

Report reveals economic importance of sugarcane to Qld's regional areas

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steps up 'Stop
the Reef Bill'
campaign with
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**Mill deal
boosts
grower
confidence
in Mackay**



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COVER IMAGE: Ingham grower Richard Hobbs implements new practices to save money, improve soil health and the environment. Read more page 18.

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A moment to plan for a pivotal three years

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

"High on the agenda was our ability to support farmers to increase productivity while decreasing production costs, to engage effectively and with a shared view of prosperity with a potentially diversifying milling sector, and how to leverage the strong credentials of our sustainable sugar supply chain."

A recent meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council highlighted the task ahead for this critical policy-setting body for our organisation.

The Council, which is established under the CANEGROWERS constitution, is a group of growers nominated by their local district companies to represent their mill area.

Once elected for a three-year term, Policy Council members have an opportunity to bring forward local issues and have them considered strategically to support appropriate policy decisions.

The Council's deliberations are specifically focused on the voices of growers. Its agendas are structured around engaging with experts from inside and outside the sector, as well as sharing views and challenges from across the industry.

The objective is to engage, discuss, and ultimately decide a pathway forward for the industry.

During its July meeting, the Council set the scene for the three years ahead, forming the key policy committees that will delve deeply into the issues of Environment and Sustainability, Farm Inputs and Research, and Economics and Trade.

Specific time was set aside to consider where the industry may be in three to five years and how we will work together to ensure that the growers' industry body is well prepared and equipped to lead the industry through to what will be our shared future.

High on the agenda was our ability to support farmers to increase productivity while decreasing production costs, to engage effectively and with a shared view of prosperity with a potentially diversifying milling sector, and how to leverage the strong credentials of our sustainable sugar supply chain.

These are big issues that the Policy Council recognises will require strategic and deliberate planning, while we also continue to battle the significant

immediate pressures of a poor market, challenging climates, and tightening government oversight of farming practices.

Ensuring our people have the skills to deal with the inevitable multiple and evolving challenges our industry will face, is key.

Indeed, the skills and leadership of our people have made us the strong industry we are today. By providing opportunities for new, evolving and skilled leaders to become involved in policy-making, we will help ensure a positive future for our members.

Unfortunately, waiting for the "air to clear" to enable us to better plan is a fruitless exercise. The overhang of poor world prices, uncertainties of further regulation of farming practices, and the problems of punishing water and electricity prices will not be overcome easily.

However, there is a real sense from Policy Council members (nearly 25% of whom are completely new representatives) that with the right support and skills, we can bring new thinking to age old problems, learn from our past but not let it dictate our future.

A future which, in the end, is in our hands to define, shape and deliver together. ■



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mill deal boosts confidence in Mackay

German sugar giant Nordzucker AG is now the majority owner of Mackay Sugar Ltd after growers voted overwhelmingly in favour of a \$120 million deal to sell the European company a 70% stake in the business.

The deal, which won the support of 95% of grower-shareholders during an Extraordinary General Meeting on 29 July, will see Nordzucker invest \$60 million directly into Mackay Sugar, with a further \$60m on offer by way of a shareholder loan.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee Chairman **Paul Schembri** welcomed the decision by shareholders, calling it a shot in the arm for the industry and community in Mackay.

"This will be a huge relief for growers who have been living with great uncertainty."

"It is a real confidence booster, not only for the industry but also for the whole business community that services the industry in Mackay," Mr Schembri said.

"Growers have shown the courage to back the deal in order to secure the future of their crop and stabilise the industry after several years of uncertainty.

"The decision to partner with Nordzucker will see welcome funds directed to investment in the company's three mills to upgrade their performance and boost their reliability so as to ensure crops can be crushed reliably in an efficient, shorter season length.

"This will be a huge relief for growers who have been living with great uncertainty after several seasons of poor milling performance with breakdowns and crops left in the paddock. It will

hopefully bring to a rapid and positive close the questions about the company's overall financial viability after it laid bare its perilous financial situation in 2017.

"Growers will retain a 30% shareholding in return for Nordzucker's capital investment in the company to undertake capital and maintenance works on the mills.

"The funding will also repay the \$2/t grower levy in two tranches. The certainty that that money will now be returned will be a huge weight off growers' minds. I thank the growers for their financial contribution to the company. For many, it has not been an easy financial burden to bear."

Chairman and CEO of Mackay Sugar **Mark Day** thanked growers and shareholders for supporting the transaction saying Nordzucker was an excellent fit for Mackay Sugar.

"Nordzucker is not only a leading sugar producer in Europe, but as a grower owned sugar company with 180 years in the industry it has a heritage very similar to Mackay Sugar," Mr Day said.

"We look forward to Mackay Sugar and the local sugar industry remaining a vital part of our local communities and economy."

CEO of Nordzucker, Dr **Lars Gorissen** also thanked growers for their overwhelming support.

"We are pleased that the transaction has now completed and we would like to thank the growers and shareholders of Mackay Sugar and the State Government of Queensland for their support," he said. ■

INVESTIGATION INTO INDUSTRY DEATH

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is investigating yet another fatality in the sugar industry following a work-related accident in the Cairns region that left one man dead at two others hospitalised.

The men were working on the cane train line at Little Mulgrave on 29 July when the crane they were operating struck overhead power lines.

Second generation mill worker **Brett Quinn**, who was holding a length of track being lifted by the crane at the time, was electrocuted.

Paramedics rushed to the scene and found the 49-year-old Gordonvale man with severe burns. He was airlifted to hospital but died shortly after.

A co-worker who raced to Mr Quinn's aid was also electrocuted and rushed to hospital in a critical condition. A third man was also hospitalised.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** extended sympathy to Mr Quinn's family, remembering him as a "jovial fella".

"It's tragic. On behalf of the growers I offer my condolences to the family. Words can't comfort them but our thoughts are with them," he said.

"Growers are shocked at the events. Everybody wants to go to work and come home safe. But it just did not happen." ■

FIGHT TO SAVE SUNNY COAST CANE INDUSTRY

Sunshine Coast grower representatives are holding talks with Department of Transport and Main Roads officials in a bid to overturn a transport curfew that is threatening the viability of the region's cane industry.

The curfew slashes the window in which B-doubles hauling cane can operate each day, restricting growers' ability to transport harvested cane two hours up the Bruce Highway to MSF's Maryborough Mill.

Sunshine Coast growers have been hauling their cane to Maryborough since the Nambour mill closed in 2003. They contribute about 8% of all volume for the mill. ■

CANEGROWERS Market Information Service – now online!

The CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service is an independent fact-based service designed to assist all members.

Every month it will summarise sugar market conditions and trends and, importantly for growers exercising their right to choose a sugar marketer, demonstrate how different pricing options may deliver different results in different market conditions.

CANEGROWERS aims to provide independent and factual information that will not favour any one sugar marketer over another. Importantly, the service will give growers the tools to make the best decisions for their particular situation. It does not provide financial advice.

The centrepiece of the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service is a series of member workshops hosted in each district. Please contact your local district office for the times of workshops in your area.

Information is also being made available to all members via monthly video updates available on the CANEGROWERS website.

