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CANEGROWERS

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## Delegation meets Ag Minister over spiralling farm costs

CANEGROWERS has hosted a meeting of Queensland Farmers' Federation members and the Agriculture Minister **David Littleproud** to voice concerns about the impact on farmers of the rising cost of inputs like fuel, fertiliser and chemicals.

The delegation included representatives of the fruit and vegetable, dairy, cotton and nursery and garden industries along with CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan**.

QFF CEO **Jo Sheppard** said farmers could not continue to bear the brunt of spiralling input costs.

"Fuel, fertiliser, chemicals and many other inputs are sourced from overseas. Over the past two years we have seen the costs of these increase by, in some cases, 150%," she said.

"Most consumers have not yet seen the impact of this as farmers have absorbed many of



these increases, however this is not sustainable."

The group also told the Minister farmers were worried about security of supply of key farm inputs.

QFF is calling on the Federal Government to work with industry to find and progress ways to provide farmers with surety and security of supply of fuel and other volatile inputs.

"There are many variables in farming, but the sector has been innovating for many years to build its capacity to manage risk. A reliable, cost-effective supply chain is critical to the future of agriculture," Ms Sheppard said.

"We need the government to work closely with industry to help shore up the supply of fuel and other key inputs, so that farmers have a secure and stable environment to operate in, costs can be contained, and we can continue to do what our farming sector does best in producing high quality, food, fibre and foliage."

While the Federal Government believes that fuel supply is secure and prices would stabilise, QFF members will continue discussions with the Minister's office on input cost management issues and security of supply on items such as fertiliser as a matter of urgency. ■

*Pictured: L to R - Growcom CEO Stephen Barnard, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud, CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan, QFF CEO Jo Sheppard, Nursery and Garden Industry Qld CEO Ian Atkinson, Qld Dairyfarmers' Organisation EO Eric Danzi (Michael Murray of Cotton Australia and Allan Dingle, QFF President joined the meeting via video link).*

## Time to get serious in ethanol at the bowser

The renewed interest in ethanol triggered by the jump in fuel prices in Australia is the perfect time for all political parties to commit to a national policy on the renewable option which is made from sugar.

Only Queensland and New South Wales have mandates in place for the inclusion of ethanol in fuel.

Queensland requires that 4% of the total volume of unleaded petrol sales and ethanol-blended fuel sales must be biobased fuels. In New South Wales it must be 6% of all petrol sold by volume fuel retailers.

The Katter's Australian Party has called for that mandate to be raised in Queensland, a move welcomed by CANEGROWERS which

has lobbied for the figure to be at least 10%.

The sugarcane growers' organisation believes a national mandate for fuel blends across the country is also needed to attract the levels of investment in manufacturing needed to make a significant contribution to fuel security, influence prices at the bowser and contribute to more sustainable transport.

CANEGROWERS is calling on political parties of all persuasions to take a courageous, bipartisan and long-term view of ethanol and work towards a national and meaningful mandate. Ethanol is just one of many future uses of the sugarcane plant that CANEGROWERS is actively promoting. ■

## CANEGROWERS election, vote now

Members in Mossman should have received a ballot in the mail to vote in the election of the CANEGROWERS Mossman Board. It is time to complete it and send it back.

Ballots must be received by the returning officer by Thursday 14 April 2022 to be counted. This is an important opportunity for Mossman growers.

The election process has been finalised in other districts with local offices announcing the boards to take office from 1 May. ■



## Illegal dumping on cane farms must stop

CANEGROWERS is seeking urgent discussions with local government amid an escalation of people using cane farms as dumping grounds.

"It's a huge and distressing problem for cane growers and other farmers who are doing their best to produce sustainable food and fibre," CANEGROWERS Chief Executive Office **Dan Galligan** said.

"Finding piles of household garbage, mountains of building rubble, old appliances, broken furniture and tyres is all too common for farmers close to towns and cities. When working with machinery in tall cane crops, such as during the harvest, this debris poses a significant safety hazard.

