update

Economics with Warren Males

Australia steps up in the WTO

Australia has shone a spotlight in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the adverse impact of Indian sugar subsidies on the world sugar market.

A Counter-Notification Notice, a serious and important escalation of diplomatic steps to have India reconsider and revise its sugar policies, has been lodged by Australia and is expected to be strongly supported by Brazil, Thailand, Guatemala, Canada and other friends of sugar when the WTO Committee on Agriculture meets later in the month.

The accompanying diplomatic effort is directed to encouraging India's compliance with its international obligations.

This Notice covers the subsidies paid by the Indian Government to its sugar industry between 2011-12 and 2016-17. Although it does not include either the production and price supports offered under India's state-based programs or the support package offered by the Indian central government in October, the notice clearly outlines the basis of Australia's claims that India is breaching its WTO obligations.

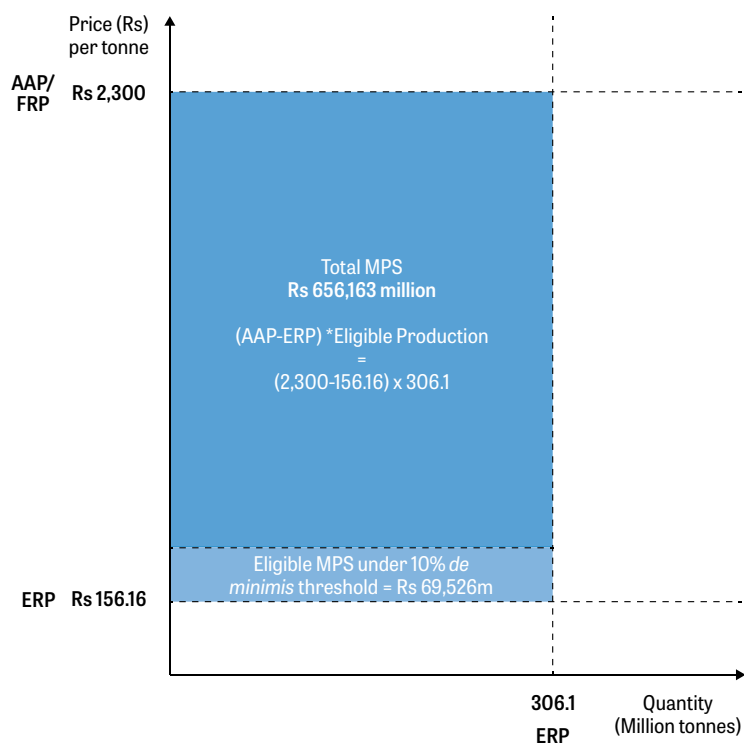
WTO rules allow market price supports of up to 10% of the total value of production. India's market price supports well and truly exceed this threshold. Since 2013-14, India's subsidies have exceeded 90% of the value of its sugarcane production. The level of market price support India provided in 2016-17 is illustrated in the chart.

While the notice increases global pressure on India to bring its sugar industry subsidies back into compliance with WTO rules, it does not initiate a formal WTO dispute resolution process and it does not diminish the need to activate a WTO dispute against India in relation to its sugar subsidies.

In welcoming Australia's leadership on this important issue, CANEGROWERS is urging the Australian Government, and working closely with other members of the Global Sugar Alliance, to progress this as a matter of urgency. ■



India's Market Price Support 2016-17



AAP = Applied Administered Price
ERP = External Reference Price
MPS = Market Price Support
FRP = Fair and Remunerative Price



Industry with Burn Ashburner

Bio-futures: When is the right time?

In October, with other members of the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee I visited the Tableland Mill where we met with MSF representatives to discuss their diversification plans and saw the cogeneration development.

More recently, I attended the Bioenergy Australia conference in Brisbane, where a number of potential projects were showcased and CANEGROWERS has also been working with Lazuli Consulting which is engaged on an SRA-funded project to determine potential industry research priorities, including in the area of bio-futures.

What I've discovered is there seems to be some common problems and mostly they relate to the availability of reliable (year-round) feedstock at the right price, as well as a guaranteed offtake at the right price.

This uncertainty makes financing these projects a high-risk proposition, probably too high-risk for the banks. Without financing it's almost impossible to get such projects off the ground without government or private investors.

An increasing demand for renewable bio-products seems to be the trend and timing is crucial.

So do you take the risk and invest in a project now to be ahead of the pack, or do you let someone else lead, and potentially reap the greatest reward, before following in their footsteps when the industry is a little more established? It depends on your ability to fund the project and your appetite for risk.

The technology to produce a range of products is less of an issue. There are possibly too many options with proven technology, although scaling the technology up for commercial use may be uncertain.

