

AUSTRALIAN

# GROWER

## State Election

We asked the political parties to outline their commitments to cane growers ahead of this month's State Election

Pg 28

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**COVER IMAGE:** CANEGROWERS Isis board director Tony Russo hard at work on his Farnsfield farm, with his dog Jess.

**CONTENTS IMAGE:** Harvesting operations underway at Coorumba in the Innisfail region.



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## Industry leaders look to the future

CANEGROWERS will work towards a 2030 vision for the Queensland sugar industry in collaboration with the Australian Sugar Milling Council, Sugar Research Australia and the Australian Cane Farmers' Association.

An initial meeting in September brought together directors and executives of each organisation and the group agreed to re-convene in December.

The meeting acknowledged that the industry was at a critical stage, facing numerous challenges and opportunities, and that there was a need to work together to secure a long-term, prosperous future.

Read more about the process in the CANEGROWERS CEO Comment on page 10. ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri addresses a forum of Queensland sugar industry directors and executives which has agreed to work towards a 2030 vision for the industry.*



## STL Board election

Do you hold G Class (grower) shares in Sugar Terminals Limited?

The company's AGM is being held on 21 October and CANEGROWERS is urging you to use your shareholders' vote to ensure a grower takes one of the vacancies on the STL Board.

For the first time, the CANEGROWERS Board has endorsed a candidate – CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** (pictured).

Grower shareholders can vote in person or by proxy.

For further information visit [canegrowers.com.au](http://canegrowers.com.au) or [sugarterminals.com.au](http://sugarterminals.com.au) ■

## 2020 Queensland Election

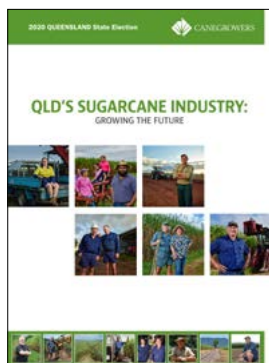
CANEGROWERS is promoting an 8-point plan to the parties contesting the 2020 Queensland Election at the end of this month.

It's a plan that identifies priority actions to remove the obstacles holding the sugarcane industry back such as the cost of water and electricity and excessive reef regulations.

It also outlines actions a Queensland Government should take to unleash the potential of the sugarcane industry including investing in a future workforce, building a diversified industry and backing out existing environmental commitments.

There's a pull-out brochure in this magazine with more detail. Please use it as you talk to the candidates vying for your vote.

CANEGROWERS has put some of our top issues to the political parties and their responses can be read from page 28. ■





## Herbert River scores a farming century

The Herbert River district has become the third cane growing region to celebrate the milestone of achieving more than 100 accreditations in the industry's voluntary best management practice program Smartcane BMP.

Together the accredited businesses manage 40% of the Herbert River sugarcane land at or above the program's benchmarks. The region has joined Tully and Mackay in passing the 100 mark.

One of the recently-accredited growers is **Steve Guazzo** who farms around 360 ha of land at Trebonne and Lower Stone.

With around 40 years of farming under his belt, he says the program offered a way to get formal recognition that he and his family are working their 360 ha of cane land responsibly.

"Cane growers feel under pressure about their farming practices but I believe most are doing a good job and the Smartcane BMP process is about documenting what you are doing," the former CANEGROWERS director said.

"I'm a third-generation grower and like many farmers up and down the coast, my family is still successfully producing sugarcane because we've been improving our technology and practices to minimise our impact on the environment while

providing an economic base for regional Queensland."

Smartcane BMP's independent audits provide assurance to growers and communities that the industry is meeting its environmental responsibilities.

Accreditation is increasingly being recognised widely by banks and governments as evidence of a farm business's commitment to sustainability, profitability and productivity and international standards for sustainably-produced sugar, used by large buyers, are becoming aligned with Smartcane BMP.

Mr Guazzo is encouraging other sugarcane growers to work towards accreditation.

"Growers shouldn't be daunted, even though bookwork isn't their favourite thing and they'd rather be getting their hands dirty on the farm," he said.

"I'd urge them to take their time and work through it with the facilitators who are there to help – they might find it's not as hard as they think."

The program has funding from the Queensland Government until 2022.

To find out more or contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator, head to the website [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au) ■

*Pictured: Herbert River grower Steve Guazzo says Smartcane BMP accreditation is formal recognition of the way he farms.*



## Ag groups take Council to task over rates hike

CANEGROWERS representatives from the Bundaberg and Isis regions have joined forces with Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers and local AgForce reps to pressure the Bundaberg Regional Council over rates rises on farmland of up to 235%.

The groups' 'Don't treat our farmers like rubbish' campaign was launched on 21 September with posters and signs placed throughout the community calling on the Council to reverse its rates decision. Bumper stickers are also being shared across the region and locals are being encouraged to sign a petition.

"Our Mayor and his councillors may be treating Bundy farmers like rubbish, but our community knows and respects the Bundaberg farmers' value chain, which supports tens of thousands of jobs in this region," local cane farmer and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg director Dean Cayley said.

"Ripping the money out of farms, giving us zero in return and pushing us to the wall financially means a direct knock-on effect to a whole host of businesses, including local retailers, shops, cafes, pubs, entertainment venues, tourism operations and car and boat dealerships.

"Farmers being pushed off the land in this region, which is a food bowl for the state, has a massive impact on everyone, not just the farmers themselves," he said. ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Bundaberg director Dean Cayley is calling on the Bundaberg Regional Council to reverse course on its rates decision.*

## Irrigation project aims to improve productivity and profitability

Over the next two years, CANEGROWERS Mackay will support sugarcane growers in the region to improve their irrigation use in a new project.

The aim is to increase growers' productivity and profitability by optimising energy consumption and water use efficiency. At the same time, improved irrigation management strategies will reduce nutrient and chemical losses from farms.

In the project growers will focus on:

- Maximising the incorporation of inputs into the soil
- Maximising the uptake of inputs by the plant, and
- Maximising retention on farm.

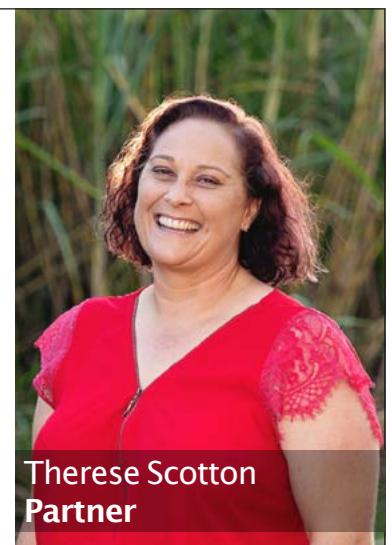
The Mackay Irrigation Project is one of nine projects in the Mackay-Whitsundays announced by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation as part of the Mackay Whitsunday regional water quality improvement program. ■



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## Here comes the rain...experts predict a La Nina

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Nina event, signaling a soggy end to 2020 for the country's eastern states, including Queensland's cane-growing districts.

American forecasters had already called it, with the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announcing a La Nina weather event was underway in the Pacific Ocean on 10 September.

But Australia's top meteorologists held off, despite BOM's own modelling suggesting all the key indicators were in place, only updating their La Nina status to 'active' on 29 September.

"The Bureau has announced that we've moved into an active La Nina phase out in the tropical Pacific," the Bureau's Manager of Climate Operations Dr **Andrew Watkins** said.

"So, what this means is that we've got warmer water now out near Australia and cooler water off South America and that tends to favour rainfall and cloudiness near Australia."

Dr Watkins said the weather system would likely increase the number of tropical cyclones Australia experiences this year, but said the higher than usual rainfall could also help ease the bushfire season.

It's worrying news for growers in Queensland's far north, where rain has already hampered harvesting and planting operations.

Cairns, Tully, Innisfail and the Burdekin have all lost significant time to wet weather this season.

"We've been aware that it's coming for the last month, so we've sat down with MSF and worked out a plan around rostering and downtime to ensure we maximise crushing and do everything in our power to get 100% of the crop off," CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** said.

"We'll continue to monitor the situation and modify that plan as and when we need to."

With months still to go in this year's harvest, Tully Mill has already lost 378 hours to wet weather - 10 hours more than it lost for the entire 2019 season. ■

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# COMMUNITY FAREWELLS MR MACKAY

Mackay farewelled one of its favourite sons last month, with the death of long-time Labor MP and former Queensland Minister for Agriculture Tim Mulherin. Affectionately known as Mr Mackay for his passionate belief in the potential of his hometown, Mr Mulherin (63) lost his battle with lung cancer on 7 September.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri paid tribute to his Mackay colleague, who he said had an deep understanding and affection for the local sugarcane industry.

"I actually went to school with Tim, he was a grade higher than me at St Patrick's Christian Brothers College in Mackay, so I've known him all my life really," Mr Schembri said.

"In fact, he called me a few weeks before he passed away and we spent some time on the phone chatting about things - he was just a really decent bloke.

"So, obviously it's a very sad time for his family, but also for cane-growing community and the entire Mackay region

more generally. Tim was much-loved in the community."

Mr Mulherin, who became the Member for Mackay in 1995 and served as Minister for Agriculture from 2005-2012, was a fierce advocate for regional Queensland and Mackay in particular.

He was driving force behind many of the projects that shaped the face of the city over the past three decades, Dawson MP George Christensen said.

Upon retiring from politics in 2015, Mr Mulherin listed Bluewater Quay, the construction of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), the showgrounds redevelopment, and the courthouse

expansion among his proudest achievements

He also served as Mackay Hospital and Health Service Chairman.

Despite his high profile and responsibilities as a government minister, Mr Mulherin was always accessible and accountable to the community, Mr Schembri said.

He also took a keen interest in the local cane industry.

"Tim was very accessible in a way you wouldn't get with a minister today. You just had to pick up the phone and you could immediately speak to him directly," Mr Schembri said.

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"You didn't always get the answer you wanted, but he was highly accessible and that made him accountable.

"Being the Member for Mackay, and Mackay being the sugar capital of Australia, he also had a very close association with and understanding of the sugar industry.

"And he was someone who was very much aware and respectful of the history of the region and the industry.

"In fact, two of his forebears, Tom and John Mulherin, both played pivotal roles in the development of Mackay and the sugar industry, so the history of the industry was something he was well aware of.

Mr Mulherin was also passionate about up-skilling agricultural workers and creating

**"Tim was someone who was very much aware and respectful of the history of the region and the sugar industry."**



pathways to careers in agriculture, Mr Schembri said.

"Tim had a great passion for an investment in rural training for those in the industry and also career paths for school kids to graduate into the world of agriculture.

"He spent a lot of time and energy on his vision for an industry that had the requisite level of skill to remain internationally competitive and some of Tim's programs still remain in place today."

A State Funeral held for Mr Mulherin in Mackay on 15 September was live-streamed at the MECC to allow as many people as possible to pay their respects amid COVID-19 restrictions.

He is survived by his wife Erin and sons Declan, Liam and Rory. ■

*Pictured: Tim Mulherin (left) with former CANEGROWERS CEO Brendan Stewart at the launch of Smartcane BMP in Mackay in 2013.*



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# CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

## PULL IN THE SAME DIRECTION OR WE ALL PULL APART

In March this year, as the uncertainty of a global pandemic gripped the world, Australian policymakers grappled with understanding the situation, crafting policy, and assessing the risks before taking action. This needed to be done at a national scale, with the State and Commonwealth pulling together.

Over recent weeks and months, we've seen just how challenging it is, in the face of politics and parochialism, to maintain momentum around a spirit of 'We're all in this together'.

As an industry we haven't been all that different over the years - needing to pull together to achieve the best outcomes for all but allowing our differences to cause rifts that divide us to the detriment of the industry.

Now, a change could be on the horizon. At least, I sincerely hope we are seeing the dawn of a renewed vigour for industry-wide collaboration.

During the early part of September, CANEGROWERS was pleased to jointly host an industry leadership forum with Sugar Research Australia and the Australian Sugar Milling Council, with the valuable contribution of the Australian Cane Farmers' Association.

The forum involved directors and executives of each company. This is a relatively small number of people, and at the outset it should be noted that all involved know that there are many, many more leaders within the industry. This was just one important group of leaders amongst many.

The objective of the day was to come together and share the strengths and challenges of the industry and commit to developing a working or plausible 2030 vision.

This group of leaders contributed strongly, sharing their optimism for a dynamic and evolving future for the industry.

It is clear that you can be positive about the future and yet not be ignorant of the challenges.

A rewarding outcome was a desire to reconvene as a group before the end of the year and to prioritise the things that need to be done to move towards a new vision for the industry.

Between now and then, the individual organisations are charged with starting this conversation within our respective structures. For CANEGROWERS, this will initially be done via our grower-led Policy Council.

CANEGROWERS will continue to drive this process. We see a vision with growers at the heart of a positive future for the industry.

This future will need to be shared and owned by us all, but a critical first step has been the energy and commitment shown by this group of leaders towards a process of working together.

The process does not bind or contain us, it enables and empowers the industry to pull towards a common 'light on the hill'.

There will certainly be challenges to navigate and debates to be had about the exact course we should take.

But I see momentum behind this vision and we will encourage all growers to participate with us over coming months to share in the shape that vision should take. ■





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- Voting can be completed in person or by proxy
- For details on how to vote visit [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au)



CANEGROWERS

## Collaborative partnership to help industry control **GREYBACK CANEGRUBS**

Sugarcane growers have a new tool in their toolbox to manage one of the industry's primary crop pests, Greyback Canegrub.