"It is infuriating that people are passing on their mess and the cost of its disposal to someone else.

"With anecdotal feedback pointing to high local dump fees as a possible reason for this disgusting practice in some regions, I will be seeking discussions with the Local Government Association of Queensland to better understand how this problem can be stopped."

Last month *Australian Canegrower* highlighted the plight of Rocky Point grower **Suzie Burow-Pearce** who found around 1,000 tyres dumped on her farm.

Following the article, local council officers have visited to look at the pile and along with Queensland Department of Environment have started an investigation. **Suzie** and CANEGROWERS Rocky Point have applied for a Queensland Government grant to assist with the clean-up and hope to hear about it this month.

"While we welcome the Queensland Government's provision of grants and its provision of more resources to local government, it would be better for everyone if this disgusting practice never happened in the first place.

"I will be working with all local and state agencies to determine strategies to deter and act on illegal dumping." ■

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*Rocky Point grower, Suzie Burow-Pearce, says farmers shouldn't be left to foot the clean-up bill when rubbish is illegally dumped, like the tyres dumped on her farm pictured above.*



## Rain bombs and floods inundate cane

Sugarcane regions in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales have been inundated and overwhelmed by relentless rain. While the clean up task is big and the long-term impact on the industry is yet to be known, growers are out in force looking out for their community.

Dubbed 'rain bombs' the weather event in late February and early March drenched parts of the two states for days.

Already saturated fields of cane finally succumbed to water's intensity and many growers raw rain impacts and flooding in areas that had never previously been inundated.

"The Tweed region is the most northern part of the NSW sugarcane area and it had what could be identified as a big flood," the President of the Clarence Canegrowers Association Ross Farlow said.

"It is early days, but there appears to be 15-20% damage to the cane. Some cane has had severe deterioration of the hearts but are showing side shoots.

"The viability of these shoots will be subject to the cane variety and the weather over the next three to four months."

Mr Farlow identified the Richmond area as being hardest hit.

"It's been devastated with the majority of the growers still coming to terms with this flood," he said. "When the water is 2.5 metres above any other recorded flood level, it's very hard to come back from that."

Growers in northern NSW are well-seasoned and had their flood plans in place.

They knew what to do and where to go, but this time the water came to areas

that had never flooded before and its left very few homes unaffected, particularly in the Richmond area.

The force of the catastrophic flooding lifted houses off their foundations leaving them uninhabitable.

"The Richmond and Clarence are primarily a two-year cane growing cycle, so there is some optimism that the second year cane will be good to mill although there will be high levels of mud, silt and debris when it comes to that being harvested," Ross said.

"For the one year cane going forward it's anticipated that there will be major losses, possibly 50% or more may be lost, and this will have an impact for 2023."

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Ross has met and spoken with growers in the upper river areas, where the flood waters were at their highest.

He explained that where the one year old cane had initially looked fine in the field, on further assessment it was apparent the hearts had deteriorated. A final assessment will be another three to four weeks away.

Water has also gone through homes and sheds and the effect on machinery may present longer term challenges with reliability and replacement.

"In the cane-growing areas of the Clarence, the flood was the biggest since 1890, but the two year old cane looks sound and is holding well at this stage," Ross said.

"Although going into next year it's estimated that 30% of the acreage won't be there because of the impact of this flood.

"Fallow crops have also been affected, in both the Richmond and Clarence growing areas. 90-100% of soybeans have been lost. They were half-grown when the weather hit so it's a total loss.

"We sympathise with the losses that our sugarcane growers have incurred during these times. It's such a hard time and sad to see, some have lost so much.

"We are aware of the mental health impacts events like these can cause and while growers are a resilient bunch it takes its toll.

"As a community we are rallying around and looking out for each other and we need to remember to check on our neighbours and friends as it's going to be a long road back from here.

"On behalf of sugarcane growers in NSW, we want to thank our Queensland counterparts for their support and empathy.

"Over the years we have witnessed from afar the Queensland growers suffer through cyclones and extreme weather events, so it was very kind of the many that have reached out and offered support.

