

Mangrove Jack: Tully growers recognised for sustainable farming practices

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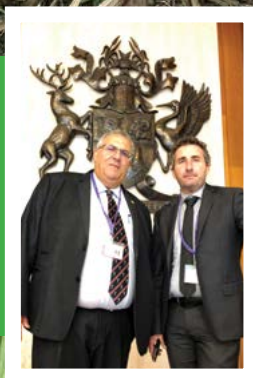
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6 May 2019 Price \$9.95

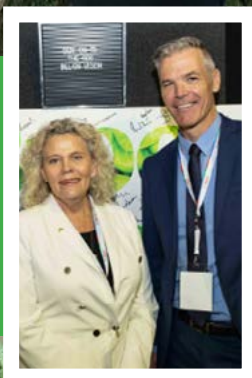


## CHALLENGE & CHANGE

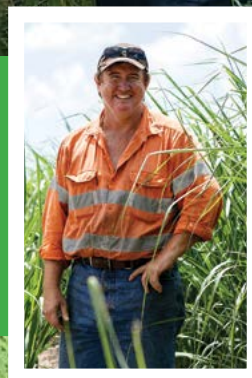
Tackling big issues at the Women in Sugar Conference 2019



Grower  
anger as  
Reef Bill  
given the  
green light



NFF calls  
for genuine  
government  
partnership  
with Ag



Encouraging  
results  
from mixed  
species  
fallow

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COVER IMAGE: Women in Sugar Australia conference organisers (L-R) Caroline Pace, Leanne Bonassi, Kelli Carbone and Sharon Figuera from the Herbert River group. Read more on page 8.

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Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

**Published every second Monday by**  
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AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 41 Number 09

Printed by Printcraft

37 College Street, Hamilton QLD 4007

### Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250



# Reef Process - High Farce!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

I, like every other sugarcane grower in Queensland, have been angered and frustrated by the recent government report on the proposed Reef Protection Bill, which will impose unworkable and insulting regulations on agriculture along the east coast of Queensland.

What's particularly galling is the farcical process around proper consultation and consideration of stakeholder views.

The Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, the parliamentary committee reporting on the Bill, recently held four hearings in the regional centres of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg.

The Queensland Government promoted those hearings as genuine and direct engagement with affected stakeholders.

Cane growers, graziers and land holders turned out in strong numbers to make their views known, while producer organisations outlined clearly why the Bill is unworkable.

The response by the parliamentary committee to these representations at regional hearings – nothing!

Not one single amendment has been recommended to the Reef Protection Bill. All of the concerns and carefully considered arguments raised by farmers fell on deaf ears.

CANEGROWERS does acknowledge that the two LNP members on the parliamentary committee issued a dissenting view to the published report. Likewise, the Member for Noosa also detailed some reservations about the Bill.

The Bill will now go before parliament for further debate and scrutiny, but given what we have seen from the government to date, it is doubtful that they will consider any further amendments.

Queensland farmers are some of the most efficient, innovative, resourceful and environmentally sustainable farmers in the world.

It's a sad state of affairs when a government purports to know more about farming than farmers. And placing the blame for the state of the reef squarely on the shoulders of 14,000 farmers is not good government.

## FEDERAL ELECTION

A federal election will be held on 18 May. Elections can, at times, be taken for granted, but the reality is that government policy can have a huge impact on the social and economic welfare of the Australian sugar industry.

While issues will vary from state to state and from region to region, a number of issues will be critically important to Australia's 4,000 cane growers.

CANEGROWERS is working closely with the National Farmers' Federation during this campaign. Last year, the NFF launched a national plan for developing a strong future for agriculture, with the aim of creating a \$100bn industry by 2030. Many of the national issues are very important to us as growers.

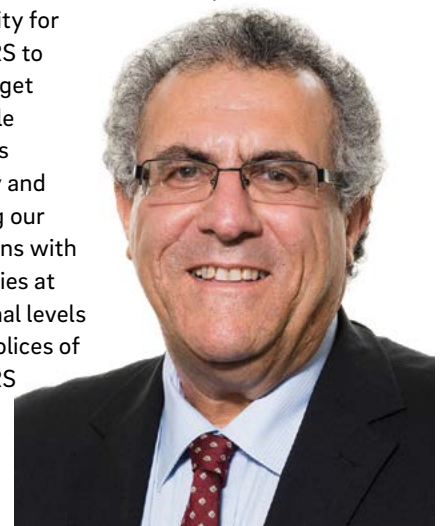
We should not disregard the importance of this election. The Federal Government has significant influence over the fate of our industry and we have seen the impact, both positive and negative, that federal policies can have. Many of them are high priorities for CANEGROWERS.

For example, Federal Government support for international trade policy reform and the action against India in the WTO is crucial. So too is maintaining a level head when it comes to health and nutrition policy, especially any discussion of a sugar tax.

Also, on a very practical level, our electricity prices have gone from some of the cheapest retail prices in the world to some of the highest. We don't accept that electricity prices are the sole responsibility of state governments. Industries such as sugar need to be internationally competitive and therefore the national government must play its part in reducing the cost of electricity.

Perhaps most profoundly, the work of the government to implement and now support the retention of the very effective Sugar Industry Code of Conduct provides crucial underpinning of grower and industry confidence.

Elections are a critical part of how our system of government operates. This election presents a great opportunity for CANEGROWERS to ensure that we get the best possible policy outcomes for our industry and we will be using our close connections with all political parties at local and national levels to ensure the policies of CANEGROWERS are well known and understood. ■



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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Grower concerns ignored as Reef Bill given the green light

Queensland's cane growers have slammed a parliamentary committee report that recommends damaging and unnecessary reef regulations be introduced without amendment.

Hundreds of growers attended hearings of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg as it investigated the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*.

Growers took the opportunity to voice their fears, anger and frustration at the government's plan to ramp up already stringent reef laws, while representative groups clearly outlined the negative impact that the heavy-handed regulatory regime could have on Queensland's second largest agricultural export industry.

But grower concerns and industry arguments fell on deaf ears with the parliamentary committee's report, released on 26 April, recommending the government move ahead with the Big Brother-style system that threatens to stymie industry development.

"This report has exposed the recent regional public hearings into the Reef Bill as an expensive farce," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"We attended in good faith, invited to put our concerns and issues to the committee as it reviewed the Queensland Government's Bill, but we have been completely ignored."

"The 100-page report released late on Friday by the Labor-led Committee contains just one recommendation, that the Bill be passed without change," Mr Schembri said.

"That there is no recommendation for any amendments to the most dangerous elements of the Bill means the whole consultation process was a box-ticking exercise for a foregone political outcome – it was a sham."

Speaking on the ABC's Queensland Country Hour, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef **Leeanne Enoch** praised cane farmers for their efforts in adopting practice change but said the shift to sustainable practices had not been swift enough.

"I've spent quite a lot of time on-farm with cane farmers and other representatives from the agricultural sector and I know that they've done some incredible work and they're incredible innovators in this space," Ms Enoch said.