The page is under the Resources tab on the CANEGROWERS website or by following this link: www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service

To access the resources, members can use their CANEGROWERS membership number. This appears on the coversheet mailed with each edition of the *Australian Canegrower* magazine or can be obtained by contacting a CANEGROWERS office.

The CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service will summarise four important areas:

- 1. World Production and Consumption Balance**
The 2019-20 crop year is expected to see the sugar market move from a global surplus to a small deficit but with high stocks. This should mark the start of a draw down in the world's excessive sugar stocks.
- 2. Cycle**
Reflecting high sugar stocks 2019-20 is expected to be the third year of the surplus phase of the surplus/deficit cycle.
- 3. Prompt Sugar Price**
In early August, the highly volatile prompt sugar price was trading at around A\$400 per metric tonne for 2019-20. A little higher than last month, it is near the middle of the market's recent trading range,

but still lower than the long-term average price.

4. Forward Sugar Prices

Forward Sugar Prices were also a little higher than last month and the level of price volatility was much narrower. Prices for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons are higher than prompt prices.

The service will also identify key watch points. In the current market, these include harvest prospects in the EU, Thailand, India and Brazil along with Brazil's sugar/ethanol production mix.

It also provides insights into the drivers of speculator's market behaviour and factors affecting the value of the Australian dollar, such as the heightening trade tensions between the United States and China.

For daily price updates and forward price indications, please contact your preferred marketer. ■

August 2019 Sugar Market Update now available



CANEGROWERS
MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

CANEGROWERS members can use their member number to access the exclusive monthly video market update and supporting documents online now.

Visit: www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service

What is the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service?

Following the CANEGROWERS victory in securing choice for Queensland sugarcane growers, sugar marketers have begun competing to provide their services to growers. CANEGROWERS has recognised the need for a neutral information service to assist members to make informed decisions and reap the benefits of competition.



Offering information and education to members through workshops, regular videos and newsletter updates



Providing an independent service to members which does not favour one marketer over another

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

A total of 36,868 tonnes of cane was processed in Week 9 (3 Aug). With Coastal Growers supplying 25,770 tonnes for a mill average of 11.98CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied a total of 11,098 tonnes for mill average of 13.89CCS. To-date Coastal growers have supplied a total of 190,335 tonnes for a mill average of 11.39CCS. And Mareeba growers have supplied a total of 92,773 tonnes for a mill average of 13.23CCS. Intermittent wet weather around the district has hampered throughput, with harvester contractors struggling to find enough dry paddocks to maintain supply to the mill. The showery weather has also interrupted scheduled planting around the area.

CAIRNS REGION

Wet weather continues to hamper harvesting and farming operations across the region. Growers are looking for some consistently fine weather.



TULLY

Around 30% of the 2019 crop has been crushed and harvested, with a season to date CCS of 12.2. The showery conditions have persisted, with a few dry days followed by some wet weather. Falls of 10 to 20 mm were common over the week ending 4 August, however some parts of the district have experienced up to 70mm. Conditions have interrupted planting, and everyone is looking forward to a dryer period.

Pictured: Former Chief Cane Inspectors at TSL now Show Cane Judges Bevin Bobermein and Rick Chapel, with Heather Ewart from ABC TV program Back Roads.

HERBERT RIVER

Herbert River district's fourth week of the crushing was the first week where the mill had full operation available for the season. The district started to hit some decent numbers with Victoria Mill crushing 130,563 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushing around 67,000 tonnes. CCS for the week was holding at 12.32. Cane quality was generally good for the week, with only a few rakes with high levels of mud and extraneous matter. In Week 5, both mills undertook the first planned maintenance day for the year. Victoria Mill crushed around 136,000 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushed 65,000 tonnes for the week. Wilmar reported that Victoria Mill had a bagasse system choke on Thursday resulting in a 6-hour dual train stop. Other than that, there were no other major issues. CCS for the week ended up at 12.65. The cane quality has been variable with a number of tippler hopper chokes due to high levels of extraneous matter.

BURDEKIN

Good weather conditions have facilitated harvesting operations over the last two weeks resulting in 354,713 tonnes being crushed for Week 8 and 381,747 tonnes for the following week which included scheduled stops at Inkerman and Pioneer mills. Invicta Mill had it's highest weekly throughput since 2015 at 159,345 tonnes.

As of Week 9 (w/e 3 August) the Burdekin mills had crushed 2,629,026 tonnes of cane for the season, which is approximately 33% of the recently revised season estimate of 7.98 million tonnes.

The highest CCS sample for Week 8 was 17.6 from a rake of Q240 plant cane recorded in the Pioneer area. In Week 9 the highest CCS sample was 17.7 from Q240 again from a rake of plant cane also recorded in the Pioneer area.

Seasonal CCS recorded to date for Burdekin is 13.93. Pioneer continues to nudge ahead with 14.22 followed by Inkerman at 13.99.

Q240 was the highest supplied variety for Week 9, at 40%, followed by KQ228 at 23%. On a district basis, Q183 achieved 14.91 CCS followed Q240 at 14.74.

There have been two suspected cases of arson on farms in the Kalamia Mill supply area during July. Deliberately lit fires not only impact harvesting and crushing operations, but they cause significant risk to property and lives. Community members are requested to please report any suspicious activity to police.

PROSERPINE

Field conditions continued to improve over the last few weeks following the significant rain experienced in early July.

The mill is slowly settling into rhythm, although some technical issues hampered throughput in the latter part of Week 6. Fortnightly throughput was 162,204 tonnes which was well below budget. Throughput to date stands at 324,616 tonnes. CCS has returned to pre-rain levels, however season-to-date CCS remains below budget at 12.82.

With 20% of the harvest completed, the 2019 crop is cutting close to the original 1.62MT estimate.

PLANE CREEK

Isolated showers were reported around the district but had no impact on harvesting in the period under review. However, the Plane Creek crop estimate has been revised down marginally from 1.305 million tonnes of cane to 1.28 million tonnes.

Plane Creek Mill crushed a bit more than 65,000 tonnes for the week ended 3 August – a good result achieved even with a planned cleaning and maintenance stop in the middle of the week. CCS continues to rise with the continuing dry conditions and the weekly average was 13.76 – down 0.3 of a unit up on the previous week. The increase pushed the season-to-date CCS above 13 for the first time this season. The highest CCS was 15.85, from a rake of Q226 OR in the Koumala productivity district.

MACKAY

At the end of Week 7 of the crushing in Mackay district, the three mills had together crushed a total of 1,448,661 tonnes of cane.

Individual totals have crept up for the three mills. In the week ended 28 July the mill totals were:

- Farleigh 67,802 tonnes
- Marian 78,791 tonnes
- Racecourse 63,249 tonnes

The week's tally was 209,842 tonnes with a CCS of 13.20 (year to date CCS: 12.27).

GROWERS VOTE 'YES'

Nordzucker AG has now acquired a 70% controlling interest in the share capital of Mackay Sugar Limited through an investment of \$60 million in equity and the provision of a shareholder loan of up to \$60 million to the company. A shareholder meeting to vote on the transaction was held on Monday

29 July at which the shareholders overwhelmingly voted to support the transaction.

The debt and equity contribution will be used in part to undertake capital and maintenance works on the mills to improve mill performance over several years and reduce the company's debt burden.

