

What does BMP data say about adoption of practices? - Policy updates

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ELECTION TIME!

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reveal sugar
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\$4b boost to
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economy



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blamed for
mysterious
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outages in
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COVER IMAGE: CANEGROWERS Mossman Chairman Drew Watson is retiring after 30 years of representing local growers. Read more on page 5.

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An activist on every door step – a farmer behind every story

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

While I am not the oldest person working in agriculture, the unfortunate reality is I'm not the youngest either. Still, it's hard for me to hear the words "back in my day" fall out of my mouth like it's second nature.

However, the truth is, that is how I feel when I see the scandalous behaviour exhibited by some in the community, particularly environmental and animal rights activists.

These people may have a right to have their say, to be community-minded and voice their concerns, but to do so ignorantly and with no respect for farmers is something new and lacks what has previously been a more sophisticated and engaged culture of advocacy and activism in Australia.

In recent weeks, the media has run hot on the issue of up to a million fish dying in the southern Murray Darling. These fish kills are a result of a devastatingly prolonged drought that has left the system devoid of replenishing water in-flows.

However, many have blamed irrigators, perpetuating a myth that farmers act entirely independently of government-agreed rules for water licensing and extraction limits.

Worse still, in recent weeks an animal activist group has released a website that presents, in a spatially referenced form, a searchable map of Australia that identifies individual beef, dairy, chicken, pig, egg and other farms involved in intensive animal industries.

Most of these farming businesses would be associated with some form of government permit or licence, but the site encourages the 'community' to add photos, notes and reports on the practices in place on these farms.

There is only one true objective and that is to encourage people with a motive to actively expose these farmers to scrutiny.

The argument made by activists is that this is about transparency, but clearly that is a lot of rot.

I have rarely met a farmer who has not been open to discussing their farming practices and even provide tours of their farms. But to do so on their terms, with respect to their privacy is surely only a fair expectation.

This public exposure of farmers' home

addresses and business details is extraordinary and can only be driven by people who wish to be critical but not engaged.

In my mind it sets a new low by what is, thankfully, a relatively small section of the community. However, it should be a warning to all of us in agriculture that the expectations of the community must be both managed and responded too.

It is the job of CANEGROWERS to provide the opportunity for such engagement, though the task ultimately falls to our farm leaders.

It's not an easy job, in fact, it is perhaps becoming more challenging. But if you love agriculture and are proud of the work we do in this sector, then deciding to stand up and be a leader in your industry, in a position to communicate and influence, can be an incredibly rewarding task.

Now is the time. At the CANEGROWERS Elections I urge all members to consider how they can contribute to the future of their industry.

If you are interested in finding out how to be involved, please contact your local district office or you can contact me directly.

There is no harm in finding out how, in so many diverse and interesting ways, you could help CANEGROWERS be the voice of your industry in a world that needs to hear directly from the farmer to secure their future and yours. ■



"If you love agriculture and are proud of the work we do in this sector, then deciding to stand up and be a leader in your industry, in a position to communicate and influence, can be an incredibly rewarding task."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Queensland economy enjoys \$4b sugar hit

Queensland's sugar industry pumped more than \$4 billion into the state's economy in 2017-18, according to an economic analysis released by the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) this month.

The independent report, conducted by respected analysts Lawrence Consulting, found that the industry supported nearly 23,000 jobs, accounting for almost 1% of the state's total employment, and contributed 1.2% of Queensland's Gross Regional Product.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** welcomed the report, saying it highlights the important role the sugar industry plays in supporting Queensland's regional economies.

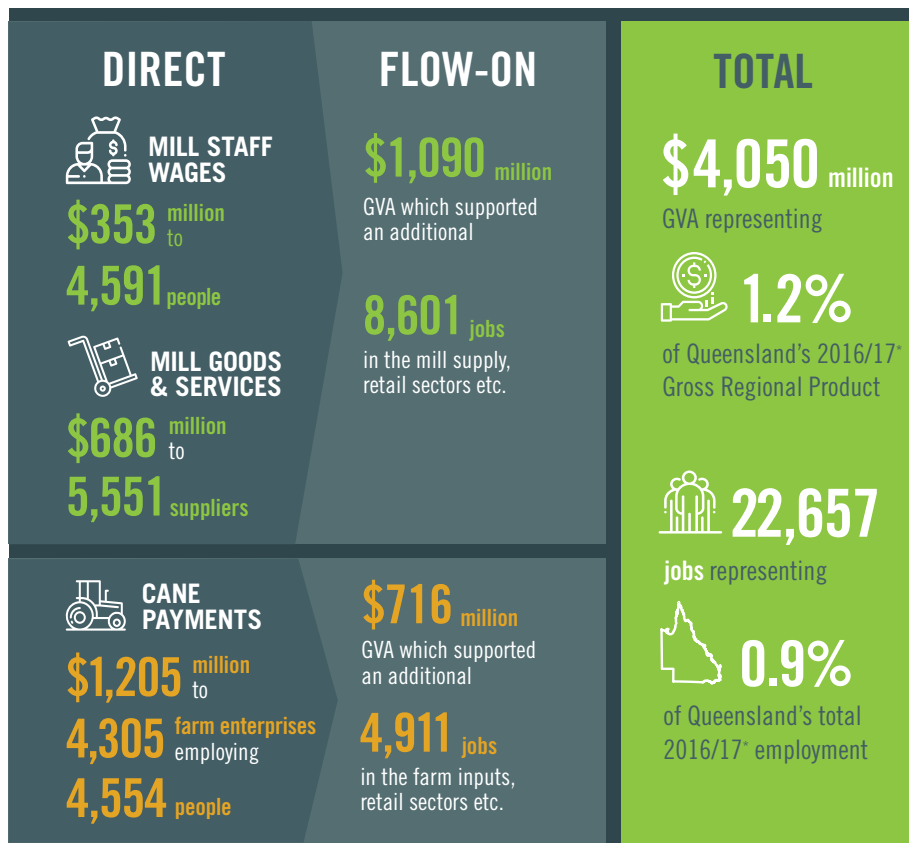
"Those of us living in sugar producing areas already understand the massive role the sugar industry plays in ensuring the economic security and viability of regional communities through job creation and the purchase of goods and services," Mr Schembri said.

"Hopefully this report can demonstrate to the wider community just how important the industry is to Queensland's economy as a whole."

The report also puts to rest any fears of stagnation and decline in the milling sector.

ASMC Chief Executive **David Pietsch** said the report confirms the contribution of milling sector in terms of wealth and job creation in Queensland.

"As we look ahead, despite the current concerns regarding low sugar prices, Queensland's milling enterprises are keen to grow and invest in new opportunities, if provided with the right economic signals and government policy settings," Mr Pietsch said. ■



APPARENTLY PLANTS DON'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED

A La Trobe University-led study has found that plants are extremely sensitive to touch and that repeated touching can significantly retard growth.

