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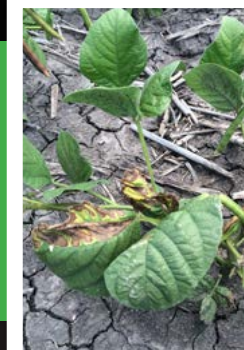
Cane growers recognised for sustainability efforts



Indian Gov "not worried" about Australian WTO action



Hot dry weather causes headaches for cane growers



Growers urged to use clean seed to reduce mungbean disease risk



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# Support grows for Australia's WTO sugar action

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

By the time you receive this edition of *Australian Canegrower*, I and others from the Australian sugar industry will have returned from a series of important meetings in Europe and the UK.

It is an incredibly long way to travel and there is little glamour in the long plane flights and jetlag.

However, the importance of these sugar industry meetings cannot be overstated, particularly at a time like we are currently experiencing.

More than anything else, the Australian sugar industry representatives were tasked with the responsibility of gathering support for World Trade Organisation (WTO) action against India's sugar subsidies.

The low world sugar price is due obviously to the fundamentals of supply and demand but it is also being influenced greatly by the Indian Government's decision to help its industry export subsidised sugar.

Its financial support measures have led to a surplus of product which it is seeking to offload into the export arena in which Australia has to compete.

It is our strong assertion that the fall in the world price has cost the Australian sugar industry perhaps up to \$350 million in the past two years.

It is time for the price distorting practices to stop.

Australia's Counter-Notification Notice lodged with the WTO has established that India's market price supports, by their sheer scale, breach WTO rules and the rest of the world is now paying attention.

Life is always about the weight of numbers – hence the importance of Australia meeting with and securing the support of other key sugar producing nations ahead of the WTO's Committee of Agriculture meeting in Geneva.

No fewer than ten countries, including Global Sugar Alliance members Brazil,

Canada, Colombia, Guatemala and Thailand, have expressed their strong support for the stance taken by Australia.

Most heartening has been the strong interest the United States and European Union have shown in the WTO action that Australia is leading.

We were disappointed but not surprised at India's response to all of this activity.

The Global Sugar Alliance reviewed India's response in London immediately after the WTO Committee on Agriculture meeting.

Alliance members agreed to press our respective governments to work together to build a coalition of support for the further escalation of the issue.

This escalation includes the possibility of a formal dispute resolution process in the WTO.

The other heartening aspect of this trip has been sitting in a room in London with people like myself from all over the world – other farmers charged with representing their sugarcane or beet growing colleagues at a national and international level.

With 35 grower organisations from 32 countries, the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers is a remarkable group.

Each nation has an opportunity to update the group on their particular circumstances and issues.

In my turn, I explained the economic impact on us of the low sugar price, why Australia decided to initiate the WTO Notice on the Indian subsidies and why it is important that they are curbed.

I also told the other grower representatives about Australia's Sugar Code of Conduct, our challenges around the Great Barrier Reef and our work to secure a sustainable future for growers.

A common thread in all of the country presentations was that just about everyone is struggling with the low world price of sugar and there was concern about what might lie ahead.

Like Australia, every other industry is also dealing with issues around sugar in the diet, obesity rates and calls for taxes on sugar.

Our WABCG meeting concluded that one priority for our sector must be the diversification of products produced from our crops and the clear and fair sharing of the value of those products.

The trip reconfirms that the Australian sugar industry and its fortunes are closely linked with world sugar market.

While our marketing structures are world-leading, we must work at home and also build coalitions of support internationally to stamp out policies that prevent world's most efficient producers (the growers in Australia) from receiving a fair return for their hard work. ■





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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## India "not worried" about WTO action

Comments from India's High Commissioner in which he claimed subsidies paid to Indian growers were not impacting the world sugar price have been criticised in Australia.

India's High Commissioner to Australia, **Dr A M Gondane**, dismissed Australia's recent World Trade Organisation Notice about his country's sugar industry supports, saying the Indian Government, "...is not worried about this paper being circulated by Australia to the agricultural subcommittee of the WTO".

His comments, reported in *The Australian*, came ahead of a visit by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind to Australia late last month. Dr Gondane said that if the subsidy was not applied, Indian farmers would have to burn crops.

"The direct payments India makes to its growers may be relatively low. In contrast, the market price distortions are huge."

"What we are doing is giving 55 rupees, that is \$1.20 or \$1.10 Australian dollar, subsidy per tonne of sugar cane, so it's very small ... we are not big exporters," he said.

However, CANEGROWERS Head of Economics **Warren Males** has hit back at Dr Gondane's remarks, saying comments about direct payments to growers are a 'simple deflection' from the main problem of pricing support.

"The deflection of Australia's notice to the WTO ... by India's High Commissioner misses the point," Mr Males said.

"The direct payments India makes to

its growers may be relatively low. In contrast, the market price distortions are huge," he said.

"At over 90%, the market price supports are clearly in contravention of India's WTO undertakings."

"India's market price supports have resulted in surplus production and the mandated exports have resulted in low world prices."

Mr Males, who attended a Global Sugar Alliance meeting in Geneva on 25 November, said there was a lot of support for Australia's WTO action from fellow sugar-producing nations.

"It was heartening to learn that several countries including members of the Global Sugar Alliance and others such as the USA and European Union welcomed Australia's notification and indicated their intention to support it at the WTO Committee on Agriculture meeting.

"We don't yet know India's response. Pending that response we will be working with the Australian Government and others to build a coalition of support for the further escalation of the issue, including the possibility of a formal dispute resolution process in the WTO."

Australian Sugar Milling Council CEO **David Pietsch** said millers were also feeling the impact of depressed global sugar prices.

"The market is currently awash with subsidised sugar and the subsequent low prices are causing hardship to the Australian sugar industry," Mr Pietsch said. "Sugar milling operations cannot sustain losses indefinitely, and distortions caused by government interventions in the global sugar market must be challenged." ■

## QFF calls for removal of stamp duty

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has renewed calls to remove stamp duty on agricultural insurance in Queensland following a recent decision by the South Australian Government to remove duty on multi-peril crop insurance policies.

"The Victorian, New South Wales and the South Australian governments have removed this inefficient tax, while our government continues to collect 9% on the insurance premium and the GST," QFF President **Stuart Armitage** said.

"Practical and affordable insurance options could help mitigate the financial impact of extreme weather events on farm businesses and remove some of the burden that falls to government.

"Due to the limited availability and uptake of crop insurance in Queensland, the loss in tax revenue is minimal, but the potential returns of developing the nascent insurance market in Queensland could be substantial."