The new publication, the *Greyback Canegrub Management manual*, provides comprehensive information on managing this significant pest, which affects all sugarcane growing regions between Plane Creek in Central Queensland to Mossman in Far North Queensland.

The work occurred as part of a collaboration between Sugar Research Australia (SRA), the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, CANEGROWERS, the Australia Cane Farmers Association, Bayer Crop Science and Nufarm Limited. It is funded by the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program through the Enhanced Extension Coordination project.

SRA Regional Coordinator for the Central Region, Phil Ross, said that the manual provided practical and current information for growers, which will assist the industry in managing a key economic pest and also in stewardship of the insecticide chemical, imidacloprid.

"Imidacloprid represents the sugar industry's best canegrub management tool and proper stewardship of this chemical is vital for the ongoing viability of cane farming in the 50 percent of soils where canegrub damage is common," Mr Ross said.

"The manual and the broader project have looked at the best practice use of imidacloprid to ensure the industry's ongoing access to imidacloprid as a control for cane grubs. SRA has collaborated on the ground with productivity services companies to understand the current on-ground practices and to develop strategies to help the industry to continue to improve grub management.

"For example, the project considered key aspects of grub control such as the determination of when to use the chemical, correct placement, and using the chemical only for grub control."

The manual has been distributed to all growers between Plane Creek and

Mossman with the Spring edition of CaneConnection magazine. It is also available online via the SRA website [sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/publications/](http://sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/publications/) or additional copies can be sourced by contacting Phil Ross on [pross@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:pross@sugarresearch.com.au) or 0477 318 897.

"Through this project we've identified practical opportunities to work with the industry to continue to improve efficiency and sustainability. This will lead to economic outcomes through improved input efficiency and effective grub control, and sustainability outcomes through improving water quality." ■





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Growers can commence pricing the GMPRS from May in the year of the harvest and price as much or as little of it as they wish, from that moment on. This is a unique feature of the industry-leading pricing tool.

At one extreme, if prices are attractive and a grower is extremely confident about how much GEI their farm will produce, they could theoretically price all their GEI even before the harvest commences.

Conversely, a grower might choose to wait until the harvest is finished if they expect stronger prices later or have doubts about how much cane will be harvested in the event of unfavourable weather.

In other words, the grower has flexibility to consider the level of risk they wish to run and the trade-offs between sugar price outlook and differing GEI production outcomes. GMPRS provides control and avoids 'out-sourcing' the risk decision to someone who doesn't understand a grower's particular farm circumstances.

Growers who use GMPRS say it accommodates their risk appetite during depressed pricing periods, while providing them



with the flexibility to maximise returns when higher prices are available.

Burdekin grower **Ben Nielson** (pictured) said having the option to price almost 100% of his sugar production for the past three years had greatly benefited his family's business.

"It has given us the flexibility to price 97% of our crop in season if the market was where we needed it to be. Alternatively, we can hold off until late April the following year, giving us greater exposure to positive moves in the market," Mr Nielson said.

"GMPRS is a simple and straightforward product to use. It's a powerful tool to help maximise returns without the constraints of being in a pool." ■



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# FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The State election is weeks away and, while it might sound clichéd, this election really does loom as one of the most critical for Queensland's sugar industry. Good government policy helps our industry grow, which strengthens regional economies. Poor government policy is a handbrake on our industry, and regional economies suffer when we can't reach our potential.

CANEGROWERS has released a list of priorities for the upcoming election. Our list of issues is grounded in the fact that for every \$1 spent growing sugarcane in Queensland, about \$6.42 of regional economic activity is generated.

That's why our policy platform is based on the notion that we want to work in partnership with government to grow regional economies. If governments back sugar, then they will get this money back six times over.

For example, if the level of government investment in Sugar Research Australia (SRA) were doubled, the dividend to the industry and regional communities would be substantial. The current Queensland Government contribution to SRA is \$2.8 million annually.

Our full election platform is outlined in a pullout election brochure that can be found at the centre of this magazine. However, I'd like to highlight the three largest pillars here.

## WATER AND ELECTRICITY PRICES

The price of water and electricity must be lowered. Electricity bills paid by farmers have risen by more than 130% since 2007. Farmers and irrigators have been excluded from recent price reductions for small business and households.

High water and electricity costs discourage irrigation and constrain productivity which affects regional economies, mill viability and international competitiveness.

The blind insistence that electricity and water delivery must be achieved at zero cost to the public purse is reaping dividends for government but destroying industries and regional economies.

## REEF REGULATIONS

The current reef regulations stifle innovation by cane framers and will provide little, if any, improvement in the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Just as importantly, they fail to acknowledge the massive cultural and farming practice changes that sugarcane farmers have adopted over the decades.

Farmers know when they are not getting a fair go.

The first Act to bring in regulations in 2009 was meant to improve the health of the Reef, yet 10 years later a larger bureaucratic baseball bat has been introduced based on the narrative that water quality is still poor.

Presumably we are meant to believe that new regulations, which force farmers to jump through ever increasing bureaucratic hoops, impinge on their privacy and hurt their productivity, will somehow improve water quality - go figure!

CANEGROWERS commissioned a report based on the impact of requirements to reduce nitrogen rates by up to 30% below SIX EASY STEPS rates.

That report found that the Queensland economy (not just the sugar industry) would take a hit of \$1.3 billion over 10 years if such a policy were implemented.

We say repeal the 2019 reef legislation and overhaul the system that manages and scrutinises the water quality research used to justify regulations.

## INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Queensland's sugar industry is perhaps the most highly trade-exposed in the world. Around 98% of our production is exposed to the global price and 94%

of our total revenue is dependent on sales of raw sugar.

We need to change our level of exposure to volatile world sugar prices and the destructive nature of export subsidies.

As cane growers, we produce around 30 million tonnes of cane, which when processed produces around 4.5 million tonnes of sugar.

Obviously there remains a huge amount of biomass that can be utilised to create renewable biofuels, renewable energy by co-generation and potentially bioplastics, to name but a few.

However, we need a policy framework from government (or prospective governments) to realise this potential. There is no better time than now, as our sugar industry struggles against Indian export subsidies.

## CAMPAIGN

In early October, CANEGROWERS will release the next stage of our election issues campaign. Its centerpiece will be a television advertisement, backed up by radio and social media ads, that spells out the policies we need to grow our industry.

Too many in government, both past and present, are adept at applying the handbrake to our industry.

We have thrown down the challenge to all the political parties and candidates. Let's see who has the courage to initiate policy to grow our industry and, with it, regional communities. ■





# QSL — OWNED BY YOU, FOCUSED ON YOU

## NEW & IMPROVED: 2021 SEASON

### > More pricing opportunities

- Commitment limits increased to 70%
- Price up to 98% yourself in the **Self-Managed Harvest Contract**

### > More flexible grower-managed pricing

- Choose if and when you want to roll in the **Individual Futures Contract**
- Simplified **Self-Managed Harvest Contract** with new rolling option

### > More ways to price it yourself

- New **Grower Floor Contract** lets you lock in a minimum return with potential for higher returns if the market rises
- New **Defaulting Target Contract** lets you set a pricing target but default to the Harvest Pool if it doesn't fill before the season starts

**Don't miss your  
chance to use  
QSL in 2021**

Marketing  
nominations close  
**31 OCTOBER**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL QSL TEAM

### Far North Queensland

**Daniel Messina**  
0429 660 238

**Amanda Sheppard**  
0418 264 393

### Proserpine

**Karen Vloedmans**  
0429 804 876

### Mackay

**Harriet McLennan**  
0409 830 554

**Sonia Ball**  
0418 978 120

### Plane Creek

**Kathy Zanco**  
0437 645 342

### Burdekin

**Russell Campbell**  
0408 248 385

**Kristen Paterson**  
0438 470 235

### Herbert River

**Kylie Burkett**  
0428 664 057

### James Formosa

0447 062 213

### Michelle La Rosa-Aili

0408 800 937

### Southern Queensland

**Cathy Kelly**  
0409 285 074

# TEACHING NEW DOGS OLD TRICKS

The winds of change have been blowing hard and fast through the agricultural and natural resource sectors in recent years, leaving many farmers feeling besieged. Another group that has taken a pummelling is extension officers, the ones who are often the meat in the sandwich between the farming community and regulatory bodies.

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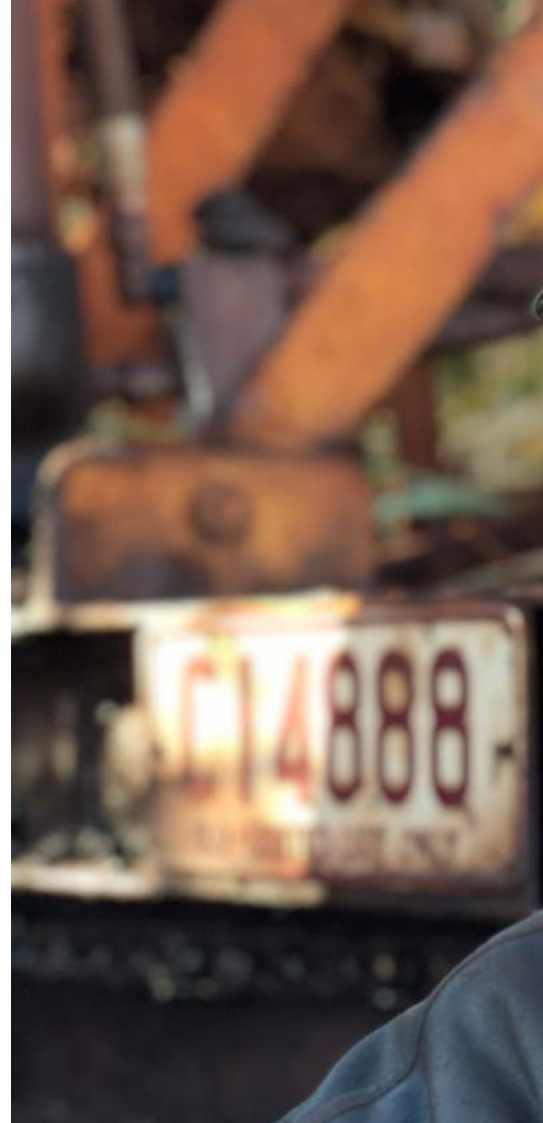
BY CINDY BENJAMIN

In 2017, the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce found that the extension system in Queensland was 'fragmented', with 'high turnover in government funded programs and a lack of some expertise and capacity in key areas'.

In response to this, 110 extension officers at the 2019 Reef Think Tank identified the urgent need to create a defined extension model to bring consistency of practice and more reliable results.

The State Government's enhanced extension coordination project within the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program subsequently funded the co-development of a shared, cross-industry extension model of practice to guide the design and delivery of future extension programs.

CANEGROWERS Isis manager **Angela Williams** is the driving force behind the development of the extension model, which she says focuses on the foundational relationship between



*"Extension officers currently juggle technical knowledge in agriculture...with social work and project delivery."*



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*Pictured: Extension officers bring technical knowledge and help farmers consider the options available to them.*





*Pictured: A farmer-centred extension model has been built for the purpose of helping extension officers to confidently deliver a consistent service to cane growers like Angelo LaRocca and the wider rural sector.*

extension officers and farmers essential for enabling extension practice to meet Queensland's current 'change challenge'.

"The model hones in on the fact that what we do in extension is important, but how we do it makes the difference," Angela says.

"It acknowledges that significant change is often difficult and requires the consistent use of a farmer-centred process where the extension officer builds relationships, provides technical know-how and supports the implementation of change on farms."

"Extension officers currently juggle the demands of technical knowledge in agricultural and environmental science with social consciousness, sociology, social work and project delivery," she says.

"This is an interesting and challenging interface, but without any formal roadmap or guide for how to do their work, many extension officers feel that it is very difficult to effect real change and meet the targets set out in the often short term projects that fund their work."

The project team – Angela Williams and

Joanne Hall from CANEGROWERS Isis, and Paul Prichard and Deb Sestak from Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) – collected over 400 pieces of 'evidence' from farmers, researchers and extension officers to co-develop an extension model that will underpin current and future extension efforts.

This work effectively answered the question: 'What makes a good extension officer and what are the magic ingredients?'

The resulting model puts the farmer squarely in the centre of the dynamic with the extension officer providing an enabling role to effect change that the farmer wants to make.

The interaction follows a step-by-step process to establish a solid working relationship that then enables the farmer to access the technical knowledge and skills required to make changes in their operation that achieve productivity, profitability and sustainability outcomes on-farm, as well as off-farm environmental outcomes such as good quality water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

*Continues next page* ►



*Pictured: It takes time and skill to develop a productive working relationship. Veteran Isis Productivity Services extension officer Andrew Jenkins chats with grower Peter McLennan on his Farnsfield farm.*

For the extension officer, the model seeks to enhance their efficacy and credibility as agents of change, and ultimately winning the 'change challenge'.