The findings, published in *The Plant Journal*, could lead to new approaches to optimising plant growth and productivity – from field-based farming to intensive horticulture production, researchers claim.

Research Director of the La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food at AgriBio, Professor **Jim Whelan** said that even the slightest touch activates a major genetic defense response which, if repeated, slows down plant growth.

"The lightest touch from a human, animal,



insect, or even plants touching each other in the wind, triggers a huge gene response in the plant," Professor Whelan said.

"Within 30 minutes of being touched, 10 per cent of the plant's genome is altered.

"This involves a huge expenditure of energy which is taken away from plant growth. If the touching is repeated, then plant growth is reduced by up to 30 per cent."

Study co-author Dr **Yan Wang** said that while we don't yet know why plants react so strongly to touch, the new research findings have led to a deeper understanding of the genetic defence mechanisms involved.

"We know that when an insect lands on a plant, genes are activated preparing the plant to defend itself against being eaten," Dr Yang said. "However, insects are also beneficial, so how do plants distinguish between friend and foe?"

"Likewise, when plants grow so close together that they touch one another, the retarded growth defence response may optimise access to sunlight.

"So, for optimal growth, the density of planting can be matched with resource input." ■

It's CANEGROWERS election time!

Every three years, CANEGROWERS holds elections. Any eligible member can nominate for the Board of their local organisation and each member can vote if a ballot is required.

Nominations for local CANEGROWERS organisation boards are open between 28 January and 18 February 2019. Taking the step to stand for a local Board can lead to a position on the CANEGROWERS Policy Council and the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Board.

CANEGROWERS encourages men and women of all ages to put their names forward. Each district CANEGROWERS election is a democratic process which seeks to have the best candidates representing their fellow cane growers.

Nominations will close at 5pm on Monday 18 February. CANEGROWERS Queensland will be conducting most of the elections, with Jodie Mittelheuser,

CANEGROWERS Chief Financial Officer, acting as the returning officer. The exceptions are Proserpine, Maryborough and Innisfail which will conduct their elections locally. Members of these areas should contact their local office for specific dates and information regarding

their election process.

All CANEGROWERS members are urged to make sure their membership record is up to date. The official roll for each district election is to be finalised by 18 February. ■

Nominations open	Monday 28 January 2019
Nominations close	Monday 18 February 2019 (5pm)
Official Rolls close	Monday 18 February 2019 (5pm)
Ballot papers will be posted	Wednesday 13 March 2019
Ballot papers to be returned	Friday 12 April 2019 (5pm)
Counting of votes	Monday 15 April 2019
Declaration of election results	Monday 15 April 2019
Elected members term commences	Wednesday 1 May 2019

Why should I nominate?

"I put my hand up a long time ago because things were happening in the industry and I wanted to have a say in the way they were headed," **Drew Watson** says as he prepares to step down after almost 30 years representing fellow Mossman growers.

"You work hard at your business so you have skin in the game and know the direction the industry should be heading."

He says the 2019 round of CANEGROWERS Elections is the time for fresh faces to join the boards of the 13 CANEGROWERS district companies.

"We've made enormous changes over my time in the way we farm and seen big changes in the regulatory structures under which we operate," he says. "There will always be challenges and I believe the best way to have some control is to be inside the tent and have a voice.

"I know everyone is time poor these days but if you want something done, ask a busy person – so why not you?

"You work hard at your business so you have skin in the game and know the direction the industry should be heading.

"In the process you'll make some great friends."

As well as the CANEGROWERS Mossman board, Drew has had positions on the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Board and CANEGROWERS Policy Council seeing his network of friends extend beyond his home region.

"Being in CANEGROWERS is to be of service to our industry and other growers

but it also puts you in contact with a great bunch of likeminded people up and down the coast who become friends and are usually only a phone call away," he says.

"Sometimes CANEGROWERS is described as a family and as in any family we may squabble a little but I've found that those who come through the CANEGROWERS ranks can be relied upon to put personal feelings aside and work together for the betterment of the industry - that makes me proud to have been part of it." ■



Power outages drive Isis irrigators batty

Fruit bats may be the culprits behind a spate of mysterious power outages that has seen frustration boil over among irrigators in southeast Queensland's Childers region.

Following months of unexplained outages, Ergon now believes that bats landing on power lines may have been shorting the system, but says the cause remained a mystery for so long due to the efforts of diligent community members who were cleaning up the electrocuted bat carcasses each morning.

The night-time outages have proved to be a major headache for the region's irrigators during a particularly hot and dry summer growing season.

"The growers thought they were irrigating their crop all night but they'd get up and their pumps had shut down," CANEGROWERS Isis manager **Angela Williams** said.

"We've got a lot of fruit crops here, like mangoes, avocados and lychees - the bats like lychees."

"My phone has been running hot with members reporting yet another night of power voltage dips in our region meaning pumps and irrigators have stopped working."

Not all growers are buying the bat theory, however. Farnsfield cane and peanut grower **Peter Russo** said he had heard alternative theories, with some growers suggesting the bats might make a convenient scapegoat.

"I'm not sure I believe the whole bat story," Mr Russo said. "That's a line we're getting at the minute, but I've heard other theories as well."

CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman **Mark Mammino** says sugarcane growers in the region are now asking that serious consideration be given to compensation.

"My phone has been running hot with members reporting yet another night ►



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of power voltage dips in our region meaning pumps and irrigators have stopped working," Mr Mammino said.

"With hot and dry weather in southern Queensland since Christmas our members have been irrigating as hard as they can to keep their sugarcane and other crops going but they're finding morning after morning that their paddocks haven't been watered because the power has dropped out at some point in the night.

"It's very stressful and we've had enough! The network in our region has seriously deteriorated over the past six months and these overnight outages are becoming more frequent.

"The peanuts and soybeans many of our growers have planted as break crops, investing a lot of money, are starting to show signs of water stress and next season's sugarcane is being held back.

"Not only is electricity expensive, it is now unreliable. We are paying top

dollar for a network standard that is not being delivered.

"Growers paying Tariff 65 are effectively being treated as Tariff 33 customers when drop outs are a risk offset by lower costs.

"The only other option is to move to daytime tariffs which are vastly more expensive and, as any gardener knows, it's better for the plants and the soil to be watered in the cool of the night."

CANEGROWERS Isis has discussed the problems with Ergon on numerous occasions but until now the electricity supplier had been unable to identify and therefore solve the problem.

"We're writing to the Queensland Government demanding that serious consideration be given to compensation being provided to financially affected growers for the period from 1 November 2018 until we are satisfied the issue has been resolved," Mr Mammino said. ■



Pictured: CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino.

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Looking at the big picture on **WATER QUALITY**

Sugarcane growers in the Russell and Mulgrave catchments of Far North Queensland are shedding light on the complex relationship between sugarcane farming and water quality, via a project called Cane to Creek.



