

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

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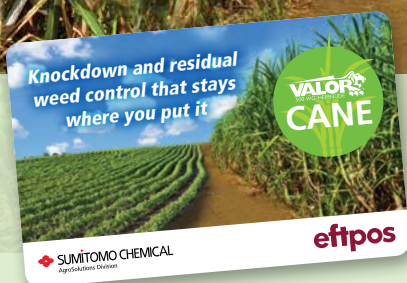
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## Bingera Mill Closed

Bundaberg Sugar Limited (BSL) has announced that its Bingera Mill (*pictured*) will not run again and all cane will be processed at the Millaquin Mill in the future.

BSL says its total crush, including its own and growers' cane, in 2020 was just over one million tonnes, down from 1.8 million in 2016 and it could not continue with two sets of fixed costs associated with milling operations.

In a letter to growers, BSL said growers would have the same delivery points and type of bin supply as previously and the company was seeking final approvals from the Queensland Government and Bundaberg Regional Council for a dedicated cane transport bridge across the Burnett River to the Millaquin Mill.

The company said it believes Millaquin is more than capable

of catering to the needs of the local crush at its levels in 2021 and ongoing and further factory upgrades were planned prior to the 2021 season to ensure it could handle the anticipated cane crushes of the coming years.

Meanwhile with MSF Sugar not guaranteeing that the Maryborough Mill will operate beyond the end of the current season, CANEGROWERS Maryborough and the Isis Central Sugar Mill have been lobbying for support for a \$20.55 million plan which could see some of the district's cane head north if necessary.

The plan needs \$6.33 million from the Queensland Government for infrastructure work including a new transloader facility and expansions to the rail network to assist in the movement of cane to Childers. ■



## Grower interests in safe hands

Growers have a strong voice in an important role following the election of Babinda sugarcane grower and CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** to the Board of Sugar Terminals Limited (STL).

Mr Calcagno was confirmed as the replacement for retiring director and Mossman grower **Drew Watson** on the STL board, joining Mackay grower **Tony Bartolo** who was elected by G-Class shareholders in 2018.

"I thank my fellow growers for their support and confidence," Mr Calcagno said. "There is a lot of uncertainty around at the minute, but I see a bright future for this industry and I want to make sure that we make the best decisions possible for growers at all levels."

"With Stephen Calcagno, growers are in safe hands," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said. "He is an experienced representative dedicated to his fellow growers who is also open minded and forward-thinking meaning he will work with other board members for the benefit of the company and the industry as a whole. I wish him well in his new role." ■

## Sweet soy strategy for Mossman

A company called CocNutZ plans to set up next to the Mossman Sugar Mill to make an ingredient for sweet soy sauce from sugarcane.

It will be the first tenant of the planned Daintree Bio Precinct after receiving a co-contribution grant of up to \$250,000 under Round Three of the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant program administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

The new facility will employ 12 people and process up to 20,000 tonnes of cane in its first year to replace coconut sugar in the manufacture of kecap manis.

The company says demand for the sweet soy sauce is growing but coconut sugar is in short supply globally.

Managing director **Lucas Van Der Walt** said the company has patented a fermentation process which aims to turn sugarcane juice into a coconut-like sugar product. "The CocoNutZ platform has been identified as a key diversifying strategy for the mill," he said.

"By creating niche value-added products from sugarcane, growers will no longer be impacted by the declining global sugar price, and will have more certainty in future cane prices." ■

## Pest moves further south

Fall armyworm has been found in more locations in southern Queensland and in New South Wales over the past month. The latest detections have been in the Lockyer Valley west of Brisbane, at St George and Chinchilla and between Moree and Boggabilla. Sweet corn and sorghum crops have been the most significantly affected.

As adult moths, fall armyworm can spread long distances and its larvae are known to feed on more than 350 plant species, particularly corn, maize, rice, sorghum, wheat and sugarcane.

The pest originates in the Americas but since 2016 has spread rapidly around the world entering the Torres Strait islands in January this year.

Any suspected incursions should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. Information about fall armyworm and sugarcane can be found here [www.sugarresearch.com.au/pest/fall-armyworm/](http://www.sugarresearch.com.au/pest/fall-armyworm/) ■





## Power price win for growers

Following years of lobbying from CANEGROWERS and other farm groups, the Queensland Competition Authority has confirmed a new electricity tariff which promises to save irrigators money.

It's called T34 and it will be available as a primary tariff to farmers from 1 November. The tariff offers a lower usage charge of 17.295 c/kWh and a daily fixed charge of \$1.18081 per day (ex-GST) on the understanding that supply could be interrupted at any time.

"This is a victory for irrigators," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said. "CANEGROWERS has been calling for a suite of agricultural electricity tariffs capped at 16c/kWh and T34 is close to that mark.

"But I urge growers to carefully assess if T34 is right for them to ensure their business can benefit from a lower price for power but also not be affected by the risk of service delivery interruptions."

Bundaberg grower **Mark Pressler** was part of a joint trial of the control load tariff run by CANEGROWERS and Energy Queensland and says he was impressed.

"The tariff delivered some worthwhile cost savings for my business and the service interruptions were manageable," he said. "I'm looking forward to Ergon finalising its plan to send us text notifications so we know ahead of time when the power might be cut."

The QCA has found indicative annual savings for typical users moving to T34 from other irrigation tariffs of \$768 moving from T62, \$1,116 moving from T65 and \$2,487 moving from T66.

Read more about T34 in Warren Male's (Head - Economics CANEGROWERS) article on Load Control Tariffs on page 41.

### WATER PRICE RELIEF IMMINENT

Irrigators using water from state-owned schemes are set to be better off regardless of the outcome of the 31 October Queensland election.

In the final week of the campaign, the Labor Party promised a 15% cut in water charges for sugarcane growers and other broadacre farmers and a 50% cut for fruit and vegetable producers.

The Liberal National Party had earlier committed to a cut in water costs of up to 20% through a change in the underlying fundamentals of the water pricing system.

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the acknowledgement of both major parties that water is a critical but costly input for the future agriculture in Queensland.

Both commitments approach the long-held position of CANEGROWERS that water prices need to come down by 20%.

However, both proposals raise questions and CANEGROWERS will work through those with whichever party forms government. ■



# Senate inquiry result mirrors reef regs problems

The failure of senators to reach a consensus on the veracity of the evidence base behind reef regulations is symbolic of the confusing, divisive and politicised nature of the regulations themselves.

Following a year-long inquiry, the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs Committee handed down two conflicting reports on the evidence behind the Queensland Government's latest round of reef regulations.

While the committee's majority report supported the continued regulation of farming practices, and largely dismissed the need for greater scrutiny of the science used to justify regulation, it did

call for greater transparency to give growers confidence and recommended increased funding for on-farm extension programs.

A separate dissenting minority report, from LNP committee members senators **Susan McDonald, Gerard Rennick and Matt Canavan**, came out strongly in favour of the key recommendations that CANEGROWERS made in its submission to the inquiry, including:

- Removing the regulatory burden on growers and adopting long-term support for on-farm innovation;
- Restoring growers' confidence in policy through a review of the way the science used to justify it is managed and scrutinised;
- Ensuring water quality targets are credible and realistic; and developing trustworthy methods for evaluating improvements in farm practices and water quality.

## CANEGROWERS notes on the inquiry recommendations

### Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments ensure adequate stakeholder engagement and education processes are integrated into future Water Quality Scientific Consensus Statement processes.

*Growers don't need to be educated or condescended to. They need to be consulted, listened to, and recognised for the good work they've already done.*

### Recommendation 2

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments improve consultation, information, accessibility and transparency of data used to inform the findings of the Paddock to the Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program.

*Won't solve the serious flaws in the Paddock to Reef program or unrealistic water quality targets.*

### Recommendation 3

The committee recommends the Australian Government continue to uphold its responsibilities under the precautionary principle in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.

### Recommendation 4

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments ensure future Reef report cards adequately incorporate and recognise the adoption of best practice across the sugarcane sector.

*Best practice defined by Smartcane BMP or defined by government in water quality targets?*



Despite the committee's failure to agree, CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said he doesn't view the year-long process as a waste of time and resources.

"While we accept that senators on all sides went into this process with open minds and a genuine hope of understanding the issue, their failure to find consensus reflects how complex and politically charged the issue is," he said.

"CANEGROWERS remains opposed to the use of farm-based regulations to support water quality outcomes, particularly those embedded in the 2019 Queensland Government legislation.

"The inquiry provided an opportunity to ventilate the many very serious concerns around the impacts of reef regulations and the lack of evidence to justify them.

"Farmers across the state support a healthy, dynamic and much-loved Great Barrier Reef. We simply do not support the policy decision made by the State Government to regulate farmers to secure this outcome."

CANEGROWERS committed significant resources to bring evidence before the inquiry, with grower representatives from eight cane-growing regions attending hearings in Brisbane.

"Growers discussed the range of activities they have implemented to demonstrate their world class sustainability credentials, evidenced by the fact that over 30% of Australian cane land is now accredited to the industry's internationally recognised best practice program - Smartcane BMP" Mr Galligan said.

During the course of public hearings, the senators heard from scientists that around 3% of the Reef may be impacted by land based run-off, with experts agreeing that climate change and extreme weather events are by far the most significant threats to its health.

Some senators appeared genuinely puzzled as to why growers had not been recognised and commended more for practice changes achieved to date.

CANEGROWERS tabled an independent economic assessment which showed that measures outlined in the latest round of reef regulations, including fertiliser rates below the industry SIX EASY STEPS rates, could result in a \$1.3 billion hit to the Queensland economy over the next decade. ■

### Recommendation 5

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments conduct a strategic review of the communication strategy used to inform stakeholders about Great Barrier Reef policies and science.

*This won't fix the underlying problems with the policies and strategy.*

### Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments' commission additional research into the impact of the horticulture and banana industries (including small-scale agro-ecological farmers) on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchment regions.

### Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments, in partnership with Reef science research bodies, agricultural representatives, natural resource management bodies and other stakeholders, establish a Great Barrier Reef water quality forum.

*Problems are bigger than a forum can solve! CANEGROWERS wants a review of the funding, quality, synthesis and communication of research used to inform reef policy.*

### Recommendation 8

The committee recommends the Australian and Queensland governments explore future opportunities to establish water quality research projects that incorporate citizen science principles throughout the Great Barrier Reef's catchment regions.

*Is this about growers being equal partners in local projects to measure water quality outcomes?*



## Reef credits fanfare greeted with caution

The first purchase of reef credits has taken place in Queensland, marking the launch of a scheme that aims to turn water quality measures on farms into tradeable units. CANEGROWERS sees value in the concept but wants more rigorous assessment of the assumptions and economics.

Developed and offered by a company called GreenCollar, the first reef credits were purchased by the bank HSBC Australia and the Queensland Government.

GreenCollar says the voluntary scheme is a new environmental market that pays landholders for certain on-farm actions that improve water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef.

The first credits were developed in the Tully region and CANEGROWERS Tully Chairman **Jamie Dore** (pictured) was

involved in a pilot program, putting his hand up to get the details and look at it from an economic and legal perspective for growers.

For the pilot, SIX EASY STEPS (6ES) was used to get to the lowest rate of fertiliser possible without risking yield or profitability and the credits were generated. CANEGROWERS thanks Jamie for his work with the developers and supports initiatives where growers are recognised and potentially rewarded for good land management.

However, CANEGROWERS is concerned that beyond the pilot program, reef credits will be linked to the government's problematic and unrealistic 2050 Reef water quality targets and their intent of reducing nitrogen rates below 6ES. Read more analysis on page 30.

GreenCollar estimates there could be six million credits to be generated in reef catchments including credits

for projected reductions in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, sediment and pesticides in water.

"The investment required to meet water quality targets for the Great Barrier Reef is estimated at \$4 billion, and this announcement provides an exciting opportunity for corporations, landholders and government alike to make their own contributions to this target," **James Schultz**, GreenCollar Co-Founder and CEO, said.

CANEGROWERS says reef credits could hold some potential for growers to supplement their incomes but more information is needed on how the price of a reef credit is determined and whether the market will be transparent.