## Applications open now!

The lead up to Christmas can get very busy but don't forget to put in an application for a CANEGROWERS scholarship for the 2019 Agribusiness Leadership Program.

Offered through the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, this flagship course runs over two face to face sessions and one online session.

The group sessions are six days in March in Tasmania and five days in May in New South Wales.

A CANEGROWERS scholarship covers the whole of the \$12,500 cost of the program and there are three available. Applications close 31 December.

The course is specifically designed to develop strong and effective leaders for the agricultural sector.

If contributing further to your industry and community is a goal – this course is for you.

See the ARLF website <https://rural-leaders.org.au/our-programs/agribusiness/> for more information.

To apply for a CANEGROWERS scholarship fill in the online form at: <https://bit.ly/2SdEMOy> ■



# Hot dry weather causes headaches for cane growers

Temperature records were broken across Queensland's sugarcane growing districts in the final week of November as the ongoing hot weather lead to bushfires and concerns about irrigation water.

As this magazine went to print, fires were burning out of control in the Pioneer Valley to the west of Mackay. A number of cane farms had suffered damage in the Finch Hatton and Septimus areas while others were under threat.

CANEGROWERS Mackay had received reports of up 74 hectares of cane being burned, which would be covered under the CANEGROWERS member crop insurance scheme, and was expecting more.

The temperature in Mackay topped 40.7 that week breaking the previous record of 38.5.

Further north along the highway in Proserpine an official reading of 44.9 on 26 November was the highest temperature ever recorded for the town.

Other records were broken in Cairns (42.6) and Innisfail (42.3).

Growers are becoming concerned for their 2019 crop as plant cane struggles in the hot and dry conditions.

With no significant rain falling since March, access for some Proserpine growers to irrigation water has now been now cut off and in the Mackay region growers may lose access to a recycled water supply scheme within two weeks.

Around 25 irrigators are affected by a decision of the Department of Natural Resources to prohibit the taking of water from the O'Connell and Andromache rivers because of low water levels.

Irrigators in the Proserpine River Supply Schemes still have full allocations but

this is generally quite small at around 3.5 megalitres per hectare and many growers are close to exhausting it.

Others are struggling with high power costs to maintain irrigation schedules as temperatures have soared.

While 89.9% of the Whitsunday Regional Council area is currently under a drought declaration, the Proserpine and Whitsunday areas are not included and growers are discussing lodging individual property drought applications. ■

*Pictured: A view of the Pioneer Valley fires taken on 27 November from the Eungella Mountain Edge Escape cabins.*



# Sugar market facing potential structural change

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT TELLS 2018 RABOBANK SUGAR SYMPOSIUM IN AYR THAT CHANGES TO PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION WILL IMPACT ALL SUGAR-PRODUCING COUNTRIES

*Supplied by Rabobank*



The global sugar market is facing potential structural change in terms of both production and consumption, and this is set to have far-reaching impacts on sugarcane producers internationally and in Australia, according to Rabobank's global sugar strategist Andy Duff.

Brazil-based Mr Duff (pictured) was in Australia for Rabobank's inaugural Sugar Symposium, where he was keynote speaker, presenting his outlook for the sugar sector in front of more than 200 growers and industry representatives.

Mr Duff said while the sugar market would always be cyclical – and at the mercy of weather and currency movements – there were now structural changes contributing to the current imbalance in global sugar markets.

Mr Duff's observations come as Australia has taken the step to commence formal proceedings at the World Trade Organisation over subsidies Australia

alleges has caused a jump in Indian sugar production and exports, leading to a significant downturn in world sugar prices and hurting Australian producers.

## CONSUMPTION SLOWDOWN

In terms of global sugar consumption, Mr Duff said, the world was starting to see heightened concerns around the prospect of a slowdown in consumption growth.

"Three or four years ago, these concerns didn't really warrant a mention, and even two years ago, many thought this trend could be a 'flash in the pan'," he said.

"But there is now no doubt that slowing consumption growth is a real prospect,

as governments and multi-national companies around the world take steps to reduce sugar and calorie consumption.

"But the question is, to what extent will these changes affect the sugar market?"

Conceding it is difficult to determine the long-term impacts of this shift towards reducing the sugar component in beverages and processed foods, Mr Duff said "you don't need much of a reduction in sugar consumption to have an impact on sugar prices".

"For example, a five to 10 per cent reduction in global industrial sugar use and also household use in advanced economies will generate a significant one-



off slowdown, or even a modest shrinkage, in global sugar consumption over the next few years," he said.

"Against that however, we will continue to see sugar consumption increase in emerging economies around the world, as their populations move up the income scale."

Taking into account both of these divergent trends, Mr Duff forecasts global sugar consumption will grow at a slower rate than in the past, at an estimated annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent in the years out to 2030, down from the 2.4 per cent annual growth rate from 2000 to 2015.

### INCREASING SUPPLY

In terms of the production-side of the equation, he said there have also been big structural changes at play, which have seen a significant increase in the capacity of production out of Thailand, and also Brazil and India, in the past decade.

"Sugar is produced in over 100 countries around the world and, in most cases, policy measures are in place to support growers and processors," he said. "When such policies are changed, it often has regional and sometimes global consequences for production and trade flows."

Now the biggest distortion to global trade is taking place in India, Mr Duff said, with "tremendous support for their domestic cane prices" stemming from government support measures.

*"Sugar is produced in over 100 countries around the world and, in most cases, policy measures are in place to support growers and processors. When such policies are changed, it often has regional and sometimes global consequences for production and trade."*

"After last season's huge crop, Indian warehouses are literally groaning with



sugar, which has seen India introduce measures to encourage that sugar on to the world market," he said.

At five million tonnes, over a million tonnes more than Australia's annual sugar export program, Mr Duff said this additional Indian tonnage had come at a time when the market isn't asking for it and prices are already low.

That said, it is unlikely that Indian exports will compete directly in Australia's major markets of South Korea and Japan, he said.

"However, it is having an impact on global prices and the world is watching closely just how big the Indian crop will be next year," he said. "Australia this month lodged a notification with the World Trade Organisation as to whether India is in breach of its obligations."

Regardless of the outcome with the WTO, Mr Duff said, it was expected to take some time to resolve, and as such, surplus Indian sugar production, weather allowing, was likely to remain a structural issue for the time being.

### BRAZIL

In light of these possible structural consumption and production shifts, Mr Duff said there were many measures Brazilian cane growers, like those in Australia, were taking to remain competitive.

"Like growers here in Australia, Brazilian producers are fully exposed to the market and many are taking measures to weather the storm," he said. "These include prudent steps to maintain the financial and capital structure of their business and also, liquidity."