The Cane to Creek project first began as a pilot in the Fig Tree Creek catchment in 2016 when growers there identified that they wanted to better understand the link between farm practices, activity in the catchment and water quality.

Today, the project has expanded through investment from the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science and is working with about 12 core growers. A further 30 growers regularly attend events related to the project.

"The Cane to Creek Project is about refining nutrient management and also helping to break down some of the barriers between growers and water quality science," explained SRA Adoption Officer **Gavin Rodman**.

He is working on the project with SRA Principal Researcher for Water Quality, **Belinda Billing**, and Technician **Chris Sterling**.

"Within the project we have 10 demonstration sites looking at nutrient management practices.

"These include placement of nutrients, such as sub-surface versus surface application, as well as things like mill mud and mill ash applications and our plant cane crops after a legume fallow.

"When we started talking to growers who were very interested to become involved, we began with a nutrient management plan to identify whether there were any opportunities to refine their nutrient management.

"We found that in plant cane, accounting for nutrients from other sources was a really big factor.

"Seven of our demonstrations are looking at accounting for legume crops or accounting for nitrogen from mill by-products."

The creek aspect of Cane to Creek sees the team focused on regular water quality monitoring at multiple sites.

This is proving to be vital in giving everyone a clear understanding of what is happening in the catchment.

The monitoring includes sampling upstream of the sugarcane.

"One of the first questions in the project was 'What's coming out of the rainforest?'," Gavin explained.

"An important part of the project is to be higher in the catchment to see what is coming out of that natural system.

Pictured: (Above) Gavin Rodman (SRA), Glen Anderson (grower), Belinda Billing (SRA), and Chris Sterling (SRA) ahead of the wet season, installing monitoring equipment at Glen Anderson's property last year. (Right) Discussing some of the results at one of the monitoring sites.

"This is so that when we get to the bottom of the catchment we can see what differences have occurred and what impact some of the farming may have had."

Across the catchment, sampling occurs at regular intervals to pinpoint different activities that might be having an impact.

Weekly grab samples taken by the research team plot water quality trends over a long period of time.

In addition, the project also has a real-time water quality monitoring trailer, sampling every hour.

"If we see a spike in our grab samples we can look at the trailer and see what might have been driving that," Gavin said.

"Was there a change in the stream height? Was rainfall involved? This is important context that we can't get from taking our weekly routine grab samples, and which we couldn't do without the help of the trailer."

Mount Sophia farmer, **Glen Anderson**, is one of the growers involved in the project.

He said it had already helped inform practice change such as widening rows, zonal tillage and modifying herbicide application.

"Cane to Creek is helping us see the results of our work and have confidence that we are reducing our expenses and our environmental footprint," Glen said.

"The family has owned this farm for 75 years and we always swam in these creeks and caught fish here.

"I have five kids and they've lived in the creeks all their life, too, so we want that to continue to happen in the future. To do that, we want to reduce our environmental footprint and be profitable in doing so."

This project is funded by the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program.

To see a video about this project visit: <https://sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/media/> ■



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Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Soldier fly management research update

Recently, I attended a Soldier Fly management research update in Mackay. Approximately 50 growers, SRA staff and extension professionals attended to hear Dr **Andrew Ward** and Dr **Karel Lindsay** provide a technical update and answer questions.

Those who don't have a Soldier Fly problem on their farm may be unaware of just how difficult it can be to manage these pests, mainly due to the insect's life cycle. The insect spends most of its life as a grub, underground, chewing on the roots of the cane plant. The adults emerge for just 4-5 days to mate and lay eggs between the months of May and June. The emergence of the adults occurs when the cane is well established and they spend most of their short life close to the ground on weeds, grasses or the cane mulch. After mating, the adult insects die and then the cycle starts again.

The SRA research is looking at management options including insecticides applied in the soil to manage the grubs, work on the biological interactions between the grubs and the roots of the sugarcane plant and work on the DNA of the soldier fly to determine if there is more than the two recognised species.

Interim results on some of the insecticides being tested are promising, with some products providing a 50% kill rate on Soldier Fly grubs. However, the effectiveness of controlling the grubs is dependent on the rate of insecticide used and its distribution in the soil.

As you would expect, the growers at the meeting asked whether an insecticide sprayed on the canopy to control the adults could be an option.

From my understanding of the Soldier Fly life cycle, using an aerial applied insecticide to control the adults would be challenging, as the application would need to be timed with the emergence of the adult and penetrate the canopy.

There are other considerations, such as issues of aerial spraying and the cost of application. This doesn't mean it shouldn't be tested and my scientific brain says you need to test all options. However, this approach would be difficult to evaluate given the Soldier Fly lifecycle.

SRA is reviewing this option and will be speaking with APVMA on research permit options. I must give credit to Andrew and Karel and also the growers who attended the meeting who asked insightful questions.

This is how it should be, and hopefully this collaborative approach can eventually solve this challenging issue. ■



Towing mass ratio – will your haul out comply?

Following many months of negotiations, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and participating States have almost reached agreement on the proposed harmonised National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle Exemption Notice.

The sugarcane industry has been involved in the process through CANEGROWERS' position on the National Farmers Federation (NFF) transport sub-committee, and as a member of the NHVR Agricultural Industry Operator Group.

Additional conditions are still required by Queensland Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Services before an agreement can be finalised, but these conditions have not been made available to industry at this stage.

One of the issues which is likely to be introduced by NHVR is a towed mass ratio. This is a safety issue based on research and relates to the ability of a tractor and trailer to brake safely at certain speeds.

This leads to limits for the ratio of towing and towed vehicle masses in an agricultural combination.

Un-braked agricultural implements and trailers may have a mass up to 1.2 times more than the mass of the towing vehicle when the speed limit exceeds 25km/h or 1.5 times more than the mass of the towing vehicle when the speed limit does not exceed 25km/h.

Braked agricultural implements and trailers that comply with Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 38/00 – Trailer Brake Systems) 2006 may have a mass up to 3.0 times more than the tow mass ratio of the towing vehicle.

A CANEGROWERS survey in 2014 covering 415 haul out trailers showed that about 10% of trailers were about 30 years old and 60% were about 20 years old.

The top manufacturers believe their trailers with small adjustment meet the braking standards provided growers have not made modifications.

The indications are that 10%-15% of older and/or "homemade" or modified trailers may not comply with braking standards and there are some tractors which are too small (light) for the trailers.

CANEGROWERS is aware of this and is looking at ways to address the issue with NHVR. ■



Policy Update

Economics with Warren Males

Electricity – an opportunity to be part of the solution

Electricity prices are too high!

