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A note to our grower shareholders ...

Due to the impacts of COVID, 2020 has been an extraordinary year. Despite the numerous challenges, STL has weathered this adversity well and I am pleased to report that our operations have been maintained, without disruption.

Safety above all

For me, the highlight of the year was the way in which the Queensland sugar industry moved quickly and effectively to address the potential impacts of COVID. Thanks to those early, collective efforts, STL did not suffer any operational delays or significant impacts as a result of the global pandemic. Importantly, no employees or contractors at our bulk sugar terminals tested positive to the virus. We have also implemented the required protocols to manage any risk moving forward.

Steady, reliable results

Against the backdrop of COVID, depressed sugar prices and a range of local challenges, STL has delivered steady, reliable results for our customers and shareholders.

STL's ongoing focus on productivity improvements whilst working closely with QSL Operations has helped us find ways to work smarter and drive costs down in financial year 2020 (FY20):

- total activity charges were 0.2% lower than in FY19 and 0.7% lower than FY18 (which is the first year of the new operating model)
- costs have reduced by almost 3% since FY18 when the impacts of inflation are taken into account
- STL's FY20 profit of \$26.7 million was marginally higher than the previous year

In addition, the \$12 million reroofing project at shed 1 in Mackay was completed in September on budget and on time.

A solid investment

In line with our commitment to deliver steady increases in shareholder returns which rely upon overall business profitability, dividends increased to 7.1 cents per share (fully franked), an increase of 2.9%. At the same time, the STL share price increased by 6.9% despite the volatility and uncertainty in world stock markets. As a result, total shareholder returns for FY20 were approximately 13%, which represents an excellent return on investment for our shareholders.

Photos, left to right:

STL's bulk sugar terminal in Cairns can store more than 250,000 tonnes of raw sugar and provides important infrastructure to the Australian Defence Force.

STL's Chief Executive Officer David Quinn.

STL's Peter Bolton and QSL Operation's Dean Hartley inspect loading of a vessel at the Bundaberg terminal.

Leadership changes

At our 2020 AGM, we bid farewell to two of our most experienced Directors, Drew Watson and Shayne Rutherford, who retired after nine years of service. Shareholders elected two new Directors:

- Mr Stephen Calcagno was elected by G Class shareholders
- Mr Rees Fleming was elected by M Class shareholders

At the same time, John Warda our CEO for the past 3 and a half years elected to retire. We wish John well and thank him for his drive and dedication.

David Quinn commenced as STL's new CEO immediately following the AGM. David has extensive experience in supply chain logistics, asset management and business expansion, both in Australia and internationally. His diverse career is an ideal fit for STL's strategy to grow and diversify our bulk commodity business, to complement STL's core sugar storage and handling business. David's first priority is to familiarise himself with our operations, so you will no doubt have an opportunity to meet him in coming months.

I wish you and your families a safe holiday season and I look forward to meeting with our grower shareholders again in person, once we are safely through these difficult and uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Mark Gray
Chairman





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Growers in the Finch-Hatton area of Mackay are still coming to terms with the fire that ripped through the region in November 2018.

COVER IMAGE: Ray Marbelli and Ray Cervellin are helping grower build back better. Read more on page 16.

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Farmers feeling the love post-COVID

There is a greater appreciation for the role farmers play in providing for Australia's food and fibre needs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to research released by the National Farmers' Federation to mark National Agriculture Day on 18 November.

NFF President and NSW farmer, **Fiona Simson** said panic buying and temporary supermarket shortages had caused angst for many Australians.

"It is logical that Australians have taken a greater interest in the origin of their meat, dairy, eggs, bread, fruit, vegetables and more.

"Inquiring consumers will have been pleasantly surprised to find that up to 96% of the food on their supermarket shelves is home grown.

"All Australians should take comfort in the fact that Australia is one of the most food secure nations in the world. Every year we produce up to two thirds more food than we can consume at home."

The increased interest was greatest in older Australians, with 1 in 3 over 55 reporting to now think more about the origins of their food.

BRINGING CANE TO THE CLASSROOM

In the Burdekin region, CANEGROWERS marked National Ag Day with a trip to the classroom.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Director **Steve Pilla** made a guest appearance at Home Hill State High School, where he spoke to students on behalf of the Farmer Time Program, which provides students with real world experiences in agriculture.

"It's really important the younger generation understands what's going on in farming, with technology changes and what we're embracing as farmers," Mr Pilla said. ■



Pictured: CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan joined the National Ag Day bake-off.

Race to the finish

The 2020 crush is rapidly winding down with a little over 2% of Queensland's crop still in the paddock as of 26 November.

Mossman, Tableland, Proserpine, Plane Creek, Bundaberg, Isis, Maryborough and Rocky Point have all completed their season, with the remaining districts not far behind.

It's expected that all districts will have completed harvesting operations by mid-December, weather and mill performance permitting. ■

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From all the staff at CANEGROWERS, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! To celebrate the Festive Season, this issue is packed full of exciting items from CANEGROWERS!

The **CANEGROWERS 2021 Calendar** will help you keep track of all your important events throughout the year. Featured on the cover is the winning shot from our CANEGROWERS bumper sticker photo competition. It features Innisfail member Adrian Darveniza and his youngest son Hamish on their family farm at South Johnstone in Far North Queensland. The photo was taken by Tracy Darveniza.

Never miss an important date with your **CANEGROWERS 2021 Pocket Diary** on hand. Capture all of your important rainfall data in 2021 with your **CANEGROWERS 2021 Rainfall Chart**. ■





Plans to transfer cane as mill closure confirmed

MSF Sugar has confirmed that the Maryborough Mill has crushed its final season for the company and that it is working on an agreement for contracted cane to be crushed in Childers.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough Chairman **Jeff Atkinson** said the announcement ended six months of uncertainty and speculation triggered by the company deciding to sell off its cane farm holdings in the region.

"While the news is disappointing for us and the community, the confirmation that an agreement is well advanced between MSF Sugar and Isis Central Sugar Mill has provided a degree of certainty for the future," he said.

MSF Sugar, in a memo on 25 November, confirmed that the settlement of the land sale was a catalyst for the announcement to close the mill.

The decision affects 60 workers with whom the company says it will engage in further consultation "regarding the implications of the decision".

"In addition to the sale, MSF Sugar has agreed with the Isis Central Sugar Mill Co. Ltd to progress the formation of a toll crushing agreement which will result in cane that is

sourced from the Maryborough and Sunshine Coast regions being crushed at the Isis Central Sugar Mill in 2021 and 2022," the statement said.

"MSF Sugar has a responsibility to ensure growers are not disadvantaged and that arrangements are made to satisfy its obligations under our current Cane Supply Agreement (contract) with the company," Jeff Atkinson said.

"While we have been working together to negotiate with the Isis Mill about, growers do hold concerns over some issues that are not yet resolved."

CANEGROWERS Maryborough is advocating strongly for growers to ensure the process continues with a sense of urgency.

This includes discussing an ongoing Cane Supply Agreement with the Isis Central Sugar Mill beyond the two years of a toll crushing arrangement.

"We remain confident that there is a bright future for growing sugarcane in the Maryborough region, and we will engage constructively to ensure that happens," Mr Atkinson said. ■

*Pictured: Maryborough Mill.
Photo by Graeme Wilson.*



Road access rule changes for farm vehicles and machinery

Long-awaited changes to the rules governing agricultural vehicle access to public roads have finally been announced, with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) publishing an updated Operator's Guide on 23 November.

The updated *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice - Operators Guide* lays out the conditions under which ag vehicles of various sizes can travel on critical, major and minor roads.

While many of the requirements remain unchanged, the Notice, which aims to harmonise road access rules for ag vehicles across the nation, does contain some good news for growers from Bundaberg to Cairns, CANEGROWERS Industry Manager **Burn Ashburner** said.

"The real benefit for cane growers is the change which allows agricultural vehicles and combinations between 3.5m and 4.0m width to travel on critical roads Bundaberg northwards, such as the Bruce Highway, with a choice of 1 pilot

and roadside signage or two pilots and no roadside signage," Mr Ashburner said.

"This option of using two pilots is a long overdue, sensible change which CANEGROWERS has been advocating for a number of years. It will reduce the risk to growers and other road users."

Under the notice, all over-sized vehicles are still required to have on-vehicle signage, flags and lights. While no pilot is required for ag vehicles under 3.5 metres wide, for ag vehicles between 3.5m and 5m wide the requirements differ depending on the type of road you are travelling on and the region in which you are travelling.

A handy guide to help growers determine the requirements applicable to their

circumstances can be found on page 25 of this magazine. (This can be cut out and kept for future reference).

"It's been a long and sometimes difficult road to get to this point, due to the large number of agencies, industry groups, and government bodies with competing requirements," Mr Ashburner said.

"But CANEGROWERS has worked hard to make sure the sugarcane industry had a seat at the negotiating table and that the needs of growers were taken into account."

The complete operators guide can be found on the NHVR website.

Visit www.nhvr.gov.au and type National Class 1 Agricultural into the search box on the top right of the screen. ■



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CANEGROWERS Policy Council eyes industry evolution

Industry revitalisation and diversification were high on the agenda when grower representatives gathered for the CANEGROWERS' Policy Council meeting in November.

Council members, connected via video conference facilities from five hubs, agreed to work with the Australian Sugar Milling Council and the Queensland Government to develop a revitalisation strategy to ensure the industry's short and long term viability.

The revitalisation strategy will include ways to increase income from sugar by:

- building on value creation opportunities flowing from the innovative marketing structures available since the introduction of grower choice in marketing, including growers' ability to manage their individual price risk;
- improving market opportunities through the removal of India's export subsidies using WTO processes and securing new market access opportunities through Australia's FTA negotiations;

- pursuing opportunities to diversify grower income streams through complimentary break crops and the use of spare or marginal land, but in a way that did not threaten the viability of current milling operations.

"Among the diversification options discussed were alternative uses for tops and trash, particularly where these are currently being burnt, and the idea of mills producing alternative products from cane that would increase the mill's viability while boosting income for growers," CANEGROWERS Head of Economics **Warren Males** said.

Currently, the level of investment in research into alternate products from sugarcane that is directly controlled or influenced by the Australian sugar industry is relatively small in comparison to the worldwide investment.

"It's imperative that the industry takes action to keep up with global developments," Mr Males said. ■



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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We are incredibly grateful for the support and patronage of sugar cane growers across the east coast who have trusted LiquaForce with their crops the past season and have returned again this season.

2020 proved challenging for many for obvious reasons, but the LiquaForce team remain focused on the silver linings – including opening a depot in Ayr to service the Burdekin region more promptly, pushing forward on plans to open a depot in Mackay to service the Whitsundays to Sarina more efficiently, breaking records from Tully to Mackay on BigShot liquid blend sales and the addition of three new contract applicator businesses to the LiquaForce network in the Julatten/Mossman/Mareeba, Burdekin and Mackay regions.

Here's to 2021 – we look forward to working with you again!
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End of an era as cane farmers union deregistered

After almost a century protecting the interests of cane farming families, the curtain fell on the Queensland Cane Growers Association Union of Employers (QCGA) last month, with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) agreeing to deregister the union.

At the time of deregistration QCGA was the oldest employer union in the state, having been founded in 1925.

"The union played a critical part in the history of the sugarcane industry," CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor Chris Cooper said.

"The cane industry was the main industry in Queensland from the late 1800s through to the mining boom and boasted over 100,000 employees in the 1930s.

"Industrial relations was naturally a major issue with all those employees and QCGA was at the centre of it all, representing grower employers."

The union was managed internally for most of its days, but since 2015 has called upon external consultants and the National Farmers' Federation to assist with industrial relations matters.

"The industrial landscape has changed to a federal system under Fair Work, rather than being a state-based system, so a state registered union was no longer appropriate," Mr Cooper said.

"Cane growers, as employers, can be represented these days in IR matters through CANEGROWERS as the peak industry body. In federal matters the organisation can call upon NFF for assistance."

In handing down its decision to deregister the union, at

the request of the QCGA board of management, the QIRC acknowledged the union's historical significance saying:

"The Full Bench notes that the QCGA has as its primary objective, the advancement and protection of the interests of cane farming families in Queensland since 1925. The Commission's records reflect that QCGA is the oldest employer organisation in this jurisdiction having first been registered on 13 August 1926."

Among the union's many achievements over the years was its successful opposition to the introduction of a 38-hour week for field employees in 1985.

The union also contained wage rises, successfully arguing for the exclusion of field workers from a 2.6% rise awarded to the rest of the community.

As recently as 2013 the union applied to the QIRC to intervene in an industrial dispute at the Mulgrave Mill. Growers were concerned the dispute between the mill and its employees would cause a delay to harvesting and prevent growers from being able to fully deliver their 2013 crop to the mill for crushing.

CANEGROWERS will continue to provide important information on the current Sugar Industry Award and other industrial relations-related advice. For more information visit: canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/industrial-relations ■



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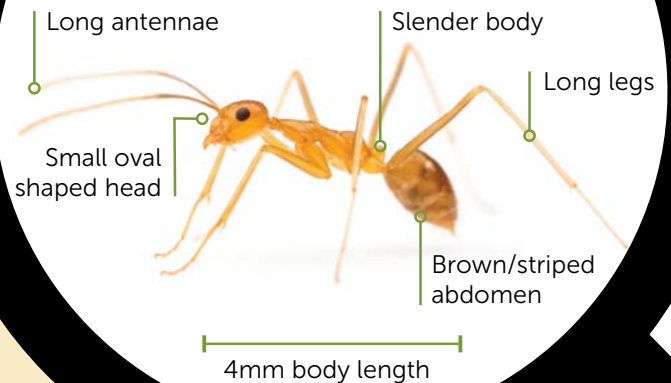
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Distinguishing a yellow crazy ant from similar species

Yellow crazy ant *Anoplolepis gracilipes*:

- Very long legs and antennae
- Frantic movement when disturbed
- Slender golden body, brown abdomen
- Sprays acid, doesn't bite



Funnel ant *Aphaenogaster* spp.:

- Shorter legs and antennae
- Brown solid, stocky body



Meat ant *Iridomyrmex* spp.:

- Shorter antennae and legs
- Large square head
- Bites but does not spray acid



Strobe ant *Opisthopsis* spp.:

- Shorter legs and antennae
- Large abdomen, head and eyes
- Moves in a stop-start (strobe) motion



Green tree ant *Oecophylla smaragdina*:

- Long legs and antennae
- Green abdomen and head
- Sprays acid and also bites



Carpenter ant *Camponotus* spp.:

- Short legs and antennae
- Large stocky body, often golden or brown



e | yca@wtma.qld.gov.au

w | wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ants



CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

GROWER VOICE ESSENTIAL TO GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

At a recent meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council, professor in politics Dr Paul Williams provided a retrospective analysis of the state election outcome.

