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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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COVER IMAGE: Herbert River grower Allan Pace is using a combination of zonal tillage, sub-surface mill mud applications and legumes to give his soil health and yield a boost (Picture courtesy of HCPSL).

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IT'S ALL IN THE MESSAGING

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Recent reporting on the ABC, which questioned the performance of the State Government's compliance regime for the regulation of farming practices, has raised eyebrows within the industry.

The original ABC Online report, which was based on data obtained via Right to Information laws, has been widely circulated, so there is no need to rehash it here.

What is important is that we examine the premise on which the story is based. That is, that the government is failing to enforce its regulations on farming practices and that farmers are not complying with state laws in relation to fertiliser application in Great Barrier Reef catchment areas.

With media reports such as these, it's always interesting to see how the relevant parties react and whether other media outlets pick up on the story.

In this case, there was very limited interest from other media outlets and, more interestingly, very limited comment from the Queensland Government.

Essentially, what we had was the usual commentary from members of the conservation and scientific communities.

As we know, some conservation groups think that any efforts in environmental management should be endorsed by them. An endorsement that will always be somewhere over the horizon, as the goalposts are perpetually shifted.

From a scientific perspective, the common view is that there are holes in the information and environmental performance cannot be verified or guaranteed. Further research is required.

These are two common, well-used narratives.

From the State Government, the actual target of the criticism, the silence was almost deafening.

The Real Story

What was common however, was a desire to hear from the farmers involved - to hear the story of Smartcane BMP adoption and understand what it means in terms of practice change and grower efforts to improve not only reef water quality, but also farm profitability, and to contrast this with the regulatory approach.

By all accounts, the task of regulating farming practices is proving difficult in a compliance sense.

This is why CANEGROWERS has always rejected the concept. Not just because farmers don't deserve to be regulated, but because it's a bad idea that does not solve the problem it purports to address.

Regulating a farming system leads to compliance

challenges. The natural dynamics at play mean judging the black and white letter of the law is fraught and leads to very unfair outcomes.

Laws need to be complied with, but compliance needs to be possible, and compliance regimes should be fair and evidence-based.

We understand the government is very soon to announce its implementation plans for its long-threatened and expanded set of reef regulations.

These were part of Labor's pre-election commitments, largely crafted to secure a strengthening green vote.

Leaving aside the politics, the continual push for reef regulations is a slippery slope that successive governments have had us on since 2009 and they are locked onto federal and state government commitments that have been made publicly here and internationally at the United Nations. That doesn't make it right, fair or sensible.

Smartcane BMP is our shield in this debate. It is the level of adoption by growers that allows us to demonstrate the inadequacy of a pedantic regulatory approach and we are becoming more sophisticated in the way we report on industry performance with respect to environmental sustainability.

It is highly frustrating for all involved that farmers are constantly put in the position of having to justify the way they run their businesses. But transparency is the currency of trust and our efforts reap rewards as we continue to secure the support of our communities.

We need this support, as we ask them to back us in calling for government action on critical industry issues such as the enforcement of agreed international trade rules or support for farmers in relation to fair market power.

The recent media criticism of environmental performance was targeted at the Queensland Government. But again farmers can suffer collateral damage.

CANEGROWERS refuses to let this happen. We will not let the efforts of the majority be disregarded by either the community, the media or policy makers. ■





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NEWS IN BRIEF

Maryborough growers cop a flogging

Maryborough's 2018 harvest came to a grinding halt earlier this month after a series of damaging hail storms rolled through the district damaging crops, homes, sheds and farming equipment.

The region received more than 180mm of rain over the course of five days, from 11-15 October, with some areas recording as much as 200mm.

While the heavy rainfall resulted in some localised flooding, it was the accompanying wind and hail that did most of the damage, CANEGROWERS District Manager **Camerson Waterson** said.

"It's the first real rain we've had in four months, so in that respect it was good, but now we've got about half a dozen or more growers who have serious flooding on their properties," Mr Waterson said.

"We've probably got another dozen or so who have suffered a lot of crop damage, as well as damage to sheds, homes, vehicles and farming equipment from the wind and hail.

"It's too early to put a figure on the damage, but we're working closely with affected growers to provide whatever assistance is required."

With harvesters unable to get into paddocks due to the wet conditions, MSF Sugar's Maryborough Mill was forced to cease crushing operations.

"At this stage we don't know exactly when the mill will resume. It's still much too wet to get into the paddocks to get a good assessment of the damage, never mind getting a harvester out there," Mr Waterson said. ■

Pictured below: Crop damage in the Yerra area west of Maryborough; the roof was blown off a shed and over Jeff Atkinson's house and the wind twisted irrigators on his family's farms.



LOW GI SUGAR TAKES OUT INNOVATION AWARD

New South Wales milling co-op Sunshine Sugar has taken out an award for its new low-GI sugar product, Nucane.

Accepting the gong for Excellence in Innovation at the 2018 Northern Rivers Regional Business Awards, Sunshine Sugar CEO **Chris Connors** said the global rise in obesity and type-2 diabetes was behind the company's decision to develop a low-GI product.

"We have been working for some time with Nutrition Innovation Group, who are leaders in the field of nutrition research and sugar innovation, to produce Nucane, a wholesome cane sugar that is rich in antioxidants with a low glycemic index," Mr Connors said.

"This award is acknowledgement of our commitment to the future of sugar in delivering health benefits to consumers and sustained returns to our cane grower."



As a regional winner, Sunshine Sugar will now go on to compete for the State's top honour at the NSW Business Chamber Awards. ■

AGRIFUTURES RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

Time is running out to nominate for the 2019 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, with applications set to close 31 October.

The award, which supports the essential role women play in rural and regional businesses, industries and communities, offers a \$10,000 bursary to each state and territory winner.

More information on the award and application process is available online at www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/rural-womens-award/. ■

Cyclone risk cover - closer than you think

Supplied by Queensland Farmers' Federation

Like drought, cyclones are part of the farming landscape in Queensland. Despite this, insuring crops against cyclones has long been viewed as fantasy. Now QFF has a solution.



Every summer we think there must be a way to give farmers the ability to better respond to severe weather events, but then cyclone season passes and no new system has materialised – until now.

Through the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, in conjunction with CANEGROWERS and other industry members, has teamed up with the University of Southern Queensland and Willis Towers Watson, to create an insurance model that will offer growers peace of mind this cyclone season.

Together, QFF, QSU and Willis Towers Watson have assessed and modelled alternative risk transfer insurance options for cane growers. They're 'alternative' because we focussed on parametric solutions.

Parametric or index-based products differ from more traditional forms of insurance in that payouts are not determined by

actual losses for an individual farm and do not require proof of damage.

Rather, a payout occurs in the event of a pre-agreed trigger event. In this case, the event is a cyclone. Irrelevant to the damage, the cyclone itself is the trigger for the payout, making the process much simpler and easier to manage for growers and the insurance company.

Built from the ground up, we now have a 'cat in the box' product – 'cat' being short for catastrophe and 'box' indicating a defined region, positioned over the farm.