There are a multitude of reasons for this. Some principal ones are that Energy Queensland's draft tariff proposals:

- ignore the spare capacity that is across both the Ergon and Energex networks;
- ignore the recommendations of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Electricity Supply & Prices Inquiry;
- do not reflect the most recent demand forecasts;
- contain tariffs that increase in nominal terms;
- breach the National Electricity Law and impose a net economic cost;
- represent a substantial charge for services that are not in fact being supplied; and
- are based on a flawed method for setting the rate of return.

CANEGROWERS has shared these issues and concerns with Energy Queensland and the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

We hope to see these addressed in Energy Queensland's Regulatory Proposal and Tariff Structure Statements 2020-25 which is scheduled to be delivered to the AER on Thursday 31 January.

CANEGROWERS has also raised the issues and concerns with the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).

QCA is presently reviewing regulated retail electricity prices in the Ergon network before determining what those prices should be for 2019-20.

The CANEGROWERS request is straight forward. We want:

- efficient retail electricity tariffs that take account of the spare network capacity, most recent demand forecasts and efficient and prudent costs, and contain well-targeted peak and off-peak periods.
- current electricity tariffs to remain available until Energy Queensland's Regulatory Proposal and Tariff Structure Statement 2020-25 is finalised and approved by the AER.

Control load tariff

In the meantime, responding to CANEGROWERS' requests, Ergon is working with some irrigators to trial a control load tariff (T33) for irrigation.

A control load tariff is one in which Ergon can interrupt power supply for up to six hours per day.

The immediate response for some has been to say, 'That's too unreliable. I can't run my irrigation system with an interrupted power supply'.

Some others are giving it a go. Why? Much of the Ergon network has dynamic load control. In these areas, Ergon only switches T33 off for local network constraints to maintain security of power supply. This means that on most days power will not be switched off.

With no fixed charges, there is a significant fixed cost saving for T33 compared with some other tariffs.

One irrigator using T33 says he has not noticed his irrigation being disrupted.

In recent days in some parts of the state the general power supply has been unreliable with unplanned outages and brownouts, that stopped irrigation pumps.

Perhaps it's worth giving the control load tariff a go.

The reward for being part of the solution and helping Ergon manage its network capacity constraints could be a significantly lower power bill.

If you are interested you can contact Ergon. They will provide advice on the suitability of Tariff 33 for your farming needs, the compliance of your meter box and switchboard and how T33 timing is generally managed in your area. ■



QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Available

Do you need increased cash flow prior to harvest to help fund costs such as planting?

The QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme gives participating growers a payment for their 2019-Season QSL GEI Sugar in March 2019 – before the crush begins.

Open to growers in the Isis Central Sugar Mill and Wilmar milling districts, the scheme pays eligible growers \$50/tonne of sugar IPS on 29 March for up to half of their 2019-Season QSL GEI Sugar.

This Pre-Crush Advance payment amount is then deducted from their Standard QSL Advances payment/s once they start their harvest.

QSL passes on the charges for this product at cost, enabling participating growers to enjoy the same favourable interest rates available to QSL through our strong relationships with leading Australian banks.

These finance costs, currently estimated at \$0.50/tonne IPS sugar, are incorporated into the grower's final pool prices via a specific allocation from the QSL Shared Pool.

THE PRE-CRUSH ADVANCE PAYMENT – HOW IT WORKS

- Growers apply to participate in the Pre-Crush Advance Payment scheme by 15 March 2019 and nominate up to 50% of their 2019-Season QSL GEI Sugar production estimate.
- Participating growers are paid \$50/tonne of sugar IPS for their nominated tonnage on 29 March 2019.
- The Pre-Crush Advance amount paid is then deducted from the grower's next QSL Standard Advances payment/s once they begin the harvest.

- The grower's QSL Standard Advances payments continue as normal after repayment of the Pre-Crush Advance amount.
- Please Note: Depending on your circumstances, the Pre-Crush Advance repayment required may be equal to or more than your first QSL Standard Advance once harvesting commences.

For example:

- A grower has a GEI Sugar estimate of 400 tonnes of sugar IPS nominated to QSL.
- They are eligible to receive a Pre-Crush Advance on 50% of this estimate = 200 tonnes of sugar IPS.
- They are paid \$10,000 on 29 March (200t IPS x \$50/t IPS).
- Once they start their harvest and begin delivering sugar, their regular

QSL Advance payments start when the overall amount due for the season exceeds the \$10,000 they have already been paid.

- The finance costs are incorporated into the grower's QSL Shared Pool allocation for the 200t IPS their Pre-Crush Advance payment was calculated on.

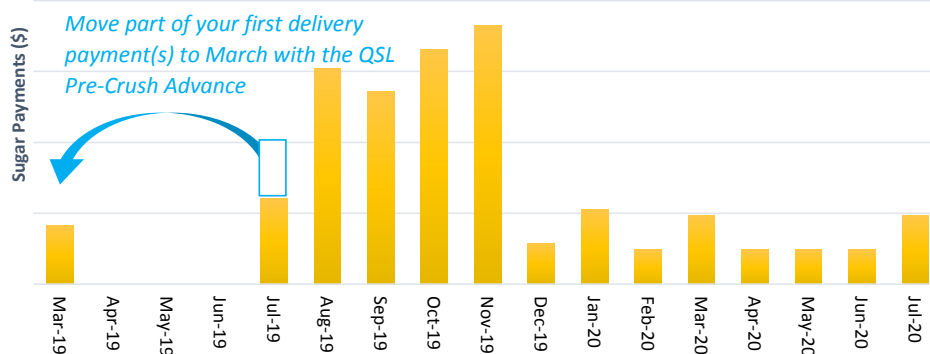
HOW TO APPLY

Nominations to participate in this season's QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme are open from 1 February 2019 to 15 March 2019.

To apply, contact your local QSL representative or register your interest via your QSL Direct account.

Growers considering this product should read the full **QSL Pre-Crush Payment Advance Scheme (2019 Season) Terms**, available from QSL offices and online at www.qsl.com.au.

EXAMPLE: 2019-Season crop cashflow with QSL's Pre-Crush Advance Payment





Advances rate increase

The Standard 2018-Season QSL Advances rate is now at 80%, with an increase to 82.5% scheduled to apply from 20 February 2019.

QSL's 2018-Season Accelerated Advances rate rose to 90% in December, with the next increase tentatively scheduled for May.

Growers using the QSL Direct online

portal are reminded to update their Cash Flow Forecast to reflect the latest rate increase. The Cash Flow Forecast generated within QSL Direct is an estimate of QSL payments only, and does not factor in any existing amounts within your ledger, or deductions or allowances passed on by your miller.

Growers can find our full indicative 2018-Season Advance Program on our

website: www.qsl.com.au.

It is important to note that the Advances program may change during the season depending on movement in the marketing and shipping plans, sugar price and currency movements, and the timing of cash flows. Growers' positions in relation to any pricing elections may also impact the timing and size of advance payments.