Ultimately, it will be up to growers to determine if reef credits are appropriate for them when all of the information is available as each farm situation is different. ■



### What are reef credits?

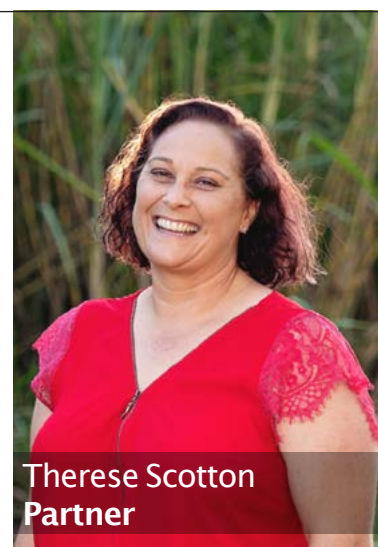
Reef credits are a tradeable unit. They are generated by activities which improve water quality flowing to the Great Barrier Reef. The credits are verified and administered by an independent company. Buyers of reef credits purchase them as part of their environmental, social and governance strategies.



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# 200k drums saved from landfill

Growers in Queensland's Hinchinbrook region have saved the equivalent of 4,600 cubic metres of plastic and steel from being dumped in landfill as part of Agsafe's successful drumMUSTER program.

Since the program commenced in the region in June 2002, over 214 tonnes of agricultural and veterinary containers have been collected.

That's enough to stretch from Ingham to Euramo if lined up, drumMUSTER Regional Consultant for Queensland Colin Hoey said.

"Growers in the Herbert Valley should be very proud of their commitment to the environment and in turn the success of the drumMUSTER program.

"I have seen them leading the way in Far North Queensland for many years now," Mr Hoey said.

"This is a significant result from a shire that has been one of the shining lights of the cane growing regions of Queensland.

"The growers have consistently supported the drumMUSTER program and in doing so have shown a great respect for the environment.

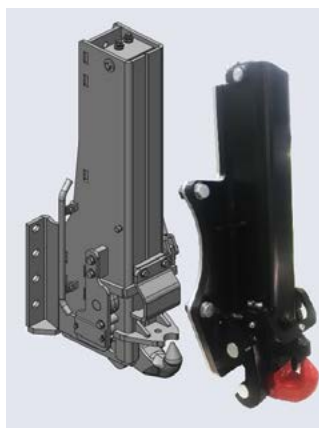
"The utilisation of one of the largest agricultural stewardship and recycling programs in Australia proves farmers want to not only support, but champion sustainable farm management practices."

Hinchinbrook Mayor Ramon Jayo was also giving credit where credit is due.

"I am pleased that our Herbert growers are being recognised for their

commitment to the environment through their recycling efforts of chemical containers," Mr Ramon said.

"Farmers in general are regularly held out to be environmental vandals by various elements ignorant of the true facts and facts such as these assist in bringing out the truth." ■



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# CEO COMMENT

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By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS



## WE MUST LOOK IN THE MIRROR TO SEE OUR FUTURE

During a recent radio interview, a reporter asked me to put into context whether the Queensland State Election really mattered. I thought it was a fair question.

Given the hype and hyperbole around political photo opportunities and statements during an election campaign, it can be difficult to cut through to meaningful substance but my answer to the reporter was straight forward - of course an election matters and when it is a State Election, it really, really matters.

When you look at all three tiers of government in Australia, it is the state level which has enormous influence over agriculture. The states have the policy levers on water and electricity pricing, land use planning policies, environmental (reef) regulations, resources allocation and planning.

These are all issues CANEGROWERS canvassed heavily in our 8-point election platform which was in your October magazine.

It was pleasing to see that CANEGROWERS was successful in getting a response to our issues which were published also in last month's magazine. The response of the parties points to the importance they place on the voice of CANEGROWERS. Their published statements remain as a benchmark for the new State Government.

It was clear though that in final weeks of the campaign there was a lack of momentum. Perhaps brought about by the strategies harbouring uncertainties about the unique nature of this first fixed term, fixed date, huge pre-poll vote and dramatic influence of preferential voting.

There was also the growing feeling in agriculture that this was an opportunity lost by our politicians.

Gone are the days where comprehensive strategies built on the pillars of agriculture, mining and tourism were the cornerstone of most campaigns. They have been replaced by policies, many it must be said are noteworthy and supportive of industry, but they don't appear to be stitched within a cohesive campaign-wide strategy.

We as industry, led by growers, must step up to fill that void. Over recent months I have used this magazine to float such ideas and talk of our emerging work on a new industry vision and roadmap to grow the industry.

It is a compelling story full of bright opportunities for cane growing in Queensland and as we work with our supply chain partners, I know we can deliver it.

To do so we have to face the reality that the 'old days' of government leading this process are gone – it is up to us. Government will need to be part of our future, but we will lead because if we wait for them we may not see our part in that future. ■



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# BUILDING INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE ON **FARMING PRACTICE AND WATER QUALITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION**



Sugarcane growers in the Mackay and Plane Creek areas of Queensland will have the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the complex relationship between farming systems and water quality, through a new project.

This new project is led by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and is an addition to SRA's work on the Cane to Creek series of projects - this new project brings this work to multiple sub-catchments in the central cane-growing region.

Regional Coordinator for the Central Region, Phil Ross, said that the *Mackay-Whitsunday Cane to Creek* project would work closely with productivity services organisations, Farmacist and growers on adaptive learning through demonstration sites.

"Through Cane to Creek in several other regions, SRA has worked hand-in-glove with growers to look at locally-specific issues that are relevant to them," Mr Ross said.

"Growers are continually changing and improving practices to improve productivity, profitability, and sustainability. The industry also operates in a very complex system, which means we are always looking for new and practical information to help implement new practice.

"Through this project, we will be working with growers to better understand these various factors in their own local conditions.

"This will lead to increased adoption of improved practices that meet the goals of improving productivity, profitability and sustainability, including nutrient and pesticide management strategies that contribute to achieving the dissolved inorganic nitrogen and pesticide load reduction targets for the region."

Mr Ross said that along with the work already underway in other regions, this project will provide a platform for growers, researchers and advisors to agree on and test potential solutions to better match nitrogen and herbicide application to their specific requirements.

The *Mackay-Whitsunday Cane to Creek* project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), with support from SRA.

It will run over the next three years and will leverage decision support tools such as the SRA SIX EASY STEPS Toolbox and the forthcoming DAF Queensland Pesticide Selection Tool.

In-field surveys of liquid imidacloprid applicators and sampling for imidacloprid concentration in the soil profile will also contribute to our understanding of this key chemical control for cane grubs.

"We will be working with growers on crop nutrition, pesticide stewardship and water quality science, as well as breaking down the barriers to bring science and industry to the same table," Mr Ross said. ■

*Pictured: In the field with a similar version of this project in the Herbert Region.*



# Gentle giant with big heart

The New South Wales sugar industry was in mourning last month following the tragic death of Pimlico cane farmer **Wayne Rodgers** on 3 October.

The 52-year-old was an active director on the board of the NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative and Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. He has also served on the Richmond River Cane Growers Association and NSW Cane Growers.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts we have to farewell one of our own. Wayne was a shining light in our industry and will be deeply missed," Sunshine Sugar CEO and friend, **Chris Connors** said.

Wayne and his brother Craig along with their families have a long and distinguished association with the NSW sugar industry as growers, leaders and innovators.

"Wayne will be remembered as a gentle giant of the cane growing community. He was a big man with big ideas, big tractors, yet at the same time he was a thoughtful and caring person with the biggest of hearts.

"In the twelve years I have known him, since I came down from Queensland, he rang me nearly every week 'just to make sure I hadn't gone back over the border'.

"It was his way of making sure everything was okay. It reflects the considerate and positive attitude he had," Mr Connors said. ■



*Pictured: Sebastian Di Salvo and Jenna Kerswell of St Stephen's Catholic College. School formal held on August 29 2020. Sebastian has always loved the farm life and was thrilled that their formal photos could also capture the harvest in progress. Harvesting contractors Bonso Farming Babinda. Photo credit: Emma Bonso.*

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By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

## 2020 STATE ELECTION COMMITMENTS MUST BE MET

Whatever the result of this 2020 Queensland Election, we at CANEGROWERS are ready to work.

You'll be reading this when the result is known. CANEGROWERS will be hitting the ground quickly to engage with the elected government on the important issues that are hampering the growth and development of the Queensland sugar industry.

Many growers and farmers in general made the comment in the final week of the campaign that agriculture was 'not up there in lights' in terms of announcements and commitments as it might have been in previous elections.

Election offerings around new roads, community infrastructure and frontline service delivery are critically important for everyone. But it has to be said that this election has been notable by a conspicuous lack of any overarching vision or policy for agriculture.

We welcome specific commitments for agriculture, for example around electricity tariffs, dam works and water pricing, made during the campaign and we will hold the new government to its promises.

We will also be continuing to push for the measures in the 8-point plan that CANEGROWERS highlighted during the campaign - policy which would remove the obstacles in our way and help unleash the sugar industry's future potential.

These measures remain important for the economic growth of the state even though the election is over.

Queensland agricultural production is worth around \$12 billion annually. An economic report commissioned by CANEGROWERS showed that for every \$1.00 spent on sugarcane growing, an additional \$6.42 in economic activity is generated elsewhere in the economy\*.

I have had countless people in the business sector tell me over the years that when sugar does well, businesses thrive - and so we will continue to push for policy that helps that to happen. We must also ensure our importance to our regional communities and economies continues to be understood.

Two years ago, while representing the Australian sugar industry at a conference in the Netherlands, I was impressed by the high regard the citizens there had for their farmers. Large tractors with farm implements travelled up the main street of Rotterdam, almost inconspicuously merging with traffic. One person on the street told me how proud they are of their farmers.

Queenslanders too do have a high regard for farmers but unfortunately the importance farmers and the economic importance of agriculture to regional communities might, at times, be taken for granted.

The Mayor of Mackay, Councillor Greg Williamson, recently hit out saying that politicians were underestimating the damage that

government policy around regulation and government charges were causing to the sugar industry and then also causing damage to regional economies.

One example stands out from the pack. For decades political parties have waxed lyrical about the huge opportunity that exists for the sugar industry in terms of biofuels (such as ethanol), renewable energy such as co-generation and the manufacture of bio-plastics, yet we are struggling to find government policy that would incentivise those opportunities.

Brazil and Thailand have grabbed those opportunities to good effect and there is no reason why we in Queensland can't do the same.

The next four-years, the term of the next Queensland Government, will be critically important for our sugar industry. Whichever party is in office, I hope they take the opportunity to allow our industry to develop to our full potential. ■

*\*Source: QEAS July 2019 The economic contribution of the Sugarcane industry to Queensland and its regional communities report.*





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## Lifetime of lessons

For the women and men who pioneered Australia's sugar industry, hard times such as those being amid the COVID-19 pandemic are not new. On a recent visit to the Australian Sugar Heritage Centre in Mourilyan, *Australian Canegrower* sat down for afternoon tea with a group of cane farming elders from the Innisfail district ... and listened ... as lessons about resilience and respect were shared.

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BY JOHN FLYNN

"It was a hard life, but it was a happy life. There was something about it... everybody was the same," Mary Marano recalled of her earliest years growing up in the cane fields of the Innisfail district.

It was a childhood filled with old-fashioned hard yakka for the mother of CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano.

In the season, days would begin with cane knife in hand slicing 'chop-chop' or cane leaves to feed the horses. It was dangerous work, especially for children who could easily slice a toe while working

*"It was a hard life but it was a happy life."*

their way along the rows of hand-cut sticks, or lose a finger feeding cane trash into a chaff cutter.

That was before heading to school for the day, then returning home to a fresh round of chores in the evening.

"I don't know how we didn't chop our feet while chopping the cane," Mary recalled.

"Honestly, I reckon the good Lord must have been looking after us."

In her youngest years, when the family lived at the foot of the Basilisk Range, Mrs Marano remembers heading up into

*"We used to dig holes in between the stumps and put the stick of cane in."*

the hills behind the cane fields on the darkest nights to collect cane beetles.

"Our father used to carry a long ladder and me, like a fool, went up there too at night-time with my mother and a tent," Mary remembered.

"They'd go up the tree and shake the tree and with the carbide light all the beetles would come there and then you'd pick them up and place them in a drum and the next morning you'd take them to the mill and get five pence a pint.

"In the morning, before the sun came out, you'd go through the cane and pick them off the leaves of the cane because once the sun came out, they'd go down.

"You can see why I enjoyed going to school!"