For example, a circle with a 100km radius is centred over the farm, if a cyclone crosses the perimeter and enters the circle then the policy is triggered and the payout is processed according to the agreement between the grower and the insurance company.

The cost of the policy is flexible and varies due to the extent of cover requested by the grower. Growers can tailor the

policy to their needs, choosing the size of the circle, the size of the event (e.g. cat three cyclones or higher) and the payout amount.

This product provides greater flexibility for growers to select a suitable trigger point for their farming operations – therefore keeping premiums at a reasonable cost.

We are currently developing case study examples of how the product works and pricing it up.

For more information visit the Insurance page on the QFF website www.qff.org.au/projects/insurance/ or to participate in the project and see what this looks like for your farm, contact **Ross Henry** – QFF Project Manager on 0455 025 250 or at ross@qff.org.au. ■

Pictured: Gary Raiteri's farm during Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

At Week 18 (ending 6/10) Mossman Mill had processed a total of 668,845 tonnes for a mill average of 13.56 CCS.

Coastal growers have supplied a total of 454,594 tonnes for a mill average of 13.48 CCS, while Mareeba growers have supplied a total of 214,251 tonnes for a mill average of 13.98 CCS.

To-date 208,790 tonnes of Mareeba cane has also been toll-crushed at the Tableland Mill.

A welcome storm over the weekend (13/10) saw varied rainfall across the district, with totals ranging from 60mm to 90mm in some areas - enough to lay the dust and give the plant cane a well needed burst.

The finish date for Mossman Mill is expected to be around 6 November.

Cairns region

The area remains relatively dry although some showers have been experienced here and there. Suppliers continue to experience delays caused by mill stoppages.

As a result of a higher than average CCS for both Mulgrave and South Johnstone areas the base will be adjusted in line with the next advance. Some individual producers are experiencing some exceptional CCS results.

At this point the anticipated finish date is around 19 November, weather pending.

Innisfail

Generally fine weather has allowed harvesting operations to continue smoothly. Rainfall associated with storm activity delivered between 25-30mm across the district during the week-ending 14 October. This didn't interrupt harvesting but was beneficial to the new plant crop.

There have been a number of significant stoppages at South Johnstone Mill over the past two weeks, resulting from the failure of a coupling on No.3 mill and a cracked roller on No.1 mill. The roller had to be replaced causing a 47-hour stoppage. The finish date may be affected but is still expected to be 19 or 20 November. Four days have been allocated to loss due to wet weather, but these may not be used so the season could finish that much earlier.

The South Johnstone Mill supply estimate has slightly fallen to just below 95% of pre-season estimate. The Cane Payment CCS has been adjusted to 13 due to the continuing high CCS being recorded at the mill, with the mill average over 15 for three consecutive weeks.

Tully

The weekend brought some storms and isolated showers across the district - enough to lay the dust and put a tinge of green into the grass. Nothing like what was experienced in southern districts, however hail was reported in Cardwell during its UFO festival.

The Tully harvest is now over 70% complete, with CCS for the season heading towards a record 14.2 units. If the current estimate holds, crushing will continue until mid-December.

Growers have until 31 October to lodge their Marketing Nomination Forms for the 2019 season. Marketers, TSL and QSL have run well-attended meetings, outlining their products for the coming season, as well as progress on the current season.

CANEGROWERS Tully will hold its AGM on Monday 22 October, while a Women's Field Day will be held on 30 October, in association with the Cane Changer Project.

Herbert River

A dry, cool and sunny winter and early spring has allowed good progress and CCS is on track to exceed the five-yearly average at 14.01 with 3,488,287 tonnes crushed. That is approaching 75% harvested of an estimated 4.79 million tonnes.

The weekend of 13 October brought some rain over two days, with heavier falls close to the coast. CCS dropped a unit for cane harvested after the first of the rain. As the harvest progresses, rat damage in some of the remaining areas is beginning to become more noticeable.

A shredder vibration issue on Victoria Mill's B train as caused

more than scheduled lost time and, following discussions with CANEGROWERS Herbert River directors, Wilmar took the train off line for a major repair. Wilmar says it is using all available resources and 24-hour rostering to complete the work in the shortest possible time. The expected extension to the season will be 3-4 days.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River is inviting applications for the position of Manager. Interested people are invited to view the Position Description online www.canegrowers.com.au/jobs-at-canegrowers. Incumbent Manager Peter Sheedy plans to commence pre-retirement leave at the end of the year.

Burdekin

The Burdekin missed a weather event that came through parts of North Queensland although storms ropped up to 40 mm in some areas around Townsville.

The Burdekin cane crush was near 83% by the end of Week 18 (ending 13/10). The revised estimate appears to be holding up at around 8 million tonnes.

At this stage, the season is still forecast to finish for Invicta, Pioneer and Kalamia on 8 November, with Inkerman expected to finish on 11 November. There may be a day either side of the forecast and the usual caveats of weather, mill performance and crop estimate apply.

Season-to-date throughput for the Burdekin mills remains ahead of forecast and CCS continues to trend above budget,

though we have still not cracked the elusive 16 units for all mills.

Invicta Mill had the highest weekly CCS of the region in Week 18 with 15.91. The Burdekin season to date average CCS is sitting at 14.9. Just over 354,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the districts four mills in Week 18, which takes the total crushed to 6,620,341 tonnes.

The highest CCS samples for Week 18 were 18.3 for a rake of Q208 third ratoon cane recorded at Inkerman Mill.

The best performing varieties on a regional basis were Q183 and Q208 with 35% and 23% of supply and 16.15 CCS, followed by Q240 at 19% and 15.69 CCS, and Q252 at 6% and 15.96 CCS.

Proserpine

The Proserpine crushing season is rapidly drawing to a close. Throughput for the past fortnight was 174,354 tonnes, which was slightly down due to some significant mechanical issues. With nearly 95% of the crop now harvested, it was envisaged the crush would be completed late this week.

The latest set-back should see the crush extended for a couple of days but still finishing well ahead of initial expectations.

CCS has remained above 16 units for consecutive weeks, lifting the average for the season to 14.92.

Unfortunately, the district did not receive the forecast storm activity and is in desperate need of rain to support the new crop.

Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mills collectively processed 174,393 tonnes in the week ending 14 October, bringing the season to date total to 3,978,830 tonnes.

Individually the mills crushed:

Marian 86,642

Farleigh 25,815

Racecourse 61,936

PRS for the week was 15.70 with the season to date average at 14.12 PRS.

Plane Creek

Wilmar Sugar's Plane Creek Mill crushed 60,695 tonnes of cane in the week ending 13 October, bringing the season-to-date total to 991,788 tonnes. Availability was good at 89%, however the crushing rate was down due to pan stage limitations. Rain impacted harvesting on the Sunday following a severe storm system that moved across the district on the Saturday night.

The millionth tonne was crushed on the Monday 15 October. Average bin weights were 3.92 tonnes with the season to date average at 4.01. CCS was steady at 15.50 units with the season to date average now at 14.65 units. The highest CCS for the week was 18.20 units from a rake of Q252 plant cane from the Ilbilbie Productivity District.