Professor Williams is a well published political commentator, and his analysis provided the grower representatives with a wealth of data and insights to build on as an organisation.

While on the surface it could be said the election simply returned the Labor Government, there were strong messages within the voting patterns that need to be understood if we are to continue strongly and successfully representing the needs of our industry and sharing the stories of cane growers across the country.

The election certainly reiterated the impact regional votes can have on forming a government in Queensland.

More than other states, Queensland has regional economic powerhouses centred around Bundaberg, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

These regions can and often do drive our economy, largely through the success of the mining, tourism and agriculture sectors.

But we have learnt that voting patterns in these regions are beginning to replicate trends we would normally expect to see in city-based electorates.

So, our response as an industry will need to reflect this.

The voice of regional Queensland needs to unify through collaboration across our reliable, stable and evolving industries.

The fact that Queensland is the only Australian state with a unicameral parliament, with no upper house or legislative council, means the task of holding a government to account and delivering transparency in decision-making is all that more difficult.

Of course, we have no choice but to accept the fundamental arithmetic of the parliament and respect the government's mandate.

However, far from being a deterrent to action, that reality reinforces our pivotal and powerful role to work across the parliament, throughout the bureaucracy, and with our colleagues in associated industries and regional representatives to influence government decision-making, shine a light upon those decisions, and be the bold, brave but uncompromising voice of growers.

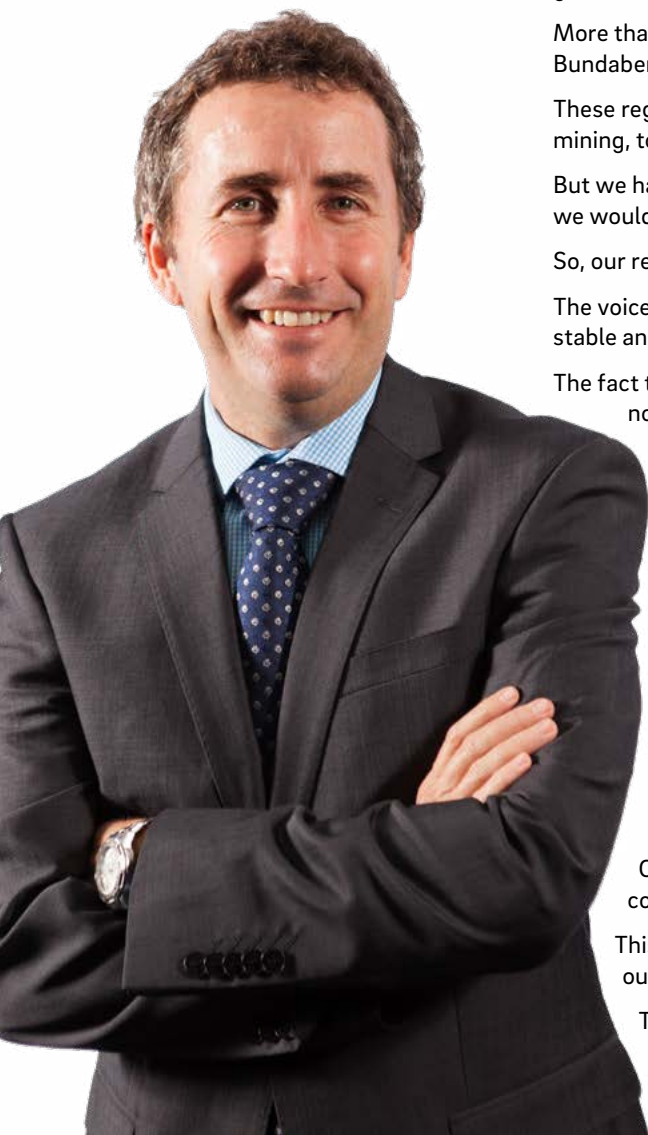
Our voice needs to be collaborative with our industry supply chain partners if we are to present the new government with an opportunity to join in what can be a bright future for the industry.

CANEGROWERS research shows that the voice of growers is the voice that the community and community leaders want to hear from.

This supports our model to be both grower-led and have growers at the centre of our communication and advocacy tasks.

The work to demonstrate that to the new Queensland Parliament and cabinet has already begun.

It's a task we must succeed in, if we are to see a new, more responsive government that does not take our industry for granted. ■





SEASONS GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER MAGAZINE

**From all the staff at CANEGROWERS
we thank you for your contributions
and support throughout the year.**

SUGARSNAPS 2020

Announcing the winners



Thank you to everyone who submitted their photographs to the SRA Sugar Snaps photography competition.

Our overall winner of the competition was **Josey Wales**, with **Callan Lund** receiving second, and **Casey Clarke** and **Tracy Darveniza** receiving equal third.

The winning photos and many others will be published in a 2021 shed calendar.

Keep an eye on your mailbox in the next few weeks for the shed calendar. ■



Register now!

New pricing essentials course for cane growers

CANEGROWERS, TAFE Queensland and the Rural Jobs Skills Alliance have created a new course aimed at improving the profitability of cane farms through better pricing decisions.

The course is called *Pricing Essentials for Cane Growers* and registrations of interest are now open on the TAFE website www.tafeqld.edu.au/skillsetcanegrowers or by contacting a CANEGROWERS office.

"Competition in sugar marketing and the ability to forward price has opened up new opportunities for growers to enhance their profitability," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said. "CANEGROWERS recognises that the ability of growers to maximise their returns is enhanced by understanding of commodity markets, their own costs of production and capacity to manage business risks."

The course will be held between February and May 2021 in most sugarcane growing regions. It fits into a suite of resources CANEGROWERS has created for members including the Marketing Information Service monthly updates and the Cost of Production Tool which are available on the CANEGROWERS website.

"The more information and skills growers have at hand, the better placed they are to take opportunities to improve their profitability – something which is critical in times of low world sugar prices as we are seeing now," Mr Galligan said.

This program is subsidised with funding from the Queensland Government.

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Elizabeth Ahern, QRIDA's Regional Area Manager for North Queensland

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

2020 HARVEST INCHING TO A CLOSE

The 2020 cane harvest is coming to a close and should be completed by mid-December. As an industry we are reliant on every tonne so I'm hoping the weather holds and all growers get their crop to the mill.

At this stage, we are looking at an Australian crop totalling 31 million tonnes, made up of 29 million tonnes in Queensland and 2 million tonnes in New South Wales. This should equate to around 4.2 million tonnes of raw sugar production – slightly up on last year!

CHINA TRADE

There has been considerable media coverage of late on Australia's somewhat fraught relationship with China and the impact this may have on trade, particularly the export of Australian agricultural products to China.

A number of media outlets have reported that Chinese authorities are advising against imports of certain products, including sugar.

Australian sugar exports to China ebb and flow, and last year accounted for just 8% of our export tonnage.

Whilst China is an important market, our export market diversity ensures we are not exposed to risk by reliance on any single market.

The Australian sugar industry has pursued a deliberate strategy of accessing and maintaining as many markets as possible. Access to multiple markets ensures our sugar, when sold, captures the best possible premiums.

Certainly, China presents a huge market opportunity. It is one of the top three importers of sugar in the world, with a population of over 1 billion people.

Added to that is our proximity to Asia, which positions us far more competitively than other sugar exporting countries.

So, while any contraction of access to the Chinese market wouldn't be life threatening to our industry, this market is one we are hopeful can be a bigger part of our future export program.

There's a saying in world trade that, 'Markets are hard won but easily lost'. That is why we are viewing the developments in China with a great deal of concern.

To date, despite what has been reported, we have no evidence that Australian sugar exports are unwelcome in China.

WTO ACTION

For the Australian sugar industry, the global price is the benchmark that we live and die on. There is no other sugar industry in the world so highly reliant on the world price.

There is no doubt that the current underlying weakness of the world price is due to Indian export subsidies, which

is why Australia, Brazil and Guatemala have taken an action at the World Trade Organisation, alleging that these subsidies are contrary to WTO rules.

I am pleased to advise that while the COVID-19 pandemic had initially delayed the formal hearing, the WTO panel hearing this dispute has advised that it will be held very soon.

This means that the WTO dispute against India is back on track. We are confident that a decision will be handed down in early 2021.

This is a long and bureaucratic process; however, we are now in sight of an initial decision.

While we acknowledge that appeal processes apply after a decision is handed down, from experience, the initial decision is the landmark event.

2020 will long be remembered as one of the most challenging years we have ever faced. Let's hope that 2021 is a better year for the Australian sugar industry.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family compliments of this Christmas season and a safe, productive and prosperous New Year. ■

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Growers build back better

The disastrous Tropical Low in 2019 made national headlines when it flooded thousands of hectares of sugarcane and left a trail of destruction in north Queensland. But what happened next?

In the aftermath, CANEGROWERS lobbied for disaster assistance and then hosted Industry Recovery Officers in the Herbert River and Burdekin districts who worked with growers. By accessing Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants, damaged farms and waterways have not just been repaired but improved - to be more resilient in the future.

BY JOHN FLYNN

The enthusiasm was obvious as CANEGROWERS Herbert River Industry Recovery Officer Ray Cervellin and civil contractor/cane grower Ray Marbelli walked along a headland on the southern bank of the Herbert River to inspect a recently constructed rock revetment wall.

To the untrained eye, what may appear to be a pile of rocks on a riverbank, is to those who understand engineering, an

"This was resilience as well as recovery work."

intricate construction, anchored with large boulders at the toe and hundreds of tonnes of rocks of graded sizing, carefully levered into position with an excavator to bolster the river bank.

As Ray Marbelli explained, this was the site of a blow-out during the big wet of 2019, the rainfall event which swamped low-lying areas of Townsville and severely impacted cane growing regions in the Herbert River and Burdekin.

"The grant has enabled them to not only protect their farm but stop silt running out to the ocean."

"When the river overfills it just finds its first outlet at the lowest part of the bank and it'll exhaust through there," he said.

"As the water is rushing out it takes the silt and the loam and everything with it and that just keeps getting accelerated as the floodwaters recede."

Rock revetment walls do not come cheap. Funding riverbank restoration has proven to be a perennial challenge for the various river improvement trusts tasked with maintaining the expansive riparian zones snaking along the North Queensland coastline.

When funding packages of up to \$75,000 became available to farmers via the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant process, rock revetment walls featured prominently among applications submitted by cane farmers in the Herbert River region.

"For an average-size grower, \$75,000 is out of the realm of possibility to do this sort of work, so it just wouldn't happen," Ray Marbelli noted.

"It'd just continually keep eroding and it would just mean more silt going down the river and out to our reef."

"The grant has enabled them to not only protect their farm but stop silt running out to the ocean."

Revetment walls, rock groynes and rock basketing all featured prominently among the hundreds of applications that swept across the Industry Recovery Officer's desk at CANEGROWERS Herbert River in the months following the 2019 flood.

The emphasis wasn't just on supporting the immediate challenge of getting industry back on its feet in the regions and the economy ticking over.

There was also a strong focus on the notion of 'building back better', packaging a resilience dividend into the funding stream.

"This was resilience work as well as recovery work," Ray Cervellin pointed out.

"When they could go out and do a job and do it properly, to possibly prevent it from happening again. That does cost that little bit extra but it gives you reassurance that down the track you mightn't have to go back and do it again, at least not to the same scale."

"If you've got an extra bit of cash flow to do that job properly, let's not do it half-heartedly because that's all you can afford."

Upstream in the Herbert River catchment near Abergowrie, CANEGROWERS member Joe Grotelli took advantage of the opportunity to restore a substantial washout on one of his paddocks.

A blowout that occurred as the flood waters receded gouged a three-metre

Continues next page ►

Pictured: (main) Cane grower and civil works contractor Ray Marbelli with CANEGROWERS Industry Recovery Officer Ray Cervellin, (below left) Haulout road resurfacing work, (below right) Proper drainage will help make paddocks more flood resilient.



"It's been a win-win situation not only for the growers but the shire as well."



wide by two-metre deep hole in a cane block, taking with it a headland and section of creek bank.

Working with CANEGROWERS Industry Recovery Officer, funding was secured to undertake a restoration.

"We applied for the funding to do the recovery, we knew it was going to be quite a significant amount and we got approved," Joe said.

"We took the dozer and scoop and ripped all the topsoil back off and cleaned it all out and put the subsoil back in and packed it in.

"We put the clean topsoil back over the top and then we put some rock on the edge so hopefully it doesn't ever happen again."

Resilience was also the motive behind drainage work undertaken with Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant funding, including laying pipe to fix blown out headwalls and culverts on haul-out roads and undertaking laser levelling of blocks to improve drainage longer-term.

In the Trebonne area, a haul-out road reconstructed just in time for the 2020 harvest provided a highly visible example of how the recovery grants have been used to great effect.

"We had five to six hundred millimetres in a 24-48 hour period and that caused water to rush across the road which obviously caused rutting and severe potholing," Ray Marbelli recalled.

The road has been rebuilt to a four-metre formation with a 100mm gravel re-sheet

and a 3% cross-fall to meet standards set by the Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

"This makes it safe for hauling, which doesn't lean the tippers all that much, and enables water shedding to happen," he said.

"Hopefully we can get at least twelve, eighteen months with normal wear and tear out of it.

"With the 100mm of gravel we put on there, it can give it a running course for probably five to six years that you can allow retrimming and grading, so hopefully within that five to six years we keep the roads up to a really good standard."

As a civil contractor and local employer, Ray was also eager to point out a social dividend from the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant funding.

Extreme weather events are commonplace in the Herbert River and the region has taken some major blows in recent years, most notably in the wake of Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

"The grant has not only been great for the growers, but great for the district as a whole," he said.

"There has been a flow-on effect to quarries and contractors, and obviously contractors spend their money employing people and fuel, stuff like that and repairs in the district as well.

"It's been a win-win situation not only for the growers but the shire as well." ■



Watch the latest season of Virtual Bus Tour videos on YouTube:
youtu.be/VlrUi5y0oQw

Pictured: (above) What may appear to be a pile of rocks on a riverbank, is actually an intricate construction. (Opposite) Joe Grotelli cane grower.

These projects were proudly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, administered in Queensland via the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority.



Australian Government



Queensland Government



QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 23 November 2020.