The recollections sparked a flood of memories from the group at the get-together at the Australian Sugar Heritage Centre in Mourilyan.

Still whip-smart at 92, Marge Bisbal recalled her earliest years on the family farm at Nerada in the foothills of the Palmerston Range, where her English immigrant father set to work carving out cane blocks from the scrub.

Women and children would share the workload, including planting cane by hand.

"We used to dig holes in between the stumps and put the stick of cane in," Marge recalled.

"Then when the stumps all got burnt away, they made drills.

"Dad threw the cane in the drills and my sister and I cut it up in the drills, then we scarified it in with the one horse and the scarifier."

Also eager to share their stories were two of the Innisfail district's most senior growers Dino Della Mattea and Pietro Angelini.

Still referring to himself as a 'new Australian', Pietro's story is a lesson to anyone in today's economic climate on the importance of grit and determination.

One of the district's most respected cane growers, he arrived in Melbourne from Italy in 1961, aged 20, with just a passport and the clothes on his back, and speaking almost no English.

With no family to support him, Pietro worked on a construction site in Melbourne for two months before heading north to cut cane by hand in Babinda for three years while raising enough cash to start his own farm.

Growing up in Italy on a mixed farm where he worked from a young age, Pietro was determined to carry on the farming tradition in Australia and wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and have a go.

"I cut cane for three years with cane knife and shoulder loading," Pietro recalled.

"Some of the cane had to be cut in three pieces because of the flooding, but we were cutting for good people and that made it easy work.

*Continues next page ►*

*Pictured: (main) Dino & Lucy Della Mattea, Pietro & Mary Angelini, Mary Marano, Marjorie & Stephen Bisbal (Stephen is Marjorie's son), (right) 1931-32 Nerada Farm Cane Gang, Badilla Cane.*





*"They point the finger at what you're doing wrong. We're not doing anything wrong."*

"It was very hard, the skin was peeling on the arm, blisters everywhere, but we persevered, never lost a day."

Pietro eventually raked in enough cash to buy a block of virgin scrub in the Cowley district and with the support of his beloved wife Mary.

He set about carving out a place of his own, digging out tree stumps to establish blocks for growing cane and carrying with him lessons learnt across generations of farming.

"My Nonno told me how to treat the land. You have to grow things and respect your soil and do certain things.

"I've never ever forgotten that," Pietro said.

Pietro's great mate Dino still rates him one of the best growers in the district, given what he achieved off his own bat in one generation.

His ability as a farmer is also evidenced by countless category wins for cane at the Innisfail Show.

Heading into their eighties, it's understandable that both growers, who still work on the farms by choice, would appreciate respect for a lifetime of effort.

"I have done a lot of different things in life, such as grow tobacco, peanuts, bananas, sugarcane, earth moving, building, everything but I find nothing as bad as growing cane as far as money is concerned and putting up with today's bureaucracy and paperwork," Pietro said.

"They point the finger at what you're doing wrong.

"We're not doing anything wrong, we do better today than we were doing many years ago."

Dino is the first to admit he's had a great life growing cane and has no regrets about choosing a life on the farm.

At the same time, he's concerned for the industry's future in a climate of decreasing margins and increasing regulation.

The suggestion that cane farmers might not have the best interests of the Great Barrier Reef at heart also bothers him.

"The way they portray it is as though we're doing nothing and we're decimating everything and it's just not right," he said.

"It sticks in your craw because when you're doing everything possible and

we're always trying to better ourselves, as everybody else does, but no-one seems to understand it."

One thing Dino is sure of is that there is a role for CANEGROWERS moving forward as a body to represent growers and the industry.

He's looking to advocates like his local CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joe Marano to continue airing the industry's viewpoint by leveraging the respected place at the table that CANEGROWERS has always had in the corridors of power, irrespective of which party is in government.

"You always whinge when you look at the levies, but it's something we have to have," Dino said.

"When you start to get people talking about the reef and they are not practical people, they are theoretical people and it's all on theory, you've got to have someone that's game to go against them," he says talking about CANEGROWERS advocacy for growers.

"You've got to be positive in what you say and stick to it.

"We're doing our best and always striving to do better." ■

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*Pictured: (right) Dino Mattea and Pietro Angelini.*







# QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 26 October 2020.

## Sugar



- > The bulls made a return in October as the new prompt ICE 11 contract, March 2021, rallied above 14 US c/lb to peak at 14.94 c/lb at the time of writing.
- > Speculators continued their heavy buying, pushing their net-long position to 252,000 lots. This is the largest net-long position since 2016 and is continuing to support the rally as speculators see value potential in commodities off the back of general US Dollar weakness.
- > The lack of detail around the Indian sugar export subsidy is supportive of the current optimistic sentiment, despite the expectation of a similar announcement to last year. Until the subsidy is announced, 15 USc/lb is not unrealistic, providing attractive 2020-Season hedging levels for Australian sugar producers.
- > Second-wave COVID-19 infections continue to increase throughout Europe and the US, weighing on market sentiment, putting pressure on US equity markets and making commodities such as sugar more attractive for investors.
- > **ICE 11 trading range going forward:** Broader trading range to be expected around 12.50 to 16.00 USc/lb.
- > **Closely watching:** Indian export subsidy news, La Nina weather updates, speculative activity, trading volumes and overall technical indicators.

## Currency



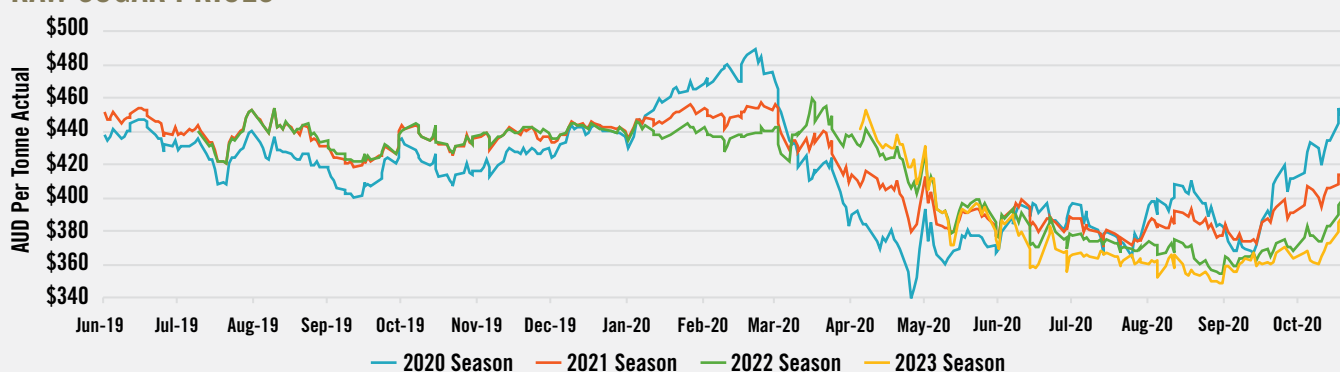
- > The Aussie Dollar (AUD) has remained volatile over the last month, trading a range from 0.7021 to a 0.7243 against the US Dollar (USD). The key psychological level of 70 cents appears to be holding a firm line of support for the currency.
- > Australian cotton producers have become the latest casualties in the ongoing trade tensions with China, with reports that our largest trading partner has told its spinning mills to stop buying Australian cotton. The market took this latest development as another body blow for our relationship with China and a headwind for the Australian Dollar going forward.
- > The RBA has signalled a relatively significant quantitative easing program and a rate cut ahead, with the market already factoring in a 15-basis-point cut for their November meeting. As we start to exit the various COVID-19 lockdowns in place around the country, the RBA appears keen to maintain accommodative policy settings in a bid to aid economic recovery, the implications of which are likely to put the brakes on our currency.
- > Heightened volatility is to be expected as the US election draws near and the possibility of a contested result very likely.
- > **AUD/USD trading range going forward:** 0.7000 to 0.7500
- > **Risks Ahead:** US Presidential election, Australia-China relationships, RBA rate cuts.

## KEY INDICATORS

	26/10/2020	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (MAR21)	14.72 USc/lb	+1.90 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.62 BRL	+0.02 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US41.77/barrel	-\$US0.49
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	11.39 USc/lb	+1.24 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	252,000 (net long)	+73,000

	26/10/2020	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7134	-\$US0.0039
\$US Index	92.77	-1.6210
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.69 CNY	-0.1223 CNY
S+P 500 Index	3,465.39	+228.47
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.25%	-

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 23.10.20, 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

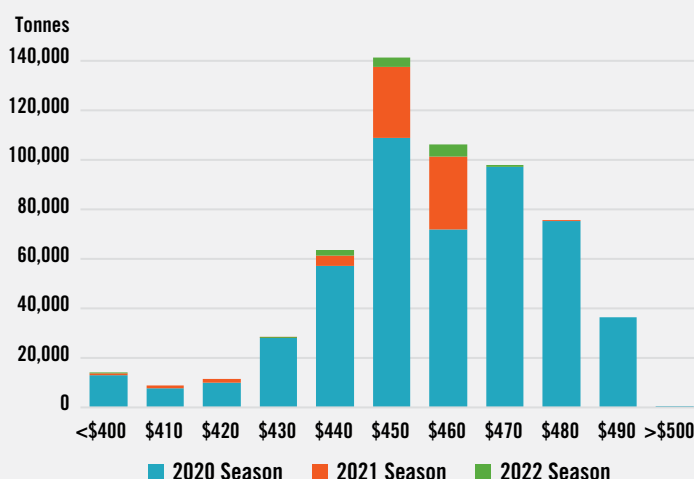


## Grower Pricing



- > The current market rally has seen increased grower pricing activity in the past month, with QSL 2020-Season Target Price orders filled as high as \$445/tonne actual during this period.
- > Growers with outstanding Target orders are reminded that they must factor in the current roll adjustment of -\$9.43 in order for their order to be filled. For example, for an order set at \$440 in the 2020-Season Target Price contract to be filled, the market must now reach \$440 + \$9.43.
- > The next 2020-Season Target Price Contract roll is scheduled for 22 February 2021. After this date, any unfilled 2020-Season Target Price Contract orders will have their pricing window extended and an additional roll adjustment will apply. Growers in MSF Sugar districts are unable to access this third roll and will have any unfilled orders remaining after this date filled by QSL at the next market opportunity.
- > **31 October 2020 Deadline:**
  - > Last day to choose QSL as your marketer for the 2021 Season
  - > Last day to select the 2021 Self-Managed Harvest Pool
  - > Last day to nominate tonnes into:
    - 2021 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool
    - 2022 2-Season Actively Managed Pool
    - 2023 3-Season Actively Managed Pool

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 23.10.20 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

### Increasing cash flow prior to Christmas

QSL growers have until 30 November 2020 to elect to receive Accelerated Advances for 2020. This program increases the Advance rate paid for eligible tonnes to 90% from December. See you local QSL team or visit [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au) for details.

## Macroeconomic Factors and the Sugar Price



There are many influences outside fundamental supply and demand factors which can affect the ICE 11 sugar price. These are known as **macroeconomic factors** and can play a role in shaping the world sugar market.

While these factors may not always have as strong a correlation to the fundamentals of sugar production and sales, they still help explain the behaviour of commodity prices.

Some examples of factors in the macroeconomic environment include:

- > **Foreign exchange rates**, especially the Brazilian Real (BRL), weigh heavily on the sugar market. A weaker BRL should encourage Brazilian producers to export more of their sugar, flooding the market with supply and driving the price of sugar downwards. Alternatively, a stronger BRL generally boosts sugar prices as mills are encouraged to produce ethanol as opposed to exporting sugar.



- > **The US Dollar** also has an impact on the ICE 11 sugar price. Recent US Dollar weakness has driven investors to look for alternative ways to invest their money, one of which being investing in commodities such as sugar.

- > **Equities** provide another alternative market for investors in conjunction with commodity markets. Depending on the returns available in either market, it could promote investors to change their attention and funds between the two.

- > **The price of oil** typically plays an important role in the global economy and so is considered a macroeconomic factor influencing sugar. The oil price typically affects the price of ethanol, which in turn shapes ethanol parity in Brazil, weighing heavily on the sugar market in times of weakness, such as we saw in April.



# FARMER FRIENDLY BUDGET

By Warren Males

CANEGROWERS Head - Economics

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

The 6 October 2020 Federal Budget had measures to boost consumption, support business recovery and stimulate economic growth and some of them are very relevant to sugarcane growing businesses.