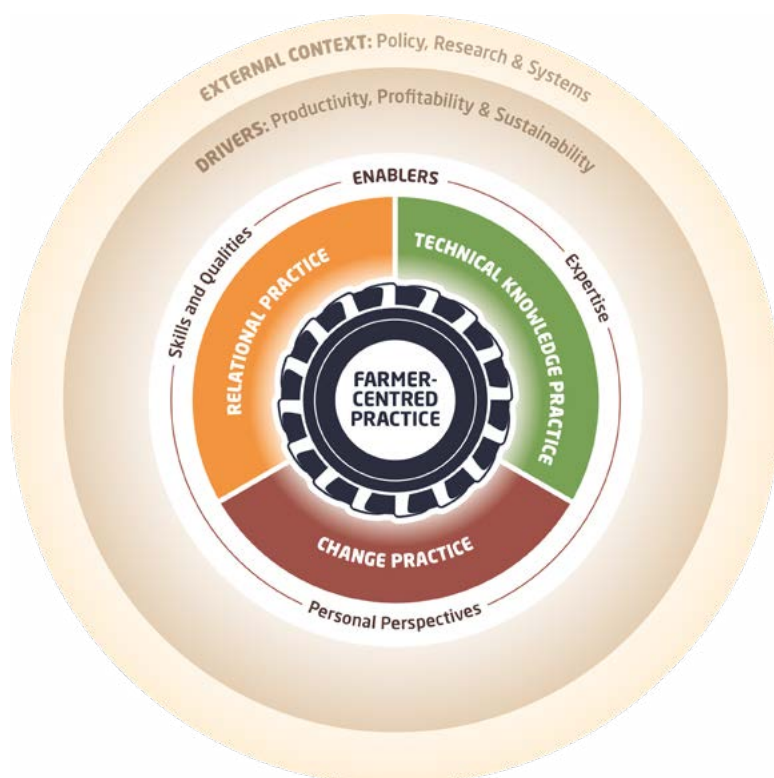
Angela says the development of the model involved asking the big questions, such as:

- Why do some farmers adopt new practices while others do not?
- Why do some extension officers have better, more effective relationships and achieve more with the farmers they work with?
- What training do early career extension officers need to assist them to build effective relationships with farmers?
- How does the policy and structural environment affect the relationship between extension officers and farmers, and the achievement of mutual outcomes?

"The delivery of this Extension Model of Practice is really an important beginning, not an end point," says Angela.

"The next step is to embed the model into the training, policy and funding framework to enable extension officers to work more effectively.

"We know from other sectors that people change in relationship with others



*Once the relationship has developed the grower and extension officer can work together to solve problems and implement change.*





when there is a consistent model of practice that values and 'listens to' the person responsible for implementing the change."

Although this model is new, it has been distilled from the experience of extension professionals who are effective largely because they possess or learned many of the key qualities, and innately use the methods required for farmer-centred extension.

"The model will add to the rich fabric of rural extension theory and principles, providing guidance for current, and a legacy for future, practitioners.

Angela emphasises that "the skills and personal attributes required can and must be taught to all who seek to work in advisory, extension or helping roles in the essential and fulfilling field of agriculture and land management and to be an integral part of real and long-lasting change."



**Queensland  
Government**



*Pictured: Innisfail Smartcane BMP facilitator Deb Telford chats with local accredited grower Joe Zappala.*

## IN THE DEEP END

Imagine the thrill that a young, enthusiastic and well-educated person would feel when they land a great job working on a project where they will be an agent for positive change.

Then imagine the anxiety that would set in when they discover their training has not prepared them for a central component of the job, and that there is little time or opportunity to learn the required skills on the job.

One such extension officer, Simon Hunt, has been working on his project in the grazing industry for 18 months and says he's loving the challenge but there are many things about the job that have been intimidating.

**"I didn't know how to present ideas...or respond to different opinions or values landholders might have."**

"I'm from a small country town in Far North Queensland and although I've worked on cattle properties as a ringer, I really didn't know how to present ideas to a manager or quickly respond to different opinions or values landholders might have," he says.

"Even little things like how to make those critical first connections of looking producers in the eye and shaking their hand properly."

In contrast, Deb Telford is a seasoned extension officer currently working as the Innisfail Smartcane BMP facilitator, who recognises that she had much greater support and mentoring when she started her career.

"This new model documents the way I was taught to do my job," she says. "In my early years in extension I was able to spend time learning from experienced practitioners.

"These days people are employed directly into projects with specific targets, with little opportunity to learn or develop relationships. It's not their fault, they just don't know how to go about it."

Deb says many growers are frustrated by the current situation and this can become another barrier to the adoption of practices that are beneficial to the profitability, productivity or sustainability of their businesses.

# QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 28 September 2020.

## Sugar



- Bearish sentiment dominated the first half of the month as the OCT20 contract dropped below 12 US\$/lb, trading as low as 11.73 US\$/lb. The prompt contract has since found some support leading into expiry trading as high as 13.06 US\$/lb.
- Speculative activity continued to increase in early September, reaching a 191,000 net-long position before a rapid sell-off down to a 144,000 net-long position at the time of writing.
- Despite a healthy monsoon in Thailand, there appears to be little confidence that they will bounce back quickly from their recent crop failure and return to normal production levels next season.
- Brazil: UNICA numbers indicated a solid recovery in ethanol sales, resulting in a slightly lower sugar/ethanol mix than previously anticipated. Export shipping lineups in Brazil are down to 19 days, invalidating previous doubts about whether they could get sugar out of their country. Estimates are creeping up towards 38 million metric tonnes raw sugar.
- The likely extension of India's export subsidy program continues to loom over the market.
- **ICE 11 trading range going forward:** Broader trading range expected to be around 11.50 to 14.00 US\$/lb.

## KEY INDICATORS

|                                   | 28/09/2020         | Monthly change |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| ICE11 Prompt (OCT20)              | 13.00 US\$/lb      | +0.40 US\$/lb  |
| Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate | 5.56 BRL           | +0.17 BRL      |
| Brent Crude Oil                   | \$US41.92/barrel   | -\$US3.89      |
| Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity          | 10.15 US\$/lb      | +0.55 US\$/lb  |
| Net Spec Position                 | 179,000 (net long) | -              |

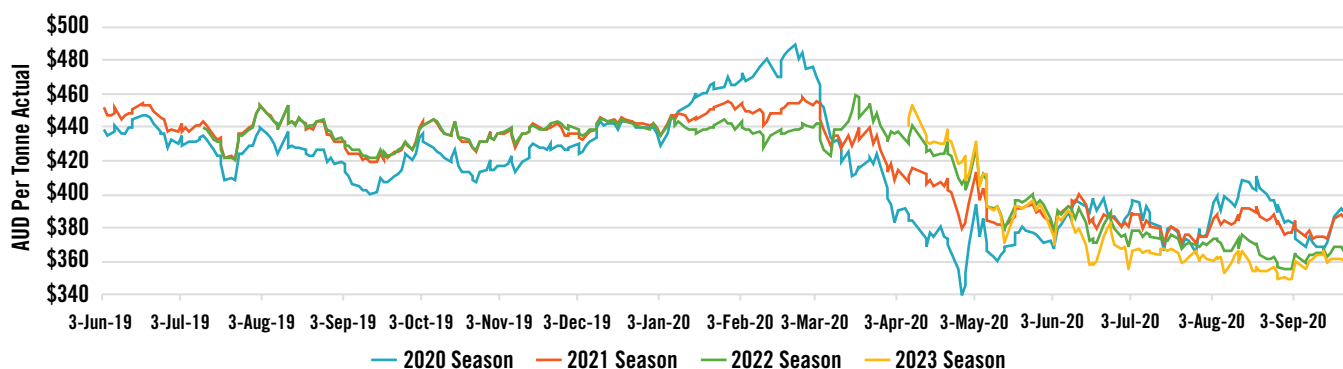
## Currency



- Despite trading as high as 0.7414 against the US Dollar (USD) early in the month, the Aussie has reversed course rapidly over recent weeks posting a low of 0.7006 at time of writing.
- For the first time in recent months we have seen domestic issues impact our currency. Weaker-than-expected Australian GDP figures and the extension of the Victorian COVID-19 lockdown has weighed heavily on the economic outlook in recent trading sessions and the RBA has indicated that it may intervene further to loosen policy settings in response.
- Trade tensions between the US and China continue. Since the Australian Government called for an investigation into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, China has announced the suspension of some Australian beef exports.
- The US election is far too close to call at this stage. Trump has said on several occasions that a close result may be contested. There is potential for renewed US Dollar and equities weakness should the outcome bring political uncertainty.
- **AUD/USD trading range going forward:** 0.7100 to 0.7500.
- **Risks Ahead:** Second wave of COVID-19 in Australia, US-China and Australia-China relationships and the next 2 months before the US Presidential election.

|                                | 28/09/2020  | Monthly change |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| \$AUS/\$US exchange rate       | \$US0.70555 | -\$US0.0213    |
| \$US Index                     | 94.64       | +2.2710        |
| Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate | 6.82 CNY    | -0.0417 CNY    |
| S+P 500 Index                  | 3,298.46    | -209.5500      |
| RBA Overnight Cash Rate        | 0.25%       | -              |

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



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



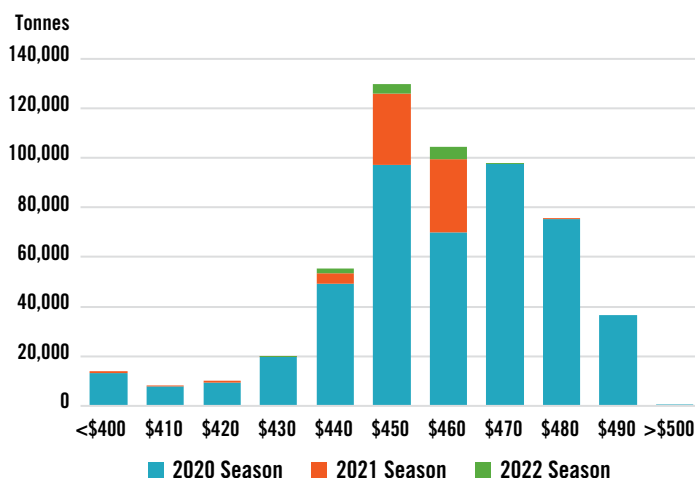
- 2020-Season sugar prices returned to levels above \$400/tonne actual for Australian producers in late September, sparking some grower pricing activity.
- At the time of writing, this rally had seen orders filled for the 2020-Season QSL Target Price Contract ranging between \$413.80 and \$419.43/tonne actual.
- 2021-Season Target pricing at \$400/tonne actual was also secured.
- The Oct20 position of the Target Price Contract was rolled at a cost of \$8.85/mt. The total roll adjustment is now a cost of \$9.43/mt.
- **Key Deadline:** October 31 is the last day for growers to nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar marketer for the 2021 Season.

### FNQ MARKETING SESSIONS

- Far North Queensland marketing sessions with Matt Page 6th-9th October.

RSVP to Amanda Sheppard on 0418 264 393 or email [amanda.sheppard@qsl.com.au](mailto:amanda.sheppard@qsl.com.au)

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 28.9.20 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## Far East Premium



The Far East Premium reflects the average difference in the freight cost of supplying raw sugar from Brazil to eastern markets as opposed to shipping from Australia or Thailand to eastern markets.

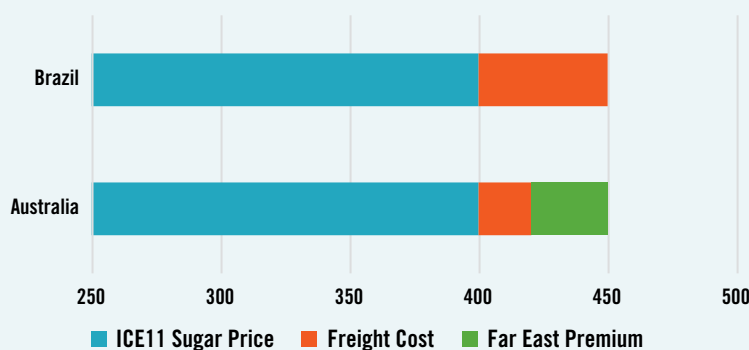
Buyers in eastern markets, such as Japan, Korea and Indonesia, pay significantly higher sugar prices when sourcing from western suppliers at a greater geographical distance, such as Brazil, due to the increased freighting costs.

In contrast, sellers in the eastern hemisphere, such as Australia or Thailand, have comparatively lower freighting costs and as such are able to increase their sugar prices to reflect this difference in freight rate. This is the geographical premium known as the Far East premium and represents the extra cost to bring sugar from the western hemisphere to the east.

The value of this premium will fluctuate depending on the availability of sugar in the Far East and the Far West. If there is a significant surplus of sugar in the Far East, eastern sellers will have to compete to sell their sugar and may be required to lower their selling price. As a result, some of the far east premium is competed away.

On the other hand, if there is a deficit of sugar in the Far West, buyers may be prepared to pay a premium for the certainty of delivery from the East.

## COST OF DELIVERED SUGAR



Current estimated returns in Australian Dollars as of 24 September 2020.

# Sunsuper joins RideWest to raise funds for Flying Doctors

Daniel Kinnane, Sunsuper Regional Manager based in Mackay (*pictured below*) has been cycling for five years and has recently taken up the challenge of riding 1,237km in a charity cycle from 3 – 9 October to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Wellbeing Out West program.

RideWest is a biennial charity bike ride from Brisbane to Longreach and this year celebrates its tenth anniversary with the ride taking place during Mental Health Month in October.

Over the last 10 years, RideWest has raised over \$1,000,000 to provide mental health services to Queenslanders living in remote regional areas and they're looking to raise another \$400,000 in 2020.

The Wellbeing Out West program helped over 7,500 Queenslanders last year, providing free counselling, education and support to people living and working in remote parts of western Queensland.

On Saturday 3 October, RideWest 2020 will be starting out from Amberley air base in Brisbane with 40 riders and cycling through to Longreach in just seven days.

Sunsuper's Dan Kinnane said he will be there every inch of the way.