**"Someone asked me recently if I feel like I'm flogging a dead horse, but the truth is, I feel like I'm the horse that's getting a flogging and I know there are many, many growers out there who feel the same."**

"But, as we've seen from the latest available science, the dial has not been turned quick enough and we must now move to an area of regulation to ensure that the water quality that we're seeing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas is of a standard that will assist the Great Barrier Reef to endure its other biggest threat which is climate change."

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman **Joe Marano**, himself a Smartcane BMP accredited grower in the World Heritage Wet Tropics area, believes the

government's consultation process was just for show.

"It seems to me that the government had an agenda and that these regional consultations, and even the one in Brisbane, were just to tick a box," Mr Marano said.

"The committee listened politely to what we had to say, but did they really have any intention of recommending amendments? I don't think so. That's what's so disappointing about the whole thing."

"Someone asked me recently if I feel like I'm flogging a dead horse, but the truth is, I feel like I'm the horse that's getting a flogging and I know there are many, many growers out there who feel the same."

Mr Schembri said grower concerns were either not considered or only given a superficial mention in the committee's report.

"Its default position on all issues was to defer to the government's line," he said.

"We do welcome, however, the Statement of Reservation included in the report by the two LNP committee members, **Jon Krause** and **Mark Boothman**, and their criticism of the Bill and the Queensland Government's intentions."

"CANEGROWERS will continue to express its concerns to all parliamentarians in the hope that real, workable amendments will be embraced by the State Government as it prepares to bring the legislation to the Queensland Parliament for a vote." ■



## NFF calls for genuine government partnership to grow agriculture

The National Farmers' Federation has released its pre-election wish-list, calling on whichever party wins government on 18 May to work with Australia's farmers towards building a \$100 billion agricultural sector.

"We have a goal and a plan for Australia's food and fibre sector to achieve a farm gate output of \$100 billion by 2030, up from about \$60 billion today," NFF Chief Executive Tony Mahar said.

"Farmers are ambitious, highly productive and ingenious – but we won't get to \$100 billion alone. We need whichever party forms government to be proactive and genuinely committed to partnering with us on agriculture's accelerated success."

The NFF has developed a comprehensive election priority list, headlined by a call for an overall National Agriculture Strategy.

"Agriculture is a powerhouse of our national economy and the binding fabric of our regional communities," Mr Mahar said.

"In producing the food and fibre that sustains our nation and the globe, farmers manage 50% of Australia's landscape, everyday delivering environmental benefits for all Australians.

"Yet unlike other leading industries, we remain without a Commonwealth Government strategy for the future."

The NFF's practical list of election priorities are drawn from its 2030 Roadmap and detailed under 5 key pillars: Customers and the Value Chain; Growing Sustainably; Unlocking Innovation; People and Communities; and Capital and Risk Management.

### THE NFF'S PRIORITY ASKS ARE:

- Fast-track ratification of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- Establish a \$1 billion Ecosystem Services Fund.
- Act on the Regional Telecommunications Review and fund the Mobile Blackspots Program.
- Commit to act on agriculture's labour shortage.
- Create an internationally-competitive tax system for Australia.

Explore our Agriculture: Growing Australian election priorities at [farmers.org.au](http://farmers.org.au) ■

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**Mick Quirk**

CANEGROWERS Environment  
& Sustainability Manager

# RISK FRAMEWORK FOR REEF WATER QUALITY NEEDS REVIEW

The parliamentary committee report on the new Reef Bill has dismissed all of industry's concerns in its report, handed down late last month. This is disappointing but not unexpected.

*"An independent review of this water quality framework is urgently needed to give growers, and other stakeholders, confidence that the government is not relying on unproven and unrealistic expectations of how certain practices affect both water quality and farm productivity."*

The committee's report relied heavily on responses from the Department of Environment and Science to issues raised by CANEGROWERS. The Department, in turn, relied heavily on the water quality practice framework for sugarcane developed by the Queensland and Australian governments.

For nutrient management (and other aspects of cane farming), this framework ranks practices from highest risk for water quality (D-rated practices) to lowest risk for water quality (A-rated practices).

For nitrogen (N) rates, D-rated practices are described as using 'rules of thumb' to determine N rates. A-rated practice, on the other hand, is variable rate application within blocks using an estimate of crop N demand based primarily on block yield potential or 'expectation'.

Basically, this latter approach is designed to calculate a rate of N that is significantly lower than the industry-recommended Six Easy Steps program, and is based on the assumption that optimum rate of N is simply and directly related to crop yield.

Now, why should you be concerned about this practice framework? For a start, the Department is using it to justify their claims that a grower who moves to the lowest risk practices for water quality will be more productive and profitable.

This forms part of their argument for increasing regulation. Over time, we will see the regulations mirror whatever practices happen to be classified as A or B

for water quality risk.

Now, for the example of N rates, there is no evidence to suggest that optimum rates of N are closely related to crop yields. So, for any particular block or soil type, the best estimate of the optimal N rate remains the one derived from the Six Easy Steps methodology.

There may well be reason to refine this rate, up or down, to better suit the particular block being considered. However, there is no proven recipe available for doing this. Following an unproven recipe therefore risks reduced productivity.

In addition to concerns over the relevance of parts of the framework to crop productivity and farm profits, it is not clear how the practice ratings (D to A) link to modelled estimates of water quality impacts. For example, what rates of N are assumed when a grower changes from C to B to A practices? Are such reductions consistent with ongoing farm and mill viability?

An independent review of this water quality framework is urgently needed to give growers, and other stakeholders, confidence that the government is not relying on unproven and unrealistic expectations of how certain practices affect both water quality and farm productivity.

To access the risk quality framework for sugarcane, go to <https://bit.ly/2GYk96x> ■



Conference delegates on the industry tour will visit the Green Energy Power Plant at Arriga on the Atherton Tableland. MSF Sugar's Tableland Mill Manager Kirk Lang demonstrates the 100 per cent renewable sugarcane fibre, bagasse, that will be used to power the \$75 million plant. Photo courtesy of MSF Sugar.



## Industry involvement welcome at International Sugar Conference

By Jann George - ISO

In the always volatile global world of sugar, the impact of production, price, consumption and trade issues are key factors.

From 16 to 19 July 2019, about 200 government, semi-government and sugar industry participants from 87 countries will converge in Cairns for the 55th International Sugar Organization (ISO) Meetings and Conference.

The International Sugar Conference will bring together presenters and panellists from Australia, Brazil, Thailand, Singapore and the United Kingdom along with an audience of industry representatives, government officials and decision makers.

Executive Director ABARES, **Steve Hatfield-Dodds** will open the conference with a session looking at the megatrends for agriculture.

He believes that achieving the best outcomes for agriculture, rural communities and the national economy will require some tough choices.

"Ensuring agriculture is attractive to workers and investors, harnessing innovation to boost performance, promoting on-farm resilience and risk management, persisting with water reforms and respecting and responding to evolving consumer expectations are key factors," Mr Hatfield-Dodds said.