"We are very appreciative of our sugarcane grower's community."

*Continues next page* ►

***"When the water is 2.5 metres above any other recorded flood level, it's very hard to come back from that"***

*Ross Farlow's father at home, pictured on the previous page, surrounded by rising flood waters.*

*Pictured (top to bottom): Dead soybeans and flood mud on Ross and Kim Farlow's farm on the Clarence; Water and dead cane on Geoff and Vicki Pye's farm at Coraki on the Richmond; Debris clean up on Alf and Jill Lock's farm on the lower Richmond.*





Many Queensland districts have also been impacted with the weather events, read the Regional Round up on page 32 for more.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point Manager **Kate Armitage** said even though the flood waters did not peak at the levels of the 1974 floods, half of the district's soybean crop has been completely lost.

Some Maryborough growers have weathered two floods just a month apart. They were still cleaning up from the first when the second one hit.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough Manager **Cameron Waterson** said the damage from the most recent floods has been even more

significant than the impact of the January floods, as the area affected was much greater.

"The cane growing areas of the Sunshine Coast and Gympie as well as the river flats along the Mary River were all impacted. It's still too early to tell what the ultimate loss will be as growers are still assessing the damage, but these flood events will be felt by many throughout the district."

Everyone has been touched by these floods, and while the full impact of 2022 is yet to be realised, the clean up will continue.

As we go to print heavy rain is again falling in some of these areas and our thoughts are with the growers' families and communities. ■

*Pictured: Flood impacted farm from the Clarence growing region.*

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# MANAGING FLOOD DAMAGED CANE

The floods in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales cane areas have been devastating for many growers and millers whose properties have been inundated, leaving thousands of dollars worth of damage.

"The SRA team expresses our condolences to growers and millers in the regions which have had heavy losses from the floods," said SRA District Manager Southern, Lisa Devereaux.

"However, one small ray of sunshine, at least so far as the sugarcane itself is concerned, is that flooding may not always mean a total write-off for this crop, particularly where the water is able to get away again quickly."

Lisa Devereaux recently distributed information for growers on managing flood damaged cane.

"Sugarcane is generally grown on river flats where floods have occurred and will continue to occur from time to time," she said.

"It is true that the recent floods affected land not usually inundated however, despite this, generally speaking, the sugarcane crop can withstand some flooding.

"The crop is of course going to be more affected when inundated for longer periods, especially if the cane is in the early stages of growth.

"But it quite often appears worse initially. A careful assessment a week or so after the event will put a grower in a much better position to determine the future of the crop.

"A number of factors need to be looked at after cane has been flooded to determine the likely effect on CCS and yield.

"These include the age and height of the crop, the duration

of submergence of the growing point, the amount of stalk breakage and the silt load in the floodwater.

"The fact that sugarcane can survive at all in conditions which would destroy other crops outright goes to show its resilience and suitability for production in agricultural regions where the most variable climatic conditions operate."

To learn more about managing flood damaged cane visit <https://sugarresearch.com.au> and read the [Managing-flood-damaged-cane](#) PDF.



*The Otto Pocket Farm in Maryborough was inundated by the 2022 floods, pictured above. Right, SRA District Manager Southern, Lisa Devereaux has been providing information to growers to assist managing flood damaged cane.*

# CEO COMMENT

---

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS



## FEDERAL ELECTION A TEST OF POLICY INSPIRATION

Elections are a show of the power of a democracy. When we look at events across the world, we should cherish our ability to have a say on who should provide leadership.

This is demonstrated within CANEGROWERS, where every member has a right to both nominate and express preference through voting, and on the bigger scale with state and federal elections where candidates put themselves forward for political party preselection and become the subject of the popular vote.

In the lead up to this year's federal election, we have seen the Federal Government use the Budget as a springboard into a campaign. In turn, we can use the budget to provide insight into the way in which the Government looks at the importance of agriculture. Advocacy organisations such as CANEGROWERS need to hone our skills and look at our needs in the context of what governments and politicians can deliver.