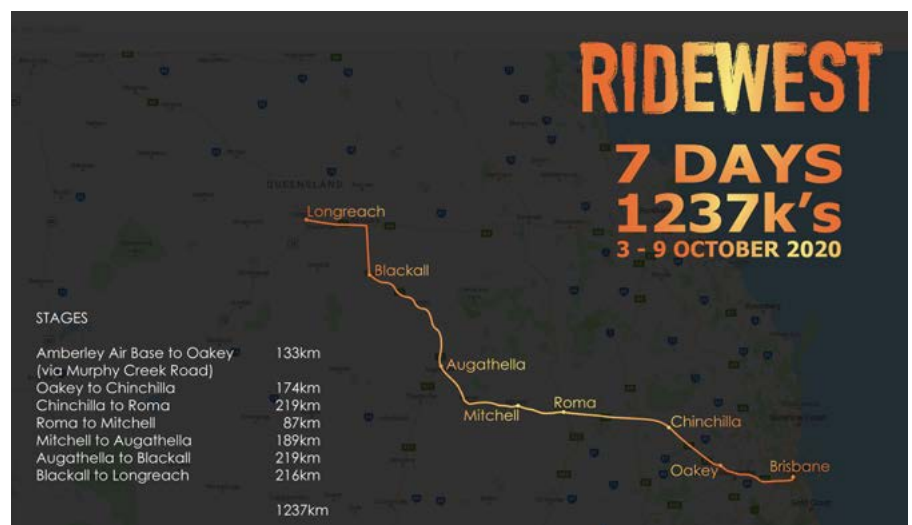
'As one of the familiar faces for Sunsuper in the regions, it's an honour to represent our Fund at this event,' said Dan.

'Aussies living in regional or remote areas don't have easy access to the resources that we often take for granted. Through this charity, we can all do a little to help people living in remote areas that are quite often growing our food and putting the clothes on our back.'

Sunsuper's Head of Growth (QLD), Patrick Twomey, said Sunsuper was very proud to be a supporting partner of RideWest.

"Sunsuper has always had a strong presence through rural and regional Queensland and this was further enhanced with the merger of AustSafe Super in April 2019," said Patrick.

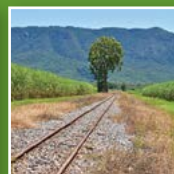
"To show our continued commitment, Sunsuper is proud to be a supporter of this year's RideWest. We can see the great work that the Royal Flying Doctor Service achieves with the Wellbeing Out West mental health programs, year-in and year-out, assisting people in some of the most remote areas in the country."



For more information on RideWest and the Royal Flying Doctor Service Wellbeing Out West program, visit RideWest or Royal Flying Doctor Service.



# QLD'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY: GROWING THE FUTURE



# Queensland's sugarcane farmers are driven to GROW a prosperous and resilient FUTURE

## QUEENSLAND NEEDS A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL REMOVE OBSTACLES

### 1. Reduce the cost of power and water to drive productivity and profitability

Electricity bills paid by farmers have risen 130% since 2006-07. Irrigators have been excluded from recent price reductions for small business and households. High water and electricity costs discourage irrigation and constrain productivity which affects regional economies, mill viability and international competitiveness. Current tariff structures deliver huge profits to energy companies and the Queensland Government.

#### Actions

- Introduce a suite of agricultural electricity tariffs capped at 16c/kWh.
- Write down Ergon's regulatory asset base by 40%.
- Allow retail competition in regional Queensland.
- Remove solar feed in as a network charge.
- Commit to lower bound irrigation water pricing.

### 2. Cut red tape on farming which doesn't help the Great Barrier Reef

The 2019 expansion of reef regulations is unnecessary and intrusive with no guarantee of water quality improvement. Related targets for industry are excessive and not evidence-based. CANEGROWERS analysis shows the current underlying intent of a 30% cut to nitrogen use will cost the state economy \$1.3 billion over the next decade. Confidence needs to be restored in the scientific evidence used to justify policy.

#### Actions

- Repeal 2019 reef legislation and regulations.
- Make water quality plans and programs realistic and credible.
- Overhaul the system that manages and scrutinises water quality research used to justify regulations.

### 3. Remove roadblocks to disaster preparedness

Cane growers are resilient and productive in the face of natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and drought. However, insurance for the cane regions is becoming prohibitive and leaves growers vulnerable.

#### Actions

- Remove Queensland Government stamp duty from insurance premiums.
- Support the development of and underwrite affordable index-based disaster insurance.
- Provide assistance for the development of individual risk management plans.

*"We're working harder and smarter to secure a sustainable, profitable and productive future. The next Queensland Government can help us realise some exciting opportunities."*

*CANEGROWERS Chairman  
Paul Schembri*







## TO UNLEASH OUR POTENTIAL....

### 4. Build a diversified industry for regional economic growth

Sugarcane growers produce around 30 million tonnes of a renewable resource every year.

#### Action

- Support the development of electricity generation and manufacturing of bio-products from renewable sugarcane.

### 5. Back our commitment to environmental responsibility

Our best management practice program Smartcane BMP is securing our international credentials to meet market demands for sustainable sugar.

#### Action

- Commit resources and policy to continue the program's work with growers.

### 6. Invest in a future agricultural workforce

#### Actions

- Fund agricultural education in schools to showcase a diversity of roles to students deciding on future careers.
- Support post-school skills training and education including micro-credentialing.
- Fund expanded opportunities for industry-specific training and skills development.

### 7. Enable sustainable and innovative electricity and water use for increased productivity

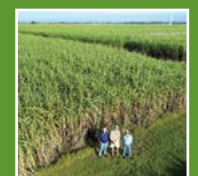
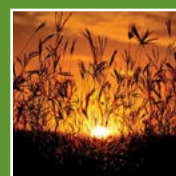
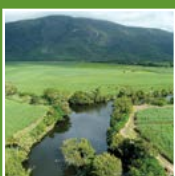
#### Actions

- Reduce electricity and water prices to encourage greater use of irrigation water allocations and infrastructure to realise the full potential of these assets.
- Implement new ways to share renewable electricity. Local grids will enable growers to access energy generated by sugar mills and peer-to-peer trading will encourage generation investment on-farm.
- Continue on-farm energy use efficiency programs and fund \$20 million energy use efficiency improvements.
- Examine and address challenges facing cane irrigation schemes.

### 8. Fund research and improve government services to agriculture

#### Actions

- Increase state funding for research, development and extension through SRA to \$4 million per annum.
- Link ongoing research funding to CPI and widen outcome expectations to include productivity, profitability and sustainability.
- Restore the state's capacity for managing the risk of pest and disease incursions.
- Move functions related to agriculture from the Department of Environment and Science to the Department of Agriculture and restore a balance in the Queensland Government's approach from a solely water quality-driven focus to a productivity and profitability focus with best management practice and continuous improvement at its core.



# A BIG INDUSTRY DRIVEN BY GROWER CONFIDENCE

## QUEENSLAND WILL **HARVEST THE REWARDS** OF A PROFITABLE AND PRODUCTIVE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

CANEGROWERS analysis shows that for every dollar generated by cane growing, \$6.42 of economic activity is delivered to the Queensland economy. As we grow, so do the communities and industries around us.



**4,305**  
sugarcane  
farms in  
Queensland



**21 mills**  
operating in  
Queensland



**30.5 million tonnes**  
of sugarcane crushed  
annually in Queensland,  
producing **4.5 million tonnes**  
of raw sugar



Total sugar supply  
value chain supports  
**over 23,650 jobs** in  
Queensland



Total sugar supply  
chain supports  
approx. **\$4 billion**  
in economic activity

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

**CANEGROWERS has represented the interests of Queensland sugarcane farmers for over 90 years.**

CANEGROWERS comprises 13 district companies with offices in all cane regions, staffed by dedicated and professional personnel.

CANEGROWERS members are represented by 78 elected members, all sugarcane growers. A 21-person Policy Council provides overall direction while an 8-member Board provides corporate governance.



**CANEGROWERS**

**For more information, contact:**

**Dan Galligan, CEO**

**T:** 07 3864 6444 **M:** 0429 707 809

**E:** [dan\\_galligan@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:dan_galligan@canegrowers.com.au)





# SILVAN'S INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INTER ROW WEED CONTROL WITH SHIELDED OR SPIDER SPRAY HEADS

Silvan Australia has developed innovative solutions for intensive growing operations where there is a need to manage and control weed growth in the inter rows.

The applications are foremost in industries like sugarcane and strawberry production, although there is application potential in also any row crop growing situation in horticulture in particular.

Silvan's spraying specialist **David Carr** says that solutions have been created by building a fully galvanised multi-row hydraulic fold boom fitted with stainless steel spray lines which can be fitted with multiple Spider spray heads or fully shielded spray heads.

Both these options ensure that the spray application is made direct to the surface growth limiting the risk of spray drift.

The sprayer is typically configured as a four or six row unit with the shielded spray head option commonly being 90 cm in width although it is available in widths ranging from 50 to 130cm as required to suit the specific application.

There are normally two twin swizzle nozzles per shielded spray head with air induction nozzles.

The Silvan spider head is a popular choice in the sugar cane industry for weed control early in the growing season.

David Carr adds "Silvan has the unique ability to build spray application solutions that meet the exact needs of growers. We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply

spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs."

For more information or technical advice call **1300 SILVAN (1300 745 826)** or email [info@silvanaust.com](mailto:info@silvanaust.com)

*Pictured: site specific solution with four or six spray heads can be created by Silvan for specific inter row spray applications to suit individual grower needs.*



## CANE BOOM SPRAYER DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

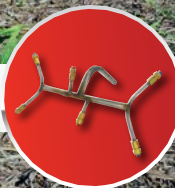
**4 & 6  
ROW  
CONFIGURATIONS  
AVAILABLE**

The Silvan Cane Boom is designed specifically for Australian cane growers. It incorporates choice of standard or shielded spray heads with air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift.

The fully galvanised 4 or 6 row boom comes standard with a hydraulic twin folding ram mechanism and adjustable tracking arms.

- Available with 600, 800 or 1100 Litre tank capacity
- 50mm Camlock bottom fill and venturi chemical suction probe (1100 Litre only)
- Choice of manual, electric or automatic rate control
- Optional broadacre boom attachment
- Optional hydraulic boom lift

Now available with  
'Spider' spray head



Connect with us



Call **1300 SILVAN (745 826)** or visit [silvan.com.au](http://silvan.com.au)  
for more information or to find your nearest dealer

**Silvan**  
The Spraying Specialists

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The Palaszczuk Government values the contribution of our \$60 billion food and fibre industries, now and into the future.

Queensland's \$8 billion plan for economic recovery is built on traditional strengths like agriculture and resources, as well as our emerging industries.

A third-term Palaszczuk Government will continue the COVID and drought relief measures we have announced to assist our farmers.

We will continue a one-year irrigation price freeze. This means thousands of Queensland farmers --- including canegrowers in the Burdekin, Herbert, Mackay and Proserpine regions - will now see their irrigation water prices remain the same or fall next year.

On average, irrigators will be roughly \$400 a year better off in this financial year (2020-21).

Further we will absorb dam safety costs for four years, rather than have producers pick up the tab.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue our strong record on water infrastructure investment. Already, we have committed \$1.2 billion to water infrastructure across this state since 2017, supporting almost 2300 jobs in regional Queensland.

This includes:

- \$176 million for Rookwood Weir;
- \$410 million for the Haughton Pipeline Duplication Project (Stage 1 & 2) in Townsville and sealing a \$24 million deal for the next stage of assessment for the proposed Hells Gates Dam;
- a \$16.5 million contribution to modernising an existing open channel irrigation scheme on the Atherton Tablelands;
- \$13.6 million to kick start the new Emu Swamp Dam; and
- \$30 million for Big Rocks Weir.

We have an expert panel making a 21st century investigation into a Bradfield Scheme. It is reporting back within a year on the financial, economic, environmental, social and technical viability of a Bradfield Scheme, or "Bradfield like" concepts, and make recommendations for any further assessment.



Mark Furner  
Minister for Agriculture

It was the Palaszczuk Government that first called for the Federal Government on 30 October last year to work with Queensland on a smaller version of the Bradfield Scheme.

Any Bradfield-style scheme starts with water storage in the north – and that's underway.

There's three business cases underway or in hand into major water infrastructure in the north – into raising Burdekin Falls Dam, into Hells Gate Dam and Big Rocks Weir.

Urannah Dam has been declared a coordinated project to reduce red tape.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed immediate challenges for agricultural supply chains, and that's why Queensland was the first in the nation to declare agriculture an essential industry.

That meant the logistical challenges, from the ability to freight goods and equipment across borders to arrangements for safely hiring workers, were front of mind and we met the challenge with unprecedented close cooperation with industry.

This included regular meetings with a 70-strong Agriculture Coordination Group, which Canegrowers were important contributors to.

We have put in place important industry recovery measures, including Market Diversification and Resilience grants, to help producers pivot to new markets.

We have continued to acknowledge and support the important role that the sugar industry plays in our state, including with \$2.85m in research support.

Agriculture will continue to be a significant player as we implement Queensland's \$8 billion plan for economic recovery.

**If elected, what would your government do on these issues of great importance to Queensland's cane-growing communities?**

**High electricity prices for irrigators:**

We have tasked the Queensland Competition Authority with releasing new tariffs for regional Queensland. Tariff 34 is a new control load tariff that could see regional businesses like irrigators save up to 35 per cent when they come off an existing obsolete tariff.