"From a production perspective, growers have been doing this by focussing on keeping their costs low and adopting methods to keep yields high, such as controlled traffic at harvest, minimising soil compaction and looking at different methods of planting to ensure good germination and crop density."

Mr Duff said Brazil, like Australia, is facing a plateau in yields.

"With both Australia and Brazil recording minimal productivity gains in recent years, it will be innovations in sugarcane varieties that will be needed to shift the needle in terms of yield advancements going forward," he said.

"And any yield improvements, together with reductions in the cost of production, will help growers mitigate the impact of the cyclical and structural forces at play and capitalise on opportunities when the price cycle starts to turn."

Mr Duff, who also spent a week visiting key Queensland sugar-growing regions, has been analysing the sugar market for more than two decades – the past 10 years in Brazil. Based in São Paulo, Mr Duff also heads up Rabobank's team of research analysts based in South America.

Held at the Burdekin Theatre in Ayr, the Rabobank Sugar Symposium also heard from Diego Ferres the head of research and development at the world's largest sugarcane technology centre, CTC in Brazil alongside other industry leaders covering topics including big data and the circular economy. ■

*Pictured: (above) Joe Linton, Ross Musumeci, Ray Musumeci - Ayr.*

# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## Cairns region

Growers in the region continue to deal with extremely dry weather, with rain now at the top of everyone's Christmas wish list.

Crushing for both mills terminated, as planned, on 18 November. Thanks to some good management by MSF's transport department personnel, with regular input from the grower

committees, the transfer of cane was managed well to achieve this common starting and finishing date.

CCS for Mulgrave and South Johnstone mills was 14.49 and 13.62 respectively, with average production yields of 82t/ha and 72t/ha. These higher CCS results will assist in balancing the lower sugar prices and reduced yields.

The weather remained quite dry through to the end, with the CCS curve holding well. Despite the pleasing CCS, growers remain extremely disappointed by the poor crushing performance at Mulgrave Mill. CANEGROWERS representatives continued to communicate with MSF Sugar regarding this matter and will undertake a season review shortly.

## Innisfail

Cushing at South Johnstone sugar mill ceased for the 2018 season on Sunday 18 November.

1,447,839.93 tonnes were crushed at the mill, of which 8,189.57 was toll crushed for Mulgrave Mill with a further 163,253 tonnes toll crushed at Mulgrave Mill, bringing the total cane crushed from South Johnstone CSAs for 2018 to 1,602,903.60.

The Seasonal Average Cane Payment CCS finished at 13.6243. The average yield of 72 t/ha is below the five-year average.

Extremely dry conditions continue to prevail, with forecasts not predicting any significant rainfall in the near future.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has announced that the region is now on level 3 water restrictions.

## Tully

Tully Mill is expected to complete the 2018 harvest on or around 4 December. The crop estimate has been slipping due to the dry conditions, however the crop should come in above 2,500,000 tonnes. The 2018 season will be remembered as an average yielding crop with a fantastic CCS. The season to date CCS is currently at 14.45, and at the time of writing this report the daily CCS was still above the seasonal average. The 2018 CCS is more than 1.5 units above the long-term average for the district.

Congratulations to all involved in growing, harvesting and crushing the 2018 crop, and good luck with the last week.

CANEGROWERS Tully is holding a series of shed meetings across the district from 3-5 December to seek grower input into proposals for the Collective Cane Contract Negotiations. The current collective covers the 2016 to 2019 seasons.



*Pictured: Tully CANEGROWERS & Tully Canegrowers Mitre 10 celebrating National Agriculture Day on 21 November.*





## Herbert River

The weather has been mainly fine over the past fortnight with gradually increasing daytime temperatures.

Really good harvesting conditions have prevailed, and the crop has held reasonably good CCS in the final weeks of the season.

The final day of harvesting is expected to be 29 November, with mills crushing out and making the last sugar and molasses soon thereafter.

Milling performance has again failed to meet the agreed target, so it's fortunate

the weather has been so favourable and conducive to much better than the 5 yearly average CCS. The crop estimate was further downgraded to 4.73 million tonnes with the end of season notice.

A vegetation management seminar was presented by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 19 November.

It provided a summary of recent changes to legislation and what is allowed for trimming, as well as the process to be followed for clearing.

SRA has moved forward in the Herbert with the formation of a local regional adoption group that will engage with industry as well as SRA in identifying worthwhile opportunities for industry gain.

The Cane Changer program is set for a burst of post-harvest engagement sessions, which will focus on setting the record straight and the benefits for growers and industry of Smartcane BMP.

## Burdekin

Burdekin district finished the 2018 crushing in the early hours of Friday 17 November when Inkerman Mill tipped the last cane for the season.

The final cane tonnage for the season ended up at 8,023,614, with a season average of 15 CCS. In the final week's tonnage (Week 23 ending 17 November) from only Pioneer and Inkerman mills, the best performing varieties were Q252 at 15.41 and Q208 at 15.28 with 2% and 33% of supply respectively.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21 November.

Grower members present commented positively on a presentation by guest

speaker, SRA Variety Executive Manager Dr Jason Eglinton.

Of particular interest was Dr Eglinton's message regarding the 2% annual genetic gain and the current status on

the NMI approval process for NIR.

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman Phil Marano, SRA Variety Executive Manager Dr Jason Eglinton, CANEGROWERS Burdekin General Manager Wayne Smith.*



## Proserpine

Proserpine's crushing season was completed on 20 October and growers are busy trying to establish the next crop.

Previously forecast storms have not eventuated and the weather remains extremely hot and dry with no immediate relief in sight. The crop continues to struggle in the conditions, particularly for dryland farms. In the absence of ministerially approved declaration, growers are urged to consider an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) Declaration to access relief measures.

## Plane Creek

Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited held its AGM on 22 November at the RSL Club in Sarina. Guest Speaker was John Pickering who is currently leading a project called Cane Changer.

The overarching goal of the project is to value and recognise Queensland's sugarcane farmers for their role as custodians of the land and their ongoing efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Chairman, Mal Langdon, and Manager, Peter Alberston, also gave presentations on the activities and the financial position of the company.

*Continues page 10* ▶

## CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

### Mackay

Mackay Area Productivity Services has announced the appointment of a new CEO. Anthony Schembri will take over the reins at the end of January from John Agnew, who has had a very long involvement with the local sugar industry. John will be sorely missed by his peers and Mackay Sugar growers and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

The CANEGROWERS Mackay building was awash with green shirts on 21 November as board members and staff celebrated National Agriculture Day.