"In the sugar industry, global production capacity has been growing much faster than per person consumption over the past decade, and the world price of sugar is expected to remain low into the foreseeable future.

"Demand has plateaued or is falling in developed countries, while potential income-driven increases in developing markets are likely to be moderated by growing health concerns.

"Australia's processing efficiency, proximity to East-Asian markets, direct marketing to overseas refiners and free trade agreements will continue to help maintain the competitiveness of the Australian sugar industry despite abundant global production capacity and low world prices."

The conference kicks off on Tuesday 16 July with a full day tour covering two mill areas, one with a cane railway and the other with road delivery.

Participants will visit the Sugar Research Australia station at Meringa, which houses three photoperiod facilities used to enhance flowering of sugarcane to increase the genetic material available for breeding new varieties.

Included on the tour are two sugarcane farms, Tableland Mill and the new green energy power plant which converts 100% renewable bagasse into green energy.

Conference sessions on Wednesday 17 July are designed specifically to be interactive with speakers and panellists encouraging questions, shared expertise and opinions from the audience. With the diverse number of topics and a line-up of first-class speakers, this event should not be missed.

Managing Director Green Pool Commodity Specialists, **Tom McNeill**, will lead a session, moderated by ABC Radio presenter **Charlie McKillop**, discussing trade flows, shifting patterns and outlook. CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and

ASMC CEO **David Pietsch** will share the stage to consider key strategies in forging the future of the Australian sugar industry.

When examining the questions of social licence, food, health and nutrition, **Jacob Robbins**, CEO of Emeterra (Singapore), who also boasts 20 years' experience in executive roles with The Coca-Cola Company, is well placed to discuss sugar, sweeteners and value-added food ingredients.

His co-presenter is **Katherine Teh**, Managing Director founded Futureye, a world leading social licence consultancy.

Capping off a full day will be an environmental and industry sustainability session that will consider the impact of the industry on waterways and the Great Barrier Reef as well as innovative technologies which may well enhance the future for sugar in Australia.

Australian and international industries including growers, millers and refiners, analysts, investment bankers, shipping companies, and farm machinery and software providers will all get value from the event.

Thursday 18 July will see a half day ISO market evaluation, consumption and statistics session to discuss market reports, world sugar balances, the influence of ethanol and monitoring of specific sugar issues.

Further information on the program and a full list of speakers can be found on the website. Registrations can be made through the same website [www.isoaustraliacouncil.com.au](http://www.isoaustraliacouncil.com.au) ■

# CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

The annual Women in Sugar conference addressed these significant themes on an industry and personal level.

The Women in Sugar Herbert group welcomed around 100 delegates and guests to Ingham for two days of discussion, friendship and learning based around the theme The Challenge of Change.

Held in the Tyto Conference Centre adjacent to Ingham's beautiful 110 ha wetlands, the first day was one of speakers and presentations.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman **Michael Pisano** told the group that, as farmers, they'd be quite accustomed to challenge and change.

"Constantly we are challenged by variables such as weather, market pricing, milling and, more recently, customer demands and expectations," he said.

He said that in response to such variables, and driven by financial motivations, growers have continuously changed the way they farm.

"We have seen in the past few years what can happen if we ignore the concerns of the community," he said citing the experiences of the live animal export trade and the greyhound racing industry.

"They have all felt the effects of government bringing to bear policies which have closed these industries or severely impacted their ability to remain masters of their own destiny.

"In sharp contrast, we have witnessed that both the cotton and the mobile phone industry have reacted quickly to address

concerns and by proactively listening to and responding to their critics, concerns have been addressed through a mixture of best management practice and a collaborative approach.

"Because of these, our industry developed and implemented the Smartcane BMP. This program has the rigour to allay the concerns about the impact we may have on our environment," he said.

The program is seeing excellent results including the commitment of Coca-Cola to use Smartcane BMP accredited sugar, but Mr Pisano highlighted the juxtaposition of the Queensland Government's new Reef Bill announced the same week as the Coca-Cola achievement.

"Queensland farmers are very disappointed in what they see as a government that is at odds with a major industry in their state," he said.

The keynote speaker for the day was **Liz Schmidt**. She spoke of her own personal challenges and change, starting with being a teenage mother in Ingham in the 1970s, then a business owner and the only woman executive member of the Livestock and Rural Transporter Association and, since 2016, the Mayor of the Charters Towers Regional Council.

While not believing in quotas for women, saying they're unfair to men and women who've worked hard, Liz Schmidt believes more women should be in leadership roles in industry and government.



"I believe absolutely there should be more women, 50-50 or 60-40, but I don't believe you should have a job because you're a woman," she said. "I think you should have equal opportunities to compete on the same terms."

Her advice to the Women in Sugar delegates was to remember the adage, 'Leadership is not about being the best it's about making everyone else better'.

**Caroline Coppo**, cane grower and SRA employee, summed up the lives of women with a graphic board and put her membership of Women in Sugar in the middle to illustrate the support and understanding of the group.

At the conference dinner, delegates and guests heard from **Krista Watkins**, the 2018 National Rural Woman of the







Year, who detailed how she and her husband have developed a process to turn green banana waste into a valuable and nutritious product. Their company, Natural Evolution, is starting to process other excess or waste produce.

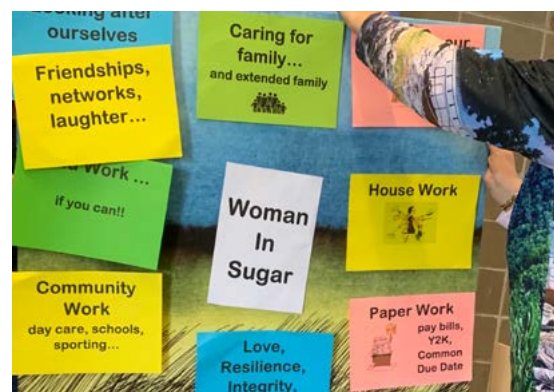
This theme of challenge, change and innovation was picked up on the Tuesday bus trip. Retired cane grower **Bruno Figuera** demonstrated how he cross-pollinates and propagates orchids – a hobby he has now built into a small business linked to other enthusiasts around the world.

Next stop was the LiquaForce fertiliser plant where their tailored product blends are mixed. **Cameron Liddle** explained the process and outlined future expansion plans including work toward fully automating the process.

Bellasato Farm, owned and run by **Leanne and Dan Cornder**, was the final stop where the couple explained their sugarcane and chicken production cycle.

The conference ended with a delicious and generous meal next to the 50-metre Mercer Lane mosaic which tells the story of the sugarcane industry in the region. Farewells were said until next year's event in Mackay. ■

*Pictured: (main) the group that attended the Women in Sugar conference, (page 8 left) Women in Sugar Herbert, (page 8 right) Women in Sugar Burdekin, (below left) Network Mackay, (below right) delegates in Bruno's orchid house, (right top) Bundaberg delegates, (right bottom) a graphic board created by Caroline Coppo that illustrates the lives of women.*





# STUDY HELPS IRRIGATORS ASSESS OPTIONS

A study conducted by AgEcon, supported by SRA and the Queensland Government, has aimed to find solutions to lower pumping costs and reduce environmental impacts through the use of grid connected microgrids - clusters of generators that are able to be operated as a single entity.