James adds strength to QSL's northern team

QSL has expanded its presence in North Queensland, with a recent addition to our Ingham-based team.

New QSL Grower Support Officer **James Formosa** has joined QSL's Herbert River Grower Relationship Officer Jonathan Pavetto to provide information and assistance to the region's cane growers on the full range of QSL products and services.

Mr Formosa is Far North Queensland (FNQ) born and bred, hailing from the Innisfail/Cairns districts.

He has returned to FNQ after obtaining his Bachelor of Agribusiness degree at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus and after gaining valuable agricultural business experience in broad-acre enterprises.

QSL's Burdekin and Herbert River Grower Relationship Manager **Greg Watson** said James would be based in QSL's Ingham office to ensure the large number of growers who had chosen QSL as their GEI Sugar marketer would receive a high-level of service.

"QSL has a strong focus on providing locally-based, one-on-one support for growers who use our services," Mr Watson said.

"With most of the growers in the Herbert River district choosing QSL as their sugar marketer, it was a priority for us to expand our Ingham-based team to ensure local QSL growers have easy access to a familiar face who can help them with their queries."

Mr Watson said now was the right time for growers to arrange an appointment to discuss their QSL pricing options for the 2019 Season before the 30 April pricing declaration date.

To make an appointment or to speak with QSL's Herbert River team, call into the QSL office on level 2, Ingham CANEGROWERS building, 11 Lannercost Street, Ingham, or contact Mr Formosa on 0447 062 213. ■



Disclaimer: This update contains information of a summary nature about the operation of the key aspects of the QSL Pre-Crush Advances Payment Scheme and other matters. As such, the document does not purport to be comprehensive or complete and QSL makes no representations to that effect. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance. Nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. Any forecasts of future performance are subject to uncertainties and subject to change. The document does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. You should seek your own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL pool/offering selection and pricing as well as reading the Pricing Pool Terms and the Terms of the Pre-Crush Advances Payment Scheme in full, which are available on QSL's website. The information in this document is current only as at the date of this document (unless otherwise noted) and remains subject to change without notice.

GPS helps mill farm boost efficiency and production

Supplied by Vantage NEA



Wilmar Sugar Australia produces more than half of Australia's raw sugar from the eight mills it operates across northern Queensland.

A portion of that raw sugar is produced from approximately 6500 ha of agricultural land that the company farms.

About 3500 ha of that land is in the Burdekin, putting it in close proximity to management solutions business Vantage NEA, based in Ayr.

Vantage NEA has assisted Wilmar with its precision agricultural needs, supplying Trimble Agriculture products to boost farming efficiency and production.

Wilmar's General Manager - Agriculture **Ian Davies** said the company started its precision agriculture journey several years ago as part of a broader drive to reduce costs and improve productivity.

He said Wilmar's machinery fleet was originally mixed, which is one of the reasons the company chose Trimble Agriculture as its guidance system.

"We had John Deere tractors, Caterpillar tractors and Case tractors and harvesters. Trimble allowed us to standardise GPS guidance and data collection on one platform," Mr Davies said.

Agricultural Productivity Manager **Peter Larsen** said the Wilmar Farms team was now using Trimble's precision ag products outside of the tractor cab, by taking further control of soil management.

"The Trimble technology we've been using has started moving us towards farming our paddocks via management zones, rather than using a one-size-fits-all style," he said.

"Identifying zones within each paddock of the farm allows for more refined management and that, in turn, will help us to increase gross margins while maintaining a good balance between high yielding cane and CCS."

Step one of this process was having Vantage NEA conduct soil analysis on poor performing areas of Wilmar's furrow-irrigated Burdekin farm with Trimble's Soil Information System.

The system is different to traditional soil testing methods as it uses multiple technologies and intelligent targeting algorithms to determine locations within a field that are substantially different from the rest.

These points of difference can then be further investigated using a unique soil probe which, after processing, provides

over 50 layers of information about the soil.

The information is used to develop maps which provide relevance and spatial context to the soil information, allowing agronomists to develop variable rate (VR) input prescriptions.

Mr Larsen said Wilmar had used the SiS data to assist in making low performing areas of paddocks more profitable.

"It's certainly been of benefit to help identify soil issues," he said.

"In some areas of the paddock, the SiS identified high sodicity areas, which allowed us to apply gypsum using VR."

Mr Larsen said they had always applied gypsum to the paddocks using blanket rates because of the production benefits, but the VR prescription ensured they were applying enough to the areas that needed it.

"We don't always see an overall reduction in the quantity of gypsum used on a farm, but we know we're using the product more effectively," he said.

"Treating high sodicity areas improves the soil structure and plant available water. Doing it more effectively has allowed us to maximise our irrigation strategy."

Mr Larsen will be able to monitor the success of the VR prescription, as well as identify any crop issues, with Trimble Ag's new farm software.

The software is a cloud-based solution that growers can use to track their on-farm inputs and monitor profitability across their enterprise.

It also gives growers access to regularly updated satellite imagery of their paddocks, allowing them to monitor crop health issues from the sky.

Mr Larsen has used the satellite imagery in conjunction with the soil data to review crop variability issues, allowing him to identify and assess poor performing areas. This information is then being used to make management decisions that maximise crop production and profitability.

Wilmar is also leveraging the Trimble Ag software for recording day-to-day operations.

"By doing this, we can potentially determine both the input costs and yield results of individual paddocks. This will allow us to monitor our management

decisions and individual paddock profitability, while providing an easily accessible platform for reporting."

Over time, the data recorded into the software will give Wilmar an indication of what inputs the crop needs to perform at optimal rates.

Mr Larsen said that, in the future, he hoped to have enough on-farm data recorded to be able to confidently use VR to apply other nutrients such as nitrogen.

"Understanding our soil better will influence what chemicals we use and how we use them," he said.

The three pillars of Vantage NEA's farm solutions – hardware, software and services – has helped Wilmar better understand the farm's soils and crops, and make management decisions based on quality information.

Mr Larsen said Vantage NEA's service and support had greatly assisted Wilmar on its precision ag journey. ■



Pictured: (Main) Wilmar Sugar General Manager Agriculture Ian Davies using Trimble GPS to apply variable rates of fertiliser in the field. (Right top) Wilmar's Peter Larsen and Ian Davies use Trimble Ag online to identify productivity zones in a sugarcane field. (Right bottom) Peter Larsen and Ian Davies using Trimble Ag software to review nitrogen fertiliser trials on Wilmar's Burdekin farm.

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BY TRIMBLE AGRICULTURE

BUMPER CROP AND HIGH SUGAR CONTENT AMONG THE MANY BENEFITS OF GOOD SOIL HEALTH

When David and Louie Morselli decided late last year to sell their 320ha cane farm at Lannercost, north-west of Ingham, the brothers had no problem finding a buyer. A heavier cane crop with higher than expected sugar content made the farm an attractive prospect to potential purchasers.