In addition, half of the \$2 per tonne grower contribution will be repaid to growers within 30 days. The remaining half will be payable 12 months later.

Nordzucker has appointed three new directors to the Board of Mackay Sugar. Mark Day will remain as an executive director and CEO.

The current directors will resign following the selection of three new Grower Directors to represent the interests of Mackay Sugar's growers on the board, with nominations now open to all Mackay Sugar growers.



The crowd at the shareholder meeting vote in Mackay. Photo taken by Kirili Lamb.

BUNDABERG

Bundaberg Sugar Mills processed 75,290 tonnes for the week ending 3 August. This brings the season to date to 358,704 tonnes, equating to 28% of the estimated crop.

The average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar Mills for Week 5 was 13.94 CCS, with a season to date average of 13.44 CCS. The highest individual CCS for Week 5 was 16.10 units for KQ228 and Q208 OR cane in Millaquin. The four major varieties supplied for Week 5 were Q240 with 33.39% of supply and a

CCS average of 14.03 units, followed by KQ228A with 20.38% supply and a CCS average of 13.88 units, Q208A with 12.77% of supply and an average CCS of 13.76 units and Q242A with 7.34% of supply and a CCS average of 13.76 units.

The Base CCS at Millaquin will be adjusted upwards to 13.80 units from Monday 5 August and Bingera will remain at 13.30 units at this point and be reviewed weekly.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

Week 3 saw 56,379 tonnes of sugar cane processed through the rollers at an average CCS of 13.49 units. A total of 67,977 tonnes was crushed in Week 4 with an average CCS of 13.59. The year to date throughput at the end of Week 4 had reached 181,508 tonnes of sugarcane with a year to date CCS average of 13.59 units. The estimated total throughput for the 2019 season is still hovering around the 1 million tonne mark, however we will need some rain soon for the region to be able to realise this amount. The Childers South official weather station has recorded 9.4mm for the month of July and just 247mm for the year to date. The early season cane variety KQ228 held down the number one spot for most tonnes supplied during Week 3, making up 31% of the overall supply, just ahead of the variety Q240 on 30%. This variety Q240 also took out the Highest CCS for Week 3 with a supplier from South Kolan recording 16.18 units of CCS. A Farnsfield grower had the highest CCS for Week 4, achieving 16.31 from KQ228 autumn plant. Harvesting conditions are ideal but very dusty. Cane quality parameters for Week 3 saw ash levels at 2.47 % and fibre levels at 13.75%.



MARYBOROUGH

Mill production has now reached 13% of estimates with 82,746 tonnes supplied. CCS is also improving and currently sitting on 12.98 units year to date. Early indications on actual to estimate have been good but it's still too early to see any trend for the season on tonnage. Thanks to the Sunshine Coast growers who attended the information meeting on the road transport problem, held on 1 August. Good support was shown by the local council and state member for the area, with everyone keen to work out a way forward. Further meetings with Department of Main Roads are planned for this week with some encouraging discussions already underway. With more transport trailers sheeted this season, the roadsides are much cleaner and reports from the mill are that loads are being well managed so far. With good weather ahead for the next few weeks, we should be well into the crop.

ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point Mill officially started crushing growers' cane on Monday 5 August. Our official estimate as at 25 June 2019 was 221,000 tonnes, however, at current CCS levels it remains to be seen whether all of this gets cut. CCS maturity tests performed late in July were extremely low, with only our relatively small standover crop testing at near acceptable levels. Weather conditions are dry and mild and should improve CCS levels in the next few weeks. The Cogen performance is still a large concern, with ongoing weekly breakdowns. Available capacity at the plant is running at between 50-60%. SRA have visited Rocky Point to examine the yellowing leaves in the cane. SRA does not believe it is Yellow Canopy disease, however it is having a similar effect on some varieties.

Money Matters

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CANEGROWERS has taken the rare step of airing a commercial on regional television stations warning the Palaszczuk Government about the impacts of a bill currently before the Queensland Parliament.

"It's important the Government and our communities hear directly from growers that there is no justification for more intrusive red tape," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"The so-called Reef Bill proposes an escalation of bureaucratic interference in the sugarcane industry. It is an affront to growers.

"We have been working under regulations designed to improve water quality for the Great Barrier Reef for a decade and the huge investment by growers in changing farm practices has been acknowledged in government reports as having an impact.

"The industry has been innovative and cooperative and growers are taking responsibility for their impact on the environment.

"The way forward is in continuing collaboration for the benefit of the environment, the economy and our communities.

"We need the government to allow us to forge ahead with the programs and projects already underway which are recognising and valuing growers for what they have done and are continuing to do for improved water quality for the Reef."

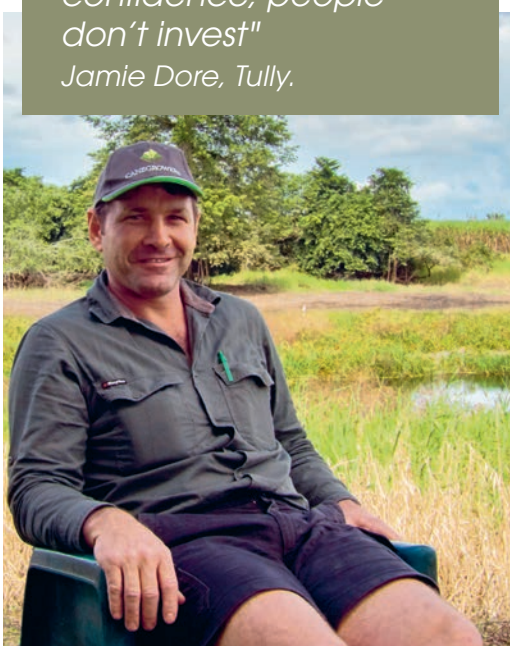
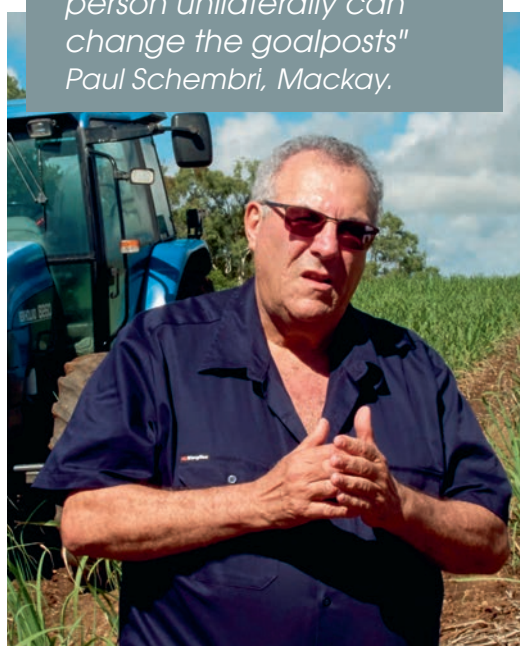
The message of the TV commercial is simple – the bill must be stopped. The 30 second commercial is being broadcast on stations in the Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Wide Bay broadcast regions.