"We focused this study on three different farms, all with different energy demands and irrigation application methods," said AgEcon research economist, Jon Welsh.

The case studies were situated in three different sugarcane farming locations and featured furrow irrigation, centre pivot and travelling gun systems.

The results of the three case studies found that the economic feasibility of renewable energy sources is subject to how often they are being used, referred to as "utilisation rates" either by an electric load or export back into the grid.

The study also indicates that seasonal loads with large periods of inactivity between use are only economically viable when the site qualifies for a Feed in Tariff (FiT).

"A Feed in Tariff is a payment to an energy producer – in this case a farmer – when sustainable energy is exported back to the national grid," said Mr Welsh.

An example of this is the furrow irrigation case study, which uses both 15 kilowatt

(kW) and 18kW pumps for furrow irrigation on a seasonal basis.

Optimisation software called HOMER was used to design a solution.

"By using this software, we were able to reduce the energy cost of this site by 26% with the use of a grid connected microgrid comprising of 39kW solar photovoltaic and 30kW inverter while staying eligible for FiT. The investment has an estimated payback time of five years," research economist, Janine Powell, said.

"This site's high economic returns were a result of shifting irrigating from nights to days so half of the grid energy was offset by solar, a change in tariff and the FiT income stream.

"Gensets were considered as an alternate energy source for cloudy days, however, as the price of diesel rises, it can be assumed that within a few years this will no longer be a cost-effective solution, so gensets were not included within the microgrid."

For the two larger case study sites also with a sporadic, seasonal load, the microgrid was restricted to a 30kW inverter to ensure the sites remained eligible for a FiT under Ergon's embedded generation connection policy.

AgEcon modeled the installation of a microgrid including 39kW photovoltaic to supplement the national electricity grid, which resulted in only nine percent of the site's annual load being met by solar power.

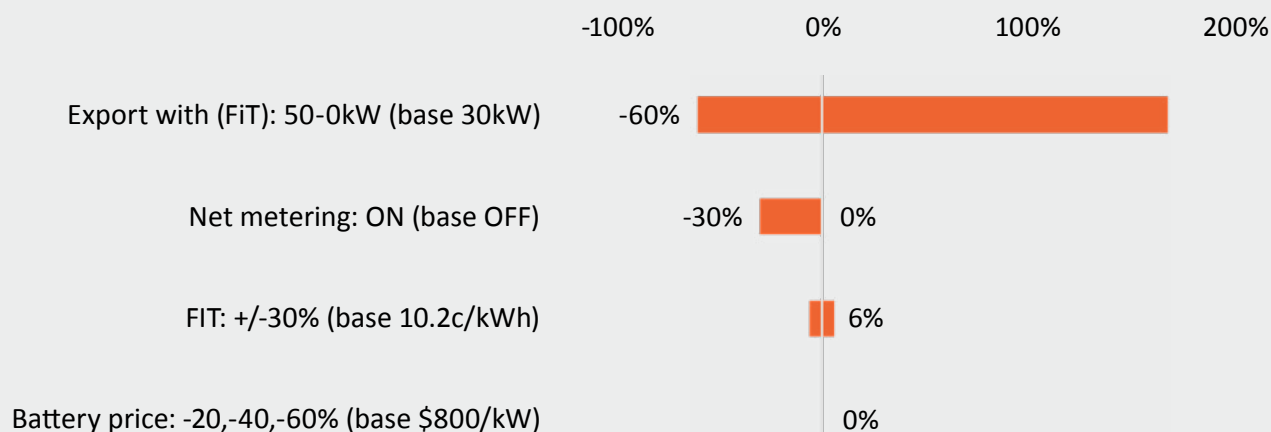
This ensures that when pumps are not being used, outside the irrigation season, an income is still being generated by the solar. The microgrids for these sites reduced the cost of electricity by 12% and 20% and had a payback period of 10 and nine years.

In comparison, a larger microgrid designed to cover the site's whole electricity load resulted in the export limit of 30kW being exceeded and therefore no FiT, with economic returns being insufficient.



## Parameter: change (base value)

## % Change in LOCE



The graph indicates the renewable investment is most sensitive to a change in the amount of energy that can sold back to the grid. The quantity exported, rather than the price received, has the highest effect on the economic feasibility of the investment.

In all three case studies completed by the AgEcon research team, the economically optimal solution was a grid connected microgrid including solar photovoltaics that remained eligible for FiT.

"As sustainability becomes an increasingly topical issue for the sugar industry, microgrid technologies will be at the forefront in providing an alternative form of electricity to that of the national grid system," says Mr Welsh.

The carbon dioxide abatement for each site ranged between 1245 – 1314 tonne of carbon dioxide (equivalent) over the 25 year scenario.

Each site was restricted to 39 kW photovoltaic, so there is potential for greater carbon abatement.

Ergon's evolving tariff structures, FiT and export policies are critical to a microgrid investment. Renewable energy is currently incentivised through participation in Federal Government policy called the Renewable Energy Target, which contributes to a microgrid's ability to reduce on-farm energy costs

More information can be found at [www.agecon.com.au](http://www.agecon.com.au) ■



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## Keeping an eye on the unfolding market



**By Mark Hampson**  
QSL Executive Manager, Marketing  
and Risk

Thank you to all those growers who attended one of our recent market or pricing information sessions held around the state. It's always great to spend time on the ground with the growers we serve, and the QSL pricing team is looking forward to more regular sessions with you as the season progresses.

For those of you based in the Mackay and Plane Creek districts, I'll be providing a market update and chatting with growers at the 2019 Canegrowers Mackay Ag Trade Expo in Walkerston on Friday 10 May. Make sure you swing by the QSL stall at the expo, held at Wests Leagues Club, and say hi.

### MARKET INFO SERVICES

Whether you want to chat to someone face-to-face or prefer a quick email or SMS update, QSL offers a wide range of market information services to keep you abreast of sugar market developments as the season progresses:

- **Daily Price Email:** Growers using our self-managed pricing options are recommended to sign up for our Daily Price Email. This email, issued each weekday, provides an overview of the latest QSL Target Price Contract and Individual Futures Contract prices. To sign up for this free service, see your local QSL Grower Services Team representative or email your name, mill and email address to [info@qsl.com.au](mailto:info@qsl.com.au)
- **Daily Price SMS:** Don't have time to check your emails each day for the latest raw sugar market prices? Then perhaps our daily price SMS might be of use. This text message is available to all QSL Growers and is issued each weekday morning. It details the prompt ICE 11, US/AUD exchange rate and the Target Prices for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Seasons. To

sign up for this free service, see your local QSL Grower Services Team representative or email your name, mill and mobile phone number to [info@qsl.com.au](mailto:info@qsl.com.au)