Bundaberg

Widespread storms across the district brought totals of between 80 and 180 mm of very welcome rain, although the hail and wind was not welcome.

Bingera has finished for the year and Millaquin has around 8,000 tonnes to go. Hopefully conditions will be dry enough to finish it off later in the week.

This is the earliest finish to Bundaberg crush this century and the mostly dry conditions have played a major part in that. The estimate is likely to be down by around 150,000 to 170,000 tonnes.

Much improved mill performance has also influenced the end date.

Despite a poor start, Millaquin has been achieving a reliability rate of around 90% since late August. Across the year to date it is sitting at 91%.

Bingera continues to impress with a season average reliability of 97%.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Isis

Widespread rainfall across the Isis Mill supply area brought crushing to a grinding halt on the evening of Friday 12 October. Despite this, the rain was most welcome, bringing an end to the dry spell that has gripped the entire Wide Bay region for several months. With recordings of over 100mm received in most areas it has been very beneficial to plant cane germination and ratooning, and could potentially add significant value to the 2019 crop.

Week 16 saw 61,237 tonnes pass through the rollers, with another 59,970 tonnes processed during Week 17. The one million tonne mark was passed in the early hours of Wednesday 3 October. CCS figures are reflective of the wet weather, with Week 16 recording 15.60 and Week 17 recording 15.35. This is following the highest recorded weekly average CCS of 16.01, which occurred in Week 15. The varieties Q240 and Q208 continue to dominate supply.

Maryborough

What a difference a fortnight makes. Following months of dry conditions, the Maryborough region has recorded some massive rainfall totals in recent weeks.

At the time of writing, production through the mill had reached 688,277 tonnes, which is 80% of the estimated crop. However, there has been no harvesting since Thursday 11 October as a result of the region being hit by a number of severe storms, followed by a rain depression which has seen some remarkable falls. Nambour received the equivalent of 11 inches of rain on the old scale between 11-15 October, while Maryborough had 186mm, Hervey Bay 156mm and Tiara 200mm. Needless to say, harvesting activity is off for this week with more rain to fall. Fortunately, the early dry run has us well placed with plenty of time to harvest the remaining crop.

Some growers did suffer hail damage during the storms, with crops, homes and sheds around the Yerra area taking a battering. This same storm cell continued towards Hervey Bay, collapsing two centre pivots and damaging more homes before running out of puff.

Power in those areas was lost for several days. Anyone needing assistance with claims, please contact the CANEGROWERS Maryborough office.

Rocky Point

Week 13 saw a total of 20,441 tonnes of cane crushed at an average CCS of 14.21 at Rocky Point Mill.

Overall, the weather conditions to date have been good and the performance of both the cogen and mill have been reasonable (compared to prior years). The estimate has climbed slightly to 370,000.

CCS has held quite well despite some recent showers. The highest recorded individual CCS to date is 16.3 for Q232. Other varieties with good results are Q208 and KQ228.

Roughly 80mm of rain has fallen in recent days. Showers are presently disrupting the harvest. ■

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THE ART OF CHECKING IN

Listening and showing you care can make a significant difference to the life of someone who is having a tough time with their mental health. AustSafe Super's workplace wellbeing partner, SuperFriend, has provided the following tips to help prepare for these conversations.

Paving the way for deeper conversations

Getting to know the people you work with and developing a close working relationship is critical. Take the time to learn about their life outside work and what they like to chat about.

Gather your thoughts

What you say is as important as when you say it. Take a few moments to consider what is concerning you and make note of a few examples of behaviours or changes in their behaviour you've noticed.

Don't be an expert

It's important to recognise you don't always need to be a counsellor or therapist, and you don't need to know all the answers. Draw on resources available to you at: www.superfriend.com.au.

It's OK if they don't want to talk

Despite raising your concerns, sometimes the conversation doesn't go anywhere. But if it's done authentically, taking the time to check-in lets the person know you care and can help strengthen the relationship.

Visit austsafe.com.au/memberhub for the full article. ■

Disclaimer:

Source: SuperFriend

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Video highlights family Landcare effort

Aloomba grower **Tony Rossi** wants to inspire his fellow cane growers to harness the energy and interest of their local communities for environmental projects.

"There's so much goodwill and people wanting to make a difference and that's where the farmer can be the champion because he's got the land and the ability to make change," he said while visiting Brisbane for the National Landcare Conference as Chairman of his local Mulgrave Group.

"That's the beauty of Landcare, it not only empowers a farmer, it pulls in all of those people in the community who are just aching to help.

"We've got 80-90 in our group from scientists to teachers, mill workers, switched on people from town and local indigenous people."

CANEGROWERS has just released a Virtual Bus Tour video featuring the Rossi family's farm at Aloomba and its sediment traps, seepage drains and creekbank revegetation.

The family also has a plant nursery where the seeds of local species are propagated for use on their own and other nearby farms in Landcare projects.

"If a grower doesn't have a strong Landcare group in their area, let's see about trying to make one," Tony offered.



"Ours has been going for 25 years and we're very proud of it just as we're very proud of being productive cane farmers, the two go hand in hand."

Tony said the Landcare conference was inspirational but he does have some criticisms and suggestions to improve Landcare – largely through the way governments fund it.

"It's one thing to have a great volunteer base but without core funding it's like the military being asked to take a ridge without food or weapons," he said.

"Project money is available and it's great, but core funding allows you to access all of the goodwill and ethics of Landcare and bring the whole community volunteer base in."

He says \$100,000 would provide a part-time Landcare coordinator and workers to care for plantings, something that happens in New South Wales and Victoria. He wants the Queensland Government to consider similar support.

Watch the Virtual Bus Tour video of the Rossi family farm on YouTube here <https://youtu.be/yesj3jl-PVI>. ■

Growers doing remarkable things

The CANEGROWERS 2018 Virtual Bus Tour video series is sharing the stories of Queensland growers reaping the benefits of innovative projects and practices – and asking the question, could you do something similar?

Increased productivity, business efficiencies and environmental improvements are all on show in Season 7 of the Virtual Bus Tour which can be viewed on YouTube.

In Episode 1, visit the Watson farm near Mossman to see how Smartcane BMP and a Nutrient Management Plan is helping to control costs and minimise the farm's effect on surrounding waterways.

Episode 2 explores soil health at the Fairnsfield farm of **Peter Russo** and his sons **Chris** and **Jeremy**. Their fallow and nutrient management practices have increased their sugarcane production and reduced their costs.

Episode 3 looks at some smart tech on **Willy Lucas's** farm in the irrigated cane lands of the Burdekin. His automated irrigation system is reducing water usage and electricity costs, minimising possible

runoff to the Great Barrier Reef and letting him get more sleep.

Episode 4 visits the Bartle Frere farm of **Ray** and **Rosemary Vicarioli** to see how their drainage management and farm layout mean the quality of water leaving the farm is the best it can be.

Watch the videos by typing this link into your browser <https://bit.ly/1XtDUWM> or go to YouTube and search for CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour. ■

Herbert growers and millers head south to learn more on **HARVEST EFFICIENCY**

It is well known that sugarcane growers and millers enjoy looking over the other side of the fence to see how they can improve things on their own turf.