A longer version of the video is available to watch on YouTube. It is being shared on CANEGROWERS social media platforms and by our supporters. It can be accessed via the CANEGROWERS website or by typing this link into a web browser: youtu.be/RDCdqO3cX3o ■

"Cane farmers are proactively involved in investing in innovation and technology on our farms to secure the sustainable future of the Reef. What this bill does is create uncertainty. You will have a situation where a single person unilaterally can change the goalposts"
Paul Schembri, Mackay.

"The reef regulations are not going to solve anything, they are just going to obstruct and deter people from doing the right thing. It's going to shake confidence and when you shake confidence, people don't invest"
Jamie Dore, Tully.

"If we haven't got a profitable industry into the future, that not only affects us, that affects every regional town up and down the Queensland coast... and that has a knock-on effect to the Queensland economy"
Stephen Calcagno, Babinda.



Capability development to encourage the next generation of **SUGARCANE SCIENTISTS**



The next generation of sugarcane researchers is being offered a leg-up into the world of industry science and technology, through two capability development programs being offered through SRA.

Applications are open for SRA's Sugar Industry Research Awards and Sugar Industry Postgraduate Scholarships.

Both programs encourage innovative research ideas and aim to enhance the capability of the research sector that supports the Australian sugarcane industry.

The Postgraduate Research Scholarships program is aimed at Masters or PhD level researchers and is open for applications until 31 October 2019.

The Research Awards program is aimed at existing researchers looking to develop research skills or explore new and innovative ideas. This program is open for applications until 1 October 2019.

"These programs are intended to encourage innovative thinking and allow participants to conduct projects that can demonstrate benefits to the Australian sugarcane industry," General Manager of the SRA Research Funding Unit, Dr Harjeet Khanna, said.

"Through the Research Awards, projects may be used to develop research skills or explore new and innovative ideas.

"Not every idea or concept leads to success, but the objective of this

scheme is to help provide a catalyst that could result in great potential R&D opportunities.

"We encourage existing or prospective sugarcane industry researchers to apply for these excellent opportunities to advance their career."

Applications will be preferred in the fields of:

- Optimally adapted varieties, plant breeding and release: sugarcane breeding/quantitative genetics/genomic selection/molecular marker implementation.
- Pest, disease and weed management: sugarcane entomology/soldier fly/biosecurity.
- Farming systems and harvesting: digital agriculture (integrating precision farming and smart farming)

SRA Burdekin-based researcher **Sijesh Natarajan** recently completed his PhD through a Postgraduate Research Scholarship, where he looked at understanding how different sugarcane varieties respond to water stress.

"Water stress is a major constraint for cane productivity, estimated to cost the industry \$250 million per year," he said.

"Even in irrigated conditions, having varieties that use water more efficiently is increasingly important.

"Increasing transpiration efficiency (TE), the amount of biomass produced per unit of water used, is one way of improving water productivity and water use efficiency of sugarcane.

"My PhD research, supported by the SPRS, was aimed at understanding the underlying physiological basis for variation in TE among sugarcane genotypes, and its impact on productivity for the typical production conditions in Australia.

"Results suggest that targeted selection for higher TE in the breeding program may lead to varieties with higher water use efficiency, improved productivity and resilience under water stress conditions."

For more detail visit the Research Investment section of www.sugarresearch.com.au ■

Pictured: SRA Burdekin-based researcher Sijesh Natarajan recently participated in a Postgraduate Research Scholarship.



SUGAR INDUSTRY - A POWERHOUSE

SUPPORTING QUEENSLAND'S REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Sugarcane is one of Queensland's main economic drivers, supporting dozens of regional communities and pumping billions into the state economy, according to a recently published report on the industry's economic contribution.

The report, *The economic contribution of the Sugarcane Industry to Queensland and its regional communities*, was compiled by Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions on behalf of CANEGROWERS.

Its key finding was that one dollar in economic activity in cane growing supports an additional \$6.42 elsewhere in the Queensland economy.

"Sugar is the cornerstone of the economic growth, development and vibrancy of many of Queensland's coastal communities," CANEGROWERS Head of Economics, **Warren Males** said.

"The industry generates wealth and supports the jobs, wages and the livelihood of thousands of Queensland families.

"Simply put, sugarcane and cane growers are woven into Queensland's economic fabric.

"At its core, the industry's strength and resilience stems from the strength and resilience of cane growers. The interdependence between growers and the mill they supply is clear. But that's not the whole story."

Sugarcane farming has a significant value-chain, both upstream and downstream.

In addition to the sugar mills, planting and harvesting contractors, fuel distributors, fertiliser and chemical retailers, farm machinery retailers, irrigation equipment suppliers, accountants, insurance brokers, transport operators, and ports are all providers of services to the industry.

It is the aggregation of all of these individual businesses in the value chain that collectively leads cane growing to be an essential primary industry supporting approximately \$4 billion in economic activity, over 22,000 jobs and over 10,000 businesses, the report says.

"However their contribution is not only the economic importance of cane growing but how it acts as a foundation for prosperity across the townships up and down Queensland's coastline," the report states.

"Cane growing represents a critical element or the viability for many regional communities. For many communities there would be a significant negative impact if cane growing were removed - there would be massive knock on effects for their employees and in turn where their employees spend their wages.

"For example, in some regions, particularly the Ingham, Burdekin and Ayr region, the sugar industry value chain supports nearly one-in-every-three jobs. It is not only critical to supply chain businesses but critical to surrounding communities. Quite simply the fortunes of cane growing and their regional hubs are forever intertwined.

"Finally, the industry has a substantive social license contributing approximately \$1.1 billion in taxation revenue to federal, state, and local governments that is in turn used to fund frontline services benefiting Queenslanders across the State."

The QEAS report will support CANEGROWERS efforts to influence community attitudes and the development of government policy on

a range of issues affecting the industry including environment, electricity and water pricing, industry regulation, and best practice, CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"Having a comprehensive, professional and accurate analysis of the economic contribution of our industry is critically important to underpin our advocacy efforts," Mr Galligan said.

"This report is particularly important as we have taken great care to take account of the unique and powerful economic and social contribution our industry makes to many regional communities. We have done this through the strong contribution of our district offices." ■

"QEAS found that one dollar in economic activity in cane growing supports an additional \$6.42 elsewhere in the



Queensland economy. Simply put, sugarcane and cane growers are woven into Queensland's economic fabric. At its core the industry's strength and resilience stems from the strength and resilience of cane growers. The interdependence between growers and the mill they supply is clear. But that's not the whole story," Warren Males, CANEGROWERS Head of Economics.

CENTRE PIVOT INVESTMENT DELIVERING YIELD & COST SAVINGS

By Brad Pfeffer, SRA

Irrigation has been one of the last things on Tony Bugeja's mind for most of this year. Throughout late summer and early Autumn, his ground has been mostly saturated from rain and there has been very little need to put any water on.



It was a different story for the latter months of 2018, though, when drought gripped the Central region and triggered some of the worst bushfires on record.

For Tony, who farms with his son **Mark** and brother **John**, it meant that the family had their irrigation infrastructure running flat out.

Growing cane on about 350 hectares near Homebush, the Bugejas have invested in five centre pivots starting in 2011. The pivots range from 250 metres to 405 metres.