Sugar



- Bullish sentiment has dominated the past month as the March 2021 ICE 11 contract rallied to highs of 15.66 USc/lb as of the time of writing. There is further room to move higher above 16/16.50 USc/lb in the absence of an Indian export subsidy.
- India remains the main focus for the market as it awaits an export subsidy announcement. The Indian Food and Commerce Minister is still holding his previously stated position that no subsidies for sugar exports are being considered, much to the frustration of Indian growers and millers.
- The spread between the March 2021 and May 2021 ICE 11 contracts continues to widen and has now pushed out as far as 119 points inverse (i.e. the May contract's price is 119 points lower than the March price). This is a result of a lack of Thai and Indian sugar availability, causing a massive trade-flow squeeze in the first quarter of 2021. As a result, consumers are being pushed to pay a premium over the May price to get sugar into the March delivery window.
- **ICE 11 trading range going forward:** Broader trading range estimated to be 13.50 USc/lb to 16.50 USc/lb.
- **Closely watching:** Indian export subsidy news, La Nina weather updates, speculative activity, trading volumes and overall technical indicators.

KEY INDICATORS

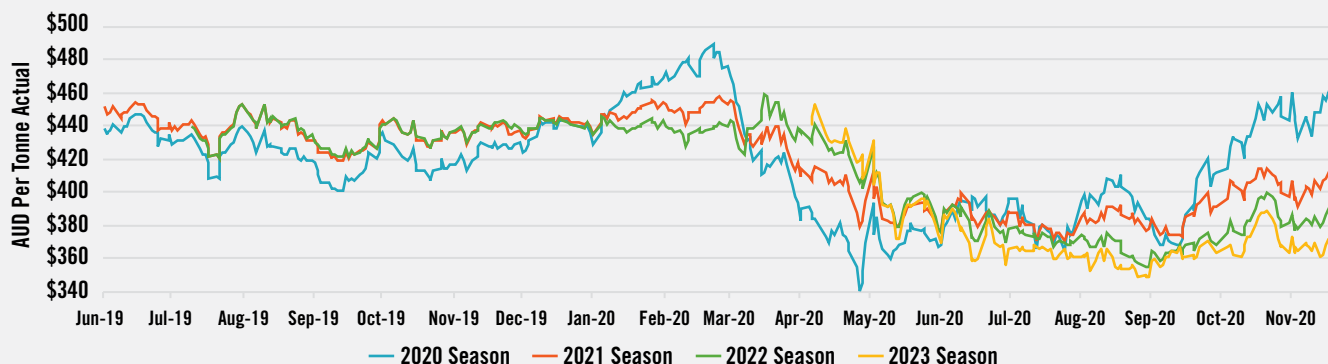
	23/11/2020	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (MAR21)	15.21 USc/lb	+0.30 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.39 BRL	+0.01 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US44.96/barrel	+\$US5.51
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	12.13 USc/lb	+0.74 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	257,000 (net long)	+5,000

Currency



- After climbing 2.5 cents against the US Dollar (USD) following the US election, the Australian Dollar (AUD) has paused for breath around 73 US cents. Positive COVID-19 vaccine news is helping to outweigh the negative impacts of climbing infection rates in the northern hemisphere.
- The US election result has seen risk rally aggressively over the past few weeks, with the AUD caught up in the euphoria as the USD took a sizeable step backwards. The Republicans' retention of the US Senate sets the scene for some degree of fiscal policy gridlock for the next two years. With this in mind, the next fiscal response package in the US will probably be dialled back somewhat and this may temper some of the market enthusiasm going forward.
- The Reserve Bank meeting on 3 November delivered a reduction in the cash rate target to 0.1 per cent, which was in line with market expectations. Meanwhile, they also announced a program to purchase \$100 billion of government bonds of maturities of around 5 to 10 years over the next six months. This was at the lower end of market expectation and prompted a small uplift in the AUD.
- **AUD/USD trading range going forward:** 0.7000 to 0.7500.
- **Risks Ahead:** Australia-China relationships, RBA commentary and COVID-19 news.

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 23.11.20, based on the Target Price Contract's current 5:1 pricing ratio for the 2020 Season and 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Seasons.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. 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 report.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

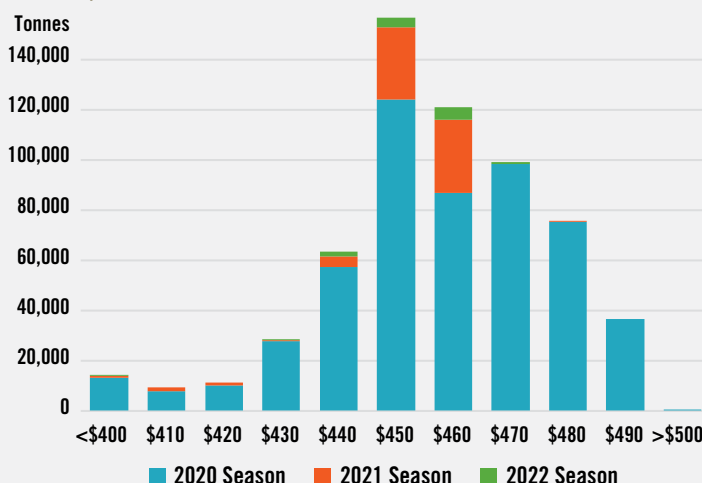


Grower Pricing



- > The latest market rally saw 2020-Season prices above \$460/tonne in the past month, with a high of \$452 (incorporating the \$9.43/tonne roll cost) achieved in the TPC and \$466 filled in the March 2021 contract for the SMHP.
- > Opportunities in the 2021 Season were not as great but were still available above \$400/tonne, with Target pricing achieved at \$410, and Individual Futures Contract orders filled at \$415 (Jul21) and \$405 (Oct21).
- > The current roll cost for the 2020 Season is \$9.43/tonne. This means the market must reach the target price plus this roll adjustment in order to fill the original target. For example, for an unfilled 2020-Season Target Price order of \$450 to now be filled, the market needs to reach \$459.43 (i.e. \$450 + the \$9.43 roll cost).
- > Growers have until 20 April to complete their 2020-Season Target pricing, with the next roll deadline 22 February 2021. Please note: Growers in MSF milling districts must complete their 2020-Season pricing by 22 February 2021 as they cannot roll to the May contract.
- > QSL's new Grower Floor Price Contract is available from 1 December. This grower-managed pricing options allows you to target your own floor price to lock in a known minimum return while also receiving 50% of any subsequent prices above your floor. See your local QSL representative or visit www.qsl.com.au for details.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2020, 2021 & 2022 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 23.11.20 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

QSL Direct Helpline

The QSL Direct Helpline team is available to answer any questions you may have about your account and provide real-time support. You can reach the helpline between 8.30am and 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) by calling **1800 870 756**.

Indian Export Subsidy



What is the Indian Export Subsidy?

In a bid to support the cane industry, the Indian government artificially sets the domestic price of sugar at a premium to ICE 11 world sugar prices each year. This is called the domestic Minimum Selling Price (MSP). India produces far more sugar than it consumes each year and as such requires a mechanism to deal with (i.e. export) the excess supply without putting downward pressure on the MSP.

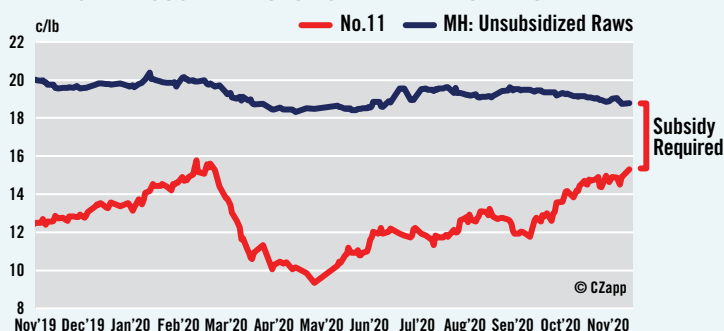
The Indian government annually approves an export subsidy to be paid to Indian sugar mills, which bridges the gap between the price they receive for their exported sugar and the MSP they receive for domestic sales. This announcement is traditionally made around September/October ahead of their crush starting in early November and varies in price and volume year-to-year depending on the market conditions.

What will happen if there is a late or no export subsidy?

The world market is already feeling the shortage of approximately 6 million tonnes of sugar which is usually exported from India. This delay is slowly driving the ICE 11 sugar price higher.

Without the subsidy it does not make sense for Indians to export, as their domestic prices are far higher than the world sugar market. The lack of supply in the world market should theoretically force the ICE 11 price and Indian domestic prices to converge to a point where Indians are incentivised to start exporting again and supply the world market with the sugar it needs. This point is known as the export parity, and is currently around 18.80 USc/lb.

INDIA'S RAW SUGAR PRICES VS. THE NEW YORK NO.11



This graph shows the gradual increase in the ICE11 sugar price in the past few months as it converges towards the Indian domestic price. Source: Czarnikow

'DAY FROM HELL' MEMORIES LINGER IN MACKAY REGION

Two years on from devastating bushfires that charred cane farms and rainforest, growers talk about the physical and mental road to recovery and how their CANEGROWERS Insurance helped.

If you stand at the David Burghers Bridge near Finch Hatton, an hour west of Mackay, and look up towards Netherdale, you will see a lot of blackened, dead trees.

Every week or so, one of them will topple and locals are concerned that a good blow will put a lot of them in Cattle Creek putting farmland in the region at risk of flooding.

When one of them falls, it can take out a fence and has to be dragged out so that repairs can be made, creating a headache for local farmers.

But far more troubling than a broken fence or some flooded paddocks are the tree 'skeletons' which serve as a harrowing reminder of the firestorm that swept through the region on 27 November 2018.

It devastated cane land and forests and burned memories of near death experiences into the minds of local growers.

"I feel a bit sick when I drive past the skeletons," says Joe Bugeja, who farms in the area.

"It's normally such a lush green place. Now all you see are these dead trees. It brings it all back.

"The fire affected me for months afterwards. I'm a farmer through and through and I was born on our farm, but I actually didn't feel like farming after the fire. I felt pretty vulnerable.

"If we'd had another one like it the following year, I would have walked off the farm - and I wouldn't have been alone."

His neighbour, **Burnie Ward** (pictured opposite) agrees.

"My son, Darren, my wife and I - we were the only ones here," he recalls.

"We had a tractor with a water pump on it but the hose went off straight away because the fire burnt the pressure

pump. So, we were just a bucket brigade trying to save the house.

"We thought we were right because we had been backburning and initially the fire started from Finch Hatton. But then it started up on the ridge behind us. The SES blokes were up there with it.

"Next minute, the wind changed and it came down the mountain like a Bondi tram. 'All you can do is pray,' they told us when it took off.

"Darren and I nearly got cooked in it. It went straight over the top of us.

"The flames were enormous. I've got trees 12 metres high and they burnt right to the top.

"The whole farm at home was burnt. Every bit of it. Then it jumped the road and took the other farm, probably another eight hectares, so (we lost) about 60 hectares all up.

"We had the harvesting gear at the home farm. We shifted it all across the road to Darren's farm. Then of course the cane caught alight over that side.

"Fortunately, we didn't lose it, but we lost a lot of sheds and gear. It went on for a long time. All my sheds caught alight inside. The diesel fuel tank blew.

"You couldn't do much about it. Luckily, we saved the house, (but) it came very close.

"I've got a 20 hectares flat that runs from my place to the back of Joe Bugeja's. I reckon it ran over that in about five minutes. It was the most terrifying thing I've ever lived through."

SHOWER OF EMBERS

Joe Bugeja agreed, saying the smoke made it difficult to breathe and it was impossible to see more than 20 metres in front of your face. A showers of embers from the mountain made it impossible to save the trash blanket.

"We thought we were well prepared for fire. We keep things really clean around

the farm but I felt quite defenceless in that. I just went to jelly," Joe said.

"I could see that Burnie next door was losing healthy ratoons which were well out of the ground and then I lost the whole farm.

"We could only focus on saving the shed and the house. It felt like an apocalypse, it was so quick. It took my neighbour's house within 20 minutes and was over at another neighbour's farm within half an hour.

While **Robert Muscat** (pictured page 23) lives three kilometres down the road, one of his farms is in the same area and the situation was the same.

"We had been backburning. While the wind was blowing the fire up the hill it was good. Then suddenly the wind changed and it was upon us.





"I was on my tractor with a spray unit. The Rural Fire Brigade was there. But all the ash, ambers and smoke just came on top of us. In the middle of the paddock where it was harvested all the trash caught alight. We couldn't do anything.

"It opens your eyes when something like that happens. I don't know how you are supposed to control something like that. We are lucky that we are still here."

Women and children were evacuated from the area by police and went to the hall at Finch Hatton's Showgrounds.

"Everyone in Hatton thought we were gone," said Burnie. "They said it's no good going up there, they're all bugged. The police came back around 6.30 that night just to see if we were still alive."

Joe recalled that a lot of fire crews and farmers, about 30 to 40 people from as far away as Prosperine, arrived to get the blaze under control.

DIDN'T THINK WE'D NEED IT

"Farmers in their 70s who came to help were shaking their heads afterwards. They were totally shocked," said Joe. "They had never seen anything like it."

"If not for the Rural Fire Service it would have been a complete disaster," said Robert. "They were back burning, using the fallow. If they hadn't pulled it up where they did, it would have just kept going to Finch Hatton."

All three growers are members of CANEGROWERS so they had fire insurance for the damage to their crops.

"We didn't think we'd ever need the fire insurance," said Burnie. "But thank God we had it. I don't know how we would have kept going really because it paid for everything to get growing again."

Joe commented that while they were lucky to have a second income stream with contract harvesting, farming is their biggest income earner.

"The first payment for fertiliser and chemical was awesome. We got it so quick and it was spent straight away. It hurt to think that after just finishing fertilising and spraying we had to do it all again but thank God we didn't have to find the money to do it," Joe said.

Robert, too, was glad to have the insurance for the 18 ha of trash blanket he lost. **The insurance is a membership benefit of being part of CANEGROWERS.**

The affected farmers used a number of different methods to re-establish their cane lands after the fire. Following recommendations from MAPS, some used dunder, others who had used a stool splitter before just topped up with sulphate.

For some, irrigation at that time of the year was the biggest issue. Joe Bugeja managed to get the Department of

Natural Resources and Mines to agree to let him pump water from the creek after his spring dried up. But a week after the fire, the area experienced a second extreme weather event – a savage storm.

MINI HURRICANE

"It was like a mini hurricane," said Joe. "It came from the north which is unheard of here. We thought everything was against us at the time. I think the fire weather



Continues next page ►

brought it somehow. It did damage the like of which we've never seen before."