Thanks to an initiative by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and Wilmar Sugar, this 'looking over the fence' has taken a step further for a group of growers and millers from the Herbert region, with the group having the opportunity to look much further afield than their own district.

The group recently travelled from the Herbert region in North Queensland to Rocky Point near the Gold Coast and Childers in the Southern Region.

The aim of the trip was to learn from millers, growers and harvesting contractors in these southern parts of the industry and discover how they are adopting practices that are helping them to optimise harvesting efficiency.

The trip was jointly funded through an SRA Travel and Learning Award and Wilmar Sugar.

Herbert Regional Operations Manager for Wilmar Sugar, Adam Douglas, said the

group was returning to the Herbert armed with more information about the impact of cane loss and extraneous matter on a farm's bottom line.

"Our objective was to meet and collaborate with Rocky Point and Childers growers who have changed their harvesting practice," Mr Douglas said. ►



"Through research and demonstration trials, we know that there is potential to improve harvesting efficiency and therefore put more revenue into the value chain."

Pictured: (Page 10 main) The group from the Herbert meeting with Rocky Point millers, growers and contractors, discussing harvesting optimisation. (Page 10 bottom) Rocky Point grower Josh Keith (far right) talking harvesting parameters with the group.

"It has been an opportunity to learn about the potential to increase profitability by reducing cane loss and extraneous matter levels."

SRA Adoption Officer for Harvesting, Phil Patane, said that the trip was a chance to visit during the harvest season, which put everything into context for making harvest best practice work.

"Through research and demonstration trials, we know that there is potential to improve harvesting efficiency and therefore put more revenue into the value chain," Mr Patane said.

"From trial results in 2017, it was identified that the industry could potentially obtain a 5.5% increase in harvested tonnes with no cane land increase and a \$74 million increase in shared industry revenue if operating at harvesting best practice recommendations.

"However, we also know that optimising harvesting is complex and a range of factors have to be considered. This is why it is so valuable for the group from the Herbert to engage with their peers in the southern region.

"We are all operating in one Australian industry, but also across a vast geographic distance, so this trip was a rare and valuable opportunity for the millers and growers from the Herbert.

"This was a chance for them to ask questions and consider how their own operation compares."

Ingham grower Paul Marbelli said he had not had the chance to visit the Rocky Point and Childers regions before, so this was a unique opportunity.

"The trip has been interesting to see how other districts are doing things," Mr Marbelli said. "We can't compare everything between regions, as there are unique conditions down here, but it has been interesting to learn how these farmers and contractors are dealing with their situations."

This work adds to existing industry engagement on harvesting efficiency through a project through the Rural R&D for Profit program funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, SRA, and the Queensland Government. ■

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Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

*Return is the rate of investment earnings net of investment fees and taxes on earnings. This does not reflect administration fees deducted daily from member accounts, which are currently \$2.30 per week and 0.15% pa of the first \$500,000 of account balances.

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MAKING YOUR BED AND GROWING IN IT

Sub-surface mill mud applications helping to improve soil health in the Herbert

By Wayne Griffin

Herbert River grower Allan Pace is reaping the rewards of an innovative farming system that combines the use of mill mud and ash, legume fallows and planting directly into pre-formed beds to boost soil health and increase yields in his sugarcane, pumpkin and watermelon crops.

Allan operates a 900 hectare cane farm with his wife Caroline and adult daughters Briannan, Rebekah and Jenna in the southern Ingham area. He's also a partner in Pace Farming which runs a large pineapple farm at Rollingstone.

A third-generation cane grower, Allan has been innovating and adapting his farming practices for well over a decade.

He was an early adopter of controlled traffic farming and nutrient management plans, and has also embraced a number of beneficial soil health practices such as fallowing and reduced till. The business is well on its way to achieving Smartcane BMP accreditation.

"We went to a fully controlled traffic system about 12 years ago," Allan said when *Australian Canegrower* visited.



"I'd been on a field trip to look at new farming systems and saw how controlled traffic worked and the benefits it had for soil health.

"We just decided we'd be crazy not to go down that road. Today we have GPS on everything - the tractors, harvester, planter.

"To make the controlled traffic work, we grow everything on 1.8 centres, not just the cane, but the pumpkins and watermelons as well.

"We try to make sure the practices we're using on farm are as efficient, cost effective and in line with best practice as possible.

"We break up the crop cycle with fallows, both in the cane and the pineapples. In the cane fallows we grow pumpkins and watermelons as a cash crop and also legumes just for the nitrogen fix.

"We've also started putting in some mixed fallows with different types of legumes and sunflowers, things like that. In the pineapple fallows we grow pumpkins and watermelons.





"We try to make sure the practices we're using on farm are as efficient and in line with best practice as possible ... Anything we can do to boost the soil health and get the good bugs working, we try to do it."

"Anything we can do to boost the soil health and get the good bugs working, we try to do it," he said.

Over the years, the Pace family has done a lot of trial work with Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd (HCPSL).

In fact, it was one such trial that led to the adoption of their latest on-farm innovation.

"Allan undertook a trial about six years ago to compare mill ash and biochar against his conventional farming system," HCPSL manager Lawrence Di Bella said.

"The James Cook University trial, managed by HCPSL, showed that mill ash performed just as well or better than biochar on his sodic soils."

With mill mud and ash offering a much cheaper alternative to biochar, Allan decided to make the change permanent.

Two years ago, he began transitioning his entire farm onto a new zonal till system that uses a combination of mill mud and



Pictured: The Saliba spreader, designed to spread material in a band from the front as well as broadcast material out the back, allows Herbert grower Allan Pace to apply low rates of mill ash or mill mud at a cost effective rate

Continues on next page ►



Pictured: (above) Second-generation cane grower Roy Pace still plays an active role in the business.

"It has completely changed our farming practices. There's nowhere near the amount of cultivation that we would have done in the past."

ash, placed sub-surface in a preformed bed, and legume fallows, to increase soil health and boost yield.

"The challenge for Allan was to be able to apply low rates of the mill ash in the cane root zone to manage his sodic soils and improve the soil structure on his hard to manage clay soils," Mr Di Bella said.

"The specially-designed Saliba tractor unit allows him to apply low rates of mill ash or mill mud at a cost effective rate because of transport costs from the sugar mill."

Unfortunately for Allan, it's not as easy as just coming through the paddock and spreading the mill mud on top of the soil.

"There's a bit more to it than that," Allan said.

"What happens is I'll cut a certain amount of my fallow early, as soon as the mill opens up. We'll work all that trash into the ground. Then we'll spray it with a little bit of nitrogen, just to get the bugs to break down the trash quicker.

"Then we'll go in with the Hiller and make furrows in the planting zone. We'll run our mill mud and ash into those furrows, before coming along and closing them up to make a little mound that we can plant the pumpkins straight into."

As soon as the pumpkins are harvested in late November-early December, Allan plants a crop of soybeans to fix the nitrogen in the soil.

Once matured, the soybeans are sprayed out, then Allan uses a double disc opener planter to plant the cane directly into the mounds.