"When the heat was on, and the time of the fires in the Pioneer Valley, we had some of the pivots putting on up to 40 millimetres for each circle. The crop was sucking it up and our g-dot moisture sensors were showing us that the crop needed it," Tony said. "The evaporation rate was incredible, but we could still see the growth in the cane."

Now that the crushing season has started, and even with a complete opposite turnaround in the weather, he can still see that this year's crop is in a good position thanks to the investment in irrigation in the closing months of 2018.

"We did a full analysis comparing pivots to water winches about six years ago, comparing labour and energy. Through that we found the water winch was costing us roughly \$33 per hectare more than the pivot."

Beyond the visual estimate, he also has confidence in the irrigation based on past on-farm trials that have given him numbers on yield and cost.



"We did a full analysis comparing pivots to water winches about six years ago, comparing labour and energy. Through that we found the water winch was costing us roughly \$33 per hectare more than the pivot."

He followed this up with weigh trials to assess yield, assisted by Farmacist, and also saw a productivity gain under the pivots.

"This was in a block of Q240 plant cane and we could see the difference under the circle, compared to the triangle corners under water winch," Tony said. "I thought it would be in the range of 25 tonnes per hectare, but it ended up being 42 tonnes per hectare with the same amount of nutrients."

"We're not saying that we'll see that all the time, every year, but those results were an eye-opener to us."

"Centre pivots aren't cheap, but you don't buy them for one year. When you look at the cost saving in operating expenses, and even if you estimate 20 tonne per hectare in increased production, and look at that over a 10-year period, I reckon we're on the right track."

The Bugejas have two pivots on electricity, two on diesel, and one on both.

Tony said he didn't see much cost difference between the electricity and diesel. While the diesel has the benefit of being variable speed, they had chosen diesel for those sites because there was no existing power and it would have been uneconomic to run lines there.

He said the one pivot with both diesel and electricity is generally run at diesel during the day and electricity at night to take advantage of night time electricity tariffs.

"We also find the pivots deliver benefits to other parts of the farming operation,"

he said. "So if you need to put on 15mm or 20mm after a chemical application, you can know the chemical is in place and manage your farming practices more easily."

Water is sourced from bores, re-use water from the Mackay city, and their own 300 megalitre on-farm storage, which has also delivered major environmental benefits in capturing run-off water.

Harvesting their own cane, they also cut farms in halves or quarters to allow them to run the pivots on a half or quarter circle. Nutrients are applied straight after harvest and the crop irrigated as soon as possible.

"The quicker we can get the cane to uptake nutrients, the more time it has for making sugar."

"We have a variable nutrient rate program in place with our agronomist, Farmacist, and are reducing nutrients outside the circle of the pivot, into the corners. We still irrigate the corners with water winches, but we are seeing smaller cane outside the circle."

"We are always looking for ways to improve our input efficiency."

He is the first to admit that the price of electricity and water has put pressure on margins, even with the investment in overhead irrigation. Despite the expense, though, when he looks at the yield numbers and costs he also reckons that irrigating and growing the best possible crop is essential for profitability.

"The increase in power in the last 10 years is absolutely phenomenal, but it has made us look for efficiencies," he said.

"We don't benchmark ourselves against other farmers, but with our accountant benchmarking ourselves against last year's figures."

"The sugar price is beyond our control, so we are focused on growing the best crop possible."

For more information on irrigation systems and efficiency, you can access the SRA Irrigation Manual under 'growers and millers' on www.sugarresearch.com.au. ■

Pictured: (page 12) Central Region grower Tony Bugeja says the investment in centre pivot irrigators is helping to reduce costs and drive productivity improvements, (left) one of the Bugeja family centre pivots.

TOP MARKS FOR WET TROPICS WATERWAYS

Sustainable farming practices embraced by far north Queensland cane growers are paying environmental dividends with over 80% of freshwater rivers and estuaries from Ingham to the Daintree receiving 'good' or 'very good' grades in the latest Wet Tropics Report Card.

CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager **Mick Quirk** said the healthy state of the region's waterways is a direct result of innovative and sustainable farming practices.

"The latest Wet Tropics report card shows that the majority of the region's catchments and estuaries continue to be

in good or moderate condition," Mr Quirk said.

"This great result reflects, in large part, the good farming practices of cane growers across the Wet Tropics. For example, close to 80% of the cane area in the Wet Tropics is managed by growers who have participated in Smartcane


BMP activities, and nearly 40% of the cane area is managed by BMP-accredited growers."

The Wet Tropics Report Card provides an annual assessment of the condition of the nine catchments, eight estuaries, inshore marine and offshore marine zones in the region.



Continues page 15 ►


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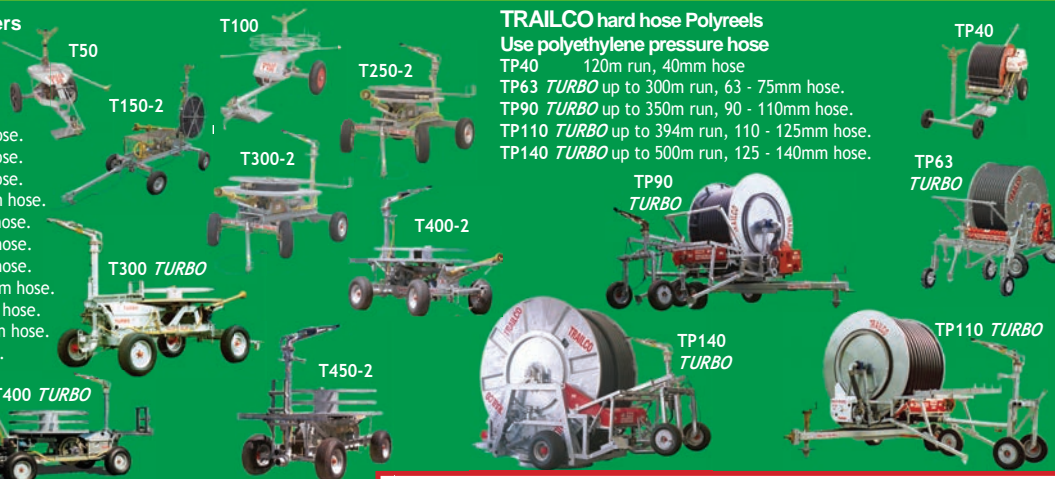



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- T400 up to 400m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
- T400-2 up to 600m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
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- **Freshwater basins** - Daintree, Mossman, Barron, Mulgrave, Russell, Johnstone, Tully, Murray and Herbert.
- **Estuaries** - Daintree, Dixon Inlet, Barron, Trinity Inlet, Russell-Mulgrave, Johnstone, Moresby and Hinchinbrook Channel.

The report card also shows that monitoring sites in the inshore marine environment are in moderate condition, while the offshore marine environment was in good condition.

Assessment of the health inshore marine zones is based on water quality, coral and seagrass health, while a single offshore marine site is assessed based on water quality and coral.

Wet Tropics Waterways Chair **Steve Turton** said relatively dry conditions for most of the July 2017 to June 2018 reporting period appeared to have mitigated the effect of wet season floods, despite the major flood event in March 2018.