It is hoped that Mackay District growers will turn up in large numbers for their AGM, which is being held on Friday 30 November. Guest Speaker is Tom McNeil, Director of Green Pools Commodities. Tom is renowned for his interesting and informative presentations and he will address topics such as the current state of the sugar market, trade issues involved in the surplus output, sugar consumption and the outlook for sugar producers.



*Pictured: Mackay Directors and staff dressed in green on 21 November for National Agriculture Day.*

### Bundaberg

Bundaberg's harvest is done and dusted for another year. It was a year that some may want to forget, with low prices and a crop that fell away due to no in-season rain and frost damage. The big positive is that we finished about eight weeks earlier than last year. In fact, 2018 is the district's earliest finish in more than 20 years. With the extra weeks of growth and the rain that fell at the end of the season, the 2019 crop is off to a good start.

We have been contacted by Dr Peter Ridd seeking support for the establishment of an independent Institute for Policy Science Quality Control. The entire document can be found at [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au).

Much of the science being used to justify the attempted regulation of our region is more about funding for a particular belief. It lacks science and is backed up instead by some dodgy modelling.

The Bundaberg sugar industry does not accept "without question" the science provided to justify the claims made and will not accept guilt for a crime that we have not committed.

Recently we received a presentation from Dr Peter Ridd on the need to set up an Institute for Policy Science Quality Control to test the accuracy of the underpinning science used to justify regulation of agriculture. We will be pushing for this to happen. ■

## Money Matters

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## Tributes flow for much-loved grower

The Isis cane-growing community is in mourning this month, following the death of much-loved local grower, Glen Dilger.

The 56-year-old father of two died in a workplace accident on 22 November while spraying a cane paddock along Tardas Road at Cordalba, north of Childers. The spray rig he was driving rolled onto its back, damaging the tank and spilling chemicals.

The circumstances around the accident remain unclear, with a Bundaberg ambulance spokesman telling local media that Mr Dilger had not suffered any visible injuries.

A combined Queensland Police - Workplace Health and Safety investigation is currently underway.

CANEGROWERS Isis chairman Mark Mammino, who is a second cousin of the deceased, said Mr Dilger's death has had a big impact on the local community.

"Everyone is pretty devastated to be honest," Mr Mammino said.

"Glen was a well known and very well liked member of the community around here. He was a hell of a nice fella.

"Our deepest condolences go to his family."

Close friend and Cordalba publican Anthony Murphy told the *Bundaberg News Mail* that Mr Dilger was one of the most modest, hard-working people he knew.

"I was devastated to hear the news. He was a good friend of mine," Mr Murphy said. "He would do anything for anyone." ■

## Clear waste management exemptions for composting

Queensland farmers can continue using composts and other organic products on farm following a Department of Environment decision to specify a clear exemption for on-farm composting within the waste management licencing framework.

Welcoming the decision, QFF President Stuart Armitage said composts are a useful tool to help farmers meet sustainability outcomes associated with best management practice and can also reduce the use of inorganic fertilisers.

However, he said he was disappointed that organic material processing regulations now include new licensing requirements for facilities that operate an anaerobic digester.

"QFF has been working with farmers and rural communities to recognise the importance of farm sustainability and to grow and develop the resource recovery sector in Queensland," he said.

"These new requirements may seriously impede future investment in Queensland's bioenergy sector which offers great opportunities for agriculture." ■

## CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour DVD

Keep an eye out for your copy of the CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour Series 7 DVD in the next magazine. This is the seventh season of this popular video series of sugarcane farm visits.



This initiative is a partnership between CANEGROWERS and the Australian Government Reef Programme.



# ELECTRIC VS DIESEL PUMPS:

Looking to the future of irrigated sugar



With ever-increasing energy prices, growers are looking at ways to reduce their costs and many are considering replacing their electric motors with diesel. But is this the most cost-effective solution in the long-term?

The latest research into energy solutions for irrigators conducted by economists at AgEcon found there are four key considerations for those looking at investing in electric or diesel motors: capital costs, maintenance costs, energy costs and the affect of government policies.

This work is funded by SRA in partnership with the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

"On the one hand, it may be tempting for growers to look at the current electricity prices and think that switching to a diesel motor makes economic sense. However, when diesel prices begin to creep up or get to prices seen in 2008, the grid is by far the cheaper option," said economist **Janine Powell**, partner at AgEcon.

Ms Powell explained there are also several other factors to consider which make the decision to switch a complex one.

"Capital costs account for 5% of overall system expenditure. For sites where electricity infrastructure is not already in

place, diesel may in fact be the cheaper option," she said.

Another consideration is the maintenance options on any irrigation system. While electric pumps require far less maintenance than diesel motors, often the servicing is unable to be done by the farmer and local contractors may not be available when you need them. A solid relationship with the local electrician is a plus.

Electric pumps are 50-80% more efficient than diesel pumps. However, diesel pumps become more efficient as their size increases i.e. efficiency increases as horse power increases.

The dynamic nature of government policy initiatives around energy makes them a complex consideration for irrigators. There are two key incentives available for renewable energy investment such as Renewable Energy Certificates, which either offset the capital cost of the installation or provide an ongoing income stream. The solar 'feed in tariff' (FIT) may be another income stream for eligible sites.

One benefit of electric pumps is that solar can be integrated into the system relatively easily and where these sites are grid connected, there is potential for a FIT.

Economist **Jon Welsh**, partner at AgEcon, says considering investment in "micro-grids" – systems, which integrate a number of different energy sources (solar, grid-connected power and/or diesel motors) may be one way for irrigators to future-proof against rising energy costs.

"Remaining grid connected and adding a micro-grid can give options," said Mr Welsh.

"By installing cost effective solar now, much of the daylight demand can be offset.

"Diesel generators also have a place in offsetting shoulder and peak rates, supplementing the solar in cloudy or inclement weather."

Mr Welsh added that with the cost of batteries continuing to fall dramatically, energy storage could be added to a



micro-grid in 3-5 years when they become more cost effective.