But the copious rain was welcome. Some growers then proceeded to aerate their paddocks to conserve the water and help it to penetrate without runoff and soil erosion.

With no cane and no trash on the paddocks, weeds were the next major threat. Some growers used residual herbicides where previously the trash blanket would have done the job. Knockdowns were later applied for vines and broadleaf weeds using a high-rise tractor.

The ratoons that weren't completely burnt and could grow again were harvested according to the usual mill schedule but the growing season was not long enough to achieve good production, particularly without a trash blanket.

However, the insurance provided compensation to growers for their substantial yield losses (tonnes cane/hectare) in the 2019 season, as determined by MAPS, which gave them cash flow to fund the next crop.

A final insurance payment for yield loss was made this year, after the grower's final cane price for the 2019 season was determined. For some growers this payment was a very welcome surprise.

Some growers have decided to start using fire again strategically as a management tool. Where a paddock is up against the mountain, has been slow to ratoon or the crop is too big to cut green, it is burnt to create a fire break. While 70% of the farm will still be trash blanketed and cut green, the fire break is a useful insurance method.

Meanwhile, the region as a whole is in a much better situation thanks to the work of Rural Fires and National Parks.

In particular, Fire Warden **Michael (Lizard) Seymour** and National Parks' **Scott Brooks** have been mentioned in dispatches by growers who are grateful for their work in creating a large fire break using dozers, between Netherdale and Finch Hatton.

In addition, incendiary balls have been dropped from the air onto the mountain spurs. These have created small fires to

take out the grass and undergrowth and protect the rainforest from large fires.

An airstrip has also been built at Eungella to allow water bombing, should there be time to use it in a large fire. Funding was provided by government and the work been done.

"The mountain spur between my and my brother's farms is no longer a risk," said Joe. "They burnt a fire break through several properties and now there's a big section of mountain that's not a threat anymore."

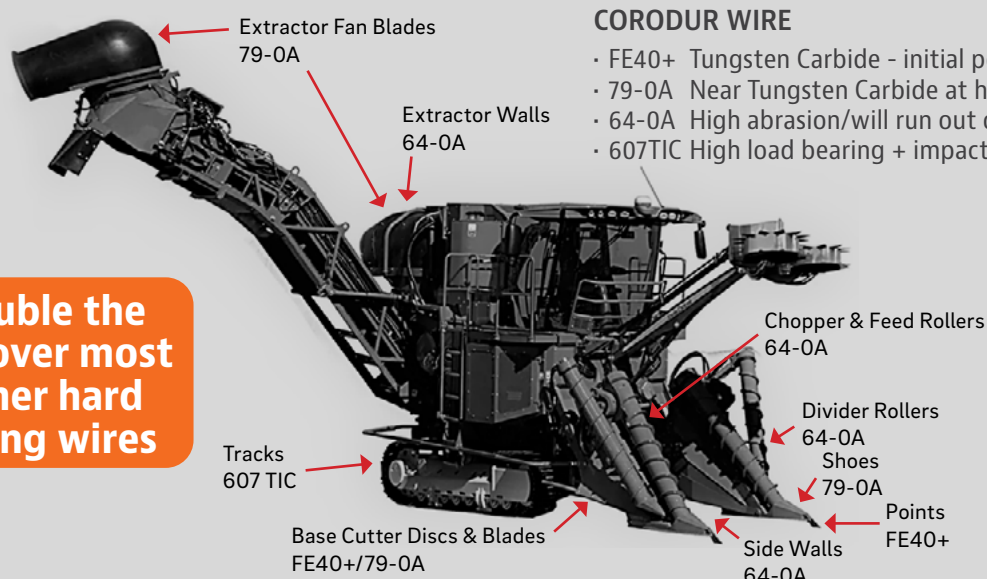
"Prior to this you wouldn't want to go in there to try to fight a wildfire. People would die up there because you couldn't turn a vehicle around it was so narrow and winding."

"Now you can drive a 4WD vehicle through there. They've been dragging their feet on this for years but it's finally been cleaned up." ■

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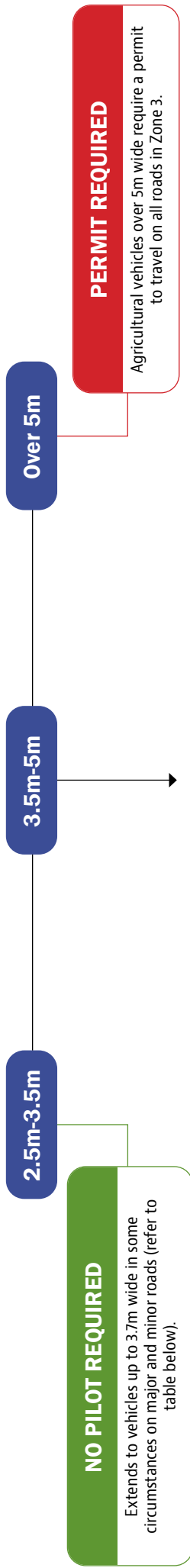
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ACCESS FOR OVER-WIDTH AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES

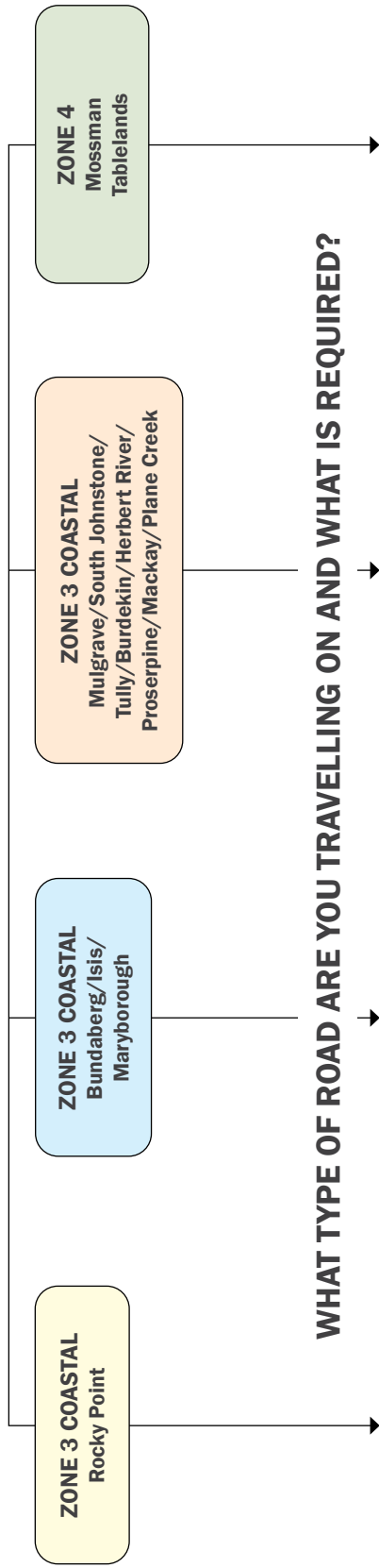
NATIONAL CLASS 1 AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE AND COMBINATION MASS AND DIMENSION EXEMPTION NOTICE



All over-sized ag vehicles require on-vehicle signage, flags and lights



WHICH SUGARCANE MILL AREA ARE YOU TRAVELLING IN?



WHAT TYPE OF ROAD ARE YOU TRAVELLING ON AND WHAT IS REQUIRED?

	CRITICAL ROAD/ CRITICAL AREA	MAJOR ROAD	MINOR ROAD
	Permit required for all vehicles over 3.5m.	Permit required for all vehicles over 3.5m.	Vehicles 3.5-4m wide – signage & 1 pilot, or 2 pilots. Permit required for all vehicles over 4m. Council conditions
	Vehicles 3.5-4m wide – 5km travel + 0.5m buffer plus signage & pilot, or level 1 pilot & pilot.* Permit required for all vehicles over 4m.	Vehicles 3.5-4m wide – 5km travel + 0.5m buffer plus signage & pilot, or 2 pilots. Permit required for all vehicles over 4m wide.	Vehicles 3.7-4.5m wide – no pilot if >500m visibility. 1 pilot if <500m visibility. Vehicles over 4.5m-5m wide – 1 pilot if >500m visibility. 2 pilots if <500m visibility. Council conditions.
	Vehicles 3.5-4m wide – 5km travel + 0.5m buffer plus signage & pilot, or level 1 pilot & pilot.* Permit required for all vehicles over 4m.	Vehicles 3.7-4.5m wide – 1 pilot. Vehicles over 4.5-5m wide – 2 pilots.	Vehicles 3.7-4.5m wide – no pilot if >500m visibility. 1 pilot if <500m visibility. Vehicles over 4.5m-5m wide – see Operator's Guide.
	Vehicles 3.5-4m wide – 5km travel + 0.5m buffer plus signage & pilot, or level 1 pilot & pilot. Permit required for all vehicles over 4m.	Vehicles 3.7-4.5m wide – 1 pilot. Vehicles over 4.5-5m wide – 2 pilots.	Vehicles 3.7-4.5m wide – no pilot if >500m visibility. 1 pilot if <500m visibility. Vehicles over 4.5m-5m wide – 1 pilot if >500m visibility. 2 pilots if <500m visibility. Council conditions.

*pilot = ag pilot in the new Operator's Guide.

This is a guide to assist in understanding only and provides very limited point in time information. It is essential that full and up to date details are accessed from the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2020 (No.1) and associated documents from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator website:

www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/national-harmonisation-program/national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-and-combination-notice

CHECKLIST FOR OVERSIZED AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES



✓ 1. Vehicle Registration

All vehicles on the road need registration and each type of registration has different conditions. Agricultural vehicles can be conditionally registered as:

- Limited access
- Zonal access, and
- Unrestricted access

It is important to know what type of registration you have and check what conditions apply.

Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR): www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration

✓ 2. Drivers License

Most agricultural vehicles (such as tractors and harvesters) in the sugarcane industry can be driven by a person with a Class C drivers license in Queensland. However, it is a basic workplace health and safety duty of care to ensure that a driver is competent in a vehicle after adequate training. Ask your local CANEGROWERS office if they offer a haul out course and check the special purpose licensing document on the CANEGROWERS website (in Member Resources).

✓ 3. Schedule 8 of the MDL Regulation, Part 1 Division 4 (Agricultural Vehicles)

On-vehicle signage, lights and flags have been a requirement for a long time and are still the same as with the requirements of the pilot vehicle.

These can be found in Appendix 3 on page 47 of the NHVR Notice Operator's Guide: www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201904-1043-national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-and-combination-operators-guide.pdf

✓ 4. Chain of Responsibility (CoR)

You may be part of a CoR in the transport system and, as far as reasonably practicable and in your control, have a responsibility for poor maintenance, overloading, fatigue etc.

CoR obligations: www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/chain-of-responsibility

✓ 5. Third Party Approvals

You may need permission or a permit from Ergon Energy (for vehicles higher than 4.6m), Queensland Rail and a telecommunications company depending on the route you are planning.

Ergon Energy application form: www.ergon.com.au

✓ 6. Towed Mass Ratio

There are 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.

Tow Mass Ratios for Agricultural Vehicles:

www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201906-1058-tow-mass-ratios-for-agricultural-vehicles.pdf

Tow Mass Ratio Calculator: www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201906-1059-tow-mass-ratio-calculator.xlsx

✓ 7. All Other Dimension and Mass Limits

All other dimensions must not be exceeded. The Notice allows for exemptions up to the following limits; height 5.0m (Ergon 4.6m), single vehicle length 15.0m, articulated vehicle length 19.0m, combination length 25m in zone 3 and 35m in zone 4, implement rear overhang 5.5m in zone 3 and 6.5m in zone 4 and rear overhang for a cane harvester 7.8m.

Tip: Make a note of your vehicle dimensions in the table opposite.

For mass limits it is strongly recommended that the Operator's Guide and Local Government conditions are consulted as there are a number of restricted structures limiting mass such as bridges.

✓ 8. Permits

If the vehicle has dimensions or mass greater than the limits in the notice then a permit is required and this is applied for through the NHVR Portal: www.service.nhvr.gov.au

✓ 9. Critical, Major and Minor Roads in Queensland and the Map Function

In Queensland it is important to know which class of road you are travelling on as they may all have different conditions for access.

The NHVR provides up to date information on roads which for the purposes of the Notice are classified as critical, major and minor. These can be found on the NHVR Agricultural Heavy Vehicle Zone Map: nhvr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffa527a24fd040ac9082235f000a73ee and in the District summary documents on the CANEGROWERS website (in Member Resources).

✓ 10. Travel Management Plan

It is a requirement that the operator assesses the route before travelling and a travel management plan is recommended. A template for a Travel Management Plan is on the CANEGROWERS website (in Member Resources).

✓ 11. Special Conditions for Queensland

State-wide restrictions:

- Travel time in major city and CBD's 7.00am to 9.00am and 4.00pm to 6.00pm on business days.
- Easter, Christmas and New Year travel is not allowed on critical and major roads under the Notice. A permit can be applied for. Travel is allowed on minor roads with an additional pilot added to the normal requirements.

✓ 12. Cane Harvesters

Sugarcane harvesters with a rear overhang of up to 7.8m have special conditions for access and these conditions can be found in the NHVR Operator's Guide. See page 20 for pilot vehicle requirements for sugarcane harvesters with rear overhang up to 7.8m and Appendix 2 on page 46 for sugarcane harvester excluded areas and approved roads: www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201904-1043-national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-and-combination-operators-guide.pdf

✓ 13. Local Government Conditions

Local Government areas as road managers have approved access under certain conditions. These conditions can be found at Appendix 5: Road Manager conditions: www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201904-1044-appendix-5-road-manager-conditions.pdf

VEHICLE DIMENSIONS

Vehicle or Combination	Width	Height	Length	Rear Overhang	Mass/axle mass
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					



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Mourilyan terminal marks 60th birthday

A group of past and present employees and directors gathered to celebrate a milestone for Queensland's smallest bulk sugar terminal on 1 October - marking six decades since the official opening of the Mourilyan terminal, south of Innisfail.

Terminal Manager **Kevin Bosworth** hosted a morning tea for the group, which included Mourilyan's longest serving terminal operator - **George 'Splinter' Bale** - who served from 1960 to 1999.

Guests enjoyed a display of historic photos and reminisced about the people and memorable events of the past 60 years.

They remembered the first ship loaded at the terminal – the SS Yanderra which loaded 3,961 tonnes on 4 October 1960 – and the largest ships loaded – The MV Alum Maju and MV Pacific Hero which both loaded 45,500 tonnes in August 2016.