"Heavy rain and floods are obviously associated with higher run-off of sediments and pollutants," Professor Turton said.

"Because we had relatively dry conditions for most of this reporting period - with

below-average monthly rainfall for most of the wet season - the very high localised rainfall and flooding events in March didn't have as negative an impact on grades as they might have."

Scores for some water quality indicators declined from 2016-17, possibly due to the water sample analysis now looking for a greater number and types of pesticides, but this did not affect the overall grades.

"The report card provides a somewhat rosier picture of water quality in the region compared to the Reef report card" Mr Quirk said. "The two reports use different methods, which does not help with communication of clear messages to the community.

"The Wet Tropics report is based on analysis of water samples, while the Reef report card is based on annual loads. Also, the Wet Tropics report card is based solely on measured data of conditions, which means it is reliable but any trend is difficult to separate from year to year variation in rainfall.

"The Reef report card focusses on the trend in annual loads of sediment, nutrients and chemicals. It uses a combination of actual measurement and simulation modelling, using a particular sequence of historical climate data to remove the effect of climate variability and provide some idea of the trends." ■

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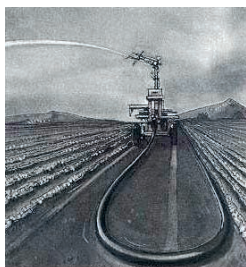
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QSL App marks new era for Qld growers



By Greg Beashel
QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) has unveiled the next generation of its sugar marketing and pricing services, with the launch of its new mobile app.

The QSL App has been designed to give Queensland cane growers simple and secure access to the global sugar market on their phone or tablet.

Growers don't need to have a QSL Direct account to use it, but those who do can monitor their pricing choices and make, change or cancel their pricing orders via the app.

QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Beashel said the app was designed to make life easier for growers as they juggled the equally pressing priorities of running a farm and optimising their sugar returns.

"Time is critical when it comes to sugar market movements, but no-one wants to be chained to a desk watching the market all day," Mr Beashel said.

"The QSL App helps growers monitor the market while they're out in the field and act quickly to make or change pricing when it suits them, rather than waiting until they get home at the end of a long day to log on and tackle the pricing jobs."

Mr Beashel said that while QSL Direct growers had access to additional functions, the app still delivered a host of helpful tools and information to all users, including sugar market prices, indicative QSL pool results, a range of handy cane and sugar calculators, and sugar market news and notifications.

The QSL App is free and available for both Apple and Android phones. Just search for 'QSL App' in either the App Store or Google Play store. For assistance, contact your local QSL representative.

KEY QSL APP FEATURES

- Global sugar prices, including QSL's Target Price and Individual Futures Contract prices for the current season through to the 2022 Season.
- Current indicative QSL pool values
- Fast and secure access to your QSL Direct account via PIN, fingerprint or face recognition
- Details of your pricing choices and declarations for current and future seasons (QSL Direct growers only)
- The ability to make, edit and cancel your QSL sugar pricing orders (QSL Direct growers only)
- Calculators to quickly make common cane and sugar conversions, including cane tonnes to GEI Sugar tonnes, \$/tonne of cane to \$/tonne of sugar, and actual tonnes to IPS tonnes.
- Regular market and QSL news updates and notifications
- Quick contacts to reach QSL

DISCLAIMER:

This article contains information of a summary nature about the QSL App. Please note that the information in this article does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL products and pricing and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms. You can find QSL's full Pricing Pool Terms at www.qsl.com.au or your local QSL office.

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It's the first of its kind and gives you all the tools you need to easily monitor the global sugar market and quickly act on pricing opportunities.

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For more information, please contact your local QSL representative.



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FARMING SMARTER REQUIRES CHANGE

Variable rate fertiliser application is just the latest of many changes adopted on Richard Hobbs' century-old Ingham cane farm.

During his time on the 134-year-old property, the fifth-generation grower has seen transitions from water furrows and 19-row beds to 1.8m rows, electro-magnetic mapping and GPS technology.

Changes that he believes are an inevitable part of farming "smarter and better".

In 2018, Richard received funding from the Australian Government's Reef Trust III Water Quality Grants program, delivered by the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership, to buy a variable-rate fertiliser applicator in an effort to reduce bagged fertiliser use and improve soil health.



The double-compartment, three-row stool-splitting applicator is 1.8m-row compatible and has been fitted with stool zippas to prevent nitrogen losses. He used it for the first time last year after intensive soil sampling across blocks.

"On an 11-hectare block we combined soil maps with EM mapping, yield and satellite imagery," Richard said.

"We averaged two hectares per soil test for nitrogen, phosphorous, lime and potassium – and saw a lot of unexpected variations.

"The variations in phosphorous requirements were huge – within a block they could range from 0 to 50kg per hectare. There were also variations in nitrogen and lime requirements, and some nutrients that I've never applied before showed up as deficient.

"With the variable rate fertiliser applicator, I can address the needs of our crops very specifically."

The Hobbs have applied both nitrogen and phosphorous at variable rates in plant blocks this year. After these blocks are harvested in coming months, they



"With practices like zonal tillage, 1.8m rows, mounding and fallow crops, the Hobbs have been able to reduce artificial fertiliser use from 136kg to 107kg per hectare over the last five years."

Pictured: (main) Richard Hobbs with WTSIP Extension Officer Leanne Carr, (opposite) Richard with his variable rate fertiliser applicator.

will take multiple soil tests across the whole farm for nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

"By only putting on what's needed where it's needed we'll be saving money and improving soil health, as well as helping the environment," Richard said.

"We live on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef and we want to do what we can to help the environment while also maintaining production. Reducing bagged fertiliser loads reduces dissolved inorganic nitrogen run-off so that's a big step forward."

With practices like zonal tillage, 1.8m rows, mounding and fallow crops, the Hobbs have been able to reduce artificial fertiliser use from 136kg to 107kg per hectare over the last five years.

"There haven't been any detrimental yield rates so far," Richard said. "Now we are looking more closely at nutrition. We've lasered our paddocks and EM-mapped all the terrain so we know where all the hotspots are and the next step will be looking into them at depth."

The Reef Trust III Water Quality Grants program aims to reduce nitrogen use and improve water quality in cane-growing districts bordering the Great Barrier Reef while also boosting on-farm profitability and efficiencies. ■



Australian Government



ACQUISITION OF LAND

GOVERNMENT COMPULSORY POWERS

All levels of government have powers to acquire private land required for government purposes. The Commonwealth Government has its own powers. In a Queensland context, the *Acquisition of Land Act* enables certain constructing authorities to resume land. These authorities include various government agencies such as Department of Transport and Main Roads and Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy. Local councils and some state-owned corporations such as Powerlink, Energex and Ergon are also regarded as constructing authorities.

THE ACQUISITION PROCESS

The process of acquisition commences once the authority has formulated a project that will involve acquisition of land. The formal acquisition commences with giving the land owner a notice of intention to resume (NIR).

Once you receive a notice you can reach agreement with the authority to the taking of the land. If there is not agreement, then the land owner has a right to formally object in writing to the NIR.