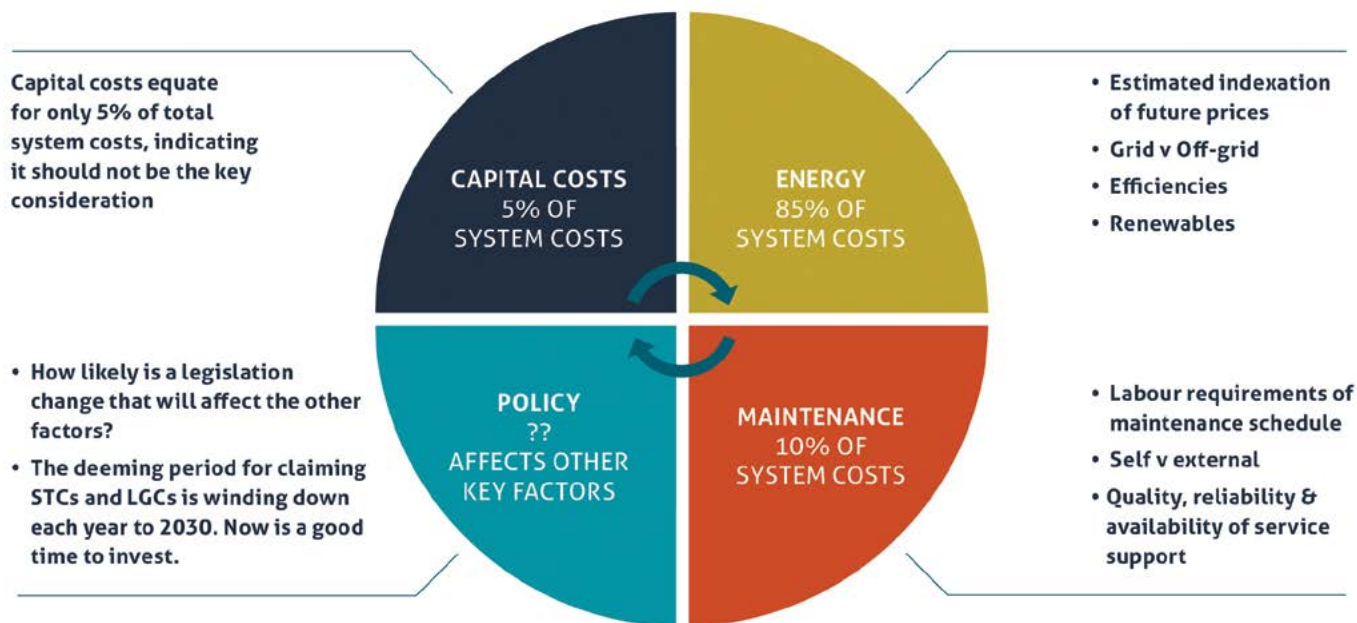
"It is well worth investigating whether current incentives for investing in solar will pay-back at a viable rate for your operation," he said.

"Integrating solar may provide a level of

energy security for your farm and act as a buffer against rising electricity prices and/or diesel price hikes into the future."

Watch the recording of the Reducing energy costs in irrigated cane webinar by visiting [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQw-KxJRVzg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQw-KxJRVzg) on the SRA YouTube channel. ■

*Pictured: (opposite) Economist with AgEcon, Jon Welsh, says investment in micro-grids could be one way to future proof against future energy cost increases. (Below) This graphic illustrates the considerations for irrigators when weighing up between diesel and electric pump investment.*



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## QSL opens office in Mackay

QSL has expanded its network of regional offices, opening a new office in Mackay and appointing Sonia Ball as its Grower Relationship Officer for the district.

Sonia is well known to many Mackay growers through her previous roles as Communications Manager for CANEGROWERS Mackay and rural journalist for The Daily Mercury, Rural Weekly and Bush Telegraph publications.

She is based in QSL's new Mackay office, located on level 2 of the CANEGROWERS Building at 120 Wood Street, Mackay.

QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Beashel said Sonia's position with QSL was focused on helping growers in Mackay Sugar milling districts transition to QSL's new Marketing Choice arrangements.

"Our negotiations to get an On-Supply Agreement in place with Mackay Sugar to enable local growers to continue marketing with QSL are progressing and we hope to make an announcement in this space in the very near future," Mr Beashel said.

"While this work continues, our new Mackay office and staff mean that we can really hit the ground running as soon the necessary contracts are finalised."

Mr Beashel said that while QSL provided some export marketing services to Mackay district growers under its current contractual arrangements with Mackay

Sugar, this would come to an end at the close of next season.

"We're focused on getting a new supply agreement in place with Mackay Sugar as soon as possible, so if Mackay growers want to continue accessing QSL it's important they register their details with us so we can keep them in the loop," he said.

To register your details with QSL, please complete the short form available on the QSL website ([www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)), or drop by the new Mackay office and have a chat with Sonia. You can also call her on **4967 4618**.



*QSL in Mackay: Sonia Ball has joined the QSL team and will manage QSL's new Mackay office, located on level 2 of the Canegrowers Building in Wood Street.*





## BURDEKIN ADDITION

QSL also recently expanded its Grower Services Team in the Burdekin, with Kristen Paterson joining the Ayr office as a Grower Support Officer.

QSL's local Grower Relations Manager Greg Watson said Kristen brought strong customer service skills and experience to her new role, where she would be focused on providing support services and assistance to QSL's Burdekin growers.

"While our growers have 24/7 access to the QSL Director online platform for many key QSL services and also have telephone support through a dedicated help line, we appreciate that nothing replaces a face-to-face chat," Mr Watson said.

"By expanding our Burdekin team, we can ensure that we can continue to provide local Growers with the convenience of on-farm visits and other events like our tours of the bulk sugar terminal while also ensuring our office here in Young Street is still manned for those growers who like

to drop by with queries while they're in town."

Farm visits and other appointments with QSL's Burdekin Grower Services team can be made by contacting them on the details below:

### Greg Watson

Phone: 0411 230 800

Email: Gregory.Watson@qsl.com.au

### Rebecca Love

Phone: 0429 054 330

Email: Rebecca.Love@qsl.com.au

### Kristen Paterson

Phone: 0438 470 235

Email: Kristen.Paterson@qsl.com.au

## PROSERPINE OFFICE

QSL has moved to a larger premises in Proserpine. Located in the former Whitsunday Coast Guardian office in the CANEGROWERS Building in Main Street, QSL's new premises will be open five days a week from the new year.



QSL in the Burdekin: Kristen Paterson, Grower Support Officer.

# Deadline looming for MSF sugar districts

Time is running out for growers supplying MSF Sugar mills to choose their marketer for the coming season, with nominations closing on 31 December 2018.

To elect their GEI Sugar Marketer for the 2019 Season, growers in these districts must complete the Pool Manager Nomination Form (Appendix 2) within their Grower Pricing Agreement before the end of the year.

## LOYALTY BONUS STILL AVAILABLE

While thoughts are turning to the season ahead, it's still not too late for Growers marketing with QSL in 2018 to secure the QSL Loyalty Bonus for the current season. To do so, they must:

1. Nominate QSL as a GEI Sugar (Grower's Economic Interest in 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. ■

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](http://www.qsl.com.au) before participating in any QSL pricing pool or product.