- **Weekly Market Update:** The QSL pricing team provides an overview of recent sugar market and currency activity in our Weekly Market Update. You can find this on our website at [www.qsl.com.au/sugar-prices/market-updates](http://www.qsl.com.au/sugar-prices/market-updates) or via the QSL Weekly Update emailed to growers each Friday.
- **QSL Market Reports:** Growers using QSL Direct can access more detailed market reports via the homepage of their online account. Just click on the **Market Reports** button near the bottom of the page.
- **QSL Website:** For details of sugar market activity, QSL's Target Price Contract and Individual Futures Contract prices, recent grower pricing fills and other ICE 11 information, visit the **Market Snapshot**, updated each weekday on our website. You can find it at [www.qsl.com.au/sugar-prices/market-snapshot](http://www.qsl.com.au/sugar-prices/market-snapshot)
- **Grower Information Sessions:** Our pricing team hosts regular market updates in your region throughout the course of the season. See your local QSL Grower Services Team representative for details.
- **Pricing team appointments:** Got questions about the market that you'd like to raise with a member of the QSL pricing team? They're regularly in your area and happy to come on farm to have a one-on-one chat. Just contact your local QSL Grower Services Team representative to book a time.

#### DISCLAIMER:

*This update contains information of a general nature only and should not be regarded as comprehensive or complete. Please note that QSL does not provide financial or investment advice to growers in relation to pool selection or pricing decisions. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full which can be found on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this update should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this update.*





## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2019

As we head into the 2019 Season, it's important that QSL Growers are aware of the following important dates, particularly those using our self-managed pricing products:

DATE	DETAILS
14 June 2019	Pricing Completion Date for the July 2019 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest</b> . QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.
20 June 2019	Any 2019-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the October 2019 Contract and costs may apply.
7 days prior to your harvest commencing	Last day to nominate to receive <b>deferred payments</b> for 2019-Season Advances.
1 July 2020	Additional tonnages become available for <b>self-managed pricing</b> for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Seasons.
16 September 2019	Pricing Completion Date for the October 2019 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest</b> . QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.
20 September 2019	Any 2019-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the March 2020 Contract and costs may apply.
31 October 2019	Last day for growers supplying <b>Mackay Sugar, Tully Sugar and Wilmar</b> mills to nominate QSL as their marketer for the 2020 Season.
31 October 2019	Last day to select the <b>2020 Self-Managed Harvest</b> option.
31 October 2019	Last day to select the <b>2020 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool</b> .
30 November 2019	Last day to nominate for <b>2019-Season Accelerated Advances</b> .
31 December 2019	Last day for growers supplying <b>MSF Sugar</b> mills to nominate QSL as their marketer for the 2020 Season.
14 February 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the March 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest</b> . QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.
20 February 2020	Any 2019-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the May 2020 Contract and costs may apply.
20 February 2019	Pricing Completion Date for the 2019-Season <b>Target Price Contract</b> for growers supplying <b>MSF Sugar</b> mills. QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.
16 April 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or the Self-Managed Harvest</b> . QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.
17 April 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the 2019-Season <b>Target Price Contract</b> (excluding those growers supplying MSF Sugar mills). QSL will fill any orders remaining after the Pricing Completion Date at the next market opportunity.

# MIXED SPECIES FALLOW CROPS IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH ON CANE FARMS

Supplied by WTSIP

Mixed-species fallow crops are on the rise in the Wet Tropics – and the results are encouraging farmers.

As fallow crops become a more mainstream practice, the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership's **Laurent Verpeaux** says farmers are taking it a step further and planting up to five species at a time to improve soil health.

Mossman district cane grower **Clint Reynolds** was pleased to find earthworms in his sandy soils recently, and good levels of organic carbon matter.

The fourth-generation cane farmer has been planting mixed species cover crops for three years, building on more than 15 years of results from standard cover-cropping on Daintree and Mowbray Valley properties.

"The biggest difference has been in our sandy soils," Clint said. "Recent soil tests have confirmed organic carbon levels of

1.8% following one mixed species fallow crop, and we've found earthworms in and around the (cane) stools.

"That's something we've never seen in our sandy soils. It makes you think you must be doing something right."

The Reynolds trialed a five-seed mix of tillage radishes, ebony and meringa cowpeas, soy beans, sunflowers and centrosema last year on their 526-hectare Daintree farm in trials through Project Catalyst. They will also be using sorghum and lab lab this year.

"Up until three years ago we planted fallow crops of legumes or soya beans. While that is better than leaving the ground bare, we were replacing a monoculture with a different monoculture," Clint said.

"I've been to conferences, forums and workshops since and spoken to other growers who are using mixed species and it just makes sense. The different species bring different benefits. We're planning on cutting back from 140 to 120kg of bagged nitrogen per hectare this year on the back of our results."

Mossman cane growers **Gerard Padovan** and **Brett Coulthard** are also planting multiple species.

Brett is using meringa, black stallion and ebony cowpeas, and different varieties of sunflower seeds, after decades of planting either one variety of cowpeas or soya beans.

"This is our second year – the main goal is to try and get more carbon back into our clay soils," he said. "Another benefit







is increasing the strike rate in severe (weather) conditions."

Gerard's family moved from single varieties to seed mixes after going to Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) workshops, working with a WTSIP extension officer on a nutrient management plan and hearing from other growers at a Regenerative Cane Farming Forum.

They are trialling a mix of sunflowers and ebony cowpeas on 20 hectares of the farm and are in the process of adding a bean planter to their bed former to reduce the number of passes required once fallow cropping is added to the mix.

"Our mixed fallow was planted four months ago and it is doing its job," Gerard said. "The sunflowers have come through and died off, the beans are still in the ground and we'll be leaving them in as long as possible so the plant cane can feed off the nitrogen."

"Next year we'll be looking at four or five species."

WTSIP's Laurent Verpeaux said it was great to see the Mossman Agricultural Services bean planter booked out for the season, and a larger number of growers ordering fallow seeds.

Continues page 16 ►

*Pictured: (page 14) Mossman district cane grower Clint Reynolds is trialling a five-seed mix for his fallow crops, and seeing results, (above) mixed species cover crops of soybeans and sunflowers, (below) Brett Coulthard is looking to get more carbon back into clay soils with the help of mixed species fallow crops.*





"Many have been to soil health workshops and they are trying different things, seeing the benefits and talking about them," he said.

"Growers only have four to five months in cane crop cycles that can span five to 10 years in this district, but in a short time you can achieve a lot.

"Mixed fallow cropping creates habitat and niches for an incredible diversity of soil micro-organisms and bugs that help with nutrient cycling and improve soil structure."

The uptake in the northern Wet Tropics coincides with promising Project Catalyst trials at the southern end of the region, which began three years ago on Ingham cane grower Lawrence Di Bella's farm.

Soil tests at the site have shown mixed plots have a low ratio of bad nematodes and a high ratio of good nematodes. Higher nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous counts have also been recorded when crops are mixed, bringing different benefits from each species and in some cases balancing out less favourable traits.

Laurent said recent organic carbon results on the Reynolds' farm were also encouraging.