The impressive crop was no accident. It was just reward for the Ingham brothers' decision to prioritise soil health and cut back on synthetic fertilisers.

In 2017 the Morsellis reduced bagged fertiliser use by 30 kg of nitrogen per hectare. They invested the money they saved in mill by-products, partly as a trial of banded mill mud rates.

The pair began trials on a 4ha block with a control area and treatment areas at 30, 60 and 90 tonnes per hectare.

Combined with earlier changes - such as laser-levelling paddocks, sub-surface fertiliser application, controlled traffic, matching wheel tracks, and minimum tillage - the results have left no doubt in David Morselli's mind about the benefits of nurturing the soil.

"We've been taking, taking, taking and we've cooked our soils," David told Julie Lightfoot, from the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP), when she visited the Morselli farm late last year.

"We need to get the biology back in them, to improve soil health."

Morselli Farming received funding from the Australian Government's Reef Trust IV Repeated Tender program to continue making changes to their farming practices.

The program, delivered by WTSIP, aims to reduce nitrogen use and improve water quality while also boosting on-farm profitability and efficiencies.

"It gave us the confidence to reduce nitrogen inputs right across the farm," David said.

"In past years machinery and labour costs meant we'd only trial the banding of mill by-products (ash and mud) on sections of the farm for plant and ratoons.

"But in the last couple of years we've been covering as much area as possible.

"The difference in the 2017-18 crops is obvious. We had a bad season, with late planting and a late finish to the season along with two floods in three weeks.

"But our crops are cutting heavier and with higher CCS.

"The cane is looking better than ever, even in paddocks where we are cutting our fifth and sixth ratoons."

He said strategically applying mill ash and mud in bands into the planting row was improving cost-effectiveness while





"I can see farmers in this industry are hesitant to drop fertiliser rates in case they lose tonnage. We've been working to not only repair the soil but to help it rejuvenate itself."

increasing germination and health of plants. It was also helping to prevent run-off and fertiliser loss in heavy rain.

"We have marginal soils and our land is in a floodplain," David said.

"Controlled traffic and matching wheel tracks have not only helped to reduce soil compaction in planted areas, it has extended the number of ratoons we can economically harvest."

The Morsellis have also been banding small amounts of soil ameliorants, such as ultra-fine lime, to improve calcium levels and soil fertility.

They do this at the same time as applying their fertiliser.

"This gives us precision placement, targeting only the root zone," David said.

"It addresses acidification caused by continuous application of artificial fertiliser in the root zone year after year. It also helps phosphorous not to lock up with aluminium, iron and manganese."

"I can see farmers in this industry are hesitant to drop fertiliser rates in case they lose tonnage," he said. "We've been working to not only repair the soil but to help it rejuvenate itself."

"Now the soil is repaying us. You have to earn the right to use less nitrogen. With good soil health we can all do it." ■

Pictured: David Morselli

Reef Extension Think Tank

A two day Think Tank for extension officers working in Reef catchments is taking place in Townsville in March.

This innovative event will allow participants to explore ways of improving extension practice to enable greater change and improve land management in the Reef catchments.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is hosting the Think Tank as part of its new Enhanced Extension program.

The Think Tank has been designed to help extension officers learn from each other. It will start with a half-day peer-to-peer training workshop followed by a one-and-a-half-day conference.

"It's all about sharing knowledge, experience and insights to enable change and ultimately ensure sustainable agriculture and improved reef water quality", explained Think Tank organiser Dr John James.

The event is free and includes plenty of networking opportunities. To register, or find out more head to: www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/enhanced-extension/thinktank/ ■

Free soil health workshops

Cane growers are invited to a series of soil health workshops being hosted by the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) in a number of far north Queensland sugar regions.

The Soils Made Simple workshop will be in Mossman on 30 January, Tully on 4 February, Bellenden Ker on 6 February and Mareeba on 27 February. A further date in Cairns is yet to be confirmed.

The workshops will be facilitated by agroecologist David Hardwick and WTSIP Extension Officers Joel Tierney and Marie Courteville, and will provide a overview of soil properties and health, how these affect crop growth and what you can do to enhance soils.

This will be followed by a soil pit field session focussed on soil constraints, pan layers and acid layers and how they affect the availability of nutrients for crops.

Contact Joel Tierney to register on 0472 869 659 or email joel_tierney@canegrowers.com.au ■

Reef Extension Think Tank

› Peer-to-peer training workshop (1½ day)
› Unconference (1 ½ days)

20 – 22 March 2019
Townsville



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Supplied by AgSafe

Queenslanders can now register any unwanted agricultural and veterinary chemicals for AgSafe's ChemClear collection, which will kick-off in June.

ChemClear is a widely recognised program that manages the risks associated with obsolete and unwanted agvet chemicals by providing a safe, effective and convenient path for disposal.

The ChemClear program encourages farmers and other agvet chemical users to clean up their farms and chemical stores to ensure sound environmental practices, and to register unused and unknown chemicals for collection and safe disposal.

Registrations can be done online or by phone until 19 April 2019. All registered people will be notified of collection locations and dates by early June.

"Farmers have huge expenses and need to use all chemicals they purchase where possible," AgSafe General Manager **Dominique Doyle** said.

"When they don't have a use for them, or have inherited redundant chemicals, ChemClear gives them the option of making a conscious decision to dispose of those chemicals in a responsible way."

When taking an inventory, ChemClear requires the name of the product, manufacturer, container size and the remaining quantity in the container to enable a registration.

If the container has no label on it, ChemClear requires the container size, the remaining quantity in the container, and specifying powder, granule or liquid.

Chemical containers displaying the *drumMUSTER* logo are eligible for free collection.

Agvet containers without the logo or which are unlabeled, expired, mixed or from non-participating manufacturers, are designated fee-for-service products incurring a per L/kg fee for disposal.

A quote will be supplied for fee-for-service chemicals before collection.

A retrieval vehicle will be collecting registered chemicals from allocated sites in each Local Government area where a registration has been received.

Register now online at www.chemclear.org.au or phone 1800 008 182. ■



QLD - June 2019

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(date to be confirmed)

For further information please call
Colin Hoey on mobile: 0428 964 576



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chemclear.org.au 1800 008 182

WHAT FARM PRACTICES ARE BEST FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

By Mick Quirk
Manager Smartcane BMP

Pictured: Innisfail BMP grower
Joe Zappala.



Every farming business is different, so there is no one set of practices that will necessarily suit everyone's situation.

Apart from differences in soils and climate, farms vary in scale of operation, historical development and availability of capital, while farming families have different ambitions and needs.

That being said, sugarcane farming is a mature industry and has a history of hard-won experience combined with a strong legacy of research and innovation.

Farming practices that optimise productivity, or the principles that underpin these practices, should be well established and widely adopted.

So, what is the state of play? Is there a set of principles and associated practices that are based on solid evidence and widely adopted within a district?