# Reef awards recognise grower innovation and environmental efforts

The credentials of Queensland's cane-growing industry as an important guardian of the Great Barrier Reef were highlighted recently, with innovative and inspiring growers being recognised for their efforts at the 2018 Reef Alliance Awards.

CANEGROWERS Mackay member **Gerard Deguara** took out the marquee award during this year's presentation dinner in Yeppoon, where he was presented with the prestigious Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership – Reef Sustainability title for his innovative and sustainable farming practices.

The Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership – Reef Sustainability Award Runner-Up, **Frank Mugica**, has farmed in the Burdekin for 25 years. He has been recognised for a range of environmental practices.

Another member of Mackay's Deguara clan, **Philip Deguara**, picked up the Reef Pesticide Champion Award.

Congratulating the winners, CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said the inclusion of so many cane industry representatives amongst the finalists highlighted the important role that industry farmers are playing in improving environmental outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.

"These innovative and forward-thinking farmers are not only outstanding ambassadors for our industry, they are an inspiration to their fellow growers and are thoroughly deserving of this recognition," Mr Galligan said.

"At a time when the agricultural sector as a whole is coming under intense scrutiny for its farming practices, these growers are showing the community that farmers, not governments, are the best stewards of our land and waterways.

"Through innovation, adoption of best management practices, and collaboration with government and the scientific

community, these growers are ensuring that our industry maintains its social licence to operate.

"It's worth noting that while they may be some of our finest, they are far from alone in their efforts to continually improve farming practices. In fact, they are just the tip of the iceberg.



*Gerard Deguara accepting the Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership Reef Sustainability Award from Justin Hewitt, Director of Sustainable Communities.*







The winners of the 2018 Reef Champion Awards.

"Right across Queensland's cane-growing industry, farmers are striving day-in, day-out to continually improve on-farm practices as they work to boost productivity and profitability, while minimising their environmental footprint.

"It's important the community knows that farmers take seriously their role as custodians of the land for future generations."

Mulgrave's Rossi brothers, who shared the Reef Community Champion award with other Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group members, were among a number of other sugar industry finalists.

Full finalists details can be found on the Queensland Farmers' Federation website, visit: [www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2018-reef-champion-awards/](http://www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2018-reef-champion-awards/).

Continues page 18 ►

Pictured: (right) Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group was announced the winner of the Reef Community Champion Award, (below left) David DeFrancis accepts the Reef Nutrient Champion Award from Livingstone Shire Council mayor Bill Lugwig, (below middle) Philip Deguara accepts the Reef Pesticide Champion Award, (below right) Gavin Rodman accepts the Reef Youth Champion Award.





## Gerard Degaura - Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award Winner

Gerard Degaura is a second-generation farmer located in the North Eton in Central Queensland. He grows mostly sugarcane but also a range of pulse crops on his approximately 800 hectare family farm.

Gerard has been commended for his innovations in water infrastructure and the successful use of centre pivots for irrigation. He has converted farm and harvesting equipment to a two

*"Improving the quality of the water entering the Great Barrier Reef is important for the industry and the whole community. The more we can do now to make improvements for future generations the better."*

metre controlled traffic farming system effectively maximising the growing area of his paddocks, improving soil health and yields, while reducing fossil fuel use, and the volumes of chemical and nutrient run-off in water leaving the farm.

Gerard has a strong focus on using sugar mill bi-products with mill mud and a Bio-Dunder, mixed with urea to now provide the vast majority of the farm nutrient requirements. He has also adopted green cane harvesting thereby eliminating the need for cane burning operations. Gerard freely gives his time to show and explain the many changes in his farming operation and has hosted visits from farmers, and Australian and international delegates.

"Improving the quality of the water entering the Great Barrier Reef is important for the industry and the whole community. The more we can do now to make improvements for future generations the better," he said.

"We can always do more but we may need more government funding in some areas."



## Frank Mugica - Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award Runner-Up

Frank Mugica has farmed in the Burdekin for 25 years. He first learnt about the effects of his management practices by testing cane run-off from his cane and grazing property in Dalbeg.

He has since installed a recycle pit, shielded sprayer, and spray controller, all improving efficiency and reducing environmental impact. In 2014, Frank trialled banded mill mud on his current 120-hectare farm in Brandon and now

practices this farm-wide.

He joined another project supporting growers adjacent to wetlands to trial nutrient and irrigation efficiencies and has reduced his nitrogen use by 20kg per hectare.

Recently, he adapted machinery for strip tillage for green cane trash blanketing. By 2022, Frank plans to be a fully accredited Smartcane BMP farmer.

## David DeFranciscis - Reef Nutrient Champion Winner

Working collaboratively with government, industry and fellow cane farmers, David DeFranciscis has driven change on his property and within his community to achieve real results for the Great Barrier Reef and the viability of cane farm businesses in the Burdekin catchment in Queensland.

David's journey began in 2011 when he co-designed the RP20 Burdekin Nitrogen Trials (RP20) project to test an industry nutrient management standard on grower properties to reduce high nitrogen applications. David was instrumental in the success of this project and acted as a conduit between local growers and the department while participating in the trials. The project has now validated the standard in the Burdekin and has reduced the amount of nitrogen applied on 23 farms by 500 tonnes.







## Ray Zamora - Reef Nutrient Champion Nominee

Ray Zamora is a fourth-generation Tully cane farmer with a passion for soil health and leaving the land in a better condition for future generations. After research, he secured a Reef Trust III grant to help modify a dual row double disc planter to include a crimp roller and other componentry. This allows him to terminate his cover crop without herbicide, incorporate organic matter and direct drill plant (with no need for herbicide, tillage or multiple passes). Ray makes his own biofertiliser to activate soil biology and reduce costs, fertiliser inputs and nitrogen loss to waterways.

In an industry-first, Ray planted this season's cane directly into a mixed species cover crop, achieving zero-till planting and maximising soil health benefits. He has reduced his synthetic nitrogen rate to 100kg per hectare – 40kg below the region's average rate.

## Philip Deguara - Reef Pesticide Champion Winner

Philip Deguara has been a cane farmer for over 12 years as part of the family farming enterprise. He is a fourth-generation cane grower in the Sandy Creek catchment and has a passion for learning and improving his business.

Philip was one of the Sandy Creek growers responsible for implementing the grower-led water quality monitoring conducted with the Department of Environment and Science Water Quality Investigations team as part of RP144C Sandy Creek project. He used his experience to inform other growers about pesticide movement. This led to Philip applying more knockdown herbicides, use of shielded sprays and all applied with rate controllers and GPS to ensure best result possible across their 300-hectare cane property. Philip has reduced the number of pesticide applications, saving time and reducing pesticide usage on his farm.



## Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group - Reef Community Champion Winner

The Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group has achieved landscape scale change in the Mulgrave catchment with the recent conclusion of a five-year biodiversity project. 33,000 trees were planted to help prevent streambank erosion and block nutrients and sediments from entering the water column.

Over the life of the project the group held 31 community planting events and were assisted by hundreds of volunteers and 21 landholders to plant over 17 hectares. The group are also involved in the restoration of a wetland site adjacent to Fig Tree Lagoon near Fishery Falls. It's believed the site has the potential to provide habitat value and improve water quality through not only the wetland restoration but the installation of a water quality treatment train, including a subsurface bioreactor.

## Gavin Rodman - Reef Youth Champion Winner

Gavin Rodman grew up on a sugarcane farm in Deeral and is well known and respected by the local farming community. He has worked for Sugar Research Australia (SRA) as an Adoption Officer for over three years, based at both Tully and Meringa in the Wet Tropics. In that time, he has engaged directly with industry to make a tangible impact to environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity. He has been an integral part of the design and delivery of the Cane to Creek project and supported the rollout of Best Management Practice training in the Wet Tropics as the lead deliverer of SIX EASY STEPS training across the cane industry. The training is a science-based nutrient management tool that enables the adoption of best practice nutrient management on-farm. Gavin is currently developing a SIX EASY STEPS toolbox for the industry and guidelines for the Rocky Point district. ■





**Matt Kealley**

CANEGROWERS Manager -  
Environment & Sustainability

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

At their recent meeting in Brisbane, CANEGROWERS Policy Council members discussed climate change and the challenges it poses for the agricultural sector and governments.

The State and Federal governments have both outlined policies on climate change and, whether you agree with them or not, there is no denying that climate resilience and adaptation are important considerations for our members and agricultural sector as a whole.

For the cane industry, climate-related issues include the immediate impact on crops, equipment and infrastructure from cyclones, drought and access to water for irrigation, floods and storm damage, and fires.

Secondary impacts include difficulty accessing services following extreme weather events, increasing insurance costs, disruption to business processes and cash flow, and the availability of services to support the local value-chain.

The longer-term impacts of changing weather and climate patterns on production could be extensive. These could include increased weed, pest and disease pressure, changes to the cane production cycle and milling processes, land-use changes from cane to other crops and uses, potential loss of marginal land due to sea level changes, and increased costs of production due to rising farm input, electricity and transport costs.

We could also see a change in government policy, legislation and regulations driven by Australia's international commitments.

### **Queensland Government response to climate change**

The Queensland Government's position on climate change is outlined in this response: [www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/climate-change/response](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/climate-change/response).

In summary, the State Government agrees that Queensland's climate is changing, as we are already experiencing hotter summers, more frequent natural disasters and impacts on our natural environment (such as coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef). These changes pose a threat to our economy, our communities, our environment and our way of life.

The Response includes two key strategies to transition to a low carbon, clean growth economy and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate:

- **Queensland Climate Transition Strategy** outlines how it will transition to a zero net emissions future that supports jobs, industries, communities and the environment.
- **Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy** outlines how it will prepare for current and future impacts of a changing climate that reduces risk and increases resilience.

The target is a 30% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. There has been a 14% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland from 2005 to 2016.

### **Australian Government response to climate change**

The Australian Government recognises that climate change is a global issue that requires international action. Its position and response can also be viewed online at [www.environment.gov.au/climate-change](http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change).

The Australian Government is committed to addressing climate change while at that same time ensuring we maintain energy security and affordability.

The government recognises that in reducing emissions and meeting our international commitments there are economic impacts to be balanced.

The government has ratified the Paris Agreement and set a target of reducing emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

### **Climate change and its impact on cane growers**

How does this affect you and cane growers across Queensland?

There are three elements: (1) the impact of climate change on the health of the Great Barrier Reef; (2) the impact on growers' business productivity and profitability; and (3) the influence of government policies and position on your business.

CANEGROWERS needs to look at the issues associated with climate change through the lenses of resilience and adaption and influence public policy accordingly.

This provides opportunities for cane growing businesses to strategically prepare for the risk to business viability and sustainability, either through preparedness, resilience and adaption, as well as look for opportunities to engage in alternative income and investments.

Ensuring the industry and growers are strategically preparing for the risk to business viability and sustainability and then looking for diversified income options should be part of grower, industry and CANEGROWERS climate change strategy. ■



# Policy Update

Economics with Warren Males

## Cause for cautious optimism

The world sugar fundamentals are less pessimistic than they were three months ago. Back then many sugar analysts were projecting a global surplus of seven million tonnes or more. That projected surplus has narrowed. The same analysts are now suggesting the surplus will be just 3.5 million tonnes.

This is good news, but caution is required. Although lower, the surplus lingers and so does the threat of Indian sugar exports.

What's changed? As is often the case there have been some previously unanticipated events that have reduced production.

These include:

- A long, hot and dry summer in Europe reducing the beet harvest and moderating estimates of sugar production for 2018-19.
- Brazil's producers responding to low sugar prices and switching record amounts of sugarcane juice to ethanol production.

Looking further ahead, there is increasing evidence that EU beet growers are moderating their 2019 planting plans in response to the lower prices. By how much remains to be seen but the reduction in area planted could be as much as 10%.

The low sugar prices are also encouraging a movement away from alternative sweeteners (iso-glucose and corn syrup) towards sugar.

Against this, Indian sugar policies continue to be a concern. Their market price supports have led to significant sugar surpluses and mandated exports have been a key factor driving world prices to current levels.

In the past week I have visited Geneva to build support for Australia's action taken in the World Trade Organisation to shine a light on India's market distorting and illegal sugar price supports.

Many countries, frustrated by India's sugar policies, have indicated their support of Australia's notification.

The key outcome we are seeking is that the surplus sugar stays in India and is not exported with subsidies.

A truism in the sugar market is that the 'cure for low prices is low prices'.

Producers respond by turning to other crops or simply applying fewer inputs or extending the ratoon cycle to contain costs.

On the consumption side, food and beverage manufacturers alter their production mix as appears to be happening in Europe.

The net result is that production falls and sugar off-take increases.

All in all, there appears to be grounds for cautious optimism on the sugar price front. ■



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# CLEAN SEED REDUCES MUNGBEAN DISEASE RISK



Cane growers planting mungbeans in their fallow rotation are being urged to take steps to reduce the risk of halo blight and tan spot this summer.

The advice, from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries plant pathologist **Lisa Kelly** comes in the wake of years of field observations and sampling that shows disease continues to have a significant impact on mungbean yields.

Halo blight was a major issue for mungbean growers in southern Queensland in 2015 and 2016, due to a cooler, wet start to the growing seasons.