**High water prices:**

We will continue a one-year irrigation price freeze. That means thousands of Queensland farmers will see their irrigation water prices remain the same or fall next year.

**Industry red/green tape:**

As part of Queensland's \$8 billion economic recovery plan we are streamlining planning requirements to make it easier for businesses, industries and communities by simplifying or removing a number of planning requirements.

**Supporting industry best practice:**

The Government will continue to work with industry to ensure sustainable practices into the future.

**Supporting industry growth through policies on diversification and bio-manufacturing:**

We have continued to support industry through initiatives such as the Rural Economic Development Grants program, and continuing the annual \$100m investment in PIPES loans to support diversification and industry growth.



The LNP has an ambitious plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs and drag Queensland out of this recession. And backing farmers and boosting agriculture is at the heart of our plan to get Queensland working again.

The LNP supports Queensland farmers and canegrowers and we are determined to unlock this state's agricultural potential.

Queensland needs new leadership that understands regional Queensland, has policies that help farmers and is focused on creating secure jobs throughout the agricultural supply chain.

The LNP's plan will make sure Queensland gets the basics right, like reducing input costs and regulatory burdens and growing both domestic and export markets so we can unleash our agriculture.

The LNP backs the drought-busting New Bradfield Scheme, as well as the proposed Nullinga Dam, Urannah Dam, Emu Swamp Dam, Rookwood Weir and the Burdekin Falls Dam upgrade. We'll fix the Paradise Dam too.

As well as building more water infrastructure, the LNP will also slash the price of water for SunWater irrigators by almost 20%.

Labor's plan for water is non-existent.

Annastacia Palaszczuk has no plan to provide the long-term infrastructure and structural reform farmers need to ensure they will have access to affordable water.

The LNP also understands that the electricity prices paid by farmers and irrigators need to be reduced.

That is why we have the already announced regional electricity retail competition to slash electricity bills.

We will continue to rollout policies that provide cheaper electricity for our farmers as well.

Our economic plan also includes a no-new-tax guarantee to give all businesses the confidence to invest and create jobs.

In relation to red and green tape, an LNP Government will review and reform Queensland's landscape management laws to support more regional jobs and protect the state's valuable eco-systems.



Deb Frecklington  
Leader of the Opposition

An LNP Government will commission a review into the Labor's unfair vegetation management laws and launch the consultation process within its first 30 days, with the intention of delivering the review's findings by mid-2021.

You also have our commitment that an incoming LNP Government will work with the agricultural sector and environmental groups to review and develop new environmental reef standards.

The LNP will ensure that changes to regulations will provide certainty, respect privacy and rely on sound agronomic science.

It's time to stop Labor's ideological attack on farmers and growers.

The LNP's approach will be based on:

- Improving water quality standards to protect the Great Barrier Reef
- Protecting and securing our valuable agricultural sector
- Legislating minimum standards
- Respecting property rights
- Incentivising best practices

The LNP is determined to work in partnership with our key industries, instead of throwing hurdles in their path like Labor has. That's the only way we can build a stronger economy.

And a stronger economy is essential to ensure that Queensland can invest more in roads, dams, hospitals and schools for our rural and regional communities.

Only the LNP has a plan to secure Queensland's future for the generation.

Only an LNP Government will get Queensland working again.

**If elected, what would your government do on these issues of great importance to Queensland's cane-growing communities?**

**High electricity prices for irrigators:**

The LNP understands that Labor's current irrigation tariff regime is failing farmers and will have more to say about providing cheaper electricity over the coming weeks. The LNP has already announced regional electricity retail competition, which will slash the average household bill by an average of \$300 a year.

**High water prices:**

An LNP Government will slash the price of water for more than 5,000 SunWater irrigators by almost 20% by implementing Queensland Competition Authority recommendations on financing asset renewals.

**Industry red/green tape:**

The LNP is committed to cutting and streamlining red and green tape so farmers can grow more local food and fibre. Our commitment includes reviewing Labor's unfair reef regulations and vegetation management laws.

**Supporting industry best practice:**

The LNP has a proud record of supporting and funding the industry's Smartcane BMP – something an incoming LNP government will continue.

**Supporting industry growth through policies on diversification and bio-manufacturing:**

The LNP is committed to working with growers, mills and all local cane communities to consider options for industry diversification and bio-manufacturing opportunities.



## Robbie Katter

(Member for Traeger)

Katter's Australian Party, unlike the major parties does more than just talk and has delivered to cane growers throughout the state with unwavering commitment.

We plan to continue with this track record post-election, and are running strong candidates in key cane-growing regions such as Shane Knuth MP in Hill, Nick Dامتو MP in Hinchinbrook, Ciaron Paterson in Whitsundays, Attila Feher-Holan in Mulgrave, Sam Cox in Burdekin and Paul Hudson in Burnett.

The KAP forced the introduction of the Ethanol and other Biofuels Mandate Amendment Bill and our Private Member's Bill; the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015, which ensures that a grower has real choice in terms of nominating the marketing entity for on-supply sugar in which they have an economic interest.

The Bill also facilitated the fair and final resolution of any commercial disputes that arise between a grower or bargaining representative and a mill owner including by arbitration.

The KAP has also made the following commitments publicly should we secure the balance of power after the 2020 Queensland Election:

- A 25% reduction in 2020/21 to 2023/24 water prices to grow and sustain the sugar industry.
- Introduce the KAP's Private Member's Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill. This Bill will repeal Labor's farm-destroying reef runoff regulations in the next term of parliament in order to avoid the cane industry suffering a \$1.3 billion loss over the next decade.
- Repeal the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 which again demonises canegrowers through introduction of draconian, costly and unnecessary regulatory requirements.



## Steve Andrews

(Member for Mirani)

One Nation acknowledges that Australian cane farmers are committed to evolving best practices and are environmental stewards of their land.

Excessive layers of regulation that have put farming under state control and One Nation will work immediately to remove these layers to return the practice of farming to be under farmers' control.

All our farming industries need complete confidence in the quality of science used for policy development and One Nation is fully committed to an Office of Scientific Integrity and Quality Assurance which will scrutinise the quality of science. We will immediately work to repeal the current intrusive and destructive Reef Regulations legislation as the claimed science has been shown to be inaccurate.

Cane farmers need assurances of a sustainable reduction in electricity costs. We propose to immediately introduce a low price Food & Fibre electricity tariff for farmers and food processors available until a new HELE coal-fired power station is built for affordable and reliable base load power.

Water infrastructure is central to all farming and building dams is a key One Nation policy. We fully support projects such as Urannah, Rookwood Weir and Hells Gate and the associated irrigation pipelines. Our commitment is to provide affordable water to our Australian farmers and to prevent water being sold to overseas interests. Ensuring dams contain a hydro element addresses both water and electricity affordability.

To restore our cane industry's momentum the R&D supporting our cane farmers needs to be coordinated so all farmers quickly benefit from the latest technology and trials while ensuring money is used responsibly.



## Michael Berkman

(Member for Maiwar)

Queensland politics has been captured by big corporations. They make generous donations to Labor and the LNP, and get an easy ride in return.

The Greens don't take any corporate donations, so we'll fight for you.

Our COVID-19 recovery plan, funded by making sure mining companies, big banks and property developers pay their fair share, would create 78,000 good, secure jobs every year. We would:

- Fully fund our hospitals, especially in regional Queensland. This means 6,500 more nurses and 3,000 more doctors to cut elective surgery waiting lists.
- Give every community access to a bulk-billing GP, with 200 totally free public health centres across the regions and the cities.
- Fully fund public education, reducing class sizes and making state schools genuinely free by abolishing fees. This means new schools for regional Queensland and 6,000 new teachers.

We will cut power bills by 46% by stopping the price-gouging and profit-seeking by State-owned energy companies like Ergon, Powerlink, Stanwell and CS Energy.

The best way to cut power bills for irrigators and households is to stop privatisation and build 100% clean energy by 2030 that is publicly owned. Public ownership means we can take advantage of Queensland's cheap, abundant wind and solar power.

We have a plan to revive Queensland manufacturing, which would support cane growers to diversify into bio-manufacturing. Our plan would create a Queensland Manufacturing Authority with \$1 billion to provide grants and cheap loans to clean manufacturing projects.

The Greens support improving water quality and Best Management Practice. We also support strong, binding regulations to protect the Great Barrier Reef and make sure growers doing the right thing are not undercut by less scrupulous competitors.

The Greens support increased funding to tackle pests and biosecurity threats that hurt cane growers and the environment.







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# AS MARKETING DEADLINE LOOMS

## growers question Shared Pool expectations



by Warren Males  
Head - Economics CANEGROWERS

"Shared Pools contain all the revenues and costs associated with the storage, handling and selling of raw sugar."

Most growers will be considering their selection of marketer for the 2021 season. Elections for sugar that has not yet been committed are due by the end of October. Ahead of this decision, several growers have asked why marketers are expecting such a wide range of Shared Pool results for this season.

In some years, the costs in the Shared Pool are higher than the revenues and the shared pool is a net expense on overall sugar returns. This year, things look positive, and the Shared Pool is likely to make one of the highest net positive contributions to sugar returns on record.

Some marketers are already reporting that they expect the Shared Pool to add around AUD200/t, IPS to their pool results.

Across the industry, the improved Shared Pool results will add almost A\$100 million of extra revenue to industry income.

It certainly justifies CANEGROWERS' efforts to ensure sugar formed part of important trade agreements in recent years, improving access for Australian raw sugar into premium Far East markets such as South Korea, Indonesia and Japan.

Let's take a look at how the Shared Pool works and shine a light on why different marketers are reporting different results.

In general terms, leaving aside the marketer's ICE11 raw sugar pooling and price risk management activities, Shared Pools contain all the revenues and costs associated with the storage, handling and selling of raw sugar.

When the revenues exceed the costs, the net amount is added to the weighted average gross price the grower receives. Conversely, when shared costs exceed revenues, the amount is deducted from the grower's gross price.

It is important to note that although there may be differences in the way marketers report this information, all the various elements of shared revenues and costs do make their way to the cane price.

When comparing reported Shared Pool prices, it is important for growers to understand the items different marketers

include in their Shared Pool and the tonnage against which the Shared Pool is calculated. These differences are important.

A good place to start is to understand the size of tonnage in your marketer's Shared Pool.

Most marketers base their Shared Pool on the total volume marketed. When the Shared Pool is calculated across all tonnage, the amount is simply added to or subtracted from the grower's gross price.

In Mackay, a different approach is taken. QCS calculates its Shared Pool on the basis of its US Quota tonnage, around 3%, of the total sugar produced.

The potential range for revenue components is outlined in Figure 1:

1. **FOB Premium:** relates to the physical premium arising from raw sugar sales made in Asia, often referred to as the Far East Premium. It moves up or down in response to the regional supply and demand situation and differences in freight rates. For 2020 season, the expected lower Thai crop has reduced the supply in the region and sales premiums available to Australia exporters are higher than usual.
2. **US Quota:** some marketers (MSF Sugar and QCS) include their net US Quota sales revenue as part of the Shared Pool, while others (QSL and Wilmar) manage and report their net US Quota revenue in separate pools. When treated as a Shared Pool item, the US Quota premium (the difference between the net FOB sugar market price in the Far East and the net FOB US sugar price (No.16 US raw sugar price less freight, duty and other costs), is added to the Shared Pool. The US quota premium, currently more than AUD410/t, when averaged across a



marketer's whole tonnage contributes around A\$4-5 per tonne to the average Shared Pool return.

As noted, the Shared Pool calculation base for QCS uses is different to that used by other marketers.

3. **Loyalty/Other Bonus:** some marketers offer their grower customers bonuses for longer term commitments or volume commitments for their marketing services.

The potential range of costs that may be included in the Shared Pool is outlined in Figure 2.

4. **Financing Costs:** to enable cane advance payments to be made before the associated sugar has been physically shipped and paid for by customers, all marketers incur financing costs.

Reflecting lower interest rates, interest costs on borrowings are now lower than in the last few years. It is important to note that some marketers (for example, Wilmar) do not include financing costs as part of their Shared Pool and report this as a separate expense.

5. **Marketing Services Costs:** all marketers incur costs in marketing and in providing marketing services to growers. These costs are recovered through a charge to the Shared Pool.

6. **Pricing Platform Costs:** some marketers provide online pricing platforms for growers to be able to use in managing their individual pricing orders and for other marketing activities. Others use manual systems. Whether online or manual, the associated costs are charged to the Shared Pool.