### GROWERS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ABILITY TO FULLY WRITE-OFF PURCHASES OF NEW AND SECONDHAND ASSETS.

Personal income tax cuts, back dated to 1 July this year, are designed to boost spending power across the community. The upper limit of the 19% personal income tax bracket will rise to \$45,000 and the 32.5% marginal tax threshold will lift from \$90,000 to \$120,000.

People earning \$48,000 to \$90,000 will gain an extra \$1,080. Those in the higher tax bracket will receive tax relief of \$2,745 for singles, and up to \$5,490 for two income families compared with what they paid in 2017-18.

As part of the Australian Government's response to COVID-19, the instant asset write-off limit was increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and the business turnover threshold was increased from \$50 million to \$150 million.

The Budget takes this further. Until June 2022, businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$5 billion can write off the full value of any eligible asset they purchase for their business in the year of purchase.

Growers will also benefit from the ability of small to medium sized businesses (turnover less than \$50 million) to fully expense purchases of second-hand assets.

Practically, it means growers will be able to claim full depreciation on all new machinery, equipment and eligible farm infrastructure purchases this financial year and next year, writing it off in the year of purchase.

Growers (small businesses less than \$10 million turnover) will be able

to claim this year any outstanding depreciation amounts carried forward from previous years.

For the first time, the government is enabling loss carry-back. This means losses incurred up to June 2022 can be offset against profits made in or after the 2018-19 financial year.

In normal circumstances, losses made this year are offset against future profits. Offsetting against previous profits means there is no need to wait until your business returns to profit.

The depreciation changes and loss carry-back should provide many businesses, farms included, significant tax credits. The tax savings, effectively a cash injection, are designed to encourage on-farm investment and promote employment.

In addition to measures designed to promote business investment, the extension of temporary visas to support the agricultural workforce, plus JobMaker credits for hiring workers (\$200 per week for those under 30 and \$100 per week for those between 30 and 35), provide opportunities for farmers and farm services.

As generous as it is, the accelerated depreciation measure is a matter of timing. It provides immediate benefits for businesses by bringing forward tax credits that otherwise would be available in future years.

In most pursuits timing is important. It certainly is in supporting Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 doldrums. ■

*Time for an upgrade?  
Growers will be able to  
write-off the expense  
of purchasing new or  
second-hand equipment.*



## INSTANT ASSET WRITE-OFF

- Limit of instant asset write-off increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 for businesses with a turnover of less than \$150 million.
- Until June 2022, businesses with a turnover of less than \$5 billion can write off the full value of any eligible asset.
- Small businesses (less than \$10m turnover) can write-down all remaining depreciation on eligible assets.

## INCOME TAX BREAKS

- Upper limit of 19% tax bracket rises from \$37,000 to \$45,000.
- Upper limit of 32.5% tax bracket rises from \$90,000 to \$120,000.
- Higher tax bracket will receive tax relief of \$2,745 for singles, and up to \$5,490 for two income families compared with what they paid in 2017-18.

## LOSS CARRY-BACK

- Losses incurred up to June 2022 can be offset against profits made in or after the 2018-19 financial year.

## JOBMAKER CREDITS

- Farming enterprises can get JobMaker credits for hiring workers (\$200 p/w for those under 30 and \$100 p/w for those between 30 and 35).



**"One box we can tick when we talk to people is to say that we produce sugarcane sustainably and we're accredited under Smartcane BMP."**

*ROCKY POINT GROWER,  
GREG ZIPF.*



# Pride and not regulation

## DRIVES SMARTCANE BMP IN THE SOUTH

A growing number of sugarcane farmers in Queensland's most southern growing district are working towards Smartcane BMP accreditation, despite being hundreds of kilometres from the Great Barrier Reef and outside of government reef regulations.

Established by industry as a mechanism to drive the productivity, profitability sustainability of sugarcane farms needing to meet water quality requirements in Great Barrier Reef catchments, Smartcane BMP is being embraced by growers much further afield wanting to achieve best practice in farming.

In the Rocky Point district, more than 400km south of the southernmost tip of the Great Barrier Reef, **Greg and Denise Zipf** are part of a growing community of cane growers achieving Smartcane BMP accreditation.

To date, almost half of the district's cane farms are either accredited or working towards accreditation, with growers determined to deliver quality assurance to an increasingly diverse customer base, while helping safeguard the nearby aquatic environment of Moreton Bay.

"Growers in the Rocky Point district have actively sought to be involved in the Smartcane BMP program despite not falling under any of the State Government's reef regulations," Smartcane BMP manager **Kate Gowdie** said.

"More than 70% of the district's cane area is now covered by the program and this figure is growing all the time."

### ZIPF FARMING

The sandy soil was still too damp to work, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Zipf family farm in Woongoolba recently.

In the immediate wake of an unseasonal, though not unexpected 200mm rainfall event, the neighbouring Rocky Point mill was in temporary shutdown as growers in one of Australia's oldest growing districts waited for their blocks to dry out.

Emerging amid the stubble, a smattering of soya bean volunteers added yet more valuable nitrogen to the growing zone via nodules in their root systems. In a region where the soils have been worked for well over a century, replenishing it with nitrogen and other trace elements is not only industry best practice, it's common sense.

"Growing soya beans, putting in a rotational crop, putting in a legume, breaks that monoculture of cane," Greg Zipf explained.

"You're growing better cane as plant crops and first, second and third ratoons as a result of it because you're rebuilding the structure of your soil. It's so important."

The Zipf family started growing soya beans in the early 2000s and the results, at least in terms of boosted yield in the subsequent cane growing cycle, were immediate.

A greater challenge was turning the bean crop into a cash crop, given the cost of equipment needed to harvest beans and get them to market was beyond the reach of individual growers.

The solution was to combine the financial resources of local growers to purchase a combine harvester with a view to targeting the food-grade bean market, which had a hub reasonably close by in Toowoomba.

"Ten farmers in the district actually formed a cooperative and within that cooperative we bought a header and chaser bin and silos and belt augers, and we still have that gear today," Greg said.

"We've just expanded on that equipment a bit, we now have two headers.

"Now that other farmers have seen that we can do the job and have the equipment to do it, we've got more of them growing soya beans."

There are sound business reasons for diversifying into growing beans as a cash crop.

At one level, legume crops meet the best practice objectives in the soil health and nutrition module of Smartcane BMP, while at the same time saving money on granular fertiliser application.

Additionally, diversification of crop production provides an alternate income stream which helps the grower hedge against fluctuations in sugar prices.

"Normally your beans come off in April-May and you'll get paid for those beans 30 days after the end of the month," Greg said.

"So it gives you a little bit of a cash injection just before the start of the cane harvest which can be very handy."

The diversification mantra is one which cane growers in the Rocky Point district have, by necessity, embraced in recent years.

"Rocky Point growers have actively sought to be involved in the program, despite not falling under any reef regulations."



“When you bring Smartcane BMP into your farming philosophy, everything that Smartcane BMP requires you to do and record, you should have been doing it beforehand anyway.”

When the *Australian Canegrower* returned to Woongoolba a few weeks after the rain event, the Zipf family was all hands on deck, harvesting not just sugarcane, but another useful by-product – cane trash – destined for home gardens and produce markets as organic mulch.

As son, **Mitch Zipf** worked the controls of the harvester, and Denise drove alongside in one of two haul-out tractors, Greg followed in their wake in a third tractor equipped with a specially configured hay raking implement.

The modified Lely rake made short work of bundling trash into two mounds on either side of the row, ready for baling. At the same time, a generous cover of trash was raked back over the stool to provide a mulch cover for the re-emerging crop.

“We cut all of our cane green, the whole lot is harvested green then we rake the trash up. We dry it and we bale it in a couple of different forms - in a small bale and a round bale or a larger square bale,” Greg said.

“We always leave material on the ground. We don’t want to rake it clean because we’re a minimum till operation here and we like to leave a bit of cover over the ground.”

Nowadays, the Rocky Point district is almost as well known for its organic sugarcane mulch as its sugar production.

The mulch benefits home gardens in much the same way as trash blanket farming benefits cane crops. It helps smother weeds, retains soil moisture and as it breaks down it boosts the soil profile.

Best of all, there’s a ready-made market right on the doorstep in the urban



corridor between the Gold and Sunshine coasts.

In times of drought, sugarcane mulch is also a useful emergency stock feed for the livestock industry.

“We market to quite a number of landscape yards in the southeast corner as well as directly to the public,” Greg said. “It’s about value adding the product that we currently have in the paddock and it certainly assists when you look at cash flow.

“The cash flow is usually fairly quick because if you bale it, you move it off the farm and you can retail it fairly quickly, which is very handy during the course of the cane season.”

### SMARTCANE BMP SEAL OF APPROVAL

Be it sugar, beans or mulch, the Zipf family wants to be certain that customers are getting a stamp of quality assurance for the product they purchase.

It’s a key reason Greg has put his hand up to be accredited as a Smartcane BMP grower.

“One box that we can tick when we talk to people is to say that we currently produce sugarcane in a sustainable manner and we’re accredited to do that under the system of Smartcane BMP,” he said.

It’s also about recognising the importance of the aquatic ecosystem that adjoins the farming community of Rocky Point.

Although it may be hundreds of kilometres beyond the southernmost extension of the Great Barrier Reef, Moreton Bay is home to a rich tapestry of aquatic life, including coral reefs. And, as a place where they spend much of their

leisure time, the Zipf family understands the importance of not harming such a beautiful natural asset.

“We’re right next door to Moreton Bay, which is a huge playground for a lot of people and there’s a lot of marine parks,” Greg said.

Checking his farm drains in the immediate aftermath of the rain event early in the harvest season, Greg made perhaps the most relevant point in relation to where Smartcane BMP fits with his farming philosophy.

What he was required to do to be accredited is largely what he was already doing. Blocks were laser levelled, drains were kept clear, nutrient applied sub-surface and water drained away quickly into the catchment without taking away valuable nutrients.

Sustainable farming practices, as applied by the Zipf family, are common sense.

“When you bring Smartcane BMP into your farming philosophy, everything that Smartcane BMP requires you to do and record, you should have been doing it beforehand anyway,” Greg said.

“If you want to run a smooth and well-run operation, you should have been doing all those things previously.

“All Smartcane BMP wants you to do is record and show what you’ve done, when you’ve done it.

“That’s my philosophy, it’s very little extra work to meet the requirements of Smartcane BMP.” ■

*Pictured: (right) L-R: Wayne Jurd, Denise Zipf, Mitch Zipf, Greg Zipf.*







## 2020-21 Federal Budget

On Tuesday 6 October 2020, the government released the Australian federal Budget for 2020-21.

The focus of this Budget is on economic recovery, including tax cuts, wage subsidies and other measures to drive business investment. In relation to super, there were a number of announcements, including:

- Super fund accounts will follow members to a new job, unless they choose otherwise, reducing the chance of people having multiple super accounts.
- MySuper products, which are simple and cost-effective superannuation products that were introduced in 2013 to replace the previous default fund system, will be subject to an annual performance test.
- A new online MySuper comparison tool will assist members in comparing superannuation funds.
- Pensioners and other eligible recipients will receive two additional Economic Support Payments of \$250.

The above is a summary of the announced measures from the 2020-21 federal Budget in relation to Australians' super and retirement. Please note that the announcements still need to be passed in Parliament before they become law.

Read our federal Budget summary, including Sunsuper Chief Economist **Brian Parker's** view on the expected economic impacts by visiting [sunsuper.com.au/federal-budget](https://www.sunsuper.com.au/federal-budget)

To find out more about Sunsuper, visit [sunsuper.com.au/choose](https://www.sunsuper.com.au/choose)

Disclaimer: This summary is only intended to provide highlights of the federal Budget announcements; additional detail is still to be provided by the government. This summary is not intended to communicate Sunsuper's view or opinion on the proposals. This article has been prepared and issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd, (ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975) the trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund (ABN 98 503 137 921, USI 98 503 137 921 001). Visit [sunsuper.com.au](https://www.sunsuper.com.au) or call 13 11 84 for a copy of the PDS.

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# A NEW TOOL TO BLITZ NEMATODES

Supplied by ADAMA

LEADING crop protection company, ADAMA, has a long-standing focus and investment on improving yield and productivity for Australian sugarcane growers via the development of Bobcat® i-MAXX and Palmero® TX herbicides.