Is there an easy way to compare your practices with these and identify things that might benefit your operation?

The largest source of information on current farming practices within the sugarcane industry resides with Smartcane BMP, and is based on grower self-assessments.

More than 1,700 growers, managing 70% of Queensland's cane area, have completed assessments in the three core modules - Soil health and nutrients; Irrigation and drainage; Weeds, pests and diseases.

The practice standards in Smartcane BMP are based on the industry's collective experience, including the results of decades of research by BSES, SRA and others. These practice standards are organised into two categories:

- **Industry standard:** this represents the standard for a practice (e.g. optimal nutrient management, cost-effective weed management) that is generally relevant and beneficial to all farms, regardless of their location, scale, history or access to capital. This standard should be already widely adopted in the industry. For example, industry standard for nutrient management includes application of nutrients and ameliorants based on soil testing and recommendations derived from the SIX EASY STEPS program, and sub-surface application of fertiliser.
- **Above-industry standard:** this represents the standard for a practice that can boost productivity above that achieved by industry standard, but may be more challenging to implement or may be more farm-specific in terms of profitability and affordability. For example, the above-industry standard for nutrient management is use of all steps in the SIX EASY STEPS program, including use of fertiliser strip trials to identify opportunities for refining nutrient rates, and variable rate application.

This two-level structure acknowledges and promotes the adoption of practices that are generally applicable and beneficial to all farms, while also acknowledging and promoting adoption of those above-industry standards that will most benefit a particular farm.

Many growers shy away from Smartcane BMP because of its association with reef-related issues and/or its record keeping requirements.

But, the BMP practice framework is available for your use regardless of your interest in formal participation in the program. Some productivity services are already using the BMP practice framework to help growers develop individualised productivity improvement plans.

The Smartcane BMP practice framework is readily available at the website: <https://smartcane.com.au>.

Your local Smartcane BMP facilitator can help you access and digest this framework. There is no commitment required to participate in the BMP program – it is entirely voluntary. You may wish to use the framework with your local advisor - this can lead to more in-depth discussion of both your current practices and the relative priority for your farm of any potential changes. Your BMP facilitator or advisor can also organise any additional information or support you need. ■



WHAT DOES BMP DATA SAY ABOUT ADOPTION OF PRACTICES?

By Mick Quirk
Manager Smartcane BMP

For nearly all sugarcane farming practices, 80% or more of growers report they meet or exceed the Smartcane BMP industry standard. This is consistent across all regions.

This is not unexpected given the long-standing nature of these industry practices. However, as with any self-reporting, this may overstate the actual situation, especially for some practices and districts.

For example, local experience indicates that plough-out/replant is still common in parts of the Wet Tropics, while there is still work to do on adoption of regular soil testing and use of nutrient rates derived from SIX EASY STEPS.

Instances where more than 15-20% of growers reported they did not meet industry standard were rare, but included irrigation scheduling in the Burdekin and weed management in the central region.

Of interest was the relatively low adoption of the above-industry standard for all but a couple of practices (and then, only in certain regions).

The few practices with significant adoption of the above-industry standard include trash management (50% adoption in central region, 30% in the Wet Tropics) and management of irrigation run-off (25% in the Burdekin, 18% in central and south regions).

In terms of soil health, the above industry standard for managing compaction is controlled traffic farming (CTF).

When I started my role in Smartcane BMP, one of the most polarising issues I encountered (at least with advisors and researchers) was that CTF should be the industry standard.

Interestingly, the data indicates that only 5 to 10% of growers have fully implemented GPS-guided CTF.

By this measure, having CTF as industry standard would not have met the criteria of having long-standing acceptance and wide adoption.

While implementation of full CTF is not common, many growers have transitioned, or are in transition, to wider

rows and more general use of GPS.

Of course, GPS on the harvester and haul-outs remains out of the direct control of most growers.

What does this mean for the industry?

On one hand, there seems to be majority adoption of many/all farming practices at the industry standard level. This is not unexpected given the industry is mature and has strong, localised research and advisory services. On the other hand, further refinement and precision of these practices has seen limited adoption.

The reasons for this are no doubt varied and complex. Not every possible improvement in farming practice will be of equal value to a grower, and there needs to be solid agronomic and economic data to help guide growers and their advisors.

A more systematic approach to the practices and refinements that most influence profitability would help focus effort by both advisors and growers.

It would also strengthen the case for change in those more critical practices. ■

Grower Rights: Changes to delivery points and grouping arrangements

Delivery Points

A grower's designated delivery point is a crucial cost factor in the management of the farm and can even have an impact on the value of a farm.

A grower with a favourable delivery point close to the farm can usually achieve greater delivery efficiencies, which in some cases may result in cheaper harvesting costs due to the shorter distance to travel to deliver/collect bins.

Changes in delivery points can give rise to concerns, particularly if it is the mill owner rather than the grower wanting a change for siding rationalisation or other reasons.

The Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) will have provisions for delivery points and how they can be changed.

The usual clause in CSAs is that a grower's delivery point remains the same as in the previous season unless altered by mutual consent. That means that the grower and the mill owner must agree to any change. In some CSAs there is also a provision to the effect that if the grower and mill owner cannot agree on a change, then they can go to a dispute resolution process and an independent body or person can make a binding ruling as to whether a change is made or not.

Growers need to be careful when dealing with mill owners about delivery points. If a change is made temporarily – say for one season or part of a season – then the grower should ensure that it is clearly stated in writing with the mill owner that the change is only temporary and that their delivery point reverts back to the original delivery point after the temporary change. Also, growers should be careful about what their harvesting contractor might agree to with the mill owner without the grower's knowledge.

Grouping Changes

A grower's harvesting grouping is also a significant factor in the management of the farm. Grouping and rostering are essential features of an orderly and efficient harvesting and transport operation, and the CSA will contain provisions dealing with formation of groups and changes to grouping arrangements.

The usual provision is that groups should be formed by a date early in the year well before that start of crushing.

Often there is a clause providing that the groups remain the same as in the previous season unless altered by mutual agreement of the grower and the mill owner. Sometimes the agreement of the relevant group is also required.

The mill owner often has a roll in approving groups so that it can maintain an efficient transport system.

Usually there is a provision in the CSA that if a grower does not like the allocated or proposed grouping arrangement then they can refer that dispute to another body, such as a harvesting equity committee or local industry management committee.

The CSA provisions are always a good starting point when considering rights relating to deliver points and grouping matters.

Growers with questions on these issues should, in the first instance, contact their local CANEGROWERS office for advice and assistance. Growers can also contact me directly for free general advice or assistance. ■



By Chris Cooper
CANEGROWERS legal adviser



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5 x Heavy Duty Coulters, Boards to fill in Plant, HBM Planter Wheels & Frames, New Plough Discs & Bumper Discs (all sizes). Ph: 0400 634 141.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Tractor duals, as new, 520/85R42 Michelin radial tubeless. Price on enquiry. Ph: 4776 5114.