"The reason we do it this way, put the mud and ash into furrows and cover it up, is because if you have the ash on top of the ground it will break your chemicals down," Allan said.

"By putting it sub-surface, we're ensuring we make the most out of the chemicals and other inputs that we use."

While the system is still relatively new, Allan is pleased with his results to date, especially in terms of soil health.



"This is only our second year using this system, so it's a little early to quantify the benefits," he said.

"Having said that, we know we're getting increases in the pumpkin yield and we saw slight increases in the cane yield this year.

"I've also seen a massive improvement in our soil health since we've gone to making the preformed beds and growing beans in them.

"It has completely changed our farming practices. There's nowhere near the amount of cultivation that we would have done in the past.

"On the new blocks, where we're using this system, we went in and zonal ripped it where the cane is going to go. We made a bed where we planted the legumes. Later we went in and mulched the beans out, sprayed it with Round-Up and we planted the cane straight into the bed. That's it.

"Our old practice would have been a lot more intensive. We would have waited

until it dried out, then disced it. Then we probably would have disced it again.

"After that we would have ripped it, then we could have rotary hoed it two times. Just heavily cultivating the blocks.

"Now, it's the complete opposite and the soil is just so much better."

Despite his success to date, Allan is still fine tuning his system with the help of HCPSL.

"The challenge now is making sure we can adjust our nitrogen inputs correctly to ensure we get good sugar content," he said.

"There's still some work to be done. It's an ongoing transition, but I'm happy with the way it's going so far. I'm pretty confident we've made the right decision for this farm," Allan said. ■

Pictured: (above) Mill mud and ash is deposited into furrows, which are then covered up to form beds before being planted with pumpkins, followed by soybeans, then cane. (Main image courtesy of HCPSL). (Right) Fourth-generation farmers Rebekah and Briannan Pace.



New products give growers more pricing and payment options

QSL has released its 2019-Season product range, with an expanded mix of pricing products and payment options providing growers with more tools to help manage the needs of their business.

On the pricing front, we've kept our line-up of QSL-Managed Pools unchanged, with the following available again in the 2019 Season:

- QSL Harvest Pool
- QSL Actively Managed Pool
- QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool
- QSL 2-Season Actively Managed Pool (2020)
- QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool
- QSL US Quota Pool

For growers who like to do their own pricing, we've retained the **Target Price Contract** and the Individual Futures Contract, and added a new self-managed pricing option which gives growers the ability to price their GEI Sugar allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool.

THE SELF-MANAGED HARVEST

Our new Self-Managed Harvest option is designed to give growers the opportunity to manage their own production risk.

To participate, growers must have a minimum of 300 tonnes and 35% of their GEI Sugar with QSL allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool.

They are then responsible for pricing the entirety of their QSL Harvest Pool allocation against each of the four futures contracts available each season (July, October, March and May).

It is important to note that pricing restrictions remain in place for 20% of each participating grower's nominated tonnage in the Self-Managed Harvest in order to maintain their production buffer.

No pricing is permitted for this production buffer portion until it has been received by QSL in the later part of the harvest, with the grower only able to price it against the March and May contracts post-delivery.

Any **decreases** to a participating grower's initial nomination to this product will be applied against tonnage allocated to the March and May contracts first, with the balance against that grower's in-season pricing.

Alternatively, any **increases** to their estimate can be priced against their March and May positions upon completion of their deliveries.

Growers considering using the Self-Managed Harvest must declare their participation by 31 October 2018 and can begin pricing from that date to align with when QSL starts pricing the 2019 QSL Harvest Pool.

PRE-CRUSH ADVANCE PAYMENT

In addition to QSL's Standard, Accelerated and Deferred Payment options, growers marketing with QSL in the 2019 Season now also have access to a new Pre-Crush Advance Payment.

Under this option, growers can opt to receive an Advance payment for up to half of their estimated GEI Sugar prior to the start of the harvest.

This payment is made in late March and will be based on a rate of \$50/tonne IPS sugar, less associated administration and finance costs of approximately \$1 per tonne IPS sugar.

Once the participating grower starts delivering sugar, their QSL Standard Advance payments will not commence

2019-Season Marketing Nominations for growers in Wilmar and Tully Sugar milling districts close 31 OCTOBER 2018

until the Advances amount due for the season exceeds the Pre-Crush Advance Payment already made.

For example:

- A grower has a supply estimate of 400 tonnes IPS of GEI Sugar nominated to QSL.
- They are eligible to receive a Pre-Crush Advance on 50% of this = 200 tonnes of IPS sugar.
- 200 tonnes of IPS sugar x \$50/tonne, less \$1/tonne for finance & admin costs = \$9,800, which they are paid on 29 March 2019.
- Once they start delivering their 2019-Season sugar, their seasonal Advance payments will only start when the overall amount due for the season exceeds the \$9,800 already paid.

Nominations to receive the Pre-Crush Advances Payment are open from 1 February 2019 to 15 March 2019, with the payment to be made on 29 March 2019.

For more information about QSL's 2019-Season product offering and how you can access these products, please visit www.qsl.com.au. ■

Disclaimer: This article contains information of a general or summary nature only and should not be relied on to make any pricing or pool selection decisions. This information does not constitute financial or investment advice, and growers should seek their own independent advice before making any such decisions, in addition to reading the full Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should anything in relation to this article be taken to include representations as to future matters.

QSL PRODUCT OVERVIEW

2019 Season



MANDATORY PRICING POOLS

All Growers marketing with QSL will have tonnage automatically allocated to the following pools. There is generally no penalty for failing to deliver the nominated tonnage to these pricing products.

QSL HARVEST POOL - 35% minimum allocation

- Designed to help manage in-season tonnage shortfalls and contains a production buffer that is not sold or priced until the later part of the harvest.
- Growers can deliver more/less than initial allocation, and are only paid for the sugar they actually deliver.
- Any GEI Sugar not allocated to a QSL pricing product defaults to this pool.

QSL US QUOTA POOL - 5% allocation

- QSL automatically allocates a share of US Quota returns to all growers marketing with QSL.
- Final allocation is based on QSL's total sales tonnage to the USA each season, and usually varies between 3%-5% of each grower's GEI Sugar tonnes with QSL.

OPTIONAL PRICING PRODUCTS

QSL-MANAGED POOLS

QSL-managed pools aggregate tonnage from one or more participants, with QSL making all pricing decisions for the pool. Growers must commit tonnage to participate in any of these products.

QSL ACTIVELY MANAGED POOL

- Targets the best return by pricing in an active manner designed to exploit short-term market opportunities in the current season.
- QSL can use a variety of pricing instruments, trade currency, and unwind pricing to re-price at a later date, in a bid to enhance returns.

QSL EARLY-START ACTIVELY MANAGED POOL

- Targets the best return by using the same pricing approach and tools as the QSL Actively Managed Pool, but extends the pricing window across 18 months.
- Nominations close in the year prior to delivery.

2020 QSL 2-SEASON ACTIVELY MANAGED POOL

- Targets the best return by using the same pricing approach and tools as the QSL Actively Managed Pool, but extends the pricing window across two seasons.
- Nominations close in the season prior to delivery.