On a positive note, it seems to me that the sugarcane industry is well placed to take advantage of the growing potential of bio-futures projects. The mills are established sites, that already produce steam and power. There is an established transport system with land producing current feedstock and with the potential for different feedstock options, particularly in fallows.

Hopefully the Lazuli Consulting project will identify the need for growers and millers to work together to find the right options.

First, we need to find what will work for the industry, then work out what to do next to make it happen.

**Vigilance key to stopping yellow crazy ants**

Around 40% of the yellow crazy ant infestation south of Cairns is within sugarcane farms. For this reason, the Authority has provided training to local farmers to assist in the identification of yellow crazy ants. By knowing what to look for, you can keep your farm free of these invasive pests and help stop their spread.



Photo: Jurgen Freund

Yellow crazy ants have been found on farms in paddocks, under trash blankets, along vegetated headlands, and around dump sites. There is a particularly high risk of yellow crazy ants spreading if material such as green waste, building materials, and plant or soil matter are illegally dumped on your property.

Stopping to have a quick look while moving around your farm could make the difference in catching—and preventing—new infestations. For example, if you find rubbish, lift it up and check for ants; look under machinery or implements once moved; and inspect underneath trash.

Yellow crazy ants may also be inadvertently spread by farm machinery, particularly contract harvesting equipment. Ensuring machinery is washed down before it enters your property will help keep the ants at bay.

If your farm is within or adjacent to the current infestation area, please contact the Wet Tropics Management Authority for advice before disposing of high risk materials including trash, soil and vegetation, and avoid moving soil or vegetation (including pot plants) between properties. The Authority appreciates the Mulgrave Sugar Mill and local Cane Harvesters who have taken active steps to reduce the risk of movement of yellow crazy ants. ■

If you suspect you have yellow crazy ants or are concerned about the movement of materials or machinery on your property, the Wet Tropics Management Authority can assist with free inspections and other support. Please contact our sugarcane industry engagement officer, **Wesley Moller**:

Telephone: 0436 613 383

Email: wesley.moller@wtma.qld.gov.au

www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ants





A note from the STL Chairman...

It has been a defining year for Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) as the Company transitioned to its new role in the Queensland sugar industry.

FY2018 Performance

Prior to FY 2018, STL was simply a landlord of world class infrastructure assets. Today, STL is responsible for operating those assets and providing storage and handling services to raw sugar marketers and a growing number of other bulk commodity producers.

In FY 2018, STL delivered a strong profit of \$25.7 million, an increase of 9.8% on the previous year. This is on the back of a solid operational performance, particularly the transition to new systems and processes required to accommodate the multi-customer environment. I want to thank our operations contractor, QSL Operations, for their support throughout FY2018 and for keeping the terminals a safe place to work.

Purpose and Strategy

During FY 2018, STL developed a new strategic plan to shape the direction of the Company. As part of this exercise, we established a clear Purpose for STL – **to be a sustainable, globally competitive provider of storage and handling solutions for bulk sugar and other commodities.**

STL's strategy is to continue to strengthen our service offering, take advantage of emerging opportunities and respond to the key risks facing our business. In FY 2019, we are focussed on consolidating our operating model, improving the quality of our service offering, keeping operating costs under control and seeking opportunities to grow our revenues. At the same time, we will continue to improve the way we engage with our stakeholders and plan for the future.

As part of STL's new strategy, you'll notice that we've adopted a new logo with fresh new colours – to symbolise this new direction.

Engagement

Over the last 12 months, the STL Board have met with more than 230 stakeholders at events in Cairns, Mourilyan and Bundaberg. For many of those who attended these events, it was their first visit inside a bulk sugar terminal. In the coming financial year, stakeholder events are planned for the remaining three terminals. We will ensure your local CANEGROWER office is informed of these plans and hope you will be able to attend to tour our facilities and meet the STL Board.

STL as an Investment

STL continues to deliver stable returns to shareholders. At the end of the financial year (30 June 2018) the STL share price had grown to \$0.92 per share, which is an increase of 7.6% over the past 12 months. At the same time, STL has paid a combined dividend of 6.5 cents, which is an additional return of 7.6% (fully franked). I encourage all active growers to discuss with their financial advisors what role STL could play in their investment portfolio.

That is it from me. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the STL team on info@sugarterminals.com.au or visit the STL website at www.sugarterminals.com.au

Mark Gray
Chairman



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Next deadline is **26 November 2018**.

* 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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Ph: 0414 604 974.

18.4 x 28 Rim, 4'6" plastic primary hood
with liner for Toft 7000, 6" aluminium pipe
couplings - complete, (Southern Cross), New
rolls heavy duty barb wire 1.8mm. Ph: 07
4056 8158 (Cairns).