5-row bean and fertiliser spreader \$400. Ph: 4776 5114.

New Holland G170. Recent engine rebuild, super steer, 4000 hours, excellent condition \$47,000. Ph: 0407 167 716.

ACO Heavy Duty Articulated 4wd Tractor, 400hp Big Cam Cummins, 12sp Twin Disc Powershift, 6.5" Ball Coupling and 4 Remotes. \$25,000 + GST. John Deere 4850 MFWD \$25,000 + GST, Full Stick Planting Gear J250 harvester, 6 trailers, Thrash Blower w topper, 2 planters \$5,000 + GST, Approx 150m of 4mm Armoured Cable \$300 + GST. Ph: 0437 346 341.

JD3520 2010 Model, 9902.9 hours, EHS Choppers, Transmission and primary pumps brand new. 600mm Elevator Extension, H & F Hubs, \$160,000 + GST. Ph: 0429 402 248.

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) Case 2015 8800 track harvester; shredder topper; hydraulic adjustable fronts; adjustable inside spirals; balance valve; tungsten on shoes; floating side walls & basecutters; modified rollers; 10 blade Fagg choppers; solid chopper stubs; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears;

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	14.01.19	21.01.19	Year to date	January
Mossman	45	114	164	450
Mareeba AP	39	9	49	203
Cairns	34	110	151	385
Mt Sophia	34	143	186	503
Babinda	0	0	0	633
Innisfail	64	121	199	504
Tully	0	186	187	598
Cardwell	103	96	202	435
Lucinda	77	64	144	372
Ingham	217	72	291	372
Abergowrie	158	65	224	335
Townsville	17	3	22	269
Ayr DPI	75	0.2	75	210
Proserpine	120	10	145	297
Mirani	290	1	293	326
Mackay	143	4	148	278
Sarina (Plane Ck)	293	5	301	362
Bundaberg	2	0.2	3	172
Childers South	0.8	0.8	4	125
Maryborough	0.4	1	6	163
Tewantin	0.2	0	1	218
Eumundi	0	0	2	228
Nambour	3	0	15	230
Woongoolba	0	0	0	164
Murwillumbah	0	0	2	198
Ballina	1	0	1	179
Woodburn	0	0	0	142



Introductory Special!

Australian Designed and Engineered

ROCCA ST-350



The ROCCA ST-350 Heavy-Duty SpeedTiller is designed to chop up heavy residue of sugar cane mulch. Leaves behind a perfectly conditioned seedbed. It's fast speed saves money on fuel and labour costs. Where other machines leave hardpan compaction in the soil, the ROCCA ST-350 does not. Up to 26in discs available for good penetration in tough soil.

List Price: \$28,500

Now for a Limited Time -

\$19,950!

(+GST +Freight)

1800 899 885

<https://www.rocaindustries.com>



The industry super fund for rural and regional Australia

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Blackey bisalloy elevator floors; Borron flights; greasing system; electrical primary extractor hood stops. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Isuzu 1989 FVR series service truck fitted with a 4400lt diesel tank with electric pump & meter; 3 hose reels for oil with air operated pumps; air grease pump; Swager hoses & fittings. RWC. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Track transporter; 2 x 6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. In good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

NEW HOLLAND TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., KUBOTA M135X-DC 4WD, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$44,000 Inc. KUBOTA M7040 4WD, 70hp 120hrs, 2yr warranty \$35,000 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643.

Maclean Bin 12T elevating bin, air bag suspension, High lift (up to 3.3m unloading height), Jacking legs, Pintle hooks on hitch for quick disconnection, Air compressor on trailer \$52,500 ONO. Chopper Drums out of 2013 Case IH 8800, cut approx 360000T, Hardfaced \$1,100 ONO. Ph: 0417 796 468.

2 of C6100 Chamberlain tractors, Air condition cabs, good condition been hauling cane \$8,500 each. Ph: 0438 541 062 or 0458 596 137.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Spray coup model 3640 Manual transmission 18m boom 3230 hours. Good working condition \$22,000 + GST. Ph: 0477 704 134.

Mercedes tandem tipper, 2219, V6, unregistered, suit site or farm truck \$8,000 ONO. CAT 935C drott, 7500 hrs, Motor total rebuild 1200 hrs ago, 4 in 1 bucket, rippers, ROPS, FOPS \$25,000 ONO. Ph: 0427 556 322.

Siluan 500kg spreader, very good order, \$500. Also 3ft Bare PTO shaft, New, \$100. Ph: 0402 085 833.

55KW (75hp) Electric drive pump with Southern Cross 100x65, 250 ISO (nominal flow rate 30L/Sec @ 90m head). Control panel 55KW with Soft starter, high/low pressure switch for shut down protection, overload, Circuit breaker in weather proof cabinet in as new condition. All Mounted on Four Wheel trolley. Total price \$12,000 + GST. Ph: 0499 562 657.

1x TVT155 New Holland and 14 ton Carta Bin, 1x180 CASE PUMA and 14 ton Corridinni Bin, 1 x 3 row belt spreader (Fertiliser/Manure). Ph: 0428 937 164 or email bunearth@bigpond.net.au.

Wanted

STL SHARES wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Ph: 0407 567 825.

Looking for STL shares to purchase. Willing to buy at current market rates. Please phone 0401 896 999.

Wanting to buy SUGAR TERMINAL LIMITED shares. Market rates apply and I'll pay for any transfer costs. Please call me on 0459 108 193.

Set of complete rims to suit 7810 John Deere 16.9.28 tyre size for the front and 20.8.38 or 18.4.42 tyre size for the rear with or without tyres. Also 1 set of cast centres to suit 7810 John Deere tractor. Ph: 0427 577 256.

Ford 5000 Tractor Engine. Ph: 0429 991 419.

STL Shares. Genuine Non-Miller Grower. Pay market price, no brokerage cost. Ph: 0408 448 227.

Want to buy Galvanised Tank stand near Ingham. Ph: 0439 411 852.

Work Wanted

Cane harvester operator 7700 and doing farm jobs. Can do maintenance and repairs on farm machines. For the crushing season 2019 well experienced, worked in Mackay in 2012 during the harvest season operating harvester and farm machines. Ph: +230-57523057.

Looking for work in 2019 harvest. I have a HC truck lic, worked as a work shop assistant in a heavy vehicle truck repair company as a heavy diesel trades assistant (2000-2014). Currently working in the earthmoving industry. Looking for work around

Proserpine, Mackay, Burdekin regions. Ph: 0404 637 459.

Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Qlder style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

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

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses; main house fully airconed with pool. Ph: 0400 794 857.

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

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



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Andrew with Burdekin district facilitator, Jasmine



SMARTCANE BMP

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