QSL GUARANTEED FLOOR POOL

- Locks in a 'floor' price, setting a known minimum return supplemented by 50% of any returns above the pool's 'strike' price.
- Floor and strike prices are set after nominations close, with the option to withdraw from the pool if the floor price is \$10 below the last published indicative price.

SELF-MANAGED PRODUCTS

QSL's self-managed pricing products allow you to make your own pricing decisions, either for the current or future seasons. Growers must commit tonnage to participate in any of these products.

TARGET PRICE CONTRACT

- Enables Growers to price their GEI Sugar during the current season and up to 3 seasons forward.
- Orders target a weighted season average in \$5 increments (e.g. \$400, \$405, \$410).
- Pricing can be deferred to the year after crushing by 'rolling' unfilled orders (costs may apply).

INDIVIDUAL FUTURES CONTRACT

- Enables Growers to price GEI Sugar incrementally during the current season and up to 3 seasons forward, with separate pricing decisions made against each of 4 individual futures contracts.
- Order targets in \$5 increments (e.g. \$400, \$405, \$410).
- Pricing to be completed by 16 April in the year after crushing commences.

SELF-MANAGED HARVEST

- Growers manage their own production risk by pricing their GEI Sugar tonnage allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool.
- Participants are responsible for pricing all of their QSL Harvest Pool allocation, with pricing restrictions for 20% of this tonnage to maintain their production buffer.
- Participants who fail to deliver the tonnage they have priced in this pool are liable for any associated costs.

HOW MUCH YOU CAN PRICE

This is governed by the amount of GEI Sugar you have nominated to be marketed by QSL in the season concerned, the total Committed Sugar allocation limits as determined in your CSA, GPA and the Pricing Pool Terms, and the credit limits applied by QSL. See your local QSL rep for details.

THE QSL SHARED POOL

Unless otherwise stated in the Pricing Pool Terms, QSL does not charge direct fees for using QSL's pricing products. Instead, at the end of the season all QSL pricing products receive an allocation from the QSL Shared Pool which captures all revenues and costs associated with the sale and marketing of sugar by QSL.



Queensland-designed tech helping growers save money and the reef

Supplied by WTSIP

New cane fertilising technology manufactured in the Wet Tropics is fine-tuning nutrient management and helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

"With the move away from blanket application of one fertiliser at one rate, farmers can fine-tune their fertiliser use, improving fertiliser efficiency and reducing costs while maximising production."

Ingham fertiliser company Liquaforce has teamed up with agronomists and farmers to design a computer-controlled fertiliser applicator that can vary the type and rate of fertiliser to suit soil and crop differences within and between cane blocks.

The first demonstration day was held on a Lower Tully farm recently.

Liquaforce's **Cameron Liddle** said the applicator had two tanks so nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous could be applied simultaneously at differing rates.

Software linked to the applicator used block-specific mapping - based on soil tests, satellite or drone imagery and electro-magnetic mapping - to ensure

the best nutrient rates are applied to each part of the crop.

Mr Liddle, who secured Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) funding via the Australian Government's Reef Trust III grants, has established test sites on four farms in the Tully and Herbert regions.

WTSIP's **Bruce Corcoran** said the innovation was useful for farms with significant variations within cane blocks, which affected the take-up of fertiliser.

"With the move away from blanket application of one fertiliser at one rate, farmers can fine-tune their fertiliser use, improving fertiliser efficiency and reducing costs while maximising production," he said. ►

"The flow-on effect is improved water quality with less nutrients flowing to the Great Barrier Reef."

The liquid fertiliser applicator, which is currently being used in the Tully region, will be rolled out in the Ingham area this year.

Mr Liddle said he had been working with TopCrop agronomist Don Pollock and Ingham's TDC Auto Electrical.

"Some of my cane rows are 600m long and soil types differ so having the option of variability is pretty exciting stuff."

"We began with satellite vegetation data and electro-magnetic mapping of paddocks on trial sites," he said. "With that data on hand we moved on to intensive soil testing to get a very good idea of each paddock's soil type and nutrient levels and determine block and crop variabilities."

"From this, we make electronic fertiliser application maps that are plugged into the tractor's GPS-controlled computer and these determine the delivery rates from each tank."

Laurie Keto's farm at Lower Tully is the first trial site. The long-time cane farmer said he had been applying an all-of-farm liquid fertiliser rate for more than a decade.

"Some of my cane rows are 600m long and soil types differ so having the option of variability is pretty exciting stuff," he said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the comparisons now I can apply two products at varying rates." ■

Pictured: (L-R) Farmer Laurie Keto, WTSIP's Bruce Corcoran, Liquaforce's Cameron Liddle and WTSIP's Alex Lindsay at a demonstration day on Lauri's Lower Tully farm for a variable rate dual-tank liquid fertiliser applicator.



Graduation day for our grower scholarship winners

The first three recipients of a CANEGROWERS scholarship for rural leadership courses have finished a busy and rewarding week in Canberra.

Simon Ricciardi (Isis), Frank Perna (Mackay) and Jason Salvetti (Tableland) have completed a Training Rural Australians in Leadership (TRAIL) program with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. Also on the course was Tanya Howard of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS who was sponsored by the National Irrigators' Council.

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan joined the participants for their graduation dinner last week and thanked the families and colleagues of the participants for supporting them and making it possible for them to be away from their farm businesses for the week.

Once the three growers have had a chance to get home, catch up on the farm work and with family, *Australian Canegrower* will talk to them about their experiences.

CANEGROWERS is accepting enquiries and applications for three scholarships for The Agribusiness Leadership Program. This program is about developing personal and professional skills, a better understanding of sector challenges and collaborating with peers and will run over a 12-week period in 2019.

More information is available under the News tab on the CANEGROWERS website. The scholarships are being made available with assistance from the Federal Government's Agricultural Industries Fund. ■

Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Environment with Matt Kealley

FIRC addresses priorities

The CANEGROWERS' Farm Input and Research Committee (FIRC) travelled to Far North Queensland recently, to visit MSF's Tablelands Mill and SRA's Meringa Research Station.

During the Meringa visit, committee members met with SRA's Executive Manager for Regional Delivery, **Ian McBean**, to discuss the industry's implementation of the adoption strategy.

This strategy is vital to ensuring that our members, and the Australian industry as a whole, can maintain a competitive advantage in the global market. It is also one of the FIRC's top priorities.

The committee had a walk and talk session with plant breeding specialists **Jason Eglinton** and **Felicity Atkins**, who discussed the important work being done on plant breeding at Meringa, particularly in terms of cross-breeding.

The committee also met with Lazuli Professional Services to discuss priorities for the SRA investment in research for alternative income and diversification.

As an industry, we are fortunate to have an industry-owned organisation like SRA and we need to work positively with it to ensure that the priority needs of growers are addressed.

During the visit to the MSF Tablelands mill, committee members saw the new cogeneration development and discussed MSF's vision for alternate incomes and more diverse uses of sugarcane.