They also recalled times of great hardship and incredible team effort, such as the responses to Cyclone Larry in 2006 and Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Following both cyclones, local employees and volunteers from other Queensland sugar terminals banded together to ensure the Mourilyan terminal was ready to support local sugar mills for the start of the crush.

Mossman cane grower **Drew Watson**, who retired in October from STL's Board after nine years as a grower-appointed Director, said he was four years old when the terminal opened but was impressed with how gracefully the picturesque facility had aged.

"It looks better than me after 60 years!" Drew said.

"It's a terrific milestone for the region and STL plans for Mourilyan terminal to be part of the lifeblood of the far north sugar industry for decades to come."

Kevin Bosworth – himself a 31-year veteran at the terminal and Mourilyan

local – said the facility was right up there with the best in Australia in terms of operations.

"We're like a big family. The people who have worked there, and those who still work there, have never held up deliveries from a mill and have pulled together when cyclones struck," he said.

"They don't tend to leave either, choosing instead to stay until they retire."

Mourilyan terminal was officially opened in 1960 by then Queensland Premier Sir **Francis Nicklin** to service the region's sugar industry.

That same year, a newly-married cabinet maker by the name of George 'Splinter' Bale took a pay cut to take a permanent job at the terminal and never regretted his decision.

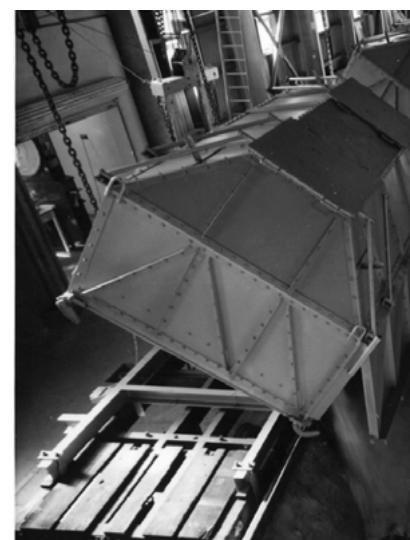
Over 39 years, George held a range of jobs at the terminal, first as a weigh bridge operator, then 20 years driving the locomotive and repairing sugar boxes in the off season.

In his later years, he became the workshop supervisor and took on a series of innovative projects before retiring in March 1999.

George is now 86 and said he enjoyed returning to the terminal and catching up with former colleagues to celebrate its 60th birthday.

"I really want to congratulate Bosy (Terminal Manager Kevin Bosworth). He's the boss and he's excellent," George said.

"But I think I retired too early! You boys don't do anything now!" he joked. ■



Pictured: (clockwise from top) Queensland Premier Sir Francis Nicklin and dignitaries at the official opening of Mourilyan terminal in 1960; raw sugar being delivered to the terminal by train; current and former employees and directors gather to celebrate the 60th anniversary; recently retired grower-director Drew Watson and former long-time employee George "Splinter" Bale cut the cake; early rail and road receiving station.



Mackay cane-growing community focus of new book

A new book on Mackay's sugar industry, and particularly the Mia Mia region about 40 minutes west of the city, is in book stores just in time for Christmas.

Former Federal Member for Dawson, **Ray Braithwaite**, helped launch *At the Crossroads: Biographies of Mia Mia*, which tells the stories of the people living and working in the Mia Mia region, where Mr Braithwaite spent his early childhood on a farm.

The book, written by researcher **Kaaren Sephton**, is the culmination of many years of work for a Doctorate of Philosophy at the Australian National University in Canberra.

As a child, Kaaren lived at Mia Mia on a cane farm next door to the Braithwaites, and, like Ray, Kaaren went to Mia Mia State School with her brothers.

"Being a country child has been a really good start to life."

Kaaren's father, **Tom Lester**, managed a number of cane farms in the region and was one of the last men in Mackay to cut cane by hand, supplying North Eton Mill.

"We have always been a farming family and we travelled throughout Queensland," said Kaaren. "But I enjoyed the time I had in Mackay and remember swimming in the Pioneer River, amongst other things.

"Being a country child has been a really good start to life, I believe."

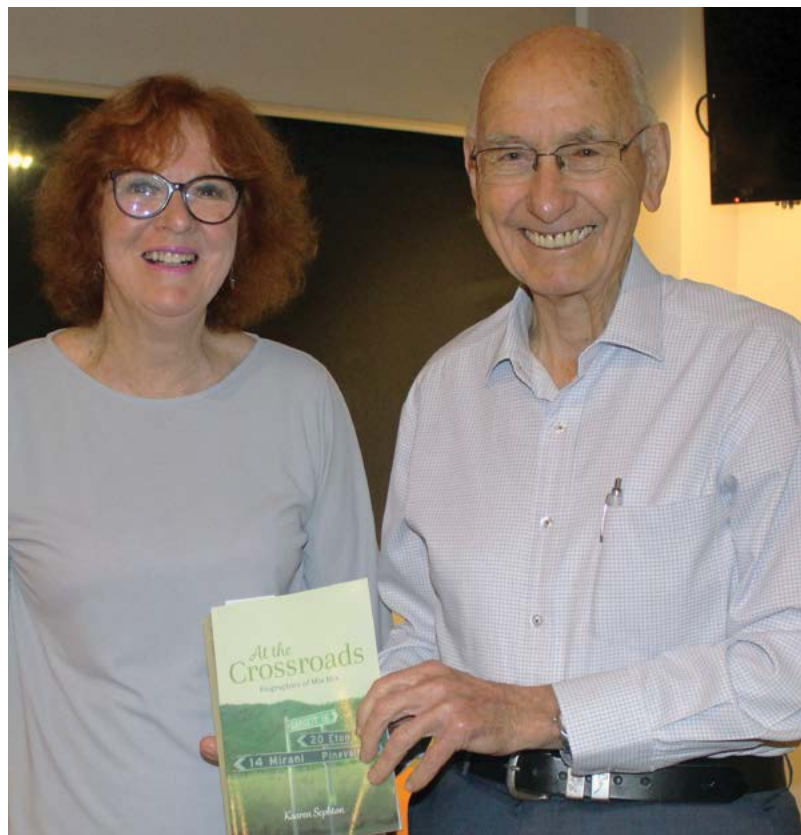
When her father died, Kaaren inherited his cane knives and offered two of them to the National Museum of Australia in 2010.

The Museum accepted the knives on the condition that Kaaren would write a history about them. This she did and it can be read on the National Museum's website: www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/food-stories/places-objects/chelona

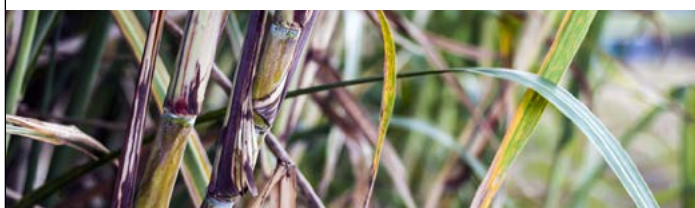
When Kaaren came to write about Mia Mia for her thesis, she decided to research how people benefitted from or were challenged by working in the sugar industry and how their relationships with each other grew in the local community through connections from work, by marriage, and via organisations such as schools and sporting bodies.

She interviewed more than 40 people about their experiences living and working in Mia Mia, including farmers, harvesters, mill workers, local industry representatives and members of pioneering families.

At the Crossroads: Biographies of Mia Mia by Kaaren Sephton, 600 pages plus historical photographs, is published by Tellwell Talent and available from amazon.com.au as a paperback or on Kindle. ■



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SMARTCANE BMP – SHOW ME THE VALUE!

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

Are you accredited in Smartcane BMP or considering becoming accredited? What's in it for you?

As the uptake of Smartcane BMP accreditation has increased over the years, so too has the reach and recognition of the program. With this has come benefits, new opportunities and potential for future gains.

Smartcane BMP accreditation may be driven by a desire to meet reef regulations in the regulated catchments, but what about growers who are undertaking accreditation in areas not affected by reef regs? What is the value to them?

The ultimate value of Smartcane BMP accreditation for a grower is determined by the individual and may be different for everyone.

The value of Smartcane BMP can also be both tangible and intangible.

A report conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) - Profitability and environmental

implications when growers transition to best management practices - found that:

"Despite variations between farms, the economic benefit or, more specifically, the annualised equivalent benefit, revealed a positive result for all farms ranging between \$25 and \$220 per hectare per year, suggesting that the changes toward Smartcane BMP were economically beneficial for each farming business analysed."

"Smartcane BMP adoption also resulted in reduced environmental impacts over the life cycle of sugarcane production, including reductions in potential water quality impacts from nutrients and pesticides, as well as energy use and greenhouse gas emissions."

"Overall, the project findings indicate that Smartcane BMP implementation in the Wet Tropics can be a win-win for both economic and environmental outcomes."

The value of the program has also been recognised by industry stakeholders, some of whom share that value back to the grower. Accredited growers who supply to Wilmar mills can receive a \$0.15/tonne incentive payment.

Opportunities have also been available for growers to participate in rebate projects like the Wet Tropic Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP), where accredited growers were entitled to a rebate on equipment purchased as part of their participation in water quality projects.

More and more, external stakeholders are beginning to recognise and request Smartcane BMP accreditation, including financial institutions who have responsible lending criteria and want to ensure their clients have sustainable practices. NAB has requested Smartcane BMP accreditation data for clients in the recent past.



GREG ZIPF

✓	PRODUCTIVITY & PROFITABILITY	The economic benefit from adoption is \$25 to \$220 per hectare per year
✓	SUSTAINABILITY	The environmental results show adoption can improve water quality and energy efficiency as well as mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
✓	SCIENCE BASED PRACTICES	Underpinned by SRA and cane industry science, research and trial data
✓	WATER QUALITY OUTCOMES	Paddock to Reef modelling shows water quality improvement to Great Barrier Reef catchments
✓	REGULATIONS & COMPLIANCE	Meets QLD Government reef regulations and is a recognised alternative compliance pathway
✓	SUSTAINABLE SUGAR PLATFORMS	Aligned to Bonsucro, Czarnikow VIVE & ProTerra
✓	SUSTAINABLE SOURCING	Recognised by Coca Cola (CCA) & Unilever for sustainable sourcing
✓	SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE	Ongoing commitment supports businesses, community, environment and the Great Barrier Reef
✓	QUALITY ASSURANCE	Independent 3rd party audited using ISO 19011 accreditation system
✓	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	Supported by industry adoption, extension and Smartcane BMP facilitators
✓	RISK MANAGEMENT	Recognised by banking, insurance and other service providers to manage risk
✓	VALUE CREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Data and certification supports alternative markets such as natural capital and carbon trading

The Smartcane BMP program is recognised under the current reef regulations, meaning accreditation is an alternate pathway to compliance. Accredited growers are not the focus of compliance activities, including on-farm visits.

But the Smartcane BMP program is about more than just reef regs. The value of the program, beyond compliance, is growing as the success of the program continues.

Social license to operate (often described as community acceptance) cannot be ignored. Consider explaining your farming practices, and how your fertiliser applications or cultivation strategies are sound, to a member of the voting public in southeast Queensland, versus explaining to them that your business operates to industry best practice and

you have been accredited in the process through an independent audit that meets international ISO standards.

The Smartcane BMP program also provides invaluable support and extension services through the network of Smartcane BMP facilitators, spread across Queensland's cane-growing districts. Their knowledge and expertise are available to all cane growers participating in the Smartcane BMP program.

We must also ask ourselves what cost we as an industry would incur if we did not have our successful, Smartcane BMP program?

How would we demonstrate the standards our industry operates to and how would you be recognised for your achievements? ■



CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

The last bin was tipped at Mossman Mill at 5.36am on Friday 30 October, bringing the 2020 crushing season to a close 20 weeks after starting.

The mill processed 647,992 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.72 CCS. Of this, coastal growers supplied 473,563 tonnes for an average of 12.44 CCS and the Tableland growers supplied 174,429 tonnes of cane.

Tableland Mill toll-crushed 110,583 tonnes of cane for Far Northern Milling. The Tableland cane averaged 13.88 CCS.

In the end, Mossman cut just under 93% of the original estimate.

Due to the very poor start to the crushing and some ongoing issues plaguing the factory, the delayed cane percentages were very disappointing, with 23.6% of the cane supplied being paid as delayed cane.

The CANEGROWERS Mossman Chairman and District Manager attended their second QCGO Policy Council meeting via a hub in Cairns on 10-11 November (pictured).

The company's Annual General Meeting was held on 26 November and was followed by the 2020 season wrap-up for growers.

Several guests attended and spoke to growers including representatives from Far Northern Milling, Queensland Sugar Limited, Queensland Country Health and CANEGROWERS.



CAIRNS

Fine weather has prevailed across the region. Season to date CCS for Mulgrave is 12.18 units with over 92% of the crop crushed. The transfer cane is being closely monitored.

The CANEGROWERS Cairns Region AGM is scheduled for 2pm Tuesday 15 December at the Babinda RSL Hall. Sheriden Morris from the Reef Rainforest Research Centre will be attending as guest speaker.

CANEGROWERS Cairn Region is well into its schools program - "Growing Together" - which is designed to share positive stories about cane farming while still providing education around agriculture.

INNISFAIL

Harvesting and crushing operations have generally progressed favourably over the past four weeks, with around 20 hours crushing time lost as a result of some milling issues. As at 22 November, 92% of the pre-season estimate of 1,433,525 tonnes had been crushed. The cut-to-estimate is expected to be 104%.

MSF Sugar have sent out their formal Notice of Termination of Crushing as required under the CSA. They have advised that unless there is significant lost time to harvesting due to wet weather, South Johnstone Mill will finish on 4 December.

CCS, after falling slightly, rose again due to the dry conditions, giving some hope that the Seasonal Average will finish better than 12.2.

TULLY

The season should be completed early in December, with the crop coming in at just over 2.5 million tonnes (88 tonnes per hectare) and a CCS of 12.9, both of which are just above the long term district average.

There has been little rainfall over the past two months and while this has suited the harvest, ratoons and plant are in need of rain. Overall, for the year the rainfall is around 900mm below the long term average. However, this could change in December if the forecasts are correct.

CANEGROWERS Tully AGM was held a few weeks ago and growers appreciated the insights provided by guest speaker CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan. At the AGM, CANEGROWERS Tully Chairman Jamie Dore advised he would be stepping down as Chairman because of work and family commitments, effective from 26 November, and that CANEGROWERS Tully Deputy Chairman Bryce MacDonald would take the position of Chairman from that date. Jamie will continue as a Board member and CANEGROWERS Tully Deputy Chairman.