This focus has led to the development of Nimitz®, a unique insecticide that is registered for the control of Root lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus zeae*) and Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) in sugarcane.

ADAMA Portfolio Manager – Insecticides & Nematicides, **Jonathan McDonald**, says "nematodes, although not a high focus at planting, cost cane growers up to \$82 million dollars in reduced yields each year."

"Root lesion nematode is very common in all cane growing regions and soil types, whereas root-knot nematodes are more commonly found in soils with low clay content but are damaging at much lower thresholds.

"The economic impact of nematodes varies by region and species, but either species can reach economically damaging levels if not managed with good crop rotation or the use of a nematicide.

"Our Australian trial work has shown nematodes can reduce yield by up to 40%, and an average of 15 to 20% across our trials in plant-cane."

An integrated approach, involving crop rotation with nematode-resistant legume crops, maintaining a green cane trash blanket, fallow management, minimum tillage and other steps to boost organic carbon in soils, can yield big benefits for growers.

However, the addition of a chemical treatment at planting, such as Nimitz, remains the most effective method of minimising the economic impact of nematodes.

Australian trials conducted in Mackay, Oakenden, Burnett Heads and South Ballina found the application of Nimitz at 4 L/ha increased yield by an average of 15-20% compared to untreated crops.

"Until Nimitz, there have been few effective options at planting for the control of nematodes in sugarcane," he says.

"It contains a unique active ingredient, which has an irreversible effect on target species. Nematodes cease feeding and quickly become paralysed within one hour of contact, with death occurring within 24 to 72 hours. Any eggs laid after exposure are unlikely to be viable, while any juveniles that do hatch will not survive.

"Importantly, Nimitz has minimal impact on non-target and beneficial species, which further contributes towards maintaining healthy soils and maximising yield potential."

Nimitz has performed with distinction in its second year of commercial use in the Australian sugarcane industry.

"In one application conducted in the 2018/2019 season by Chris Pitiris at Home Hill, Queensland, a crop treated with Nimitz out-yielded the untreated area by 10 t/ha and 0.35 CCS," Jonathan says.

"This produced a \$550/ha financial advantage over the untreated crop after treatment costs were deducted.

"Even a five percent yield increase from treatment on an average crop can pay for the cost of treatment, as well as

prolonging the commercial life of the crop.

"We also noticed first ratoons performing better the following season with the use of Nimitz."

Nimitz is applied at 4L/ha at planting using standard spraying equipment on a 1.8 m (6 foot) row centre and 50 cm spray band, equating to 1.1 L/ha of planted sugarcane.

"Nimitz is applied as a coarse spray in a 50 cm wide band over the centre of the row immediately before covering the sett with soil during planting," Jonathan says.

"Application at planting targets nematodes during the crop establishment phase when the young plant is most vulnerable. Even low levels of nematodes can reduce early root and tiller establishment, affecting yield potential.

"Nimitz is compatible with a range of other planting protection products for one-pass control of, insects and fungal diseases."

"ADAMA is committed to helping Australian cane growers and their advisors to implement effective and sustainable crop protection programs," Jonathan says.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local ADAMA representative or visit [adama.com](http://adama.com) ■

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First ratoon cane in a crop treated with Nimitz (1L/treated ha) at planting in 2019.



Untreated on a block owned by Chris Pitiris at Home Hill, Queensland.



# Myth-busting Reef WATER

Queensland's sugarcane growers have consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to improving farm practices for both productivity and sustainability. CANEGROWERS supports efforts to understand and, where necessary, better manage the interaction between farming, water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments and the health of ecosystems in the Reef lagoon.

**But government targets for Reef water quality and the farm practice criteria and reporting methods involved have set growers up for failure.**

Some of the major flaws underpinning government policies, programs and targets for water quality are listed here. These are the pernicious and persistent myths that offend CANEGROWERS and its members and subject the industry to increasing levels of regulation.

## **MYTH 1: "We are on the same page about what is 'best practice'"**

**BUSTED:** If only! How the Federal and Queensland governments want growers to manage nutrients, or other aspects of farming, is defined under their Paddock to Reef modelling program. This program's criteria for defining practice standards are often at odds with what the industry defines as best practice, as described in the Smartcane BMP program which is based on science, including agronomic research undertaken by Sugar Research Australia in collaboration with growers.

For example, Smartcane BMP requires growers to use the SIX EASY STEPS (6ES) program for estimating the nutrient needs of their crop, with any refinement of this to be based on leaf analysis, strip trials or guidance in SRA's 6ES toolbox.

However, to qualify for best practice (B standard) in the Paddock to Reef program, a grower needs to use nitrogen (N) rates derived from the Block Yield method. This means using N rates that are up to 30% below industry best practice 6ES.

There is no evidence to support use of the Block Yield method by growers. Quite the opposite. A recent CANEGROWERS analysis found there would be huge costs to growers and regional economies from widespread adoption of this B standard practice for nitrogen management.

The Queensland Government based its justification for the additional 2019 regulations on the impact of the Block Yield method on water quality (while assuming it would not affect yield!). However, the Federal Government also uses the B practice standard as the outcome required from its reef incentive programs. This includes the projects currently being funded or considered by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, on behalf of the Federal Government.

This leads on to the next myth...

## **MYTH 2: "It is all about the Queensland Government"**

**BUSTED:** We wish! The Federal and Queensland governments are partners in the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, which is their strategy for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. All the policies and programs from both levels of government are based on this plan, including the regulations imposed by the Queensland Government. In fact, the recently updated Reef Plan includes the following statement as one of the key achievements of this Federal-State partnership:

*"On 1 December 2019, new Queensland regulations came into effect to enhance water quality outcomes by tackling all land-based sources of water pollution to the Reef."*

*Both levels of government have also set a target of: "90% of agricultural land in priority areas managed using best management practice for water quality outcomes".*

For growers, this requires the B standard in Paddock to Reef, i.e. the Block Yield method for nitrogen rates explained in Myth 1.

It is hard to overstate the level of cross-government political and bureaucratic investment in the existing Reef plans and policies. Consequently, there is strong resistance to any questioning of the rationale, soundness or effectiveness of the plans and policies. This is a great shame given the intent of our questioning is to make the plan and its policies more credible and relevant to growers.



# QUALITY policy

## **MYTH 3: "Water quality report cards are representative of growers' efforts"**

**BUSTED:** Not so! The assumptions and calculations behind these report cards are complex and muddy (if you will forgive the pun), which is perhaps one of the reasons why the quality of the report's graphics are not matched by the level of growers' regard for the report's messages.

One of the many issues with these report cards is the relatively small data set on which they rely. It uses questionnaire responses on fertiliser rates, yields, etc. from growers who (1) have been involved in a recent reef-funded project (reporting is a condition of such projects), and (2) have made some relevant change in farm practice as a result of that project.

This means that any change in practice for a region, and the corresponding modelled effect on progress towards reef water quality goals, is based on a relatively small number of growers and only on recent practice changes. If the grower had improved a practice several years beforehand, such as using the 6ES program or having groundcover during the fallow period, that data would not qualify for inclusion. The reasons for this are complex but relate to when the report card sets its nominal baseline of practice standards for each region.

It is in industry's interest to get reliable data into these systems, but first we need to have confidence that the reporting system properly considers the merit of practices for both water quality and profit, and that the water quality targets are consistent with an economically viable industry. We have seen that its practice framework for nutrient management is spurious. What about the water quality targets?

This leads on to the next myth...

## **MYTH 4: "The water quality targets are realistic and sensible"**

**BUSTED:** Off-target! A realistic target is defined as one which you can sensibly expect to achieve. The Federal and State governments want an 80% reduction in the amount of dissolved inorganic nitrogen that leaves farms. But there is no roadmap for how this can be sensibly achieved. The sugarcane industry takes all the pressure for this target but has never been consulted about what sort of reduction is practically achievable while keeping a viable industry.

Also missing from the discussion is a measure of the benefit to inshore marine ecosystems from any reduced loss of DIN from farms. For example, what if we get half-way towards the target – will we see a proportional improvement in the health or recovery rate of inner shore reefs? Or are the claimed benefits of declining discharge of DIN for the inner reef just a possibility that cannot be expressed as a series of statistical probabilities?

## **WHAT IS CANEGROWERS DOING TO GET THESE ISSUES SORTED?**

- ✓ **CANEGROWERS is demanding that the Federal and State governments undertake an urgent review, with industry, of their Reef Water Quality Plan including the Paddock to Reef and Report Card programs. The practice frameworks and water quality targets must be evidence-based and practical, so that growers will not be expected to suffer economic losses. And there must be a fair and comprehensive system for recognising and reporting growers' achievements.**
- ✓ **If this review is not undertaken during the first months of 2021, CANEGROWERS will develop its own strategy for water quality, with realistic, industry-specific targets and a fair and comprehensive reporting system based on our Smartcane BMP program.**
- ✓ **CANEGROWERS is insisting that any new on-ground water quality projects funded by the Federal or State Governments have local growers as full participants.**
- ✓ **CANEGROWERS is calling for an overhaul of both, (1) the system for managing and scrutinising water quality research, and (2) the synthesis and communication process by which the combined research outputs influence government policy and programs.**



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

The first half of October saw the mill factory plagued with maintenance issues resulting in lost time and delayed cane figures.

To the week ending 17 October Mossman Mill had processed a total of 589,640 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.51 CCS, with a further 93,005 tonnes toll-crushed at Tableland Mill.

Weather conditions have been mainly dry throughout the area, with a few showers towards the end of the month. The dry weather has resulted in good weekly CCS figures, with coastal growers reaching an average of 12.19 CCS. The Deemed CCS for the coastal growers was increased to 11.6 CCS from 1 October 2020.

CANEGROWERS Mossman has had a QSL Grower Update presentation from Greg Beashel and QSL representatives on 9 October and the Daintree Bio Precinct AGM on 14 October. Both events were well attended by growers and shareholders.

With everything going to plan, the proposed end of crush date has been set for 28 October 2020.



*Pictured: Over the past few months, CANEGROWERS Mossman has been refurbishing the outside of its investment property with assistance from the tenant, Cairns Hardware.*

*The latest work is repainting the building in the new Cairns Hardware colours. A blast from the past was uncovered when the old signage was removed from the awning of the building – back to the Supermarket days.*

## CAIRNS

Although the Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Nina, the region has had a consistent run up until the time of writing (20 October). For most, this has allowed harvest groups to maintain the crushing and growers to finish, or almost finish planting across the area.

Mill performance has been fair to date, aside for some minor stoppages and scheduled maintenance days. The area has maintained tonnage, however low sugar content has been concerning.

Bean orders are due to be delivered on 5 November, with the two drop-off points being the Mulgrave Rambler and the old Babinda Prod Board site.

Representatives attended a forum hosted by the Cairns Chamber of Commerce to meet the local candidates for the State Election. It was disappointing to notice that agriculture did not appear to be on anyone's agenda.

## INNISFAIL

Harvesting and crushing operations have progressed favourably over the past four weeks with only a few hours lost due to some isolated local showers. There have been problems with crushing operations, with a failed juice pump and a fire involving the #2 boiler, but all have been attended to. As of 18 October, 68% of the pre-season estimate of 1,433,525 tonnes had been crushed.

CCS is now starting to fall, which has already forced the Seasonal Average to decline. After reaching 12.22 is now tracking south.

## TULLY

As of 20 October, 1.8m tonnes of cane had been crushed in Tully. CCS is rising towards the long-term seasonal average of 12.85.

Recent rain has helped the plant and ratoons for next season and now the race is on to get as much cane off before it rains again. A finish in the first week of December is possible, provided there are not any major delays.

The Local Cane Quality Project has subsidised the fitting of four harvester monitors in an attempt to implement Harvest Best Practice.

Three Schlot Units and one John Deere Smart Clean Unit have been operational for a month and the SRA Harvest Team is currently doing some field testing. The units have been favourably received by farmers, owners and operators as a way to improve the harvest. More information will be available at the end of the season when an evaluation is done.

The CANEGROWERS Tully AGM is on 4 November, with CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan as guest speaker.

## HERBERT RIVER

### Week 13

Victoria Mill crushed 105,119 tonnes with a mill average CCS of 13.91. Macknade Mill was forced to shut down due to wet weather and as a result crushed just 38,792 tonnes for the week. The mill used the down time to carry out maintenance and chemical cleans.