There are many options for diversification, but the reality is that the business case needs to

stack up. Significant investment is required and to attract this the industry needs to be united and government policy needs to be clear and sustained. ■



Social licence to operate – how do I apply?

(The following column may or may not depict actual events) ☺

I'm sitting in the waiting room at the Department for Social Licence*, half-filled out form in hand, waiting to be served. I'm growing impatient as there seems to be a lot of people waiting but no real action. A lot of them seem to be producers or look like they're in agriculture. I say to the well-dressed lady in front of me "have you been waiting long?"

She responds "a while – you don't really know when you get the social licence to operate. It may take months, even years"

I look at her perplexed, "what do you mean?"

"She means it's complicated!" The bloke behind me chimes in. He looks annoyed. "The expectations of the public change with the issue and depending on how much publicity it gets in the media, that's when things become interesting. If the politicians get involved, you know it's going to be a bumpy ride"

The lady interjects: "Add social media, calls from your detractors to ban your industry, and pushback from the people you represent to tell them to 'get stuffed'. It's challenging to manage all those expectations."

I look at both of them, wondering how the hell am I going to sell this concept to the people I work for?

"It's emotive and draws out passionate responses that come from people's core personal beliefs," she says.

"Yeah, and you have to deal with it, even if it feels counter-intuitive and you may not get any extra money for doing it!" the bloke says.

My name gets called and I head to the counter. The clerk reviews my form and then gives me a checklist to complete for the social licence.

- ✓ A willingness to be open to new opinions and expectations from the public, which may clash with traditional values, beliefs and practices.
- ✓ A process where supporters and critics can talk about the issue, their expectations, actions and outcomes.
- ✓ A system of continuous improvement with practices that can be independently verified.

- ✓ A compelling message that tells your personal story.

- ✓ Data that is meaningful that underpins your story.

- ✓ Transparent information that is reported publicly and easily accessible.

"How long will it take to get a social licence?" I ask

"Use the checklist – we'll let you know"

"And if I don't?"

"Next in line please!" ■

* not a real thing



Economics with Warren Males

Price upswing a cause for cautious optimism

Since the beginning of October raw sugar prices measured in Australian dollars have moved higher by around AUD80/t. This upturn is the combined effect of an across the board lift in the USD raw sugar futures price and a reduction in the AUD/USD exchange.

The good news is that indicative over the counter prices for most raw sugar futures contracts are now at or above AUD400/t. At the time of writing, some futures contracts for the 2019 and 2020 seasons are offering prices in excess of AUD430/t.

The price increase of the past couple of weeks has occurred despite the market concerns about the growing size of the global surplus.

Market risks remain:

- The world sugar balance sheet is still showing that with more sugar expected to be produced than consumed this year, world sugar stocks will increase.
- The threat of subsidised Indian sugar hangs over the market as does the prospect of another large Thai crop.
- Exchange rate volatility is continuing. Uncertainty over the size and timing of US interest rate changes and uncertainty surrounding the impact of the US-China trade war are just two sources of macroeconomic uncertainty.

It remains to be seen whether the price upswing, which appears to be driven more by a change in the positions being taken by speculators than in underlying market fundamentals, will last.

While it does, there are opportunities for all marketers in relation to their pricing for the 2018 and future seasons. Keep an eye on updates from your marketer on how the recent price movement has impacted your chosen sugar pool and influenced your marketer's outlook for that pool.

Some individual growers have individual pricing orders for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 seasons filled at prices exceeding \$410/t. For the 2020 season at least, one order was filled this month at AUD435/t.

While CANEGROWERS does not provide financial advice, we strongly encourage growers to take their price risk management activities and decisions seriously. ■

**Industry assists yellow crazy ant tracking**

How do yellow crazy ants move onto—and then between—sugarcane farms?



Photo: Wet Tropics Images/Kate Thomas

That's the question Wet Tropics Management Authority staff are looking to answer through analysis of yellow crazy ant infestations in sugarcane south of Cairns.

With help from cane farmers and workers, the team is examining how yellow crazy ants move, to determine how they disperse in sugarcane.

Creeks and their surrounds are a known natural highway for the ants and are subsequently monitored, but human activities can also inadvertently accelerate their spread.

Examples of such activities include green waste dumping, pot plant transfer and movement of landscaping materials, fill, earthmoving equipment and farm machinery.

But, with assistance from MSF Sugar's Mulgrave Mill, farmers and workers, the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program is collecting and sharing data with industry to help prevent further spread of this invasive pest within sugarcane and through the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Approximately forty percent of the Area's total yellow crazy ant infestation is within sugarcane, and support from the industry is vital to the successful eradication of this pest. ■

If you suspect you have yellow crazy ants please contact sugarcane industry engagement officer, **Wesley Moller**:
 Telephone: 0436 613 383
 Email: wesley.moller@wtma.qld.gov.au
www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ants



Changes to Chain of Responsibility laws to boost heavy vehicle safety

Supplied by NHVR

For more than two decades, the people and businesses that make up the heavy vehicle supply chain have had specific legislative obligations, commonly referred to as the Chain of Responsibility (CoR). Changes to CoR laws for Australia's heavy vehicle industry were introduced on October 1.

The NHVR's Chain of Responsibility Manager Kym Farquharson-Jones has been travelling across Australia outlining the changes to many of the 165,000 businesses that make up the heavy vehicle supply chain.

"These changes are a significant step forward in recognising that everyone in the heavy vehicle supply chain has a role to play in heavy vehicle safety," Kym says.

"However, often the first step for a business is to understand what role it plays in the heavy vehicle supply chain.

"Any time a person or business sends or receives goods using a heavy vehicle with a gross vehicle mass of more than 4.5 tonnes they become part of the supply chain. Therefore, they have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety of the activity.

"Amendments to the CoR laws will align the existing laws more closely with workplace health and safety provisions. This means that all parties in the chain must eliminate or reduce risks related to the safety of transport tasks.

"This approach is similar to the general duties provisions under existing workplace health and safety laws. The changes to the law will make it clear that every party in the supply chain has an on-going duty to ensure safe practices."

Previously parties in the chain were usually held responsible only once a breach by a driver had been detected. Although the laws have changed, they will still only apply to activities that a person or business has control over and could influence.

"In other words, no one will be liable for breaches they cannot control," Kym said.

"If you are doing everything that is reasonably practicable to identify, assess, reduce and wherever possible, remove safety risks related to your transport activities, you are likely to be complying with the changed law."

What does this mean for businesses that make the heavy vehicle supply chain?

Two of the most common questions the NHVR has received from almost 50 information sessions conducted across Australia with primary producers are about how to identify common breaches of CoR obligations and how a person or business can fulfil its safety duty.

The NHVR encourages all businesses that make up the heavy vehicle supply chain to ensure they understand their responsibilities and take steps to address safety risks.

If you require more information visit www.nhvr.gov.au/cor.

Resources available include information sheets outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of each party in the chain, podcasts and videos to help you understand your obligations and a checklist for the tasks you undertake in your role.

The NHVR also encourages all parties in the heavy vehicle supply chain to adopt and utilise a Safety Management System as part of its everyday business in order to better identify and manage its day-to-day safety risks. For more information go to www.nhvr.gov.au/sms. ■

Are you a primary producer who contracts transport services to another operator?