HERBERT RIVER

Week 19

Victoria Mill crushed 144,000 tonnes and Macknade Mill crushed 61,285 tonnes for the week. The mill average CCS for the week was 13.75. It was found that Macknade had some cracks in the rotary juice screen which were impacting operations. The mill extended a maintenance day to ensure this was repaired.

Week 20

Victoria Mill had a break down that brought forward the maintenance stop due to a failure of the A2 cane carrier. This was on A side and maintenance was planned for B side. A second stop was required to change shredder tips and clean the feeding station.

Victoria Mill crushed 126,008 tonnes for the week. Macknade Mill was forced into an early maintenance day early in the week due to an issue with the No5 mill pressure feed roller. The mill was able to use the break down time to perform normal chemical clean and maintenance day work.

Macknade Mill crushed 63,273 tonnes for the week. The mill average CCS was 14.2 for the week.

Week 21

Victoria Mill had a breakdown during the week with a hydraulic pump on B3 mill causing a 20-hour stop. This took some time to fault find and repair. The mill had issues with the overhead crane which also broke down and extended the stop.

Victoria Mill ended up crushing 121,211 tonnes for the week. Macknade Mill crushed 64,306 tonnes for the week. The mill average CCS for the week was 13.88. The mill reported that they've had some equipment showing signs of wear as we move into the last weeks of the season. The mill advised that there are processes in place to monitor and manage risks during this time.

Mill management also informed us that the forecast completion date for the 2020 season is 29 November.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River will hold a Christmas dinner for members on 12 December. Please contact the office on 07 4776 5350 to book your spot.

BURDEKIN

At the time of writing, the season was drawing to a close with only one week remaining. Two out of the four mills - Invicta and Kalamia - finished crushing on 15 and 19 November respectively, leaving Inkerman and Pioneer Mill, both of which were earmarked to finish on 26 November, subject to mill performance and weather.

The district is on track to crush 7.9 million tonnes of cane, 98% of the estimate. Despite a wet start and some further wet weather in season, growers will collectively breathe a sigh of relief to see what should be a November finish.

CBL held its AGM on 28 October and CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman Phil Marano summarised the interesting year 2020 was for the district due to COVID-19 and reminded everyone that agriculture was one of the important industries which kept the state and country going.

Guest speakers at the AGM were CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and Chairman Paul Schembri. Dan and Paul provided an update on a range of industry matters and answered some good questions from the floor. We thank them for making the effort to come and spend some time in the Burdekin district with members.

While Dan and also Matt Kealley (Manager Membership Engagement and Innovation) were in the Burdekin, we took the opportunity to hold open forums for growers to attend in Clare and Giru and we will do this again in early 2021. These forums help to communicate the message to the growing community about how CANEGROWERS is structured, how it is led by local growers and what is being done on behalf of the industry for the benefit of members.

The Queensland State Election has come and gone with Queensland Labor returned to power. Locally, Dale Last from the LNP was re-elected as the Member for Burdekin. Dale has been a hard working member for the Burdekin electorate and a good supporter of the sugarcane industry, and we wish him well for the coming four years.

Cane farms have been readily selling in the Burdekin with some farms not coming onto market having been sold directly to adjoining land holders. There is also a trend of farmers from outside the district buying Burdekin cane farms attracted by the water security, which enables them to grow a range of crops including sugarcane.

We wish our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and would like to thank them for their continued support. The 2021 season awaits. The plant cane and ratoons are looking good and will benefit from the coming rain and heat.



Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

PROSERPINE

Harvesting ceased in Proserpine for the 2020 season on Thursday 12 November, with crushing completed just after 2:30am on Friday 13 November. The final throughput was slightly below expectations due to the impact of dry weather on the crop. Total throughput for the season was just under 1.54 million tonnes – the fourth consecutive season below the district's long-term average.

Q240, Q208 and Q183 were the prominent varieties again this season and constituted the bulk of this year's supply.

Weekly CCS remained above 15 units for the past few months and brought the preliminary season CCS to 14.35 units. The highest CCS sample for the season was 18.10 from a rake of fifth ratoon Q240 from the Up River Productivity District.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine extends its thanks to harvesting contractors for the safe delivery of the crop.

Despite the forecast of an early start to the monsoon season, the district remains very dry and growers are currently busy with irrigation activities.

MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

During Week 23 (ending 15 November), Marian Mill crushed 58,113 tonnes of cane, followed by Farleigh with 39,202 tonnes and Racecourse with 29,447 tonnes. This was a sharp drop in totals compared to one month earlier, due to wet weather and lost time in the mills. The year to date total is 4,419,327 tonnes with an improved CCS of 14.67.

No further information about the progress of the crush has been provided by Mackay Sugar. However, the harvest is estimated at 5.21 million tonnes of cane and is not expected to finish until Monday 14 December.

Wilmar's Plane Creek Mill crushed 43,081 tonnes for the week ending 14 November (Week 21), bringing the season

total to 1,185,950 tonnes. This represents 97% of the forecast 1.22 million tonne crop.

Weekly throughput was also down, mainly due to a bin derailment affecting cane supply early in the week. Average bin weight and CCS declined slightly from the previous week. The highest CCS for the week was a rake of Mixed 3R from the Westhill productivity area with a CCS of 17.75.

At the time of writing, and subject to weather and mill performance, Plane Creek Mill was expected to complete crushing operations on Saturday 21 November.

Plane Creek Mill Crushing Figures

Week ended: 14 October 2020 (Week 21)

Cane crushed	43,081 tonnes
YTD	1,185,950 tonnes
Average bin weight week	3.78
Average bin weight YTD	3.82
CCS Week	15.00
CCS YTD	14.21

Mackay Sugar Crushing Figures

Week ended: 15 November 2020 (Week 23)

Farleigh	39,202 tonnes
Marian	58,113 tonnes
Racecourse	29,447 tonnes
Total	126,762 tonnes
YTD	4,419,327 tonnes
CCS Week	14.67
CCS YTD	14.16

BUNDABERG

With many Bundaberg growers busy irrigating due to the prolonged dry weather, now is the time to contact Courtney Moar for a review of your electricity tariffs. Recent changes have meant that growers on the stand-alone tariff trial will be transferred to T34.

We extended a welcome to Tom Smith, the new Member for Bundaberg, and welcome returned members of parliament Stephen Bennett, Member for Burnett, and Colin Boyce, Member for Callide. We look forward to meeting with them to highlight relevant industry issues in our region.

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg continues the campaign against the current rates grab by Bundaberg Regional Council. This is an unjustified attack on the Bundaberg community

and the farmers who work hard every day to underpin the entire Bundaberg economy. The rates decision can be fixed simply by applying a concession to the whole of Category 9 (farmland) under Sections 119-122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012. When will the campaign end? Only when Mayor Dempsey and Councillors Bartels, Honor, Trevor, Learmonth, McPhee, Barnes, Habermann, Cooper, Mitchell and McLoughlin agree to cap the rates at CPI. All the farming groups have committed to follow this to the end.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year and would like to advise that the CANEGROWERS Bundaberg office will be closed for the Christmas break from 2:30pm on Thursday 24 December and will reopen at 8:30am on Monday 4 January.

ISIS

October saw the commencement of continuous crushing at Isis Central Sugar Mill. The 7-day crushing along with a dry spell after the rain events at the end of the October have seen a marked increase of cane being crushed each week.

Rainfall recorded across the district ranged from 45mm at Lagoon Park to 33mm for Childers at the end of October.

CCS peaked in early November with a year-to-date figure of 14.70 units, which at the time of recording was the highest year-to-date figure in the Queensland sugar industry. Some weekly CCS recordings included Q208 1st ratoon at 17.89 units and KQ228 2nd ratoon at 17.79 units.

The risk of accidental fire is also very high at present, with the ongoing drought and wind making the whole of our cane supply region vulnerable. Growers should check fire breaks to ensure adequacy and re-establish breaks as soon after harvesting as possible. We require a solid rainfall event in the next week or two to relieve the current fire risk. Just a reminder to members that your membership levy provides crucial crop insurance in the event of crop loss associated with fire.

There have been some confirmed cases of irrigation spraying overhead power lines resulting in significant fines. Growers are reminded that irrigation spray can cause a momentary trip on the 11kV feeders and a further risk of bringing live conductors to the ground and causing serious or fatal injury.

A full feeder lockout or momentary trip can then cause network connection issues with irrigation pumps stopping and needing to be restarted manually. Workplace Health & Safety have advised if this occurs an automatic field inspection will be triggered. If found responsible fines of \$3,000 to the business owner and \$600 to the irrigation operator are now in force.

There is excellent discussion underway with CANEGROWERS Maryborough at their request to support any potential mill closure and toll crushing agreement with Isis Central Sugar Mill.

	Tonnes Crushed	Tonnes Crushed YTD	CCS Week	CCS YTD
Week 1	33,783.09	33,783.09	13.82	13.82
Week 2	39,397.16	73,108.25	14.19	14.02
Week 3	37,730.87	110,911.12	13.81	13.95
Week 4	47,997.69	158,908.81	14.02	13.97
Week 5	42,848.27	201,757.08	13.86	13.94
Week 6	47,826.38	249,583.46	14.33	14.02
Week 7	52,106.68	301,690.14	14.72	14.14
Week 8	50,252.93	351,943.07	14.79	14.23
Week 9	48,751.98	400,695.05	14.48	14.26
Week 10	41,517.58	442,212.63	14.63	14.30
Week 11	32,861.46	475,074.09	14.33	14.30
Week 12	9,546.81	484,620.90	14.23	14.30
Week 13	0.00	484,620.90	0	14.30
Week 14	36,578.27	521,199.17	15.87	14.41
Week 15	48,086.72	569,285.89	16.05	14.55
Week 16	51,993.99	621,279.88	15.51	14.63
Week 17	53,739.84	675,019.72	15.48	14.70
Week 18	52,268.87	727,288.59	15.52	14.76



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MARYBOROUGH

The 2020 season has come to an end in Maryborough, with the mill completing crushing activities on 18 November. It has been a successful season with supply reaching 633,914 tonnes against a target of 635,000.

Despite all the talk of a La Nina influence, we have had a very good run over the past few weeks. CCS for the season has averaged 14.49 units and was actually holding at 16.02 on the last day of crushing. Of course, now the crushing is over we could do with some rain. Hopefully we will have some wet weather soon.

The inevitable question, now the season is over, is what's next for the Maryborough district? In terms of crop, it's more of the same with fertilising and planting and fallow activities underway.

In terms of the future - the CANEGROWERS Maryborough board has been heavily engaged in meetings with MSF Sugar, Isis Central Sugar Mill and CANEGROWERS Isis to confirm crushing in 2021 following confirmation that Maryborough Mill has ceased operation.

Our end of season meeting is due and are working hard to have a clear answer to the puzzle of 2021 and beyond. Although this has been a broken record message this year, we will get there.

Reminder that sugar industry pay rates changed from 1 November. If you require a copy of the current rates, call Cameron at CANEGROWERS Maryborough office on 07 4121 4441.

With the festive season now almost upon us, the board would like to wish you and your family a happy (maybe wet), healthy and merry Christmas. Here's hoping 2021 is a far better year for the world.

Pictured: Farm in the Island Plantation area near Maryborough airport. Photo by Robyn Nitschinsk.



ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point harvest concluded on Saturday 14 November 2020 after 18 weeks of crushing. A total of 281,109 tonnes were crushed at a seasonal average CCS of 13.8. Our original estimate was 322,223 and approximately 200 hectares of standover was left in the paddock. The major varieties supplied to the mill this year were Q232, Q240, Q208 and KQ228.

Overall, we were relieved to have had a season with minimal downtime. A large amount of fallow ground is currently being prepared for the planting of soybeans.

Approximately 120mm of rain fell over the district in the last week of October. The crop is looking great at the moment and follow-up rain in the near future would be welcomed.

The CANEGROWERS Rocky Point AGM was held on 24 November (pictured below).



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AmiTron® herbicide is proving to be a versatile option for controlling a wide range of weeds and providing long periods of efficacy, giving growers flexibility in their weed control programs.

Mark Ellwood, UPL Area Sales Manager, said that while AmiTron is a great fit for early application in cane, it's also a great fit for later in the season.

"Unlike some new products AmiTron is truly UV stable and can sit on the surface for months," he said, "and it only takes three to five millimetres of rain to incorporate."

He added that there are some new pre-emergent herbicides on the market that require up to 30mm of rain within two weeks for incorporation or they're gone.

"AmiTron gives growers great flexibility when the weather is unknown or when it can be hard to get irrigation back around in time."

"With the unpredictability of our rain patterns these days it's hard to know when the wet season will arrive, and it makes life easier to know you can get around and get a pre-emergent herbicide out that will stay where you put it and start working when you need it."

"As we head towards the end of the year it's important to keep your paddocks clean over the wet season and eliminate the need for a helicopter vine spray," he said.

AmiTron can be applied as a directed spray at out-of-hand or serve as a later high clearance application to control vines after canopy closure. It offers long term control – up to 14 weeks – and gives broad spectrum control of grasses, broadleaf weeds, vines and some sedges.

"It also tank mixes well with products like paraquat, 2,4-D & MCPA so it can be thrown straight in the final spray as a rotation to your standard pre-emergent."

Mark said that after only two years on the market AmiTron now has the reputation of being the best pre-emergent vine and broadleaf control option out there.

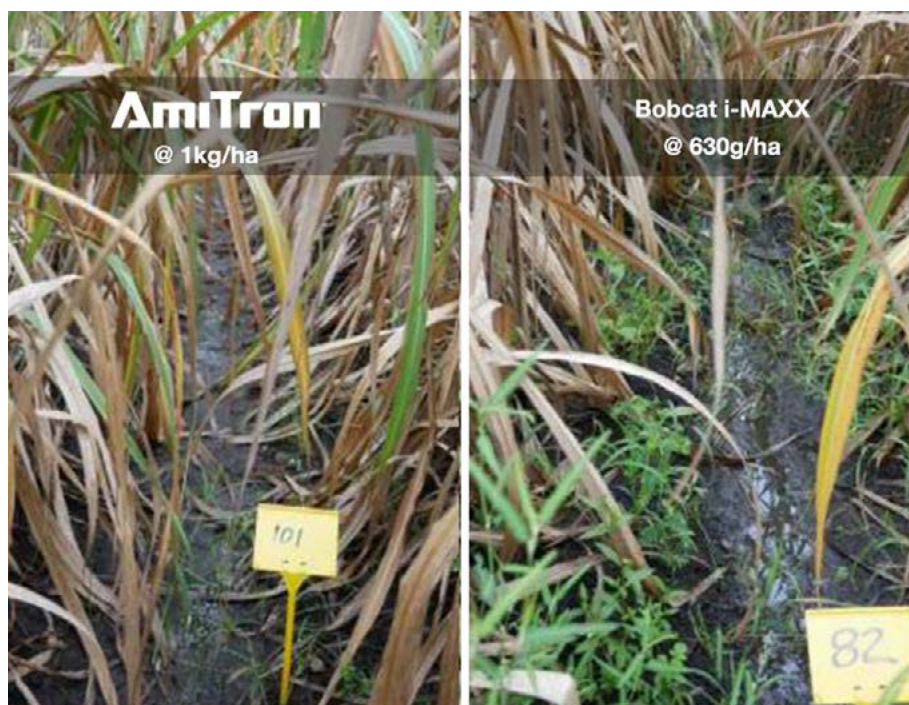
"I think what cane growers are finding the most impressive is the level of vine and broadleaf control from a UV stable herbicide. There really is nothing else on the market at the moment that can do this and be applied at any time," he said.