### Week 14

Victoria Mill crushed 137,698 tonnes for the week with a mill average CCS of 13.69. The mill had processing issues with additional mud. Macknade Mill started up again after the wet stop, crushing 62,231 for the week. The mill reported no major issues processing the old juice that was stored over the prolonged stop. There were no maintenance days required due to the wet weather stop the week before and the mill also used the down time to make some repairs to plant.

### Week 15

Victoria Mill crushed 141,529 tonnes. Macknade had a reasonable week with only a four-hour planned stop to change shredder tips. Macknade crushed 69,126 tonnes for the week. The mill average for the Herbert mills for the week was 13.85 CCS.

Matt Kealley and Mick Quirk from CANEGROWERS Brisbane office visited the Herbert River district to catch up with members this month. There was very good attendance at the meetings where Matt and Mick explained the policy areas they are working on for members and members asked some pertinent questions.

If you are missing the weekly crushing stats in the newspaper, we have added a page to the CANEGROWERS Herbert River website called Weekly Crushing Stats [www.herbertrivercanegrowers.com.au](http://www.herbertrivercanegrowers.com.au)

## BURDEKIN

At the end of Week 19, the Burdekin district had crushed 77% of the crop.

The finish line is drawing nearer despite a delayed start to the season due to wet weather and some mill breakdowns.

So far, the much-heralded rain from an announced La Nina weather pattern has not arrived in the district and growers are keenly monitoring forecasts for rain at the business end of the season.

Wilmar recently completed a crop review and has adjusted downwards the total Burdekin forecast from 8,040,000 tonnes to 7,977,319 tonnes, which would be a similar result to the 2019 season.

Subject to wet weather and unplanned stops, the miller is still aiming for a season end in late November.

There have been issues with mill performance at Pioneer Mill and at Inkerman Mill.

The latter has suffered two major breakdowns in late September and October.

This has resulted in harvested cane sitting in bins for up to 87 hours and burnt cane in paddocks for days on end.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin met with Wilmar management to discuss mill performance and the transfer of cane between mills.

To Wilmar's credit, they have been transferring cane via trucks across the Burdekin Bridge from Home Hill to then be crushed at Invicta Mill primarily, but also Kalamia Mill.

They have also increased the cane transfer from Pioneer Mill to Invicta Mill to try to harmonise finish dates in the district.

Invicta Mill is on track to finish first and has had a good run this season.

At the time of writing, Inkerman Mill was still not fully operational which has growers concerned about a late finish and anxious about the lost opportunity of sunny days not being maximised to get the crop off due to mill breakdowns.

Politicians have been on the ground thick and fast in the Burdekin in the lead-up to the Queensland State Election and whilst we are appreciative of the interest shown by them wanting to learn about the issues impacting the sugarcane industry, it's the action thereafter by the declared winner that counts.



*Continues next page* ►



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## PROSERPINE

Fine weather and favourable harvesting conditions have enabled Proserpine Mill to make solid progress over the past month. Since our last report, the mill has crushed another 364,400 tonnes bringing the total for the season-to-date to 1,254,640 tonnes (19 October).

However, the crop is cutting just below 99% of original estimate which means the final crop is expected to be a little under 1.58 million tonnes.

On the bright side, CCS has continued to rise over the past few weeks. Mid-October's average CCS of 15.52 was the highest this year and brought the season average CCS to 14.14.

Highest CCS sample was 18.04 from a rake of first ratoon Q208 from the Elaroo Productivity District.

Based on the reduced estimate, the 2020 harvest is expected to finish on 11 November – barring any rain disruptions.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Sugar Services Proserpine will be conducting a combined AGM on Friday 20 November and growers will receive an invitation to attend. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, growers are strongly urged to RSVP early to enable venue limits to be observed.

## MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

Marian Mill led the three Mackay Sugar mills with 87,032 tonnes of cane crushed for the week ended 18 October (Week 19), followed by Farleigh with 72,054 tonnes and Racecourse with 58,585. The year to date total is 3,681,398 tonnes with a CCS of 13.19.

The crop expectation for the year has increased to 5.21 million tonnes of cane, up from an initial estimate of 4.97mt. According to Mackay Sugar at its AGM in October, mill crushing rates and reliability have improved on 2019.

No further information about the progress of the crush has been provided by Mackay Sugar. However it is expected to finish in early-to-mid December.

Wilmar's Plane Creek Mill crushed 56,500 tonnes for the week ending 17 October (Week 17), bringing the season total to 963,438 tonnes.

The throughput was considered good, given there was a 12-hour planned maintenance stop and a seven-hour stoppage to replace a failed motor on the PC elevator.

CCS figures have climbed by 0.41 units over the previous week, to average 15.81 units. The season to date CCS is just under 14 units.

Recent lost time was attributed to mill stops to manage high liquor levels due to increasing CCS and a bagasse belt choke.

Weather conditions remain favourable for harvesting.

A rake of Q208 Plant in the Dawlish productivity district recorded 18 units in the week ended 10 October.

Mackay Sugar Crushing Figures	
Week ended: 18 October 2020 (Week 19)	
Farleigh	72,054 tonnes
Marian	87,032 tonnes
Racecourse	58,585 tonnes
Total	217,671 tonnes
YTD	3,681,398 tonnes
CCS Week	15.83
CCS YTD	13.90

Plane Creek Mill Crushing Figures	
Week ended: 17 October 2020 (Week 17)	
Cane crushed	56,483 tonnes
YTD	963,438 tonnes
Average bin weight week	3.88
Average bin weight YTD	3.82
CCS Week	15.81
CCS YTD	13.95

### Wilmar extends Smartcane BMP Incentive Payment Scheme

Wilmar is extending its BMP Incentive Payment scheme for another year.

This means growers who are already registered for the industry-run Smartcane BMP program now have until next July to achieve their accreditation. Under the scheme, Wilmar will provide growers who achieve accreditation with a one-off incentive payment of 15 cents per tonne of cane. The payment is capped at 25,000 tonnes of cane per ABN.

For more information please contact Caitlin Bonanno on 07 4782 3816 or [Caitlin.bonanno@qu.wilm-intl.com](mailto:Caitlin.bonanno@qu.wilm-intl.com)

## MACKAY/PLANE CREEK (Continued)

### New laboratory skills course available

For the first time in years, a Certificate III in Laboratory Skills with a focused sugar stream will be on offer to train laboratory staff needed to work in sugar mills in the Mackay/Plane Creek region.

This is thanks to the hard work of the local industry, including CANEGROWERS Mackay, Mackay Sugar, Wilmar and Lorelle Stables (the Agriculture Workforce Officer for the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network).

The course has been designed to cover all the requirements for modern sugar testing in the laboratory and is being

offered at the Central Queensland University in Mackay.

The cost of the MSL30118 Certificate III in Laboratory Skills is \$1,079 or

\$83.00 per unit, and there are ongoing efforts to reduce this further.

The unsubsidised fee is \$4,550.



## BUNDABERG

The 2020 season came to an end for Bundaberg growers in the early hours of Wednesday 21 October, with the last of growers' cane crushed at Millaquin Mill at 12.51 am. A total of 1,039,522.40 tonnes went through the rollers at Bingera and Millaquin. A small amount of mill-owned cane was crushed by Millaquin later in the week.

In the lead up to the Queensland Election, CANEGROWERS Bundaberg requested feedback from the candidates in the seats of Bundaberg, Callide and Burnett to some pressing local issues.

The most urgent is that of the inequitable gouging of farmers by the Bundaberg Regional Council in the recent council budget.

Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) has increased the rates levied on Category 9 Agricultural land by up to 235% on 2019 levels.

Given the reliance on agriculture for the region's economy and future prosperity, a solution needs to be implemented very quickly.

Elected Councillors have been asked to rescind this rates decision and recast the budget so all ratepayers pay no more than a CPI increase. Council responded stating that legislation

prohibits it from doing so.

Prior to the dissolution of the Queensland Parliament, this amendment was made to legislation:

*94A Regulation-making power for additional decisions about levying of rates and charges for 2020–2021 financial year. (1) A regulation may provide for a local government to decide, by resolution made other than at the local government's budget meeting for the 2020–2021 financial year, what rates and charges are to be levied for a relevant part of that financial year.*

Unfortunately the necessary regulation to implement this has not been made. CANEGROWERS Bundaberg has asked each candidate to commit to implementing the necessary regulation in 30 days after the election, and then investigate sustainable funding methods for local government.

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg also asked for these commitments:

- The development of specific local laws and standards that deal with issues such as farm generated noise, in a practical and sustainable manner.
- That any development near agricultural areas include appropriate buffer zones contained

within the development area and not the rural land.

- Encourage diversification in the rural economy avoiding the expansion of uses that are incompatible with existing agricultural production.

In relation to water infrastructure, CANEGROWERS Bundaberg has supported the reinvestigation of local management and ownership of the SunWater distribution schemes to increase efficiency in production systems and also productivity gains to offset real term price declines.

To ensure the wellbeing and development of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area, CANEGROWERS Bundaberg asked for a commitment that the Queensland Government would protect the nominal allocations associated with Paradise Dam and ensure that the water allocation security is maintained.

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg was part of a consortium that estimated the cost of inaction on Paradise Dam would be approximately \$2.4 billion over the next 30 years.

Continues next page ►



Critical repairs to the cooling tower at the Isis Central Sugar Mill saw the crushing grind to a halt in Week 12.

Crushing resumed on Sunday 11 October, with 36,578 tonnes passing through the rollers in Week 14. With an anticipated continuous crush, we will hopefully see a finish in mid-to-late November.

CCS levels rose during Week 14, with a weekly average of 15.87 and a season average of 14.41.

Week 14 saw some very sweet Q208 Autumn plant return a CCS of 18.71, supplied from the Delan area.

	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

## Our Rates Campaign

A solid, local agricultural consortium has worked hard on the campaign around the Bundaberg Regional Council rates issue.

To date there has been:

- A well supported petition.
- A series of TV advertisements featuring local farmers.
- Active social media.
- Shopping Centre meet and greets.

- Chamber of Commerce support across the region with local businesses getting on board.

- Regular media messages.

In summary, the Council maintains that rate rises have gone up in line with valuations, which have increased "by an average of 46%".

But the Council has failed to mention that 168 farmers have had their rates more than double, 64 with a 90% increase, 125 with a 80% increase, 167 with a 70% increase, 252 with a 60% increase and 318 with a 50% increase.

Council has publicly stated that it is unable to amend its budget and that the rates are 'set in cement'.

We know this goes directly against the provisions in the Local Government Regulations and also advice from the State Government.

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## MARYBOROUGH

With Week 14 just completed and plenty of cane still to be harvested, we have a while still to go for 2020 season. As it stands it looks like we'll be running well into November.

CCS has continued to improve and the dry conditions are giving us time to harvest as much available cane as possible.

It has been heartening to see planting activity occurring throughout the district.

We are meeting the MSF focus for 2020, to have a good harvest, with the cut to estimate still holding very closely together.

It would be good to have some information from MSF Sugar on its future plans beyond 2020.

The CANEGROWERS Maryborough Board has been heavily engaged with Isis representatives and MSF Sugar to progress planning for 2021, and build contingencies around government funding and timings to be ready for next season.

With this being the 126th year of sugar production through Maryborough Mill, we would like to hold an end of year event to celebrate, abiding with COVID-19 protocols. Stay tuned for more details.

Week	CCS	Throughput to mill	Season to date	% to Estimate
13 (10 October)	14.98	32,790	419,370	66%
14 (17 October)	15.08	43,816	463,186	73%
Season estimate			635,000	

## ROCKY POINT

As of 18 October 2020, Rocky Point has crushed 222,595 tonnes of cane at an average CCS of 13.63. There are some high sugar content readings at present, with plenty of 16's and even a few 17's being recorded.

The estimate continues to fall and is currently sitting at 285,605 tonnes. The expected completion date at present is 5 November.

The mill has performed reasonably well this season, and we are pleased that sugar prices are back in an acceptable range.

Planting is all but completed and the forecast rainfall at the end of the month will be beneficial.

SRA staff are in the district this week to perform harvesting and fertiliser trials revolving around crop production with rates applicable to those advised by the SIX EASY STEPS program for Rocky Point.