OBJECTION

The objection must be lodged within a specified time and must be properly considered by the authority. The authority will then make a decision about the objection and must decide whether to proceed with the resumption or change the resumption in some way.

TAKING THE LAND

If the authority still wishes to proceed with the resumption after considering the objections, the authority then requires Ministerial approval and if obtained then through the Executive Council, the taking of the land is formally gazetted in the Government Gazette. The taking of the land takes effect from the date of gazettal and at that time the ownership of the land changes from the land owner to the authority.

COMPENSATION

Once the land is taken by publication in the gazette a person with an interest in the land, including the owner of the land and a lessee of the land, may lodge a claim for compensation.

A compensation claim must be lodged within three years of the land being taken. As part of the compensation entitlement, the authority will pay reasonable fees for lawyers and valuers engaged to assist in the compensation claim process.

ASSESSMENT FOR COMPENSATION

The Act and precedents from decided court cases establish the entitlement to compensation.

A major component of the compensation is the market value of the land at the date it was taken. There are also other costs, expenses and impacts that can be compensated. The use of an experienced valuer and legal advice will usually help a person advance their claim in the best way possible.

SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIM

The authority will usually engage its own valuer and will make an offer of settlement. This offer can be accepted. A prudent person seeking compensation will engage their own valuer and lawyer who can provide advice on the likely compensation entitlement. They can also advise whether the authority offer is reasonable or whether a claim for compensation and counter offer should be submitted to the authority.

Negotiations with the authority are common and attempts at a negotiated and agreed settlement figure for compensation usually occur. If agreement cannot be reached on a compensation figure, then either the authority or the person claiming compensation can apply to the Land Court to have the compensation entitlement determined in court.

Court proceedings can be stressful, expensive and uncertain in outcome so taking a compensation claim dispute to Court for determination needs careful consideration.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

After a claim for compensation is made, a request for an advance payment can be made to the authority. Usually the authority will make an advancement if requested and will usually be in an amount of the authority's offer of compensation.

The acceptance of an advance payment does not restrict or prejudice the making of an additional claim for compensation. The advance payment allows the person to receive some compensation early on whilst they proceed with making their full claim.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If growers are faced with an acquisition process it is recommended they seek professional advice and assistance. CANEGROWERS can support growers through this process. Please contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper, on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

Policy Update

Environment with Mick Quirk

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Who should be driving the agenda?

CANEGROWERS' Policy Council recently discussed a strategy to examine the science of farm practices and the impacts these practices have on water quality. The aims of the strategy are three-fold:

1. To build or restore confidence amongst the majority of growers that good science is being undertaken, with conclusions that are based on healthy debate and are expressed in terms of the level of certainty;
2. To ensure good science is expressed in good decision-making, good design of water quality programs, and good policy development;
3. To enable the cane industry to drive the design and delivery of cane farming initiatives for water quality.

Why do we need such a strategy?

Many growers feel powerless to influence the issue of farming practices and water quality. This has come to a head with the proposed introduction of new Reef legislation. However, these frustrations have been developing for some time in response to various factors, including:

- Water quality targets that are perceived to be unrealistic, with growers feeling they are being set up for failure;
- Reef report cards that show farmers in a poor light, based on a practice framework for water quality that seems inconsistent with industry best practice;
- The imposition of targets, programs, regulations, science and expectations without growers seeing any real opportunity to influence or question these.

Interventions in the cane industry related to water quality have included incentive programs, extension programs and reef regulations. The most important reports, plans and programs that are used to design and deliver such interventions are:

- The 'Scientific Consensus Statement (SCS) for Land Use Impacts on Great Barrier Reef Water Quality and Ecosystem Condition'.
- The Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (2050 WQIP).
 - The Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program.

While these documents and programs drive the water quality agenda, most growers have little or no familiarity with them, and therefore have little opportunity to influence the agenda. Rather, they end up being like extras in a movie – expected to act in a certain way in a movie that is written and directed by others.

The new CANEGROWERS strategy is about positioning growers to have much greater influence on the water quality agenda as it relates to cane farming. ■



Workplace Health and Safety

At the recent CANEGROWERS Director's Induction meeting, Queensland league legend Shane Webcke shared his personal story of the effects that preventable workplace injuries and deaths have, not only on the victims, but on their families and the wider community. He also pointed out the attitude that prevails to make taking risks more acceptable in the mind of the individual. This appeared to resonate with most of the growers present.

Growers are often fiercely independent, resilient and work alone. They may also have been doing the same high-risk operations (ones that can result in a death or severe injury) for many years without incident. This could lead to growers not valuing their own safety as much as they should.

The level of workplace incidents in Queensland agriculture is well documented, accounting for 30% of workplace deaths. The sugarcane industry's contribution to this statistic is not a good one.

So, the question is how do we assist growers who are independent thinkers and operators, with few if any employees, to reduce their individual risk? It can be argued that just filling out a form or copying a document on safety procedure may have a short-term benefit. But it is the permanent changing of attitudes and culture that is likely to provide a long-term change to safer behaviour.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has undergone a "Best Practice Review" in response to the tragic fatalities at Dreamworld and an Eagle Farm worksite in 2016. One of the results of this is an increase in compliance.

Cane growers are not exempt from this, with potentially random visits by WHSQ inspectors who have been instructed to issue an infringement notice for priority infringements.

Priority infringements include but are not limited to:

- Keeping a safe distance from power lines
- Proper use and storage of chemicals
- Working in confined spaces
- Safe use of plant and machinery

CANEGROWERS does not see penalties as particularly effective and will be working with WHSQ to try to increase the positive messages and provide growers with the opportunity to understand how they can improve safety. Smartcane BMP is expected to be reviewed and used as a tool to assist growers to improve safety and not just for compliance. ■





DON'T THINK SMARTCANE BMP IS FOR YOU?

By Kate Gowdie, Smartcane BMP Manager

The Smartcane BMP program is currently experiencing unprecedented growth with one in every four hectares of cane-growing land now accredited.

However, some growers incorrectly believe they are ineligible to participate.

The program is constantly evolving to ensure it aligns with current best practice.

Real data, captured as part of the program, has been used to validate changes to evidence requirements over the life of the project.

Despite this, there remains some confusion amongst growers and industry regarding the requirements of the Smartcane BMP program.

If you are interested in participating or unsure if you are eligible, please talk with one of our Smartcane BMP Facilitators to ensure you are receiving the most accurate, up-to-date information and join the growing number of cane farmers who are helping to 'Set the Record Straight'.

Some of the common myths surrounding Smartcane BMP are debunked here.