Some relevant areas of responsibility for you as a primary producer may include:

- Avoiding requests, instructions, requirements or demands that may influence the driver to speed or drive while fatigued — whether written in a contract or made verbally.
- Ensuring produce is ready to load on time so that a driver is not unduly delayed and pressured to speed or exceed fatigue hours.
- Ensuring safe access, while on your property, for the heavy vehicles and advise drivers of any relevant local knowledge.
- Ensuring you consult with your transporter and other parties in the chain when setting time frames for pickup and delivery.
- Using operators that provide safe and compliant transport activities. Consult your provider to ensure any safety risks are understood and steps are taken to mitigate those risks.



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Mossman-Tully

New Holland T 60 70 1029 hrs 18/4R/42 Rear \$70k Inc GST. John Deer 6930 5149 hrs 20.8R-38 Rear \$65k Inc GST. Howard 120" Rotary Hoe with Crumbler HR-43 \$15k Inc GST. JAM 3 Row Stool Splitter with 1.5 ton Fert Box with individual cut off only 3 Yrs old \$36k Inc GST. Ph: 07 4067 6212.

KSB Centrifugal Pump: Standard acid pump also good for pumping water, 200x150x400 shaft size 48mm, Flow @ 700 cubes per hr. Ideal for Sugar Mills, Paper Mills, Council, Alcohol Plants, Dewatering, Farm Irrigation, Stainless Steel Impeller. Brand new – asking \$10k neg. Was \$14k. Specs on Application. Ph: 0407 626 374.

SUPERIOR OIL BATH BEARINGS

kits available for off-set disc harrows to suit International 3-5, 3-4, Bonel, Napier and other brands.
Tillage Discs available in all shapes and sizes (Boron steel)



PH: 07 4095 5050



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

End of farm lease sale. Remaining machinery must be sold. JD6300 \$24,000+GST, Bonel 1 tonne side dresser galvanized box new coulters and brgs. Plus offsets, grubbers, coulters ripper, marker, planter trailer and more. Ph: 0409 484 178.

Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

WANTED WHEEL AND TRACK HARVESTERS

Side Tippers BSM
Single axle units
23x1x26 tyres

one fitted with New Holland TS115A

CASE 7700 pump drive gearbox
Complete with eaton and vane pumps
2006 model

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.
325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500
Rubber belt cane feed
Immediate Delivery

2x TOFT 7 tonne Hi-Lift side tipping trailers remote hydraulic's
23x1x30 tyres on single axles

McLean three quarter tracks
6 roller good condition
suit CASE 8000 or
Cameco 3510- JD 3520/570

Used 10,000 series
Char-Lynn motors 40 cubic inch.

Used 2 x 6,000 series
Char-Lynn motors 60 cubic inch.

Whole Toppers 2 x CASE
as new one is complete.

NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS
Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE.
Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS
Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570. Tungsten hard faced on wear areas. New seal plates, clamping bars & dowels with kit.

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www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

Classifieds

Herbert River–Burdekin

1 x Hydraulic HBM Wholestalk Plant Cutter (Options: Fitted with hydraulic butt roller, hydraulic delivery tray & hydraulic adjustable toppler) \$6,000 + GST. 1 x Twin Fan Trash Extractor \$2,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 779 598.
4 inch aluminium irrigation pipes with couplings. \$350 each inc GST. Ph: 0439 696 497.

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)
Hodge 1.5 tonne stoolspliter fertilizer box with double disc openers confidor applicator. \$20,000. Ph: 0435550737.

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.

Irrigation pipes - 12 x 4 inch aluminium irrigation pipes with IBC couplings, 9 metres in length, \$80 each AND approx. 55 x 4 inch aluminium irrigation pipes with Ajax couplings, 9 metres in length, \$100 each. Ph Clarrie: 0488 742 594.

D6 Dozer, 8 Series, comes with blade and stick rake. Cane blower, Bonel \$600. Cane planting trailers, 2 off \$300 each. David Brown 990 Tractor \$500. Ph: 0457 551 626.

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 07 4959 5883.

40ft. Flat Top Truck & Trailer available for fertilizer haulage between Mackay & Proserpine. Also specialising in agricultural transport work from Mackay north. Step Deck trailer available. Ph: Greg Atkinson 0447 473 424.

Hodge single row confidor applicator. Excellent condition, has had little use. \$5,000 negotiable. Ph: 0437 503 818 to discuss.

Bundaberg–Rocky Point

2 x 155TVT New Holland & 14 ton carta bins, 2 x 180 CASE Pumas & 14 ton Corindinni bins at end of season. Ph: 0428 937 164.

Full billet planting outfit, MF 105 harvester, JD 7710 on planter, gps & base station, electric over hydraulic controls, 2 cameras JD6410 with q/hitch & tipper all gc. Ph: 0439 707 043.

Ellis 4 row hooded sprayer, 2x 600L tanks 1 electric pump, 1 hyd pump very good condition \$18,000 inc. new holland tm175 7300 hrs auto farm steer kit good condition \$50,000 inc. 1.25 tonne s/steel fert box side dresser. 2 row set up at 1.83m. trailing. \$5,500 inc. Ph: 0412 370 022.

Wanted

Wanting to buy: 3 Leg Ripper. Ph: 0407 640 076.

Wanted old style sugar cane double bin trailer. Ph: 0407 126 157.

Trash Incorporator (Mackay area). Ph: 0438 421 217.

Wanted STL shares. Our family has a long history in the sugar industry. No stockbroker, free transfer. A reminder, if you are an Inactive Grower you are obligated to sell your shares. Ph: 0408 448 227 or 0419 717 006.

Wanted to buy: STL G-Class shares – will pay market price, no brokerage fees, cash on registration. Contact CANEGROWERS Herbert River on 07 4776 5350, email hroffice@canegrowers.com.au or phone Manager Peter Sheedy on 0418 186 691.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–October
	08.10.18	15.10.18		
Mossman	1	65	2189	1897
Mareeba AP	0.2	19	671	751
Cairns	2	13	1990	1729
Mt Sophia	16	18	3297	2894
Babinda	0	0	1667	3753
Innisfail	6	43	2965	3135
Tully	6	11	3197	3647
Cardwell	1	30	1637	1807
Lucinda	0	52	1512	1831
Ingham	Tce	56	1696	1717
Abergowrie	0	3	1693	1561
Townsville	0	34	803	933
Ayr DPI	0	3	605	780
Proserpine	0.2	2	824	1136
Mirani	0	28	680	1252
Mackay	0	18	698	1293
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	34	833	1423
Bundaberg	5	139	629	795
Childers South	13	104	746	687
Maryborough	1	214	858	940
Tewantin	21	356	1402	1425
Eumundi	20	185	1205	1383
Nambour	21	228	1161	1376
Woongoolba	14	80	887	1088
Murwillumbah	23	182	831	1284
Ballina	10	152	1489	1510
Woodburn	12	150	928	1161



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

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.

HOMEBUSH/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 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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Bill and William, Proserpine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.