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# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

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**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**



## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

### Reef projects and N rates - change the conversation

A reef credits scheme was launched recently (see page 8) and for sugarcane, its primary focus is payments to growers who reduce their rates of nitrogen (N) fertiliser below the recommendations derived from SIX EASY STEPS (6ES). The Queensland Government is helping to bankroll it to the tune of \$10 million over the next few years.

This scheme is additional to the \$62 million, over five years, of Federal Government investment to reduce losses of N from cane farms. These funds are being dispersed through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

In both cases, the emphasis is on encouraging growers to reach the so-called 'B' management standard in the government's Paddock to Reef (P2R) program. This program attempts to model industry's efforts to reduce losses of dissolved N from farms.

For the majority of growers, reaching the 'B' management standard will require reductions in N rates of up to 30% below 6ES rates. CANEGROWERS has already revealed that widespread use of such N rates would cost the industry and the state at least \$1.3 billion over a 10-year period.

Why this never-ending focus on further reductions in N rates? Because of the persistent myth of the veracity of the block yield potential method for calculating crop N requirements. This spurious approach still underpins Federal and State policies and programs including P2R. The lack of interest in using an evidence-based approach is concerning and frustrating!

So what should reef programs be investing in?  
How about win-win situations?

Here are some examples:

- Help growers increase yield so more N is in the crop and less is vulnerable to environmental loss through addressing constraints to yield, such as soil health, drainage, irrigation effectiveness and superior varieties
- Incentives to implement new technologies - such as fertiliser coatings or formulations to achieve better synchrony between crop demand and soil availability. This should overcome some of the inefficiencies associated with the use of highly soluble forms of N such as urea. Some products show promise but are expensive so rapid adoption will require incentives.
- On farm demonstrations and economic analyses to better inform the refinement of nutrient management, including identifying situations which are likely to be less, or more, responsive to nutrients. The 6ES tool box, developed by SRA, should be the basis for this work.

Both the reef credits scheme and the GBR Foundation projects should focus on these win-win situations. CANEGROWERS will keep pushing for this but they also need to hear from you. They need growers to be involved in their activities and you are in a great position to influence what they offer. Let them know that just banging on about further reductions in N rates will not take them very far. ■

”

Banging on about N rates is not the path for success for reef projects. CANEGROWERS and growers are pushing for change.

”





**Burn Ashburner**  
Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

## Diversification and the need to find for economic sustainability

Strategically, it seems like a no-brainer – the sugarcane industry should diversify to reduce its reliance on raw sugar in a volatile and distorted world market.

Yet, despite years of investigating viable alternative uses of sugarcane (molasses, syrup, fibre, mill mud and ash), there is still limited diversification within the Australian industry.

The industry does have significant advantages, including a feedstock that is one of the most efficient producers of biomass, a mature supply chain, skills in growing and processing, research ability, and relative government stability.

How much more appealing can this sound?

From a government perspective, Australia needs to have an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable economy that addresses energy security, climate change and regional and rural development from renewable feedstocks.

As I see it, the sugarcane industry's ability to produce alternate products, particularly energy from sustainably grown sugarcane sources (Smartcane BMP accredited), cannot only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change, it can also help provide energy security and create regional and rural jobs.

This covers two of the government's key requirements - environmental sustainability and social sustainability.

So that just leaves the economic sustainability, which is where the numbers don't stack up.

The sugarcane industry has long sought economically viable alternative products but with limited success to date.

It's a complex problem. While there is a dazzling array of potential products, there are also barriers - both technical and non-technical.

It will take clever thinking and hard work by the industry, not to mention a significant shift in government policy, to stimulate demand and attract investors.

From a CANEGROWERS perspective, it is imperative that growers (as providers of the feedstock) benefit from any diversification venture.

In some ways growers have more options than millers, but they are also exposed as potential price takers, or they are locked into existing agreements.

There are many options for sugarcane growers looking to diversifying their income, including:

- Complimentary break crops to sugarcane to ensure that the mill remains viable.
- Permanent alternative crops, which puts sugar mill viability in question.
- Alternate uses of sugarcane tops and trash, particularly if they are currently burnt.
- Alternate uses of sugarcane in new processing facilities, which puts the sugar mill viability in question.
- Alternate products from sugarcane at the mill, with shared benefits for grower and miller. ■



From a CANEGROWERS perspective, it is imperative that growers benefit from any diversification venture.



## Warren Males

Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



### Load Control Tariffs – a step in the right direction

Good news for irrigators – from 1 November, the control load electricity retail tariff (T34) will be available to irrigators across the Ergon network as a primary tariff. T34 will be suitable for irrigators who can operate their equipment if their electricity supply is interrupted.

Electricity supply on a load control tariff is interruptible. This enables Ergon to manage peak demands on its network by temporarily cutting the electricity supply to any equipment connected using this tariff. In return, customers on T34 receive electricity at lower prices than are available on the traditional agricultural tariffs and alternative business tariffs.

T34 carries a usage charge of 17.295c/kWh (ex-GST) and a daily fixed charge of \$1.18081 per day (ex-GST). There is no capacity charge associated with the tariff.

With control load tariffs, Ergon guarantees power for at least 18 hours per day. CANEGROWERS has worked closely with Ergon to understand the suitability of interruptible supply for irrigators. The trial run with grower participants was a success and answered several key questions:

#### How often does the power get turned off?

Ergon reported that across the trial period, power was turned off no more than 10 times in a year for most customers. Load was not shed every day. Ergon only sheds load when needed and only in the segment of the network where load shedding is necessary.

#### How long did the power cuts last?

Ergon prioritises irrigation loads as the last to be turned off and the first to be turned back on. On most days, irrigation pumps were not turned off at all. While Ergon has the option to shed load for up to six hours per day, in most cases supply was cut

for much shorter periods. Supply was interrupted only on some very hot days and then irrigators lost power for between 30 minutes and three hours.

#### Can irrigators work with an interruptible electricity supply?

Feedback from participants using low pressure overhead and flood irrigation systems has been positive. Many irrigators found the cost savings more than offset the inconvenience of the occasional power interruption, which they say was manageable. Ergon is developing a pre-warning system to advise irrigators on T34 when the power will be interrupted.

If switching to T34 is of interest to you, the best place to start would be to contact your electrician and accountant. Your electrician can advise on any meter box upgrades that might be required and lodge an electrical works request with Ergon. Your accountant can provide guidance on the tax treatment of the associated works, which under current structures may be fully deductible in the year of installation.

Remember, equipment switched to T34 is hard wired, so cannot be switched to another electricity tariff. If you find T34 doesn't meet your needs, contact Ergon and your electrician to have the load control mechanisms removed and non-interruptible power supply restored. ■

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

" CANEGROWERS worked with Ergon to assess a cheaper load control electricity retail tariff which is now available to irrigators. "





# Tree disputes with neighbours

I have recently been contacted by growers who are suffering from the effects of a neighbour's large trees overhanging the boundary of their farm. The following information may help other growers in similar circumstances.

The government has made legislation – *Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act* – to deal with tree disputes. Unfortunately, those statutory laws do not apply to trees on rural land, so the Act does not generally help growers.

That doesn't mean the grower does not have rights. We just have to look to general principles and the common law to see what those rights are.

Generally, it is fair to say that the owner of the tree is responsible for any interference, loss or damage caused by that tree interfering with or encroaching on adjoining land.

The following are the general legal rights if you are affected by a rural neighbour's tree:

## LEGAL RIGHTS

- If a neighbour's tree overhangs the boundary you can help yourself and exercise your common law right of abatement (subject to any specific vegetation protection or heritage orders on the tree). This abatement rule of law allows you to:
  - a. Cut and remove the overhanging branches and roots to the boundary line.
  - b. Either return the removed material back over the boundary to the neighbour's property or otherwise dispose of the material.
- If the overhanging branches and/or roots from your neighbour's tree unreasonably interferes with your use and enjoyment of your land (for example, if the branches interfere with the use of the headland or with harvesting and/or farming activity) then you may have a right to take general court action to seek orders for removal of the interference and also claim compensation for any loss or damage.

Exercising legal rights through a court or formal dispute resolution process can be expensive, time consuming, stressful, damaging to ongoing good neighbourly relations and without any guarantee of a successful outcome.

Before exercising legal rights it is usually best to try to resolve the dispute by other options.



By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor





## NON-LEGAL OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES

These begin with discussions and negotiations directly with the neighbour. These might be one-on-one verbal discussions and preferably in the nature of a friendly, neighbourly conversation. The assistance of another person to help discussions might be a good idea if the relationship is strained. Perhaps someone from your local CANEGROWERS office or productivity services might help. Resolving the dispute directly with the neighbour through friendly open discussions can be the best, most efficient way to resolve the problem.

The following are some suggested government dos and don'ts when engaging with the neighbour:

### DO NOT:

- Blame the other person.
- Begin by stating your view of what should be done.
- Resort to name calling - it only makes it harder for the person to hear what you are saying.
- Make wild accusations.
- Leave out a problem that seems less important or is hard to talk about - this may ruin any solution you come up with.

### DO:

- Explain how the problem is affecting you.
- Give your neighbour a chance to tell their side of the story.
- Be prepared to listen and let the other person know you are listening.
- Try working on a resolution together.
- Take time to work on a solution and get it right.

Taking time to talk the problem through could save you time and money by coming to a solution together.

If verbal discussions fail or are not an option, maybe try sending a letter explaining the problem with the trees and the effect it is having and request some action be taken.

The letter might be sent by the grower and/or CANEGROWERS. In some cases CANEGROWERS can have me send a legal letter on behalf of the member.

Contact other relevant authorities and see if they will intervene. The local Council may assist, but I doubt it as it does not like getting involved in neighbour disputes.

It may be wise to check if it is a significant tree and whether there are any relevant vegetation protection orders or heritage orders in place.

Make use of the free mediation and dispute resolution service offered by the local Dispute Resolution Centre. An independent mediator can be appointed who may conduct a free mediation/ meeting with the grower and the neighbour and try to find an acceptable solution.

If the neighbour still refuses to do anything about the tree, and other authorities cannot assist, and you don't want to use any self-help measures, then the only way of forcing the neighbour to remove the overhanging material is by taking legal action.

So, it is usually wise to explore the non-legal options first. If they fail, then there remains the legal action option to seek appropriate orders from the relevant court or tribunal.

*(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. ■





## Younger generation treading their own path and seeing the value of Smartcane BMP

*By Joel Tierney*

*Smartcane BMP Facilitator - Cairns Region*

From growing up on a sugarcane farm at Bellenden Ker in North Queensland to managing a Town and Country Outlet in Babinda, **Luke Calcagno** has been involved in the sugar industry his entire life.

Luke's role involves fertiliser and chemical sales to sugarcane growers within the Babinda region, which means he has a good understanding of how the choice of the correct product and the appropriate application rate can have a major impact on a grower's productivity, profitability and sustainability.

The Calcagno's family farms, where Luke grew up, were some of the first in the region to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation. They've gone through the reaccreditation process to maintain their accreditation for a further five years.

Luke is a 4th generation sugarcane grower has recently made the big decision to purchase his own farm within the region. Luke believes there is a sustainable future for the sugar industry within the Russell River catchment and had always intended on maintaining a stake in the industry.

His long-term management goals are to transition his new farm to the Sugar Research Australia farming system, as he feels that the efficiencies gained from the changes will assist the business to remain sustainable into the future.

"By implementing the SRA farming system I'll be able to effectively manage the farm as well as maintain my current day job," Luke said. In addition to these management changes Luke is also embarking on the road to Smartcane BMP accreditation for the property.

As part of the transition, Luke has planted this year's plant blocks at 1.8m using GPS, in line with converting to a controlled traffic farming system.

Luke's fallow blocks are being planted with legume crops to reduce risks of soil



erosion during fallow and to assist with maintaining soil health on the farm.

"Picking the right variety of legume that can handle the wet conditions is critical to having a successful fallow crop within this region," Luke said.

For the 2020 fallow Luke will be planting Meringa cow pea and Rongai Lablab as these varieties generally grow fairly well under the local conditions.

The Babinda region has an average annual rainfall of 3,527mm, and Luke is very aware of the management challenges of farming within this environment, including runoff risks.

With most of the farm adjacent to Giddens Creek, the property has been involved in the SRA Cane to Creek 2.0 project which has a focus on assessing how farming practices impact water quality.