"It is hard to get above two or three percent for organic carbon in the Wet Tropics because of the climate and disturbances created by tillage and compaction," he said. "Organic matter tends to break down more quickly and the key is trying to keep as much as you can as humus.

"Funding programs have been encouraging reduced, zonal or even zero tillage techniques for many years which, when combined with mixed fallow crops, will improve your soil health."

**For more information about soil health, visit [www.wtsip.org.au](http://www.wtsip.org.au) for a series of short videos with agroecologist David Hardwick and WTSIP extension officer contact details. To find out more about Project Catalyst, ring Terrain NRM's Michael Waring on 0428 771 361. ■**

*Pictured: (below) mixed species cover crops of soybeans, cowpeas, sunhemp and lab lab.*



# Money Matters

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# Record keeping central to Herbert River success



CANEGROWERS Herbert River is celebrating the achievements of its growers after the district recently reached 79 accreditations in Smartcane BMP, the industry's best management practice program.

In the past month alone, the Herbert River has seen nine new accreditations says local Smartcane BMP Facilitator, **Maria Battoraro**.

Accreditation in the program involves growers working with a local facilitator to demonstrate their use of on-farm practices that protect the environment while improving their productivity.

Record keeping, a core component of Smartcane BMP, was a driving force behind this recent success.

"Record keeping is one of the most important tools for any grower on-farm and it is key to achieving accreditation in the program" Smartcane BMP officer **Raymond Cervellin** said.

"We were really pleased to find out that the independent BMP auditors were extremely impressed with the quality of our growers' records."

While the routine of keeping records can be an initial challenge, many growers report that the time and energy spent in maintaining good records pays off.

"It's been much easier to track what I'm putting onto the farm, monitor my costs and see where I can continue to reduce my inputs throughout the season," said CANEGROWERS Herbert River Director, **Chris Bosworth**.

"Working record keeping into my routine

didn't take long and now I barely have to think about it," he said.

It's this ease and quality of keeping records that's paying dividends for the Herbert River.

The district has quickly become one of the largest areas accredited throughout the state under Smartcane BMP, with almost 20,000 hectares now using best management practices.

"We've seen a lot of interest in the program over the past year as growers are continuing to improve their records and work through the accreditation process with us," Ms Battoraro said.

"By working through the process and becoming accredited in Smartcane BMP, growers are helping to set the record straight and demonstrating that they are doing the right thing by the environment."

To streamline the record keeping process, Ms Battoraro has designed templates and record-keeping packs.

"We want to make it as straightforward as possible for growers who sign-up to the program to work record keeping into their routine," she said.

"That's why when growers register their interest, they receive blank record-keeping templates with completed examples and farm maps of their property."

"The templates make record keeping a breeze," Mr Bosworth said. "As a grower, all you need to list is who made the application, the chemicals and rates used, and the dates and blocks of application," he said. "It couldn't be much easier."

These templates and more will be available to growers in a series of record keeping workshops in the Herbert River this month.

"Next Friday [10 May] CANEGROWERS Herbert River will be hosting two record keeping workshops for growers who are currently working through BMP and want to learn more about the record keeping requirements," Ms Battoraro said.

"We'll cover the record keeping templates in more detail, give some strategies for improving your record keeping, and will have a general discussion about Smartcane BMP," she said.

To find out more information or to register your interest, you can contact the CANEGROWERS Herbert River Office on **(07) 4776 5350**. ■

*Pictured: Herbert River directors Chris Bosworth, Michael Pisano (Chairman) and Paul Marbelli, all Smartcane BMP accredited.*

# MANGROVE JACK GROWERS RECOGNISED FOR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

A commitment to nutrient management, run-off control and maximising on-farm efficiencies, all while boosting productivity, earned Murray Upper cane growers Wendy and Derrick Finlayson the prestigious Mangrove Jack award at the 2019 Productivity Awards night in Tully last month.

The husband and wife team, who trade as 3C FARMS, grow cane, citrus and cattle over 1800 hectares in the Murray, Biliyana and Kennedy areas.

A fourth-generation cane farmer, Derrick worked on the family farm in the Herbert region before moving to Tully in 1998 and starting his own cane-farming business in 2000.

"We've got a cane production area of around 200 hectares," Derrick said. "We try to leave about 15% of that fallow every year and plant it with a mix of legumes, usually lablab and cowpea.

"On a good year we'll harvest about 20,000 tonnes of cane. We also grow Tahitian Limes and have the cattle business."

From the very start, Derrick and Wendy have been committed to implementing best management practices on the farm.

"Right from the word go we wanted to make sure we did things right," said Derrick, who recently achieved accreditation in the industry best management practice program, Smartcane BMP.

"We haven't done it to meet any regulations, we've done it just because it's the right thing to do.

"Over the years we've developed the farms to make sure we were getting maximum efficiency from the harvester – we've laser-leveled, rotated blocks to get the maximum row lengths, we did a lot drainage works.

"We also just made sure the headlands were in good shape and that we were putting the best cane possible in front of the harvester."

Cane is planted on a super-single style row on 5 feet 4 inch centres with a combination of liquid and granular







*"Right from the word go we wanted to make sure we did things right. We haven't done it to meet any regulations, we've done it just because it's the right thing to do."*

fertiliser according to their soil test recommendations.

"We've been stool-splitting since day one and we also try to split our fertiliser where we can, using a combination of commercial fertiliser and our own home-grown compost."

The compost, which Derrick uses to enhance his soil micro-biology and fertility, is made from a mix of mill by-products including bagasse, mill mud, ash and trash.

"There no great science behind it," Derrick says. "It's more about building up the biological material in the soil to improve soil health and help produce more consistent crops."

Derrick and Wendy have even helped their harvesting contractor invest in GPS technology to further improve harvesting efficiency.

They've also installed a system of nutrient trapping drainage-coils, drains, and lagoons to effectively control of water run-off.

Continues page 20 ►



*Pictured: (main) the Finlayson family won the Mangrove Jack Award 2019, (page 18 and above) farm activities on the Finlayson family farm, (page 20 top) Damian Rigato and Nick Stipis Smartcane BMP Facilitator, (page 20 bottom) winners of the highest average relative sugar award.*



"The Finlayson family's sustainable farming practices are proof that they aim to farm in harmony with our very important environment for the long term future," CANEGROWERS Tully Chairman Tom Harney said.

"Derrick and Wendy are worthy of this prestigious award and we congratulate them on their achievement."

Despite being a first time winner, Derrick has a long history with the Mangrove Jack award.

"I was actually one of the people who came up with the idea for the Mangrove Jack award, way back about 15 or 16 years ago. Me, Tom Harney from CANEGROWERS and Russell Edwards came up with it sitting around my kitchen table, so it's great to finally win it myself all these years later," Derrick said.

"It was a bit of surprise to be honest. There are a lot of good farmers doing a lot of good things up this way, so to be considered up there with them is pretty pleasing."