7. **Storage and Handling:** charges are passed on to the marketer by STL. Because different bulk sugar terminals have different cost structures (fixed and variable), marketers face an average cost base that reflects the bulk sugar terminal or terminals they use to store and ship their MEI and GEI raw sugar. The GEI portion of these costs is charged to the Shared Pool. ■

FIG. 1 Shared Pool Revenue Components – potential range (A\$/t IPS)

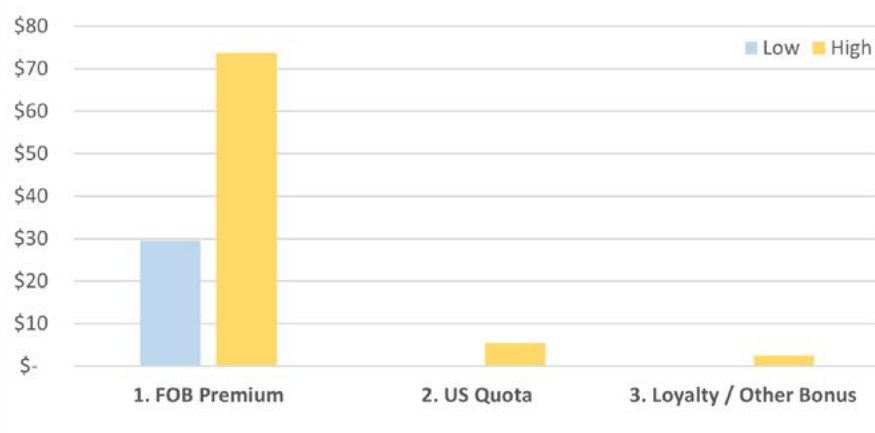
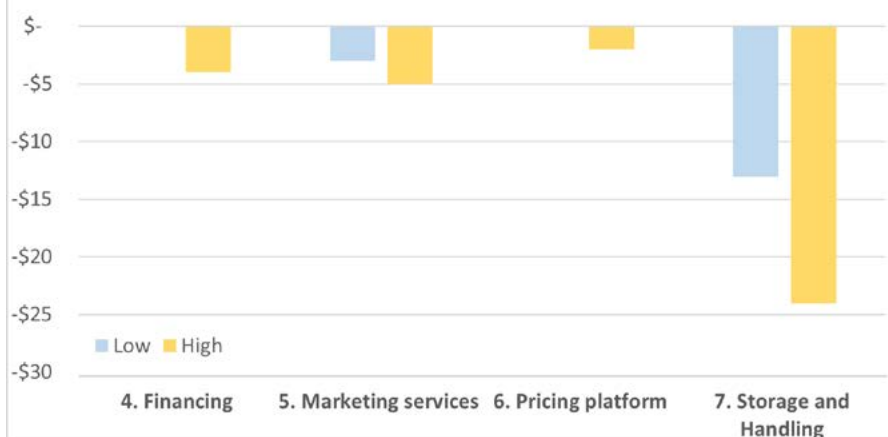


FIG. 2 Shared Pool Cost Components – potential range (A\$/t IPS)



*Pictured: At almost 6km long, the jetty at Lucinda Bulk Sugar Terminal is the world's longest bulk sugar loading jetty. Storage and handling costs are covered by the Shared Pool.*

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

In the week ending 20 September 2020 Mossman Mill processed 453,589 tonnes of cane with a further 72,881 tonnes toll-crushed at Tableland Mill. Weekly CCS results continue to be good for both the Coastal and Tableland growers. As a result, the Deemed CCS for payment purposes has been increased in September to 11.4CCS for Coastal growers and 12.75CCS for Tableland growers.

There have been a few notable events in Mossman over the past month.

Louie Sciacca retired at the end of August after working at Mossman Mill for 44 years. We congratulate Louie for his years of service and dedication to the mill over that time and we wish him the best in retirement.

In early September Mossman Mill experienced a bagasse fire around the boiler room, which required a quick shut-down. Swift actions from mill workers and emergency workers saw the fire put out with relatively little damage and no injuries. There was some damage to electrical wiring which was repaired with some new cabling, termination boxes and air lines installed.

On 16 September there was a train derailment in the main street of Mossman when a truck and cane train collided. The double header (Faughy and Douglas) left the line after impacting the rear end of a flat-bed delivery truck.

The train was delivering full bins to the mill but only the first two bins and bogies were compromised along with the locos.

Thankfully there were no major injuries from the incident. But being the main feed line for all cane north of Mossman and occurring at midday in the main town centre, there was quite a disruption to the town.

Once again, it was the quick reactions from mill workers, emergency workers and traffic controllers that reduced the impact of the disruption, resulting in only 1.4 hours lost time for the mill.



*Pictured: A crane was required to clear the main street in Mossman last month after a truck collided with a cane train outside the CANEGROWERS Mossman office.*

## CAIRNS

After a two week run of wet weather, the sun is now out and harvesting and crushing have resumed.

In some circumstances growers are reassessing their planting options.

The focus has now turned towards growers, harvesters and the mill working together to maximise every opportunity to get the crop off.

Some more Smartcane BMP accreditations have been achieved recently, while some of the original growers are presently undergoing the reaccreditation process for an additional five years.

## INNISFAIL

With the return of wet weather, harvesting operations halted for five and a half days which has put significant strain on crushing operations for the remaining 50% of the crop. All allocated lost time for wet weather has now been used. As of 22 September, 48% of the pre-season estimate of 1,433,525 tonnes had been crushed.

When crushing operations have been in full swing, South Johnstone mill has maintained an average crushing rate above 529 tonnes per hour. In recent weeks, the mill has achieved a crush rate over 540 tonnes per hour. CCS levels have eased back, due to the wet weather.

Planting has been severely impacted with growers starting to make decisions to cut back on their plans. This will have a flow-on effect in the following years with less plant and more ratooning cane.

The Australian Sugar Industry Museum (*pictured*) has undergone a transformation with a repaint of the building. New exhibits are being prepared which will include national and international level sports achievers with a connection to the sugar industry, and a collection of photographs and information on 32 historical former sugar mills that operated in Queensland.





## TULLY

Approximately 55% of the 2.44 million tonne crop has now been harvested and crushed - a good effort given that over 650mm of rain has fallen in Tully since the 2020 season began.

While the northern part of the mill area has received more rain than the Murray and Kennedy districts, the recent MJO passing, caused widespread rain that resulted in a four-day stoppage.

Sugar content has been suppressed by the rain, however, has shown signs of rising during the patches of sunshine. The prediction of a La Nina climate cycle and warming weather may mean suckering in some varieties and more tonnes with a lower than average CCS.

The 2019 fallow was larger than normal and the rain has caused disruption on what has been a large planting program. The pressure is now on to get the job done as soon as possible.

Uptake of approved seed cane from the TCSPL plots has been

positive, with good uptake of new and older varieties. The choice of traditional "approved seed cane", SRA tissue culture and the trial of "One Eyed Sets" allows for a range of methods for Tully growers to establish their seed cane and manage RSD and other diseases.

Cane quality has always been a priority in Tully to maximise profitability, and recently Schlott and John Deere Smart Clean units were introduced into the harvest fleet. The monitors are designed to assist operators, and will be linked to the SRA predictive tool, which will advise on the best harvester settings, taking account of such things as variety, class, and crop-- conditions. There will be an assessment and report back after the season.

A round of Marketing Information meetings are being planned and given the workload on growers, a virtual format will be tried. CANEGROWERS Tully will hold its AGM early in November. Details will be available shortly.

## HERBERT RIVER

**Week 10:** Victoria Mill crushed 151,141 tonnes for the week, while Macknade Mill crushed 62,128 tonnes. Q208 and Q253 were the top two supplied varieties, making up 28.3% and 26.5% of supply respectively.

CCS across the district also started to increase during Week 10, with the mill average reaching 13.51. Victoria had a chemical clean and maintenance day.

Macknade needed to bring its the maintenance day forward due to a mechanical issue on No 5 mill. The tail bar shaft spun in the coupling which was still driving the mill. Management reported that they did not have a spare and the risk of failure was high, so it was decided to stop and make repairs.

**Week 11:** Victoria Mill crushed 137,496 tonnes for the week despite a dual train stop to make repairs to the powerhouse voltage control equipment. This was caused by the bird strike on the 66,000 volt Ergon lines. This surge in voltage damaged control equipment critical to the operation of the powerhouse. Macknade Mill crushed 70,119 tonnes for the week. The mill average CCS for the week was 13.52.

**Week 12:** Victoria Mill crushed 144,715 tonnes for the week, while Macknade Mill crushed 69,421 tonnes. The mill average CCS was 13.69 for Week 12, bringing the season to date average to 12.45. The crop was cutting on budget at 100.3%, with the district passing the 2,000,000 tonnes of cane mark, meaning 50% of crop has now been harvested.

## BURDEKIN

At the end of Week 15, the Burdekin was ahead of budget from a CCS perspective with a reading of 15.49 for the week. In terms of tonnes crushed, the district is 10% behind budget due to wet weather and mill breakdowns. To the relief of all, rain that was forecast did not materialise and the run of good weather has seen the harvest march on with everyone doing their best to get the crop off the paddock.

With just under 60% of cane crushed season to date, we'll need continued dry weather, plus good mill performance, to make up lost days. Growers would like to see the miller transfer more cane between mills when necessary to ensure the season finishes as quickly as possible.

Whilst the Burdekin has plentiful water, the cost of supplying this water and the rising groundwater table in some sections of the BRIA remain as key issues.

Sunwater held its first Community Advisory Committee for the Burdekin in September, which was a positive step forward in engaging with stakeholders to discuss the management of this vital resource. This committee will meet quarterly and will be a good forum to raise important issues. Water quality monitoring in the Burdekin will be significantly enhanced with the State Government funding an increase in sites from two to 20. They hope to have the monitoring capabilities in place before the arrival of the next wet season.

There has been a steady stream of politicians visiting the Burdekin recently which should make for a competitive race for the Queensland seat of Burdekin. The key issues of affordable water and electricity, diversification and workable reef regulations are the main priorities for members and we continue to lobby on their behalf.

*Continues next page* ►

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP



## PROSERPINE

Proserpine Mill has now passed the halfway mark of the 2020 crushing season.

Throughput for the past month was just over 357,000 tonnes bringing the season-to-date total to 890,251 tonnes.

CCS continues to steadily climb, with an average CCS of 14.65 for the week ending 20/9. This brought the season-to-date CCS average to 13.76.

Highest CCS sample for the month was 17.21 from a rake of first ratoon Q240 from the Gunyarra Productivity District.

Scattered showers have persisted for the past few weeks, but has not hampered harvesting operations to any degree.

The mill currently remains on track to complete crushing operations by mid-to-late November.

## MACKAY / PLANE CREEK

Marian Mill led the three Mackay Sugar mills with 92,934 tonnes of cane crushed for the week ended 20 September (week 15), followed by Farleigh with 74,986 tonnes and Racecourse with 58,970. The year to date total is 2,833,846 tonnes with a CCS of 13.43.

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

Wilmar's Plane Creek Mill crushed 63,085 tonnes on 19 September (week 13), bringing the season total to nearly 725,000 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 improved by 0.33 of a unit over the previous week, to average 14.79 units. The season to date CCS closed out at 13.5 units.

The highest CCS was 16.90 from a rake of Q208 first ratoon from the Westhill productivity district.

### Mackay Sugar Crushing Figures

Week ended: 20 September 2020 (Week 15)

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Farleigh   | 74,986 tonnes    |
| Marian     | 92,934 tonnes    |
| Racecourse | 58,970 tonnes    |
| Total      | 226,890 tonnes   |
| YTD        | 2,833,846 tonnes |
| CCS Week   | 14.86            |
| CCS YTD    | 13.43            |

### Plane Creek Mill Crushing Figures

Week ended: 19 September 2020 (Week 23)

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Cane crushed            | 63,085 tonnes  |
| YTD                     | 724,610 tonnes |
| Average bin weight week | 3.88           |
| Average bin weight YTD  | 3.80           |
| CCS Week                | 14.79          |
| CCS YTD                 | 13.50          |





## BUNDABERG

There is certainly no shortage of things to do at the moment. It is very dry and most of us would sacrifice a week's harvest time for some good soaking rain.

### Mill performance

Both mills are working quite well, with reliability at around 90% at Millaquin, while Bingera is well above 97%. This should mean a finish in very early October for Bingera and mid-October for Millaquin.

CCS is also going quite well, with a year to date average of 14.40 at Millaquin and 14.05 at Bingera. The base CCS has moved in line with these results and is now sitting at 14.10 for Bingera and 14.40 at Millaquin.

### Burning

With the continuing dry spell, growers are urged to be vigilant when burning cane or trash. Please ensure you have a permit and comply with all the requirements of the permit or notice.

### Council Rates

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has joined forces with CANEGROWERS Isis, BFVG and AgForce to lobby local councillors to reverse their rates decision and recast the budget so the increase is no more than CPI.

Bundaberg farmers aren't asking the council for a handout or special treatment – they are just asking to be treated fairly.

### Cane Trash Supply to Oreco

Cane trash baled and delivered to the Oreco factory up to 31 August 2020 is due for payment by way of four equal instalments on or before the 15th day of each month in the months September to December inclusive. For further information please call Kate at the office on 4151 2555.



## ISIS

Isis Productivity Limited kicked off the distribution and planting of clean plant in September.

Showers during the second week of the month slowed the crush and resulted in a small delay.

Isis Central Sugar Mill passed the halfway point around mid-September with the mill estimate remaining static at 825,000 tonnes expected to be available for harvesting.

Q240 continued to dominate the weekly cane supply during and has also continued to be the variety to record the highest CCS for 8 of the 10 weeks to date.

|         | 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   |



Continues next page ►

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## MARYBOROUGH

There haven't been too many wet weather stops since last month. As a result, the 2020 harvest is over the midway mark. As at 21 September, 314,153 tonnes had been crushed and CCS was sitting at 14.03 year to date.

The best performing variety for the week ending 18 September was Q208 (4th ratoon) from Scotchy Pocket, with a CCS of 16.30. Average CCS for the week reached 14.49.

Estimates are being updated with the mill to accommodate planning for harvester groups and transport requirements through to the end of season.

There has been a change in our Productivity Services representation, with Yolande Kliese finishing in the role on 16 September. Tony McDermott (formerly MSF agronomist) has been appointed as Yolande's replacement and commenced in the role on 21 September.

Tony is based in the CANEGROWERS building and can be contacted on 0487 017 811 for all of your agronomy needs.