For more information, please visit the Smartcane BMP website: www.smartcane.com.au ■

SMARTCANE BMP MYTH BUSTER

MYTH

- ✗ Only farms over 80ha can become accredited
- ✗ I must own the latest planting and spray equipment
- ✗ Check audits occur after 5 years
- ✗ Cultivation records are required for every block
- ✗ Irrigation records are required for every block
- ✗ I must grow a legume crop in my fallow
- ✗ The tractor used for planting operations must be fitted with a GPS

FACT

- ✓ Any size farm is eligible to participate in Smartcane BMP. Where you engage contractors to conduct fertilising, spraying or planting, you need to keep a copy of their records to satisfy the Smartcane BMP requirements.
- ✓ Satisfying the requirements for accreditation is possible without the latest equipment. Many growers with smaller cane areas and older machinery have been able to meet Smartcane BMP requirements.
- ✓ Check audits are conducted each year on 10% of accredited growers. Check audits may take place at anytime from 1 – 4 years following accreditation. A grower will receive no more than 1 check audit over the 5 years. Reaccreditation takes place 5 years after accreditation.
- ✓ Cultivation records are not required for individual blocks. To obtain accreditation you must provide evidence of your cultivation strategy.
- ✓ Irrigation records are not required for every block. For farms applying more than 4ML per ha, BMP requires records from a representative set of blocks that demonstrates your approach to managing the timing and amount of water applied.
- ✓ Use of legumes in fallow blocks is not a requirement for accreditation but is encouraged as a means of improving soil condition. A spray-out fallow with trash retention is acceptable for BMP. Other approaches may be acceptable if they meet the goals of the fallow period with respect to conserving soil, resting soil from continuous cane cropping and breaking the life cycle of diseases of cane.
- ✓ Mark-out strategies for planting are accepted under the BMP program.

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Toft 4001 Harvester full track ideal to cut own cane or billet planter motor only 3yrs old. MF35 4 cylinder and breakpusher will separate. 3 row scratcher. Ph: 0401 281 262.

Herbert River–Burdekin

Steel shed Frames 6x 40 feet wide x 13 feet high all new footing bolts no rust GC \$10,000. 7foot hydraulic drag scoop need cutting edges fitted, \$1,500. 102 Cane Harvester elevator and front removed \$500. 600 lt water trailer single axel equipped for fire fighting many fire hoses, has platform and under floor storage new honda pump no rust \$15,000. All prices + GST. Ph: 07 4777 4108.

John Deere 6630 139hp 4x4 excellent condition low hrs Inkerman area. \$73,000 + GST. Ph: 0409 481 269.

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12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay). 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay). Floor Bottom & Slippers For 2011 JD Harvester. All done up. Make an offer. Ph: 0408755453 or 0438755459 (Proserpine). 2014 John Deere 7230R tractor. VGC with approx. 2800 hrs. Green star GPS ready. Front suspension, electric power shift, well maintained. Ph: 0427 678 572.

4 tonne sidedresser, galvanised box \$3,000 and double row weeder rake \$500. Ph: 0419 710 280 or 0400 394 739.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478 719 294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder toppler, hyd. adjustable fronts 1.50m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted to front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums;

Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system fitted; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. All in good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. Good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, Trimble GPS, Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors, Standard Topper, 2 speed wheel motors, Pro Rata Engine Warranty. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428 182 464.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Kubota M135X-DC 4WD,

Loader + 4in1 bucket, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$58,000 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643.

John Deere 7700 (1995) with 1996 Carter Bin rego until 01/05/19. 6370 hrs on the hr meter. 14 Tonne elevating Carta bin \$85,000. 10 Tonne Tipper Bin Manufactured by BW GJ Kriedeman on 18/07/90. Has Rollover hitch. Bin dimensions 5.4m(L) x2.4m(W)x2.2m(H). Overall Dimensions 7.6m(L)x2.7m(W)x3.55m(H) \$20,000. Half Tracks to suit a Cameco 2500. Galvanized frame, idlers have new bushes & rollers in GC. \$12,500. Fiat 9090 with Cane Tipper. Bin dimensions 3.95m(L)x2.3m(W)x2.4m(H) Overall dimensions 9.6m(L)x2.47(W)x3.25 (H) \$10,909.09. All + GST. Ph: 0437 550 811.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January-August
	29.07.19	05.08.19		
Mossman	5	14	2490	1795
Mareeba AP	0	1	634	731
Cairns	0.6	27	1897	1655
Mt Sophia	5	46	2735	2725
Babinda	14	0	2573	3517
Innisfail	20	59	2838	2967
Tully	8	0	2224	3433
Cardwell	2	9	1931	1716
Lucinda	23	0	1931	1716
Ingham	Tce	3	2641	1631
Abergowrie	13	25	1899	1488
Townsville	0	0	1755	898
Ayr DPI	0	0	947	743
Proserpine	0	0.2	1393	1077
Mirani	0	3	1385	1183
Mackay	0.8	4	1048	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0.8	1303	1344
Bundaberg	0.2	2	245	686
Childers South	0.8	3	250	585
Maryborough	0	1	434	822
Tewantin	4	24	777	1270
Eumundi	7	0	505	1231
Nambour	2	0.6	829	1222
Woongoolba	0	0.2	554	960
Murwillumbah	0	2	476	1154
Ballina	11	52	855	1350
Woodburn	0	0	261	1035



dream with
your eyes open

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.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427 598 333.

Massey Ferguson 399 100HP Tractor, 1 tonne bag lifter, 2 fertiliser bins and various other items. Ph: 0458 598 445.

David Brown 990 with loader \$10,000; International 766 \$6,000; Masey Ferguson 1085 \$3,000; Whole stick planter and whole stick cutter \$1500 for both. All prices + GST. Ph: 0419 577 110.

Avoka T4/10 winch near new hose \$5500. 7 tyne ripper with crumble roller \$5000. 3 leg square plough \$4000. Cut away disc with rake \$250. GAL fert bin with ripper and coulters for trash \$2500. Fert bin with 1 1/4 inch tynes on 2 1/2 inch tool bar \$2000. 1200L fuel tank \$300. 600L spray tank \$250. JHC 20 plate offset \$1500. 90inch hoe with ripper & crumble roller \$4500. Cane planter with 2 trailers \$300. 3 point linkage scoop \$350. 10ft land plane \$3000. Curly tyne bar with cane rakes \$800. 600L Silvan spray tank/6m boom \$1800. All prices include GST. Ph: 07 4159 9489 or 0458 599 486.

Wanted

1 Ton side dress fertiliser box with cutters. May consider bigger capacity box. Ph: 0428 755 370.

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408 448 227.

Positions Vacant

Haulout operators/farm workers wanted. Large farming entity is looking for experienced haulout operators and farm workers for Mackay/Sarina area. Immediate start. Ph: Brett 0427 171 320.

Work Wanted

Cane harvester and haul out operator for the crushing season 2019. Can do farm work repairs and maintenance, case 7700-8800 and other farm machinery. Ph: +230-57523057.

Property

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Ph: 0408 733 793.

Cane farm Crystalbrook Proserpine. 154 hectares with 350ML of water allocation from River. Lateral move irrigator. 122.1 hectares currently developed for cane. Ph: 0427 678 572.

Wallaville-Tirroan cane farm for sale in 3 adjoining blocks. 205ha CPA, 16ha grazing. 50/50 red/black soil. 865ML water

allocation BWS, 106ha gravity-fed centre pivot irrigation with balance winch and flood. One house renovated 2017. One house built 2005. 3 machinery sheds. Ph: Geoff 0477 704 134.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 27.82 ha total, 27.62 under cane on 1 freehold title. 5 yr av 97 t/ha. 7.5 kms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water. Ph: 0417 647 002.

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 6klms 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.

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. Queenslander style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Currently under contract. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

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