And while the strengths of AmiTron on vines and broadleaf weeds is well known, AmiTron also controls problem grasses such as Guinea, Crowsfoot, Summer and Barnyard grasses.

AmiTron, active ingredient amicarbazone, was released in sugarcane in August 2018, filling the void for a UV stable broadleaf herbicide. The herbicide is just as effective over a fresh green trash blanket as it is on bare soil, providing growers with flexibility for use on ratoon or plant cane.

"AmiTron doesn't bind up on trash, ash, mill mud or any other organic material," said Mark. "There are a few herbicides now that have had issues on burnt blocks, trash blankets or where mill mud and ash have been applied," he added, "and the most expensive chemical is the chemical that doesn't work!"

"AmiTron is the best insurance policy you can buy yourself for a clean paddock through the wet season." ■



Pictured: AmiTron @ 1kg/ha versus Bobcat i-MAXX @ 630g/ha applied at out-of-hand, 3 months after application. Mackay, 2019.

ADVERTISING FEATURE



WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



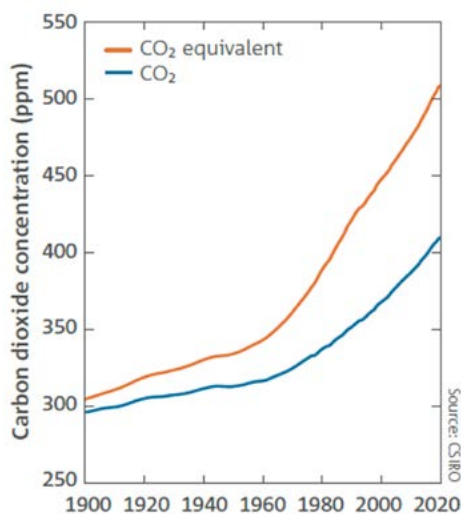
Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Combatting climate change – an economic opportunity?

The latest report on the State of the Climate has been released by the BOM and the CSIRO. The global atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases continue to rise rapidly (see figure below). Reflecting this, Australia's climate has warmed on average by 1.4° C since national records began in 1910, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events.

Not surprisingly, there has been an increase in extreme fire weather and in the length of the fire season across large parts of the country since the 1950s. This trend will intensify as atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases continue to climb.



Global mean CO₂ concentration and global mean of all greenhouse gas concentrations expressed as CO₂ equivalent.
Supplied: CSIRO, State of the Climate 2020.

For cane farming, the changes in climate will increase crop demand for soil moisture, reduce the amount of cool season rainfall and reduce the annual number of tropical cyclones (while increasing their average intensity).

For the Great Barrier Reef there will be more, longer-lasting marine heatwaves that will increase the frequency and severity of bleaching events.

What is being done to combat these trends?

Every state and territory government has now committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. These commitments extend to a significant number of local government authorities and to an increasing number of major businesses.

The National Farmers' Federation recently endorsed an economy-wide target of net zero emissions by 2050, albeit with strict caveats regarding fair implementation and economic viability.

Internationally, 188 countries have emission reduction commitments through the Paris agreement, while many of these have also committed to net zero emissions by 2050 or 2060.

This societal drive to reduce emissions is now effectively locked in. It will accelerate community demand for green energy sources and, together with community demand for plastic-free and recyclable materials, should provide opportunities for deriving more economic value from sugarcane crops. ■

" This societal drive to reduce emissions is now effectively locked in and it should provide opportunities for deriving more economic value from sugarcane crops. "



Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Farm Input and Research Committee priorities

Despite the COVID-19 disruption, it has been a busy year for the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee.

Thanks to modern technology and good use of online meetings, the committee has continued to have a closer look at the main issues impacting the industry and make recommendations to the CANEGROWERS Policy Council.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION

Adoption and research priorities are still top of the committee's agenda, so the committee has kept a close eye on Sugar Research Australia's Strategic and Operational review.

Committee members met with SRA CEO, Roslyn Baker and provided recommendations to the Policy Council. These recommendations helped determine some CANEGROWERS positions on the proposed review, which were communicated to SRA.

This is critical input to help SRA understand grower expectations and to improve the RD&E delivery for growers and the industry.

The SRA consultation process is still underway and CANEGROWERS will continue to provide feedback and push for RD&E that takes the industry forward.

Another issue which most growers would be unaware of in the RD&E space is the Modernising the Rural Development Corporations (RDCs) review being undertaken by the Federal Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Innovation Agenda.

One of the first outcomes from this is the formation of Agricultural Innovation Australia (AIA) with seed funding from the Federal Government.

AIA will deal with research areas that affect the whole of agriculture, with the first items for investigation being soil health and climate change.

In the future, this will be funded by the 15 RDCs (including SRA) and attract private investment. The benefit is that SRA funds will be leveraged on issues too big for SRA alone.

DIVERSIFIED INCOME

The committee's next priority is diversified income for growers. This is a complex area with many stars needing to align for growers to benefit.

The objective is to reduce the dependency on raw sugar and provide growers with a significant alternate income from farmland and sugarcane without risking mill closure.

The closure of one sugar mill in the southern region, and the anticipated closure of another, is a message that reliance on raw sugar can leave growers exposed.

The committee explored this further and made recommendations to the Policy Council which resulted in several CANEGROWERS positions. This will assist in guiding the strategic direction for future activity.

CANEGROWERS will continue to work on these important strategic issues, which will determine the shape of the future sugarcane industry.

I would like to wish all readers a happy and safe festive season and let's hope 2021 is a good one. ■

CANEGROWERS will continue to work on these important strategic issues, which will determine the shape of the future sugarcane industry.

Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



Pricing essentials for cane growers

'May you live in interesting times', is said to be an old Chinese curse.

2020 has certainly been an interesting year for the world sugar market. With expectations of a poor cane crop in Thailand and a sizable global sugar supply deficit, the year started on a positive note, with sugar prices rising to more than US15c/lb in February. Coinciding with a low Aussie dollar, it meant that growers were able to secure prices in excess of AUD450/t.

Then along came COVID-19.

With record low oil prices, falling sugar consumption and Brazil mills switching their production away from ethanol towards sugar, the expected deficit vanished and sugar prices fell below US 10c/lb just two months later.

As we reach the end of 2020, prices are again recovering. As the Brazilian harvest concludes, market attention is once again turning to the northern hemisphere beet and cane crops. Thailand is expected to have another poor cane crop, while European sugar beet production is low due to dry weather and an outbreak of yellow virus.

Then there's India. Now the world's second largest exporter of sugar behind Brazil, India has another bumper cane crop in prospect.

The question on every sugar market analyst's mind is: Will India announce export subsidies? While many expect subsidies will be announced, no announcement has been made.

On 30 October, India's new Minister for Food and Public Distribution was reported to have said the government was not considering an extension of the export subsidy policy. This triggered intense lobbying from industry for the government to reconsider.

In the meantime, the World Trade Organisation is adapting to the constraints of COVID-19 and its processes are gradually recommencing. We hope the strong case brought by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala against India's subsidies will soon proceed.

Many in India understand that India's sugar policies are unsustainable, both domestically and internationally. So far, firming world sugar prices and the pending WTO action have helped delay any subsidy announcement.

With this outlook, it seems likely the roller coaster ride of price volatility that characterises the world sugar market is set to continue. While this brings challenges, it also brings opportunities.

In the 2020 season, growers who actively engaged in forward pricing and secured prices at the levels on offer earlier in the year are on track to receive better returns than those who did not.

Growers who are making the most of these opportunities understand their cost of production and the benefits of managing their price risk through forward pricing.

To give growers more knowledge and confidence in managing their sugar marketing arrangements, CANEGROWERS has teamed up with TAFE Queensland and the Rural Jobs Skills Alliance to create a course that will assist growers to navigate this challenging environment.

You can read more about the course which is available to growers on page 7 of this magazine and in the information flyer on the back cover. ■

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males'.

Growers who actively engaged in forward pricing...
are on track to receive better returns than those
who did not.



Farm Insurance - Options and Pitfalls

The types of insurance a farmer can take out these days seem almost endless. This article discusses many of the insurance options available with a particular focus on public liability insurance. Numerous real-life case studies involving Queensland cane growers are provided.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE

Some types of insurance are compulsory for many farmers. Examples include Workers Compensation Insurance if you have employees, and Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance as part of vehicle registration fees.

MANAGING RISK

Apart from the compulsory insurance, insurance is all about managing risk. In general, the prudent response is to take out as much cover as you can afford. Examples include:

- **Personal insurances:** such as life insurance, trauma insurance, income protection and disability insurance.
- **Business insurances:** such as fire, building and contents, theft, tax audit, business interruption, management liability, natural disaster, crop insurance and third party liability insurance. Your CANEGROWERS membership means that you have access to crop insurance cover, which can provide cover for loss of crop due to accidental fire, transit and hail incidents.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSURER

Many farm insurance products come in packages that provide cover for a range of events. Not all insurers are equal though and not all farm insurance packages are equal. You should turn your mind to what you need covered when taking out or renewing insurance cover.



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*

CASE STUDY - AERIAL CHEMICAL SPRAYING

In 2014, a Herbert River cane grower initially had quite good insurance cover, which included protection from liability for aerial chemical spraying.

During the year he changed insurers on the advice of his broker (who was not a CANEGROWERS Insurance representative) for what the grower expected was a similar policy.

Unfortunately, the new policy with the different insurer did not include liability for aerial spraying.

After changing insurers, the grower had aerial spraying done, which allegedly caused a \$500,000 claimed loss to his neighbour's paw paw crop. Legal proceedings were instituted.

The policy did not respond because spraying was not covered, so the insurer would not accept the claim.

With the support of CANEGROWERS, we sued the broker for professional negligence for not arranging a similar policy with aerial spraying cover.

The broker's own liability insurer fortunately accepted our claim and agreed to fully protect and indemnify the grower. **But it was a close call.**

This example highlights that you should be careful who you insure with, what is covered, and be careful what broker you use. Even today not all farm insurance packages include chemical spraying cover.

CANEGROWERS insurance representatives provide professional help and cover advice and are well placed to ensure growers' needs are protected.

CASE STUDIES - PUBLIC LIABILITY

PUBLIC LIABILITY – THIRD PARTY COVER

Public liability generally covers potential liability to third parties for personal injury or damage to property. In my opinion, this type of insurance is a must have. Many examples exist of growers having claims lodged against them by third parties, some for large amounts which would likely see the grower lose the farm if they had not taken out liability insurance cover.

CASE STUDY 1

In 2012, a Maryborough grower had an \$850,000 claim lodged against him for damage to nearby tomato crops. Fortunately, he had public liability insurance cover, although with this particular insurer there was a \$30,000 excess.

CASE STUDY 2

In 2012, a Mackay grower had an \$80,000 claim made against him by a person who injured themselves whilst on the grower's farm. Again public liability applied and the insurer picked up the bill.

CASE STUDY 3

In 2016, a \$70,000 claim was made by a bowls club against a grower who had burned cane nearby which allegedly resulted in burning embers damaging the bowling green surface. Fortunately public liability insurance covered the claim.

CASE STUDY 4

In 2017, a Maryborough grower was involved in an accident between his unregistered mower and a motorcyclist. The motorbike rider has claimed \$950,000 in personal injury damages and fortunately public liability insurance is covering the grower.

CASE STUDY 5

In 2020, southern district growers accidentally dug up NBN cables. The claim is yet to be quantified but likely to be significant. Liability insurance is in place.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

These few real-life examples show that significant damages and compensation claims can be made against growers arising from everyday farming activities.

Comprehensive insurance cover is a good way of managing risk.

Growers should endeavour to have an affordable policy that covers the relevant risks that should be protected.

Assistance provided by CANEGROWERS insurance representatives is a good starting place to discuss your

needs. For more information visit:

www.canegrowers.com.au/insurance

(This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any CANEGROWERS member wishing to discuss any aspect of legal matters should contact their local CANEGROWERS district office or call me on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■

Blockchain prototype platform

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS Senior Manager - Membership Engagement & Innovation

CANEGROWERS' Blockchain initiative is a step closer to becoming reality with the creation of a prototype platform that enables the tracking of sustainably produced sugar from paddock to product manufacturer, potentially unlocking value for cane-farming enterprises verified as operating at or above industry standard.

The prototype is looking promising and creates the option for the Sustainable Sugar Project to move to Phase 3 – proof of concept – with Blockchain technology used to track 'real life' Smartcane BMP accredited cane through the growing, harvesting, milling, storage, and export stages to test the possibility of achieving premium payments for traceable, sustainably produced sugar.

CANEGROWERS has been working closely with KPMG to develop the Blockchain platform based on industry data, while also looking for opportunities to create value for growers and organisations in the Queensland sugar value chain.