Discussions with MSF Sugar and Isis Central Sugar Mill continue via meetings and letters. Submissions to government, for support with proposed changes, are being assessed and we remain optimistic for the future.



*Pictured: There was a good turnout for the recent CANEGROWERS Marketing Service presentation by Dougall Lodge.*

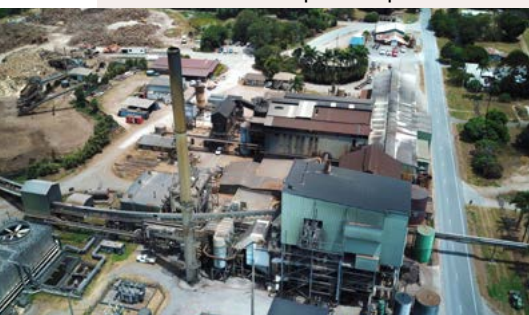
## ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point crush has been going well.

At the end of our 10th week, the mill has crushed 150,000 tonnes of cane at an average CCS of 13.63.

We have now reached the half way mark of our crush. Rocky Point Mill (*pictured*) has been continually crushing with minimal downtime and the cogeneration plant has also been performing better than expected.

Weather conditions have been near perfect and planting is well underway. Some well timed showers have helped the plant cane.



**With over 30 years experience, Drain Tech can ensure you get every drill to the Mill.**

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## STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION



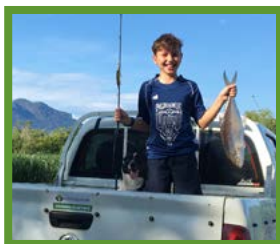
CANEGROWERS sticker spotters are out and about in all sugarcane regions looking for vehicles proudly displaying their CANEGROWERS Growing Together bumper sticker.

**Is this your number plate? If so, you're a winner!**  
**982 ZPL 82 STE 934 TCW 581 HVJ**

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

### How to enter:

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



## BANDAMA 2000

**Super strong, super flexible, super resistant, super hose**

*Supplied by TIPSA*

TIPSA group Kuriyama is proud to be operating together to bring Australian farmers its range of BANDAMA 2000 drag hose for irrigation.

BANDAMA 2000 is best described as being 'at the top of the food chain' when it comes to hose for the irrigation industry. This is due to its unique characteristics of being a heavy duty layflat hose suitable for dragging.

BANDAMA 2000 is designed for, but not limited to, uses requiring high tensile strength, ease of deployment, storage and dragging resistance. It has a very low bend radius so it is low kink even at low pressures.

BANDAMA 2000 hose is super hard-wearing, with excellent resistance to ozone degradation, making it an ideal solution to irrigation applications. The hose also excels in oil resistance.

This is due to the fully synthetic construction where NBR-PVC rubber blend is forced through a circular-woven polyester textile. This process ensures excellent adhesion between rubber and textile.

The resulting product is a very stable hose when under load with minimal elongation and expansion at working pressure.

The outer profile ensures easier handling with longitudinal ribs and excellent resistance to abrasion. High flexibility and its relative light weight means that storage is simple.

BANDAMA 2000 is available now in sizes from 51mm through to 150mm (2", 2 1/2", 3", 3 1/2", 4", 4 1/2", 5" and 6"), with standard lengths of 100m, 150m and 200m.

For you nearest outlet or to obtain more information, please call TIPSA on 02 9517 9995. ■



AUSTRALIA office

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**PLEASE ENQUIRE NOW!!!**

*To better support our distributors, Tipsa currently stocks all types of hoses and accessories in Australia*



# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

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**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**





## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

### 2,4-D review - new label requirements

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has completed its long-running review of 2,4-D.

The most recent set of recommendations from this review will take effect from 1 October.

One of the recommendations affects manufacturers of the product, with a requirement to reduce risk of exposure to dioxins by ensuring that 2,4-D active constituents contain no more than one part per million of total dioxins.

There are also changes to label conditions for on-farm use, designed to reduce risk to non-target vegetation and aquatic environments. This includes:

- New buffer zone requirements for applications made at or above canopy height.
- Restrictions on when 2,4-D can be used, which vary greatly with region, the product group (there are 24 of these), and rate. Contact your local Productivity Services or reseller for more information.

The APVMA has advised it will issue a 'deemed permit' for 12 months.

This is a regulatory instruction that allows the existing label instructions for 2,4-D to apply to product that carries this label for a period of up to 12 months.

So, the new label conditions will apply to a grower when they start using a product with updated labels or after the 12-month period is up, whichever occurs first.

Our advice is that product with updated labels will not be on shelves until early 2021.

We are encouraging the APVMA to re-consider submissions made during the consultation period, and revisit the assumptions used in their risk modelling. This could lead to less restrictive spray windows but we will need to wait and see. Hopefully, this will occur in the next few months.

#### Updated Reef 2050 Plan

The Reef 2050 Plan directs investments by the Australian and Queensland Governments to manage risks to the health of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

In addition to investments targeted at water quality improvement, the Plan covers climate change, coastal planning, fishing, shipping, port management, control programs for Crown-of-thorns Starfish, and reef restoration.

We have reviewed an updated version of the Plan with most attention, of course, on their coverage of reef water quality.

Our submission identifies a number of issues of concern, including unrealistic targets, flawed methods for reporting progress, and the need to overhaul the system that manages and scrutinises research.

We are also pushing hard for a review of the Reef Water Quality Plan, which sits under the Reef 2050 Plan, so that we can fix many of these issues.

A review was not due until 2022 but we want a commitment to having the review brought forward to early next year. ■

The new label conditions will apply to a grower when they start using a product with updated labels or after the 12-month period is up, whichever occurs first.



## Burn Ashburner

Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

### Accessing public roads with oversized ag vehicles

The phase-in period for the *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice* will soon come to an end, as the national harmonisation process settles down.

There will be some changes during the phase-out period, but until these changes are officially announced, understanding what documents give access to public roads for oversized ag vehicles is a good place to start the journey of getting to know the new system.

Any agricultural vehicle over 4.5t and over the 'general access limits' (2.5m width, 12.5m single vehicle length, 19m combination length, 4.3m height and 3.7m rear overhang) is an over-dimensional heavy vehicle, and can only travel on public roads when NHVR give an exemption through a:

- Gazetted Exemption Notice; or
- Individual exemption permit.

#### GAZETTED EXEMPTION NOTICE

This is similar to what used to be called a class permit. The *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice* covers the majority of oversize agricultural vehicles.

This is the Notice under which most sugarcane-related agricultural vehicles will be able to access public roads.

The Notice in general stipulates the vehicle types, dimensions and mass allowed over the general access limits, the roads (or zones) that can be travelled on, and the relevant conditions of travel (on-vehicle signage, pilots, etc).

CANEGROWERS had significant input into this Notice and there are some sugarcane specific conditions.

If all these conditions are met, then any over dimensional heavy agricultural vehicle can legally access public roads. There is no application process or cost to the individual grower.

However, growers do need to know that they are traveling under this Notice and ensure conditions are complied with.

The Notice comes with supporting documents in the form of an Operators Guide, Zone maps and information sheets. These documents and the Notice can be found on the NHVR website: <https://bit.ly/2G4Ek4F>

An individual permit is required if you cannot meet the requirements of the Notice.

#### INDIVIDUAL EXEMPTION PERMIT

Permits are generally for a specific vehicle or combination on specific roads, with conditions unique to that permit. Currently permits should be issued for up to a year (CANEGROWERS is pushing for three years) for multiple trips and growers pay for each permit. Permit application information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2HifLSb>

For NHVR to issue the Notice or permit in Queensland it requires approval from the road managers (e.g. TMR and local councils) and the Queensland Police.

I have just introduced the documents that provide access. The detail of what is in these documents, particularly the Notice, is more complex because it covers most of Australian agriculture. CANEGROWERS has asked NHVR to provide resources to inform growers of the detail and will be providing sugarcane specific summaries on the CANEGROWERS website, with tables to show dimensions and mass limits and maps with road classes by mill area. ■

Growers need to know that they are traveling under this Notice and ensure conditions are complied with.



## Warren Males

Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



### Increased US market access adds value

Sugar is often correctly characterised as one of the world's most distorted agricultural markets, with most countries intervening in their sugar markets. The USA sugar market is no exception.

Each year the US Department of Agriculture monitors sugar supply and demand conditions in the US. Domestic marketing allotments (the amount of sugar US domestic producers are able to sell into their own domestic market) and import restrictions (a tariff rate quota or TRQ) are the key policy tools used to adjust the amount of sugar available for sale in the US.

The price for raw sugar landed in the US is currently around US26.50c/lb compared with a world raw sugar (ICE11) price at the time of writing of around US13c/lb free on board (fob). The price difference is narrower, but still significant, when the additional costs of supplying sugar to the US and Asian premiums are factored in.

In most years, the net US price premium is in the range of AUD \$180-\$200 per tonne. This year the price difference is higher, in the range of AUD \$200-\$225 per tonne.

Under its WTO commitments the US must allow the import of 1.139 million metric tonnes of raw sugar each US fiscal year (October to September). This is apportioned between suppliers, Australia and 39 other countries, on the basis of the sugar trade that occurred to the US in the period 1975 to 1981, when access to the US market was relatively unrestricted.

Australia is the fourth largest TRQ supplier to the US after the Dominican Republic, Brazil and the Philippines. Our annual base TRQ allocation is 87,402 tonnes. This allocation is usually announced in July each year.

The 2019 US sugar beet and sugarcane harvests were adversely impacted by weather and its domestic sugar production fell by more than one million tonnes. To ensure supply, the USDA

increased sugar imports progressively during the year.

The first change was made in February 2020 when the TRQs of several countries that could not meet their supply entitlements were reallocated amongst those that could. Australia received an allocation of a further 7,733 tonnes.

After further review, the USDA announced in April 2020 that the US would need to import a further 317,515 tonnes of sugar to meet its domestic requirements. Australia's TRQ was increased by another 37,032 tonnes.

In September, it became clear to the USDA that Mexico's sugar supply to the US would fall short of expectations and a further 90,718 tonne increase in US sugar imports was announced.

Australia's TRQ was increased by a further 10,718 tonnes. This time and to ensure sufficient time for the additional supplies to reach the US, the deadline for arrival in the US was extended from 30 September to 31 October. This US fiscal year, Australia will supply 142,855 tonnes to the US.

Australia's access to the US market is worth almost AUD \$100 million, boosting industry income by about AUD \$35 million compared with the equivalent amount of sugar being sold into Asian markets. Shared across all producers, the additional value, will be reflected in the weighted average cane price each grower receives.

With the expected US crop recovery this year, it is likely that Australia's access for 2021 US fiscal year will be closer to our already announced, WTO base level of 87,402 tonnes.

Improving Australia's access to the US market remains one of CANEGROWERS core trade objectives. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males', written in a cursive style.

" The price for raw sugar landed in the US is currently around US26.50c/lb compared with a world raw sugar price of around US13c/lb fob. "



# TRAMWAY EASEMENTS

Thousands of kilometres of cane tramways exist throughout Queensland. In most cases, these tramways are the subject of a formalised easement agreement between the mill owner and the landholder.

Surprisingly, some mill tramways are not covered by easements. The purpose of this article is to examine some of the benefits of having an easement and some of the obligations that landholders have if an easement exists on their property.

## BENEFITS OF WRITTEN EASEMENTS

1. The mill and the grower are aware of their respective rights, duties and obligations by looking at the easement agreement.
2. The easement provides some certainty for the mill and grower.
3. Issues of who is liable for accidents, damages or injuries can be more clearly determined.
4. The standard form easement contains terms and conditions that are helpful to growers which may not apply if no easement exists. For example, the standard conditions provide for:
  - » the mill to provide reasonable access points over the tramway.
  - » the mill to provide reasonable drainage arrangements.
  - » the mill to be responsible for maintenance of the tramway and removal of ballast.
  - » the mill to indemnify the grower from legal action.
  - » the mill to provide insurance cover.
  - » the mill to keep the tramway clear of noxious weeds and undergrowth.
5. When easements are granted, compensation may be payable to the landholder.

## OBLIGATIONS OF WRITTEN EASEMENTS

6. The easement will allow the mill owner and its appointed agents and contractors the right to use the easement area for cane tramway purposes.
7. The landholder will not be allowed to unreasonably interfere with the tramway rights of the mill owner.
8. The easement area will be regarded as a

shared workplace for Work Health and Safety purposes. Everyone involved in work on that easement area, including mill staff, harvesting contractors and the grower landholder will all have responsibilities relating to the safe work activities in the easement area.

## LIABILITIES FOR ACCIDENTS

9. Accidents on mill easements are not uncommon. Everyone involved in activities on a mill easement are exposed to potential liability. The following points are relevant:
  - » The particular facts and circumstances will be relevant including who did what, when, how and why.
  - » Review of the terms and conditions of the easement. In most easements there are clauses that deal with responsibility and liability or accident loss and damage occurring on an easement. In some easements, landholders are specifically released from any liability and may be indemnified or protected by the mill from any liability.
  - » Subject to the terms and conditions of the easement everyone involved in easement activity will owe a duty of care to each other.
  - » Always maintain a comprehensive farm property liability insurance policy. Under some easements the mill owner must also maintain appropriate insurance that covers the landholder's exposure to liability.