Derrick and Wendy also collected the award for farms with the highest relative sugar production per harvested hectare in the Kennedy area. ■



## TOP PRODUCER AWARDS

Farms with the highest relative sugar production per harvested hectare.

DISTRICT	FARM	RECIPIENT
El Arish	MD & HL Pantovic	Danny & Helen
Murray	Sweet Cane Pty Ltd As T/ TEE (No 4)	Peter
Feluga	LG Lee	Les
Lower Tully	AF & PM Crema (No 2)	Angelo
Euramo	G & N Vecchio Pty Ltd (No 3 BOS)	John & Norm
Riversdale	Rigato Bananas	Damian
Syndicate	KD, Gilbert	Keith
Kennedy	3 C Farms Pty Ltd As T/TEE (No 2)	Derrick & Wendy

## TOP CCS PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Farms with the highest relative CCS.

DISTRICT	FARM	RECIPIENT
El Arish	MD & HL Pantovic	Danny & Helen
Murray	Flegler Group Pty Ltd	
Feluga	FG & N Vecchio	Frank & Nancy
Lower Tully	AF & PM Crema (No 2)	Angelo
Euramo	AL,BL,RJ & S Maifredi As T/ TEE	
Riversdale	DI Mauro Enterprises Pty Ltd as T/TEE	Sam
Syndicate	Rigato Farms Pty Ltd As T/ TEE (No 1)	
Kennedy	Bush Holdings Pty Ltd (No 1)	Les/Graham

## TOP NET \$\$ RETURN PER HECTARE AWARDS

Farms with the highest nett dollar return less the average Tully area levies and harvesting costs.

DISTRICT	FARM	RECIPIENT
El Arish	MD & HL Pantovic (No 2)	Danny & Helen
Murray	Flegler Group Pty Ltd	
Feluga	Rigato Farms Pty Ltd As T/ TEE (No 1)	
Lower Tully	AF & PM Crema (No 2)	Angelo
Euramo	G & N Vecchio Pty Ltd (No 3 BOS)	John & Norm
Riversdale	Rigato Bananas	
Syndicate	KD, Gilbert	Keith
Kennedy	F & AJ Corradi (No 1)	Alan



# Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

## National Agricultural Vehicle Notice Gazetted at last

Finally, after almost two years, the *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice* was gazetted on 30 April 2019.

This, combined with the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice Operator's Guide (the Guide) and the Agricultural Heavy Vehicle Zone Map (the Map), outlines the requirements for oversize and/or over-mass agricultural vehicles and combinations when travelling on public roads.

Although this is designed to replace the Queensland specific regulations with harmonised national regulation, in reality there is little change for operators. There are still very specific Queensland regulations included.

However, the fact that these regulations are now all in one place (not in seven different documents) and are perhaps easier to read and understand, is a positive outcome.

There is a lot of information and detail which may at first appear overwhelming. However, for growers, no immediate changes are required. There is an access transition period.

From the date of commencement of the Notice, agricultural vehicles and combinations may operate under the Notice (if consent has been provided by all relevant road managers) or the current Queensland regulations. However, growers need to be clear under which set of regulations they are travelling i.e. no cherry picking the ones that suite.

This provides certainty that growers can continue to operate legally on public roads, as well as time to understand how to comply with the Notice. The access transition period will be in effect for about one year and then all access will be under the National Notice.

CANEGROWERS, National Farmers' Federation and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator will be providing more detail and explanation in the next few months to enable growers to transition. ■



## Water – it's expensive and tied up in red tape

Outside of the wet tropics, irrigation water is an essential input to sugarcane production across the state. CANEGROWERS has invested significant resources, working with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME), SunWater and Energy Queensland, to ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of water.

In recent times the cost of electricity has been and continues to be a headline issue. At the end of May, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) is scheduled to issue its determination of retail electricity prices for regional Queensland from 1 July 2019.

Water prices are also under scrutiny by the QCA, with the government asking it to review irrigation water prices for 2020-24. CANEGROWERS is questioning the treatment of dam safety, insurance, the measurement of and costs associated with distribution losses, SunWater's excessive operating and asset management costs, as well as the treatment of electricity costs.

Reflecting the high costs of water and electricity and the improved on-farm efficiency of irrigation systems, there is considerable unused water in the state's major water supply schemes. DNRME has engaged Marsden Jacob to assess the on-price reasons for this under-utilisation, even in dry years.

In a workshop hosted by DNRME, CANEGROWERS highlighted several concerns, including the way water allocations are made and their interaction with on-farm water and production risk management.

Because initial allocations are usually less than 100% of entitlement and then increased, or not, during the year as supply becomes more assured, irrigators who require a reliable water supply to irrigate their entire crop seek allocations that are greater than 100% of their needs.

The additional water is banked, to manage the risk that allocations might not increase during the year.

In some districts land use and irrigation patterns are changing faster than regulations and SunWater's service level agreements. This is impacting both traditional water users and new users in a region.

In Queensland, water trading is an expensive (including fees and stamp duty), complicated and time-consuming process involving three agencies and at least eight processes. It can take more than six months to complete a transaction.

In other states, the water market is more active. For example, in NSW water transfer documents need to be lodged with two agencies WaterNSW and the Land Registry Service. Lodgement fees are low (about one-third of those in Queensland) and the process takes just four to six weeks.

CANEGROWERS is seeking a simpler system. ■



# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND FUTURE OF SUGARCANE IN BIO-MANUFACTURING

The circular economy is a term I have heard more frequently in conversation and at forums, most recently at the Sugar Tuesday section of the 2019 ASSCT conference. While the term may be new to many, the circular economy concept has been around for some time now.

Put simply, the circular economy is an economic system aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources. This regenerative approach contrasts with the traditional linear economy, which has a 'take, make, dispose' model of production<sup>i</sup>.

The shift from using fossil fuels to using more biomass from agricultural production within a circular economy creates a bioeconomy.

As outlined in a paper by Scheiterle et al (2018) in the Journal of Cleaner Production, which discussed Brazil's sugarcane-based bioeconomy<sup>ii</sup>, the bioeconomy is driven by the global need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the opportunity to use biotechnology to create bio-based products.

The paper goes on to say that sugarcane produces naturally simple compounds that are readily available for high-technology processing. This represents a considerable efficiency advantage compared to starchy products that need several treatments to produce simple structures.

You could argue that the Queensland sugarcane industry has been implementing the principle of the circular economy for years, as sugarcane not only produces sugar, but is used for electricity production, biofuels, and the trash, mill mud and ash is recycled on farm.

However, there are also other bio-based products that could be realised in the system such as bioplastics and high value products for pharmaceuticals.

Are we as an industry reaching our potential or are there other opportunities?

## ONE-QUEENSLAND ADVANCED BIO-MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY

In April 2019, CANEGROWERS was invited to present and participate on a panel discussion for a "one-Queensland" advanced bio-manufacturing capability.

The forum was hosted by the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist and was designed to explore the vision of a 'one-Queensland advanced bio-manufacturing capability to include a bioincubator and biofoundry at scale'.