Luke has attended presentations from both Cane to Creek and Project 25 water quality projects that are active within the Russell catchment and as a result feels there are not only efficiencies on farm that can be gained from transitioning to the SRA farming system and adopting Smartcane BMP, but also benefits for the industry as a result of showing the wider community that growers are using sustainable farming practices and doing their part to mitigate water quality risks at a local level. ■

*Pictured: Luke Calcagno recently purchased his own farm in the Babinda region.*





# Reinke and CropX Announce Partnership to Help Producers Maximise Performance by Growing More With Less

Companies combine strengths to provide the most advanced water prescriptions in the industry.

*Supplied by Reinke*

Reinke Manufacturing, a global leader in irrigation systems and technology, and CropX, a leading global agricultural analytics and soil sensing company, announced a partnership to empower growers with the world's finest irrigation scheduling tools.

By integrating the technologies and support of two industry leaders rooted in agriculture, growers in more than 40 countries will be able to access soil health information that will allow them to improve yields, efficiencies and profitability. The partnership unites two groups who believe the most effective equipment and technology is built by farmers, for farmers. And with more than 80 years of combined experience in research, design and manufacturing – Reinke and CropX will bring their easy-to-use product lines to help growers maximise performance.

"We are very excited to make this strategic investment and partner with CropX as we continue to advance precision irrigation technology," says **Chris Roth**, president of Reinke.

"Reinke is dedicated to irrigation innovation to help growers produce more while providing them with labour savings and environmental efficiencies. We've found that same level of commitment in CropX. We are proud to provide the world's finest irrigation system and we believe this long-term relationship will strengthen both of our companies as we develop unmatched irrigation solutions to farms around the world."

"We are extremely pleased to announce this agreement with Reinke Manufacturing," says **John Vikupitz**, president of CropX.

"Since its founding, CropX has maintained a commitment to be the global leader for on-farm irrigation and soil health tools. Today's producers face mounting profitability, resource availability and sustainability challenges throughout the world. Our mission is to provide affordable, scalable, best-in-class technical solutions to meet these challenges. We are looking forward to partnering with the Reinke team to offer producers a technical platform to enable them to realise the tremendous untapped profitability to be achieved through proper management of soil health and irrigation prescriptions."

Specialising in advanced technology that provides recommendations on a variety of factors, CropX uses maps, aerial imagery, weather, modeling, user input and their patented soil sensing technology to accurately predict outcomes. Earlier this year, CropX acquired CropMetrics, adding more than 500,000 acres of soil data to their farm management platform.

Through the partnership, growers using both systems will have access to CropX's enhanced irrigation data-driven prescriptions that they can incorporate into their Reinke irrigation control system. Growers with pivots using Reinke's enhanced, web-based application ReinCloud® will

see additional benefits by being able to remotely operate their irrigation while they manage CropX data through the integrated platform.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit [www.Reinke.com/CropX](http://www.Reinke.com/CropX) to learn about all the advantages you'll have with Reinke and CropX.

## ABOUT REINKE MANUFACTURING

With hundreds of dealers in more than 40 countries, Reinke Manufacturing is the world's largest privately held manufacturer of centre pivot and lateral move irrigation systems. Family owned since 1954, and headquartered in Deshler, Neb., Reinke develops products and technology designed to increase agriculture production while providing labour savings and environmental efficiencies. Reinke is a continued leader in industry advancements as the first to incorporate GPS, satellite-based communications and touchscreen panel capabilities into mechanised irrigation system management. For more information on Reinke or to locate a dealership, visit [www.reinke.com](http://www.reinke.com) or call 402-365-7251.

## ABOUT CROPX

CropX gives farmers an unmatched connection to their soil, offering proprietary soil sensing technology and cloud-based Ag analytics that integrate with irrigation systems. The affordable, easy-to-install CropX system helps farmers increase crop yield and quality and reduce water, fertilisation and energy costs. Founded in 2015, CropX is backed by world-leading strategic partners and investors, such as Finistere Ventures, Innovation Endeavors, OurCrowd, Greensoil Investment and others. Learn more at [www.cropx.com](http://www.cropx.com)



## FIRST 5 LINES FREE\* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) or email us at [ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Next deadline is **23 November 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.

### Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

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**CANETEC BILLET PLANTERS 2500**  
Rubber belt cane feed  
2.5 tone capacity  
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engine 325hp. Factory build.  
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1994 AUSTOFT 7700 L10 cummins  
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### Mossman-Tully

New Holland TVT155 with 14 Tonne Carta  
Bin VGC, will sell separate. HBM Dual Row  
Billet Planter. Ph: 0407590033.

2 of 7810 John Deere articulated with 14t  
Carta bins, VGC, POA. Ph: 0408713854.

Ripper - drawbar pull, 5 tine, extra heavy  
duty \$3,000 + GST. Ph Gary: 0412797006.

John Deere 6150M 4WD, 1,550 hours.  
Power quad transmission, front tyres 16.9  
R28, rear tyres 20.8 R38. Ph: 0419150350.

2t Stainless Steel 3 Row Fert Box with Stool  
Splitter \$14,000, 5 Furrow Hodge Reversible  
Plough \$1200. MF 65 tractor with Front End  
Loader \$6500. All Negotiable and incl. GST.  
Ph: 0417647002.

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

### Herbert River-Burdekin

Irrigation pipes 150 of 40 foot 5" with Ajax  
couplings and 50 of 4" with Pope couplings  
and sprinklers and PTO driven irrigation  
pump. POA. Ph: 0418878403.

### Mackay-Proserpine

Refalo 2t fert box on wheels; 3-row trash  
rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways;  
grubbers for ratoon and 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.

2x Tractor Tyres, 23.1/26, Diamond tread,  
used, some life left. Weeder Rake, 3 row.  
Howard Rotary Hoe, 80" AR Series. Howard  
Rotary Hoe, 80" AH Series. Ph: 0427606328.

AUSTOFT 7700 Track Harvester, 1996  
Model, 7510 Genuine Frame Hours, In last  
600hrs fully rebuilt engine, 4 Blade EHS  
Choppers, New 4ft 6 Barrel & Hood, Komatsu  
Engine, Leg Base Cutters, very tidy machine  
\$110,000 + GST. Ph: 0438541448.

Case Harvester 2016 (Multiplier Attached),  
New tracks & elevator chain, has done 3  
seasons (to 2019), 4685 hrs \$298K; 2x Cane  
Side Tippers \$20K ea, 2013 Iveco Trakker  
Cab Chassis \$85 K; Multiplier \$2K. All + GST.  
Ph: 0408755453.

New Holland TM155 \$35,000. GC  
Agriculture - GCA 1050 Shielded Cane  
Sprayer Dual Tanks & Pumps \$12,000. All  
incl. GST. Ph: 0427188079.

2x 6t Farview Eng Side Tip Bins. Good  
Condition. Both have near new tyres. Will  
sell separate. \$18,000 + GST ea. Ph Andrew:  
0407595745.

NH T6050 4x4 Cab 450hrs, with Challenge  
loader, 4 in 1 bucket, warranty to 06/22,  
as new condition \$110,000. Howard  
AH4305(120") Rotary Hoe with crumble  
roller, under manufacturers warranty,  
done 100 acres, 3 months old \$35,000.  
Farm sold. Proserpine. Ph: 0447461132 or  
0418872005.

T300 Trailco soft hose irrigator, 200mts of 3  
½" hose. 200 Nelson quick return gun. Good  
condition \$7500 incl. GST. Ph: 0419705530.

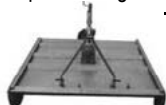
Austoft 7700 harvester, 1990 model.  
Very tidy machine for age, rebuilt engine,  
sunstrand track motor pumps, chopper  
shafts & bearings, new slew pin & bearing,  
tracks in GC, reduced price \$30,000. Moller  
wide shute billet planter, dual feed chains,  
side chemical tanks, plants really well, VGC.

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
All bath bearings  
\$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other  
size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m,  
3m & 3.4metres.  
3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

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



## Classifieds

\$16,000 or \$18,000 with 2 tipper bins. All + GST. Ph: 0428611714.

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.

Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All GC. Ph: 0427617807.

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.

Hodge Inter-row Fertiliser Applicator (tows behind 4 wheeler) \$2,700. Carryall, Extra Heavy Duty, 1800mm W x 800mm D x 850mm H, quick hitch set up, \$1,500 ONO. Ph: 0428236165.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

1000ltr Silvan spray tank with booms \$4.75k, Heavy duty Howard Slasher \$2.57k, AH Howard rotary with crumble roller 90", \$4.3k, HYD trickle winder \$2.2k, Steel work bench \$350, Kawasaki 250 \$3.2k. All + GST. Bundaberg. Ph: 0412644616.

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

TM165 & Toft 8t High Lift Tipper Bin, 4700hrs \$60,000. Yanmar 22.Skw Diesel Booster Pump with protection & 400lt fuel on wheels & canopy. Southern Cross Pump 100x65-200 \$8,000. Yanmar 41.2kw Diesel Booster Pump with protection & 400lt fuel on wheels & canopy. All + GST. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428879341.

9 Tyne Ripper \$9000. 3 row fert bin 1 1/4 tynes \$5000. Quinco thrash incorporator

\$10000. Land plane \$9000. Multi weeder \$3000. 3 row plant cutaways \$1500. Howard 4 furrow plough \$5000. Break pusher \$300. Trailco water winch \$19000. All + GST. Ph: 0447532490.

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Slews and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester

Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427598333.

### Wanted

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

Looking for a Mercedes Benz MB Trac model 1600/1400/1300. Please phone: 0418880834.

Tractor tyres: 11x28", 12x28", 13x28", in sound condition. Mackay area. Ph: 49595207.

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

## Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Sep 2020)	Month to date (1 Oct-28 Oct)	Year to date	Jan-Oct
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	23.4	43.6	1,592.8	2,485.4
Mareeba Airport	1.4	4.2	480	688.8
Cairns Aero	58.6	6.8	1,239	1,726.5
Mt Sophia	163	57	2,157	2,916.4
Babinda Post Office	191	79.9	2,797.2	3,761.9
Innisfail	150.4	13	2,694.7	3,127.6
Tully Sugar Mill	161.5	43.9	2,883.8	3,628.2
Cardwell Marine Pde	39.2	15.1	1,464.6	1,806.4
Lucinda Township	0	0	1,652.5	1,844.9
Ingham Composite	33.5	16.8	1,657.5	1,768.1
Abergowrie Alert	34	14	628	1,209.9
Townsville Aero	2.4	7.4	785.4	950
Ayr DPI Research Stn	0	11.8	1,035.8	787.8
Proserpine Airport	6.6	35.2	813.4	1,190.4
Mirani Mary Street	35	25.5	1,013.4	1,210.8
Mackay MO	13.8	16.8	1,174	1,308.8
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	0	0	1,012.6	1,445.2
Bundaberg Aero	18.8	14.4	464.2	794.8
Childers South	23.6	31.4	479.6	687.1
Maryborough	51.2	35.2	746.2	933.1
Tewantin RSL Park	89.6	75.8	1,417.4	1,325.2
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	4	0.8	1,204.4	1,390
Nambour DPI - Hillside	76.2	79	1,416.2	1,490.5
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	17.9	78.1	1,003.8	857.6
Murwillumbah Bray Park	27.2	74.6	1,535.2	1,295.3
Ballina Airport	45.8	69	1,734.2	1,476
New Italy (Woodburn)	51	43.2	1,385.9	1,100



**sunsuper**

dream with  
your eyes open

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

12" 6 blade chopper drum. Mackay area. Ph: 0428749167.

Linkage spray tank any brand must be in good condition. Herbert area. Ph: 0428188836.

## Property

Wanted. 100 to 200 acre cane farm around the Marian and Mirani areas. Preferably well drained soil with good access to irrigation. House and shed not essential. Some machinery would also be considered. Ph: 0408156772.

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

Wanted to lease, farm in the Mulgrave area. Ph: 0432772884.

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: +4427525173.

FOR SALE BY TENDER. 4302 ABERGOWRIE ROAD, ABERGOWRIE. Established Cane Farm - 58.17 ha (over 143 acres). CPA - 53.2 ha (over 131 acres). Home, relative's retreat & sheds on property. TENDERS CLOSE: This Friday, 6th November, 2020. For further details contact FELIX REITANO REAL ESTATE: 07 47765007 or 0417641830.

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.

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