## 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. ■



By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor





## ONE THIRD OF CANE COUNTRY NOW ACCREDITED

By Kate Gowdie

Smartcane BMP Manager

Cane growers up and down the Queensland coast have embraced Smartcane BMP, with 1 in 3 hectares of cane land now accredited through third party certification. These growers are farming at or above industry standards for soil health and nutrient management, weeds, pest and disease management, and irrigation and drainage management. They are doing their bit to secure the industry's social license to operate, while also boosting their productivity and profitability. So, what are best management practices?

### SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT

Soil Health and Nutrient Management best practice requires growers to have a soil map of their property and soil tests to be taken on fallow blocks to determine the nutrient requirements of the proceeding crop.

This is considered best practice because not only does it comply with best science (SIX EASY STEPS) and legislative requirements, it also delivers a range of benefits to the crop, the business, and the environment:

- Agronomic benefits - the crop gets the nutrients it actually requires at the times they are required.
- Economic benefits - money is not wasted on unnecessary inputs and/or investments are made in necessary inputs that will improve productivity and hence profitability.
- Environmental benefits - inputs that are targeted specifically for individual crops and soil types result in less wastage and less runoff.

This module also looks at soil health relating to fallow management and compaction control.

#### **Auditing requirements:**

*You must provide a soil map, soils test results and corresponding nutrient recommendations, nutrients application records including dates and rates, cultivation practices and mark-out strategies.*

### WEEDS, PEST AND DISEASE

Weeds, Pest and Disease Management sets BMP standards around the monitoring and control of unwanted plants, animals, insects and diseases that impact cane crops.

Weeds, pests and disease can compete with the crop for nutrients, contaminate the crop and the environment and may lead to significant economic losses. Controlling any impact makes economic, agronomic and environmental sense.

Best practice for the chemical control of weeds ensures chemical-use is targeted, necessary and applied under suitable conditions.

All industry standards adhere to legislative standards as a minimum, including requirements for record keeping, training and document control.

#### **Auditing requirements:**

*You must provide a weed management plan, chemical records, appropriate qualifications of persons using chemicals, and clean seed receipts.*

### IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Irrigation and Drainage Management also focusses on the three core values of productivity, profitability and sustainability.

Timing, amount and control of irrigation are all considered. Determining the soils water-holding capacity and the plants' available water allows the grower to schedule irrigation at the right time and apply only what is required, resulting in less run-off.

#### **Auditing requirements:**

*You must provide a drainage map and demonstrate how you manage water flow across the farm, as well as irrigation records (if applicable).*

Smartcane BMP has a team of facilitators available to assist growers through the process. Visit [smartcane.com.au](http://smartcane.com.au) or contact your local CANEGROWERS office for more information.

Smartcane BMP is funded through the Queensland State Government until 2022. ■

**GROWERS WHO FARM TO INDUSTRY STANDARD ARE PROVEN TO BE MORE PROFITABLE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE.**

**GROWERS ACCREDITED IN SMARTCANE BMP ARE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED FOR DOING SO.**

Accreditation certifies that growers are farming sustainably - an increasing demand from mills, financial institutions, sugar buyers and end users.



# AgFutures 2020

## innovation and investment in Queensland agriculture

Recently, I attended my first face-to-face event in six months. It was a breakfast for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries AgFutures 2020 forum. I've been attending webinars and video conferences since March, so it was a nice change to meet people in the flesh.

AgFutures 2020 is touted as Queensland agriculture's premier event for the year. The forum usually attracts around 200 delegates. This year because of COVID-19 protocols, 40 delegates attended and it was streamed to over 700 online viewers.

The Minister for Agriculture, **Mark Furner** opened the event and commented on the mix of face-to-face and online attendance, acknowledging the opportunities online streaming offered to engage more with agriculture across Queensland.

The Minister presented the Peter Kenny Medal for innovation leading to profitability and sustainability.

This year's winner was Darling Downs farmer and former Queensland Farmers' Federation President **Stuart Armitage**. Stuart humbly accepted the award, acknowledging his family and the people he works with.

**Pip Courtney**, from ABC's Landline, hosted and we also heard insightful presentations from **Jacqueline Wilson-Smith** (Global Strategist at Sustainable Innovation Company), **Fabian Carniel** (CEO at Mulgowie Farming Company), and **Dr Sarah Pearson** (Deputy Director-General, Dept of Innovation and Tourism).

'Collaborate with Purpose' was the theme of Jacqueline Wilson-Smith's talk, during which she posed the question: "How does Queensland play a meaningful part solving the systemic and rising problems in agri-food and fibre industries, locally and globally?"

Jacqueline believes that by encouraging individuals, organisations, and governments to be less competitive and collaborate with purpose, solutions can be found to overcome the shared challenges of long supply chains, rising costs, trade barriers, food safety and biosecurity, which would support economic

recovery in these uncertain times.

Fabian Carniel, spoke about the challenges his business has faced with pests, weather events and drought, all of which have been compounded by complications from COVID-19 on workforce safety, operational continuity and market volatility.

This had forced Mulgowie to pivot and pioneer an innovative risk-based approach to mitigating the complex health and business threats created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fabian shared his experience with industry, government and community partners to help minimise the impacts of the unfolding crisis on the sector.

He believes a collaborative and connected approach is a key ingredient in cultivating the new 'ag normal'.

In her thought-provoking talk, Dr Pearson reflected on how breakthrough technology is providing solutions to resource scarcity, whilst also disrupting the very essence of food and agriculture.

She noted that the global demand for 'clean food' is rising, which creates opportunities for Australia's clean and green produce to thrive.

Being at the event, it was refreshing to hear live speakers and see their body language. Hand gestures are so important to communication. I appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with a few colleagues in person and share some ideas and thoughts with the speakers after the event.

If you are interested in what they had to say the recording of the event will be posted at [daf.engagementhub.com.au/agfutures](https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/agfutures) ■



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



## 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 October 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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Unloads both sides. Tractor has had  
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### Mossman-Tully

Workshop parts. PVC, poly, stainless, brass  
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PVC grey ribbed sewer 150mm pipes, air  
compressor parts, lister petter 8 & 18hp  
engines. Sell or swap for fert box or parts,  
bag lifter, mechanical bean planter or parts.  
Ph: 0427119553.

2 of 7810 John Deere Articulated with 14  
Tonne Carta Bins, very good cond for age,  
POA. Ph: 0408713854.

Same Laser 110 4x4 tractor; s/s fert box with  
disc cutaways & crumble rollers; arch bar 10  
coils; ripper; whole stick planter with suscon  
box; 3 fan cane stripper; plant cane cutter;  
1t bag lifter; 3 disc reversable plough; finger  
wheel rake; drill marker 5 ft; stubble shaver  
single row. Ph: 0428420973.

2t Stainless Steel 3 Row Fert Box with Stool  
Splitter \$14,000, 5 Furrow Hodge Reversible  
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Ph: 0417647002.

Valpadana Tractor 33 HP. 400L Spray Tank.  
4x4 \$8,000. 3t side dresser fertiliser box,  
good condition \$6,000. All + GST. Tully area.  
Ph: 0473332751.

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

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3 point linkage offsets available also



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2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
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Second hand s/h galvanised roofing iron. 22  
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lot. Cairns area. Ph: 0407921204.

### Herbert River-Burdekin

John Deere 2014 7230R tractor IVT, front  
wheel & cab suspension, rear tyres new,  
GPS ready linkage & PTO 7,500 hrs VGC. Ph:  
0418878403 or 0427164025.

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

### Mackay-Proserpine

2500 Cameco full track cane harvester  
1995/96 excellent condition. MF 1085 good  
condition. Poplin billet planter excellent  
Condition. Rinaudo 3t stainless steel  
Fertilizer box side dresser. Howard 3 leg  
square plough. Ph: 0488053298.

Westhill plant cutter with topper \$1,500 inc.  
GST. Ph: 0409264351.

Trash incorporator; double row marker with  
hydraulic ram; double row fert box; 3-row  
trash rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways;  
McLeod 5-leg rippers; grubbers for ratoons  
& fallow; cane break pushers; Moller Billet  
Planter. 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.

1x 100", 1x 80" Howard AH Rotary Hoes  
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Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph: 49595885 or  
0407643441.

2x 3t side elevating bins on Vane double  
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Double 4t bin trailer \$2750 ONO. Hodge 4  
Furrow Reversible Plough \$550. All incl. GST.  
Ph: 49540190 or 0407638381.

Toft 6000 Series 2 cane harvester. Swinging  
Knife. Mechanically sound. 3306 Cat Motor  
\$5000 + GST. Ph: 0400790839.

## Classifieds

Chamberlain C6100 \$5.5K; Hodge 24 Discs Heavy Duty Offsets 10K; 13000L Fiberglass Tank on Trailer with Pump & Spray bar \$15K; 1/2t Fert Applicator on 10 Tyne Grubber \$2.5K; Yeomans 7 Tyne Ripper \$5K; Hodge 7 Tyne Ripper \$2.5K; Hodge 5 furrow Disc Plow \$1.8K; McLeod Ratooning Ripper/Grubber \$1K; Single Row Susscon Applicator \$600; Don Gough stick planter \$700; Carryall \$200; Tow behind Fert/Sprayer suit Quad bike \$250; 30 amp Mig Welder 240 with Caddy \$900. All + GST. Ph: 0402988301.

20 lengths of 4inch x 9metre aluminium irrigation pipes. Price negotiable. Ph after 6pm: 0749545179.

1995 Austoft Cane Track harvester \$40K; Westhill Trash Extractor \$200; Westhill 1t Fert bin \$300; Hodge 4 furrow disc reversible plough \$1K; Cummins 6 Cyl head-new in box \$500; Montabert 750 Rockbreaker \$4.5K; Montabert 125 Rockbreaker \$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) \$3,700. Carryall, Extra Heavy Duty, 1800mm W x 800mm D x 850mm H, quick hitch set up \$1,500. Ph: 0428236165.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Yanmar 22.5kw 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. Davey Pump 100x65-250 \$41,000. M160 Tractor 11000hrs GC \$30,000. All + GST. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428879341.

Trailco T450-2 Irrigator \$19,000. Massey Ferguson cane harvester 102, HBM billet planter, 2 tipper trailers, 1000 litre tank, \$28,000. 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

Fertiliser box or parts, bag lifter, mechanical bean planter or parts. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0427119553.

Tractor tyres: 11x28", 12x28", 13x28", in sound condition. Ph: 0749595207.

## Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

| Location                         | Recorded rainfall (mm) |                              |              | Average rainfall (mm) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|                                  | Month prior (Aug 2020) | Month to date (1 Sep-28 Sep) | Year to date | Jan-Sep               |
| Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)       | 7.2                    | 23.4                         | 1,549.2      | 2,392.2               |
| Mareeba Airport                  | 9                      | 1.4                          | 475.8        | 673.7                 |
| Cairns Aero                      | 10                     | 58.6                         | 1,232.2      | 1,678.2               |
| Mt Sophia                        | 49                     | 163                          | 2,100        | 2,800.8               |
| Babinda Post Office              | 109.6                  | 186                          | 2,712.3      | 3,635.5               |
| Innisfail                        | 102.8                  | 150.4                        | 2,681.7      | 3,038.8               |
| Tully Sugar Mill                 | 141                    | 160                          | 2,838.4      | 3,519.6               |
| Cardwell Marine Pde              | 14.1                   | 38.8                         | 1,449.1      | 1,750.7               |
| Lucinda Township                 | 0                      | 0                            | 1,652.5      | 1,800.7               |
| Ingham Composite                 | 5.2                    | 33.5                         | 1,640.7      | 1,714.2               |
| Abergowrie Alert                 | 2                      | 34                           | 614          | 1,164.1               |
| Townsville Aero                  | 0.8                    | 2.4                          | 778          | 925.9                 |
| Ayr DPI Research Stn             | 2.8                    | 0                            | 1,024        | 761.5                 |
| Proserpine Airport               | 19.6                   | 6.6                          | 778.2        | 1,153.6               |
| Mirani Mary Street               | 24.7                   | 35                           | 987.9        | 1,173                 |
| Mackay MO                        | 29.6                   | 13.8                         | 1,157.2      | 1,274.7               |
| Plane Creek Sugar Mill           | 0                      | 0                            | 1,012.6      | 1,390.7               |
| Bundaberg Aero                   | 35.4                   | 18.8                         | 499.8        | 717.4                 |
| Childers South                   | 37.6                   | 23.6                         | 448.2        | 615.6                 |
| Maryborough                      | 24.4                   | 51.2                         | 711          | 856.3                 |
| Tewantin RSL Park                | 22.2                   | 87.6                         | 1,339.6      | 1,207                 |
| Eumundi - Crescent Rd            | 13.6                   | 4                            | 1,203.6      | 1,291.5               |
| Nambour DPI - Hillside           | 17.4                   | 75.2                         | 1,336.2      | 1,362.1               |
| Logan City Water Treatment Plant | 19.6                   | 17.9                         | 925.7        | 789.2                 |
| Murwillumbah Bray Park           | 26                     | 27.2                         | 1,460.6      | 1,187.3               |
| Ballina Airport                  | 55                     | 45.2                         | 1,664.6      | 1,376.8               |
| New Italy (Woodburn)             | 28.6                   | 51                           | 1,342.7      | 1,021.4               |



**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.



3 row stool splitter with confidor tank in good order. Mossman area. Ph: 0488010030.

3 row stool splitter in GC. Mackay area. Ph: 0427577071.

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408448227.

## Positions Vacant

Wanted Harvester/Haulout Operator. Mirani area. Ph: 0428770416.

## Property

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

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. OPEN FOR INSPECTION: Sunday, 18th October, 2020, 10-11 a.m. TENDERS CLOSE: 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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