These weather conditions are less conducive to tan spot which favours warm, dry conditions, but both diseases remain an important reason for growers to source disease-free seed.

"Infected seed is thought to be the major source of infection within a crop. Only one halo blight infected seed per 10,000 is enough to produce an epidemic under the right environmental conditions."

To reduce the risk, growers are advised to use Australian Mungbean Association approved seed, which has been checked prior to harvest for disease.

"There are currently no registered chemicals for the control of halo blight and tan spot on infected plants or seed, which is why growers need to pay particular attention to crop hygiene by using clean seed and selecting paddocks wisely," Ms Kelly said.

She said halo blight was characterised by small, water-soaked lesions that are surrounded by a yellow-green halo on young leaves. Infected seedlings typically survive and become the major source of inoculum for later infection in the crop. Older lesions have less pronounced haloes with lesions visible on both sides of leaves.

Tan spot (also known as bacterial scorch and wilt) can infect seedlings very early resulting in large chlorotic areas on the first and second trifoliate leaves. As the seedlings grow, they can wilt and die rapidly. Surviving seedlings are often stunted and are the major sources of inoculum for later infection in the crop. Leaves on older plants develop a scorched appearance, with interveinal necrotic lesions surrounded by a distinct chlorotic margin and when subject to windy conditions this dead leaf material can tear away giving the plant a ratty appearance.

"If growers or advisers are unsure about identifying these diseases, they can send photos or samples directly to me for confirmation," Ms Kelly said.

Samples should be sent via courier or express post to Lisa Kelly, DAF, 203 Tor St, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350. Please call Lisa on 0477 747 040 or email [lisa.kelly@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:lisa.kelly@daf.qld.gov.au) prior to sending samples. ■

## How to minimise risk of a halo blight and/or tan spot

### 1) Use low risk planting seed

Avoid using seed from an infected crop. AMA approved seed is sourced from crops inspected for disease symptoms during the growing season.

### 2) Selecting resistant varieties

Celera II-AU is rated as moderately resistant and provides the best levels of resistance to the halo blight pathogen. All other commercial varieties are either susceptible or moderately susceptible to both tan spot and halo blight, although Jade-AU and Crystal have the next best levels of resistance.

### 3) Crop rotation

This also allows for the breakdown of mungbean crop stubble which can also harbour both pathogens.

### 4) Control host weeds and volunteers

Volunteer plants and weeds such as cowvine, bellvine, morning glory, tick clover and butterfly pea are known hosts of one or both diseases and should be managed effectively.

### 5) Restrict movement through crop

Restrict movement of machinery and people through the crop to avoid spreading the disease. Harvesting equipment should also be thoroughly cleaned of mungbean residues, preferably with an antibacterial solution, to avoid spreading the bacteria.



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Next deadline is **10 DECEMBER 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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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](mailto:admin@gleneng.com.au)  
[www.gleneng.com.au](http://www.gleneng.com.au)

## JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,

All bath bearings

\$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other

size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.

3 point linkage offsets available also



### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST

Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

**Johnny Farming Company**

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
 or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)

133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

## Classifieds

offset. 700lt croplands spray tank and five row Irvin boom. 1 tonne stainless steel fert box. Ph: 0408 870 625.

Bonel B60 24 plate offsets. Heavy Duty. VGC. Disc 80%. POA. Ph: 4777 3181 after 7pm.

John Deere 4850 MFWD 15spd Powershift 8500hrs \$20,000+GST as is. Full Stick Planting Outfit J250 Harvester, 2 planters, 6 Trailers and stripper/topper \$5000+GST. Homemade 9 tyne ripper with crumble roller \$3000+GST. 32 plate Populin/Jarrett Disc Harrows \$3000+GST. Ph: 0437 346 341.

### 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, \$44,000 Inc., KUBOTA M135X-DC 4WD, 135hp, 16 Fwd & Rev Gears, Semi Powershift, 2012 Build, \$44,000 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643. 2016 PACE 8800 track machine. 2,200 hours. EHF 8 blade choppers. GPF + more. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428 182 464.

Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6,600. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph: 0407 643 441 or 4959 5883.

28 plate disc offset with new bearings \$7,500 inc. GST and three row Jones fertiliser bin & grubber \$2,000 inc. GST. Ph: 0417 714 209.

2500 Cameco full track cane harvester 1996 excellent condition. 1998 Ursus 4514 tractor 4x4 Rops 68hp 730 hr good condition. MF 1085 good condition. Poplin planter excellent condition. Rinaudo 3t stainless steel Fertilizer box side dresser. Irrifrance 3.5 inch hard hose irrigator. Ph: 0488 053 298.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

KMC 4 row rip strip tillage, Ex Cond \$22,000 inc. Harrel 5 furrow square plow, spare cutting edges and liners G Cond \$8,800 inc. Ph: 0457 930 627.

AV Farm All \$6,000 + GST. Napier 16 plate off set's \$2,300 + GST. 1941 Chrysler Sedan \$12,000 inc. GST (neg). Trailco Irrigator T450 \$9,500 inc. GST. Ph: 0419 577 110.

1 New Holland TVT 155 plus 14 ton Carta Bin also 1 CASE PUMA 180 plus 14 ton Corridinni. Ph: Joshua Zunker on 0428 937 164 or 07 4159 7677 during office hours.

### Wanted

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

Kelly and Lewis AG60 turbine angle drive for irrigation bore. Ph: 0435 550 737.

### 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.

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		January–November	
	19.11.18	26.11.18		
Mossman	5	6	2226	2022
Mareeba AP	0	12	683	806
Cairns	0.2	2	2018	1821
Mt Sophia	2	5	3360	3069
Babinda	0	0	1667	3933
Innisfail	0.8	8	3046	3290
Tully	0.1	0.4	3238	3814
Cardwell	0	6	1666	1922
Lucinda	0	2	1542	1925
Ingham	Tce	3	1716	1835
Abergowrie	0	14	1719	1632
Townsville	0	2	821	992
Ayr DPI	0	37	663	825
Proserpine	0.2	0	843	1211
Mirani	2	19	712	1333
Mackay	0.2	7	722	1382
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	3	860	1531
Bundaberg	13	18	664	885
Childers South	23	13	790	769
Maryborough	15	26	934	1026
Tewantin	27	5	1490	1542
Eumundi	25	6	1263	1504
Nambour	31	14	1262	1516
Woongoolba	30	11	1004	1202
Murwillumbah	32	5	977	1413
Ballina	99	3	1647	1632
Woodburn	0	0	994	1250



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Super**



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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](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.



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



**SMARTCANE BMP**

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