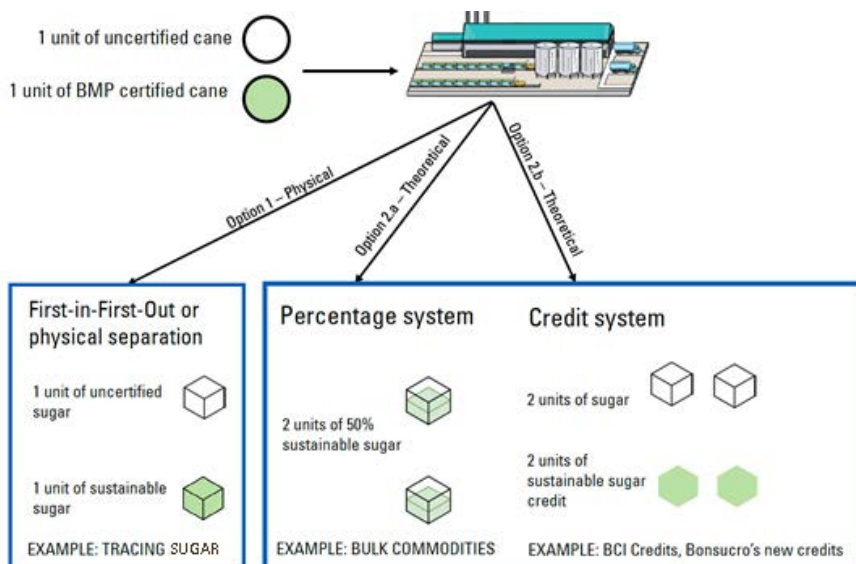
MASS BALANCE TRACEABILITY WORKS FOR SUGARCANE

The platform will use a mass balance traceability model, which is one of the more popular traceability models for bulk commodities as it enables organisations to make certification claims without significant changes to physical infrastructure or processes.

For example, if 20% of the sugar purchased by a food manufacturer is sustainably produced, then 20% of the products made from that sugar can also be considered sustainable – even if these might not physically contain sustainable sugar.

Mass balance is used because the supply chain is complex and its expensive to physically separate certified sugar from non-certified sugar.

MASS BALANCE



MODEL DATA EXCHANGES AND TAXONOMY

Data is required for traceability. A data taxonomy is a way to define all key participants and data required to create linkages, which are then used to trace sugar through the supply chain, showing provenance from the grower to the end-user. This data is also used to build the prototype.

The data taxonomy is designed to allow participants to share and view data that verifies the movement of sugarcane produced by growers certified under the Smartcane BMP program as it is processed into raw and then refined sugar.

The model has been designed to also incorporate the tracking of other sugar certifications throughout the supply chain.

ECONOMIC VALUE STREAM IDENTIFICATION

CANEGROWERS is investigating how a digital supply chain solution could help support the creation of new economic value streams for the Queensland sugar industry.

The current sugar value stream is very linear, and each participant's value is determined largely by the next participant; with the exception of the sugar price, which is determined on a global market.

The project has identified three categories and a number of opportunities to evaluate as economic value streams:

1. If Smartcane BMP credentials can be tokenised and sustainable sugar physically traced, then what premium can be created?
2. Can sustainability be incentivised for the benefit of more than just growers?
3. How can alternative value streams be generated so that cane is valid for more than just CCS or sugar?

Industry opportunities identified include market premiums, alternative finance, sustainability credits, natural capital, incentive payments, sustainable bi-products and non-sugar products.

While it's early days, the project has shown that growers could be rewarded and recognised for their efforts on sustainability. ■

The Sustainable Sugar Project is funded by the Australian Government under the National Landcare program Smart Farming Partnership.

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Next deadline is **23 December 2020**.

* 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, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

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Mossman-Tully

2 of John Deere 7810 Articulated with 14
tonne Carta Bins VG cond for age POA. Ph:
0408713854.

2009 John Deere 7630 Articulated tractor
with 14 tonne Carta Elevator Tipper. Tully
Area. Ph: 0418181646.

S/s fert box with disc cutaways & crumble
rollers; whole stick planter with suscon box;
3 fan cane stripper; plant cane cutter; 3 disc
reversible plough; finger wheel rake; drill
marker 5 ft; stubble shaver single row. Ph:
0428420973.

BSM 6t Double Side Tipper Bins \$55,000
+ GST each. LG 6t Single Side Tipper Bin
\$8,000 + GST. Located Childers. Ph:
0401260670.

Gessner Stool Splitter, 3 S/S Tanks, new
condition, 2 years old. Ph: 0407590033.

5 Furrow Hodge Reversible Plough \$1200
negotiable, incl. GST. Ph: 0417647002.

2004 Cameco Harvester VGC \$150,000 incl.
GST. Ph: 0427655168.

2x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph:
0740562063.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Massey Ferguson 1085 2WD Tractor. AC
Cab. No compressor fitted. Runs but motor
needs attention. BKT Tyres all round 90%.
New Radiator. Any interest for \$3,300.
Photo available. Ph John: 0417070844.

5 furrow reversible plough \$500. 1t double
row fertiliser box with ten tines \$500.
Trash rake \$300. Weeder rake \$200. Ph:
0408608664.

Telescopic ram for 14t Carta Tipper done
up \$3000, telescopic ram for 14t Carta
Tipper \$500, new 30" rim for JCB Fastrac,
Bonfiglioli hub done up \$3000, 2010 John
Deere 3520 Track Harvester excellent
condition. All + GST. Ph Ray: 0417077343.

Don 20 plate drag offset with hydraulic ram,
no hoses. 6ft page slasher with adjustable
skids in good condition. Ph: 0747776148.

Mackay-Proserpine

Case Track Harvester 8800 (2016 Model),
New Track Chains, Sprockets & Elevator
Chain, 4685 Hrs; 10T Cane Side Tipper;
10T Cane Side Tipper on 2 axle trailer;
Multiplier; Iveco Trakker Truck (Cab Chassis
or with Earth Body & Cane Bin). All VGC. Ph:
0408755453 or 0438755459.

Refalo 2t fert box on wheels; 3-row trash
rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways;
grubbers for ratoon & fallow; cane break
pushers & more. Ph: 0417612883.

CHAMBERLAIN C6100 TRACTOR with
heavy duty bag lifter, dual hydraulic cylinders,
adjustable extendable jib for long reach, lifts
5t close-up \$8,000 + GST. Ph: 0417612883.

John Deere Tractor: 90H.P. 4WD. Air
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All bath bearings
\$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other
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3m & 3.4metres.
3 point linkage offsets available also



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Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Classifieds

suit small contractor or medium size farm \$23,000 ONO. 2x 10t Tully welding work bins articulated on Ford 5000 Turbo & 4080B Chamberlain Turbo. Used for planting only. Both registered. \$15,000 each ONO. Ph: 0408733793.

At the end of 2020 crush, Claas Ares 567 ATZ 4WD tractor coupled with Ian Richie 6t side tipper \$46,000 + GST. Ph: 0428 115 456.

Ford 5000 with International disc plough & slasher \$14,500 ONO. Ph: 0414900121.

Hodge 4 furrow disc reversible plough \$1K; Montabert 750 Rockbreaker suit excavator \$4.5K; Montabert 125 Rockbreaker suit backhoe \$2.4K. All + GST. Ph: 0418185663.

95' single axle, 10 tonne Carta double door elevating bin. VGC. New Tyres. \$45,000 +GST. Ph: 0417427480.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

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: 0428182464 or 0427541030.

Kubota B2301 Compact Tractor, 23hp, 76hrs, 1090mm wide \$15,000. Hodge Inter-row Fertiliser Applicator (tows behind B2301 or 4 wheeler) \$2,700. Ph: 0428236165.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Ford 8401 tractor, 2x Ford 7000 tractors, 3x LNG 6 ton single axle tipper bins, 100 inch Howard rotary heavy duty near new, 3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch. Ph: 0427598333.

2012 John Deere 3520 wheel harvester, New Holland 8560, New Holland 8360, John Deere 6820 - all with 10t Newton tippers. Ph: 0400844581 or 0488415781.

Southern Cross travelling irrigator, fair condition. No hose or wire rope attached but has been used this cane season. Childers area. Ph: 0427262880.

TVT New Holland tractor and 14t Carta Bin, 9t Hi Lift full track Transporter Toft. Ph Joshua Zunker: 0428937164.

415 Avoka water winch. Cane rake. Case cane planter. High clear david brown sprayer. 3 separate tipper bins. Tool bar, cutting discs & duck feet. Make an offer. Ph: 0412133555.

Trash incorporator \$10,000. Farmall-AV \$5,500. Whole stick planter & trailer, whole stick cutter & Cotton King \$1,500 (for all). 1000 litre spray tank on trailer \$980. All + GST. Ph: 0419577110.

Single Row HBM Billet planter \$3750, 4 Row Janke Eliminator \$4000, 1200lt Fuel Tank \$400, Grain Bin Trailer \$1000, Side Dresser Fert Box \$1200, Single Row Stick Planter

\$600, Tractorpac welder/generator \$600, PTO Driven Flood Pump \$500, ½T Linkage Spreader \$500, Linkage Back Blade \$350. All + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

2 harvester tyres and rims 23 5R 25, near new condition. Ph: 0429917799.

Kawasaki motorbike stockman 250 \$2600. Track infielder \$35000. Tall spray tractor 5 row spray Irvine legs 24d tank \$30000. Massey Ferguson 6150 tractor \$30000. HBM billet planter, 2 trailers, MF 102 Harvester, 800ltr tank \$28000. All + GST. Ph: 0447532490.

Davey Pump 100x65-250 \$14,000. M160 Tractor 11000hrs GC \$30,000. FORD 7000 Tractor 12000hrs new tyres on rear \$11,000.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Oct 2020)	Month to date (1 Nov-25 Nov)	Year to date	Jan-Nov
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	45.2	71.4	1,665.8	2,650.7
Mareeba Airport	4.2	0.2	480.2	731.4
Cairns Aero	6.8	21	1,260	1,817.3
Mt Sophia	57	52	2,209	3,097.9
Babinda Post Office	79.9	51.9	2,849.1	3,948.3
Innisfail	13	22.8	2,717.5	3,283.6
Tully Sugar Mill	43.9	41.9	2,925.7	3,797.5
Cardwell Marine Pde	15.1	31.2	1,495.8	1,920.1
Lucinda Township	0	0	1,652.5	1,942.5
Ingham Composite	16.8	14.5	1,672	1,883.5
Abergowrie Alert	14	15	643	1,271.4
Townsville Aero	7.4	3	788.4	1,007.1
Ayr DPI Research Stn	11.8	0.2	1,036	832.2
Proserpine Airport	0	19.2	797.4	1,271.9
Mirani Mary Street	31.5	56.2	1,075.3	1,300.4
Mackay MO	18.8	48.4	1,224.4	1,399.7
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	0	0	1,012.6	1,553.5
Bundaberg Aero	22.4	0.8	523	878.5
Childers South	33.2	1.0	482.4	768.9
Maryborough	35.8	8.8	755.6	1,016.9
Tewantin RSL Park	125.2	44	1,510.8	1,418.4
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	100.8	28.6	1,333	1,507
Nambour DPI - Hillside	111.6	37	1,485.8	1,595.6
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	95.2	26.3	1,047.2	957.3
Murwillumbah Bray Park	88.1	6.7	1,555.4	1,416
Ballina Airport	88.8	38.2	1,760.7	1,597.7
New Italy (Woodburn)	47.6	20.4	1,410.7	1,199.4



dream with
your eyes open

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

FORD 6700 Tractor 11000hrs new tyres on rear, new clutch & PTO \$12,000. 90" Howard Rotary Hoe \$5,000. All + GST. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428879341.

Wanted

8.25x20 front tractor tyre in reasonably good condition. Innisfail area. Ph: 0405056515.

165 Massey Ferguson Front Wheel Rim 16 inch. Cairns area. Ph Michael: 0740562821.

SusCon boxes. Mackay area. Ph: 0437113511.

3140 John Deere Tractor for parts. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0740554446.

2nd hand 400 litre Spray tank with Irvin legs. Mulgrave Area. Ph: 0415386322.

8.25 x 20 front tractor tyre in reasonably good condition. Ph: 0405056515.

Positions Vacant

General Farm Hand/Cane Planting Operator. Must be self-motivated & energetic, hold current driver's licence (truck licence advantageous but not essential). Able to use a GPS, has current ChemCert ticket or willing to obtain. Able to service & maintain machinery. Practices good farm hygiene. Works well in a team environment. Please send resume to chapmanag@bigpond.com or Ph Tony: 0438139637.

Property

Wanted. Cane farm to lease Racecourse mill area Mackay. Young farmer wishing to expand. Ph: 0408011983.

Mulgrave cane farm. 47 ha total. 11.5 ha high flat fertile land. River flat 40 ha prime river silt land. River frontage. Water available for irrigation. Ph: +44427525173.

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408880724.

STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION



CANEGROWERS sticker spotters are out and about in all sugarcane regions looking for vehicles proudly displaying their CANEGROWERS Growing Together bumper sticker.

Is this your number plate? If so, you're a winner!

449 WAK 372 LOJ 191 RGL

349 XCZ 227 MUX 987 LWI

Can't find your bumper sticker? Need another one for another vehicle? Contact your local CANEGROWERS office.

How to enter:

- ✓ Make sure your CANEGROWERS bumper sticker is on your vehicle
- ✓ Wait for one of the CANEGROWERS sticker spotters sees it as you drive around your district
- ✓ Check the next *Australian Canegrower* magazine for a list of number plates
- ✓ If yours is listed, contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim a prize. Phone **07 3864 6444** or email info@canegrowers.com.au



Are you a CANEGROWERS member and want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every month?

To receive your free electronic copy, email: editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au



PRICING ESSENTIALS FOR CANE GROWERS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE PROGRAM

New sugar marketing and pricing opportunities have given cane growers new opportunities. To make the most of those opportunities, understanding your cost of production and how to reduce risk through forward pricing is essential.

In the 2020 season, growers who actively engaged in forward pricing secured better returns than those that did not. This is your opportunity to learn how to increase your profitability.

CANEGROWERS has teamed with TAFE Queensland, and the Rural Jobs Skills Alliance to create a course for sugarcane growers in this new environment. The course will develop :

- the ability to better understand and interpret financial reports and costs of production
- understanding of factors that influence commodity (sugar) prices
- strategies to manage the risk of price fluctuations
- knowledge of forward pricing tools and other emerging technologies and marketing tools
- understanding and management of business risks

Growers who enrol in this skill set will complete the following units:

Manage small business finances (BSBSMB421)

Manage risk (BSBRK501)

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the program, use the online form (link below) or contact your district CANEGROWERS office. Be sure to tell us your preferred location. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email. When the program is ready for enrolment, we will contact you.

DELIVERY LOCATIONS

The program will be delivered face to face over two days at regional locations in most cane growing districts. Final locations will depend on participation levels.

DELIVERY DATES

The program will be delivered between February 2021 and May 2021.

COST

To be advised.

ELIGIBILITY

You're eligible for this course if you are:

- a cane grower
- a permanent resident of Queensland
- an Australian citizen, or a New Zealand citizen, or hold an eligible visa as identified by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training at <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/providers/inclusive/visa-eligibility>

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY

HURRY, PLACES ARE LIMITED

VISIT: tafeqld.edu.au/skillsetcanegrowers