Herbert River-Burdekin

New Holland 6640 open cab 2wd. Howard
HR41 100inch hoe. 28 plate John Shearer
offset. Bag lifter. 700lt croplands spray tank
and five row Irvin boom. 1 tonne stainless
steel fert box. 2 furrow inter plow. Ph: 0408
870 625.

5 ½ High lift tipper bin. Suitable for single or
double row billet planter. \$5,000 +GST. Ph:
0429 829 575.



TAPER SPLINE LOCK

This is a patented device for eliminating
free play in a splined cauliflower of a
harvester chopper box.

The lock consists of a cauliflower hub
with a large, tapered internal spline.
Three splined segments lock into the
tapered internal spline and also lock onto
the splined, chopper shaft.

- ✓ Locks the spline, simulating an interference press fit.
- ✓ No waiting time is needed before use - tighten the lock and GO!
- ✓ Detailed fitting instructions provided.
- ✓ 13th year of proven service in the field.

*For further information contact the manufacturer

Glenella Engineering

16 Blue Gum Drive, MACKAY, QLD 4740
07 4942 4081 || admin@gleneng.com.au
www.gleneng.com.au

Classifieds

MF 35 Newly repainted. Fully serviced, new filters, oils, etc. New front tyres/rims. Spare front tyres/rims/steering arms. Spare rear centres/rims. Has a front blade which works off the linkage {not fitted}. Will separate any of these or sell individually \$5,000 ONO. Fiat 411R running order will sell complete tractor or parts, open to offers. Ph: 0428 394 004. Toft 4000 harvester. Chamberlain C6100. Stick planter. Whole stalk cutter. Ph: 0429 781 097.

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. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay) New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 16 Fwd & Rev Gears, Semi Powershift, 2005 Build, 40K Box, 4980 hours, 420/70R24 Fronts, 520/R70R34 Rears @ 80% \$44,000 Inc. GST. Ph: 0418 788 643.

40Hp-30Kw 3 phase motor in good condition with Southern Cross Centrifugal Pump in fair condition. \$6,600 inc. GST. Ph: 0427 164 901.

Grizley Grumpy 28 plate off sets. Original discs. \$11,000 + GST. Ph: 0407 165 557.

Earthmoving tyres brand new 14.00R25, \$550 each. Ph: 0488 300 361.

Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Howard AH90 rotary hoe fully reconditioned \$12,650. Ph: 0407 643 441 or 4959 5883.

2006 New Holland TM140 with 10t Carta tipper bin. Available for purchase after the current season. Ph: 0428 165 142 or 0417 714 209.

6Tonne Side Tipper, main rams reconed by Coopers (Mackay). Good working condition, \$7,700. 2x Bonel billet planters, make 1 good one out of the 2, Price \$4,950 for both. Ph: 0407 176 828.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

6 box (3 cane row) twin plate Covington planter, spare plates and gears. End tow transport \$4,400 inc GST. Transload bulk fertiliser bin. Approx 15T self unloading \$5,500 inc GST. Ph: 0438 389 416.

Wanted

Soybean planter/seeder with disc openers, will consider any size. Ph: 0490 029 387.

Wheelie harvester 2000 model in good condition. Ph: 0400 794 857.

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price, no brokerage. Ph: 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227.

Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Qlder style

home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

HOME BUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm for sale Mackay region. 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This year's crop, machinery shed with 3 phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil, no rocks. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses

Rainfall Report

	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
Location	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–November
	05.11.18	12.11.18		
Mossman	15	11	2215	2022
Mareeba AP	0	0	671	806
Cairns	24	2	2016	1821
Mt Sophia	34	22	3353	3069
Babinda	0	0	1667	3933
Innisfail	17	54	3037	3290
Tully	40	0	3237	3814
Cardwell	10	12	1660	1922
Lucinda	0	28	1540	1925
Ingham	5	9	1713	1835
Abergowrie	0	8	1705	1632
Townsville	3	5	819	992
Ayr DPI	0	3	626	825
Proserpine	0	7	843	1211
Mirani	3	2	691	1333
Mackay	9	8	715	1382
Sarina (Plane Ck)	22	1	857	1531
Bundaberg	0.6	0	633	885
Childers South	0.8	0	754	769
Maryborough	0.2	0	893	1026
Tewantin	2	0	1458	1542
Eumundi	2	0	1232	1504
Nambour	4	1	1217	1516
Woongoolba	10	0.6	963	1202
Murwillumbah	6	2	940	1413
Ballina	0.4	4	1545	1632
Woodburn	0	0	994	1250



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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. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses; main house fully airconed with pool. Ph: 0400 794 857.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6kms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408 880 724.



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