According to the brief - the capability will require sugar to drive the bioprocesses and the larger opportunity for Queensland is to build on:

- its scientific capability based on prior and current investments in biotechnology, advanced bio-manufacturing, synthetic biology (along the 'DNA coast' and regions)
- having a locally-sourced feedstock to drive the requisite biological processes (sugar from cane grown along the 'production coast')
- its commitment to a biofutures roadmap to further diversify the economy, help create knowledge-based jobs, and support the regions

The forum provided updates and contextual presentations on microbiome manufacturing, options to scale up bio-incubator capability, business cases for growing the bioeconomy, and the prospects for bio-manufacturing.

The take away message – the Queensland Government and investors in this bio-manufacturing area see sugar as a key component for this vision.

Timing is critical and stakeholders at the forum felt investment needs to occur in the next 12-18 months.

No matter how you define it - circular economy, bioeconomy, biomanufacturing - there are some real opportunities for sugarcane growers, mills and the Queensland sugarcane industry.

The challenge is how the industry can capitalise given the policy issues around reef, vegetation, biofuels, and electricity, particularly if sugar is to be central to the bio-manufacturing position.

As my role involves membership engagement and innovation, I am working out how the circular economy can give some of that value back to growers. ■

<sup>i</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circular\\_economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circular_economy)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652617310934>



**Matt Kealley**

CANEGROWERS Senior  
Manager - Membership  
Engagement & Innovation



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Next deadline is **13 May 2019**.

\* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

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Complete 4 outlets

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500  
Rubber belt cane feed.  
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## Mossman-Tully

2004 Cameco Harv. VGC \$150,000. HBM Billet Planter GC \$22,000. 24 Plate Offset New Bearings (H/Duty) similar to Bonel \$7,000. Fert Box 3 Tonne Newton Type Side Stool Dresser 760mm OD Coulters - Draw Bar (on Wheels), 2 new Coulters & Full Set Bearings to suit, Stainless Worms & Chutes \$4,400. All prices incl GST. Ph: 0427 655 168 or 0429 408 255.

18.4 x 28 Rim, 4'6" Plastic primary hood with liner for Toft 7000, Assorted parts for MF 305 Harvester, New rolls heavy duty barbed wire 1.8mm. Ph: 0437 229 889.

2x John Deere 7710 4wd Tractors. One is 2003 setup on 42in tyres, new Injector Pump, 1200 hrs ago. Other is 2000 setup on 32in tyres, Range Box rebuilt 2300 hrs ago. Both were ex Articulated haul outs. Well maintained and in good condition. Ph. 0418456071 or 0418158319.

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## Classifieds

2x 750-18 Tyres & Rims \$400, 2x 380/70 R24 Tyres \$300, 2x 20.8.38 Tyres & Tubes \$500, 2x 16.9.28 Tyres & Tubes \$380, All second hand. All Inc. GST Ph: 0427 665 759.

John Deere 7400 Aircab 4WD. \$16,000 + GST. Fertiliser Bin, side dresser (MSW). S/S Bin \$6,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 456 218.

### Herbert River–Burdekin

Harmonic balancer to suit Ford 500 1976 model. GC. \$150 + GST. Ph: 0407 154 250.

### Mackay–Proserpine

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).

Toft 6000 Harvester (upgraded) Moller Billet Planter, 3t tipper bin. \$21,000. Ph: 0417 393 142 or 0428 186 261.

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.

6/8 ton high lift tipper bin, bogey drive, tipper has hydraulic paddle and middle petition fitted, also has hydraulic stabilising leg. Good for hilly or wet country. \$5,500. Ph: 0419 601959.

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

Fiat 750 Special, 6250 hrs, high clearance, good tyres, GC, \$5,200. Bonel 1 ton bag lifter, fresh paint, GC, \$2,200. Fertiliser bin, Hodge, 1 ton, centre buster, 2 drill, excellent condition \$2,500. Fertiliser bin, Mcleod, 1 ton, GC, \$2,300. Ph: 0409 598 398.

Napier Chisel Plough, 9 tynes with towing hitch \$2,500. Hodge spinner \$300. 80" chrome rotary hoe, heavy duty \$3,800. Moller Billet Planter, single row, 12" chute, excellent condition \$25,000. All prices + GST. Ph: 0413 656 963.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Kubota M135X-DC 4WD, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$44,000 Inc. Transport subsidized. Ph: 0418 788 643.

### Bundaberg–Rocky Point

Covington planter currently set up for soybeans. 4 speed master boxes. 3pt linkage. Spare Covington parts. 700kg stainless fertiliser box. \$9,500 + GST. Ph: 0438346338.

### Wanted

Zon gas gun prior to 1970. Ph: 0417 377 940.

Billet planter in good condition. Ph: 0409 598 398.

STL shares, genuine non-miller buyer. Ph: 0419 717 006.

### Positions Vacant

Experienced Harvester Operator for 2019 crushing season. Tully Euramo area, 120,000 tn contract, excellent machinery, good support, high productivity farms. Permanent position with good conditions on offer to the right applicant. Email resume to accounts@doreandco.com.au or call Brian Dore on 0427667964 to arrange an interview.

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–April
	22.04.19	29.04.19		
Mossman	9	32	2309	1585
Mareeba AP	1	1	603	680
Cairns	23	19	1711	1459
Mt Sophia	58	20	2216	2260
Babinda	0	0	2172	2708
Innisfail	118	113	2144	2224
Tully	81	43	1553	2623
Cardwell	18	33	1787	1513
Lucinda	18	37	2124	1465
Ingham	37	53	2468	1397
Abergowrie	10	35	1651	1286
Townsville	0.6	6	1709	814
Ayr DPI	0	15	916	643
Proserpine	10	119	1318	911
Mirani	7	172	1275	996
Mackay	23	184	896	996
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	91	1209	1147
Bundaberg	11	42	193	489
Childers South	0	20	205	396
Maryborough	48	32	338	581
Tewantin	47	23	417	867
Eumundi	68	0	351	861
Nambour	106	38	549	859
Woongoolba	3	0	311	617
Murwillumbah	66	30	326	800
Ballina	64	5	367	780
Woodburn	33	4	253	629



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



## Work Wanted

Cane Haul out driver, has HR Synchro & Forklift licence, has worked hauling out before, cane planting, general cane farming. Ph: 0435 054 038.

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

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. 2019 crop included, Estimate 4,000 ton. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. 2019 crop included, Estimate 2000 ton. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 39.94 ha total, 31.74 under cane on 2 freehold titles. 5 yr av 97 t/ha, Part Bruce Hwy frontage, and 7.5 Kms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water on 1 title. Ph: 0417 647 002.

92 acre lifestyle block, ex cane, cane ground was approx 65 acres, 3 bed house shed, power, water, 3 phase, landline, underground for irrigation, property runs along the Pioneer

River located Mia Mia/Pinevale area Mirani Mackay. Suit persons wanting extra cane ground or a hobby farm \$550,000. Ph: 07 4959 1008.

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 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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AND PHOTOS?

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