A government essentially has two levers to pull - policies that can either inhibit or enable industry growth and funding that can stimulate investment, innovation and research.

In looking back through the history of Australian Government actions you can see the shift in both policy and funding priorities. The Government in 2020/21 spent over one third of its expenditure on social security and welfare, 15% on health, and about the same on education and defence - approximately 6.5% of expenditure. Where does agriculture and water come in? Less than 1% of Federal expenditure goes to agriculture and water. It is a crude but legitimate comparison to point out that expenditure on fuel, energy and industry (mining, manufacturing and construction) represents over 2% of its total expenditure.

So what do we want from governments? Perhaps the most important thing the Australian Government does for agriculture is the significant co-investment in our research and development organisations. This is a world class system of industry and public investment in excess of three quarters of a billion dollars. Equally the place of Government investment in natural disaster response is also very clear. Noting that the Federal Government response to COVID-19 has cost almost as much as they spend on education and defence combined, we can see the budget needs to be prepared for unexpected shocks and therefore every dollar needs a purpose.

As the demands on government expenditure grow, our expectation of action leans more towards policy than finances. We need stability in programs on agricultural research, development and innovation and we have an expectation that this investment should grow as the sector grows. On the policy front, we want enabling policies that encourage not inhibit growth. Like many sectors of the economy, we want government to either help us grow or get out of our way to allow us to grow.

Whether the recent Federal Budget provides an election campaign springboard will be the subject of political speculation. Whether the policies of an aspiring Federal Government and their local candidates can inspire our sector to see them as our future leaders is the critical test that must be faced at the ballot box. ■

# CANEGROWERS BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

professional development for growers

The CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshop is designed to help growers think strategically and check their business' resilience gauge.

The workshop provides a chance to learn strategies and better understand risk mitigation including price fluctuations and the factors that influence sugar prices. Learn how to interpret costs of production with tools designed specifically for growers.

"We need more workshops like this" one grower at the recent Innisfail workshop said. Another from the Tully event said "Fantastic tools to use to make better decisions". Overall participants have agreed the workshop is useful and informative.



## UPCOMING

**BURDEKIN** - WED 27 and THURS 28 APRIL

**PROSERPINE** - TUES 10 and WED 11 MAY

**CAIRNS** - TUES 24 and WED 25 MAY

**BUNDABERG** - TUES 7 and WED 8 JUNE

**ROCKY POINT** - TUES 21 and WED 22 JUNE

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## COST

The cost is \$110.00 (including GST) per participant

## ELIGIBILITY

You're eligible for this course if you are:

- a cane grower, a cane grower family member or work on a cane farm
- a permanent resident of Queensland



*This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.*

# CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS

Thanks for all of your creative entries in the CANEGROWERS Member competition!

We asked you to finish the sentence, 'The best thing about growing sugarcane is...!' using a photo or video.

We loved seeing your stunning farmlands and family farming generations. With so many diverse images and videos it was hard to choose the winners.

Congratulations to members Daryl Stockham for their sugarcane planting

video, and Peter Gibson and India Lade for their fantastic images. You have each won a \$100 gift card!

Stay tuned for more exciting member competitions coming soon! ■

## BEST VIDEO

**Daryl Stockham**

"The best thing about growing sugarcane is FAMILY. Generation after generation."



## BEST PHOTO

**Peter Gibson**

"The best thing about growing sugarcane is when you can stop irrigating because the rains have come."



## BEST PHOTO Runner-up

**India Lade**

"The best thing about growing sugarcane is being adaptable and the determination to succeed for the crop, the community and family."




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# FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

## STANDING UP FOR A FARMER'S RIGHT TO FARM

CANEGROWERS is developing a policy around Right to Farm legislation. There would not be a single cane farmer nor dare I say a single farmer in Queensland who has not experienced an incident of dispute with members of the wider community about lawful activities a farmer is engaging in.

The activity might create noise or dust, or involve operating machinery outside of daylight hours, or be about the fear of farmers using chemicals, the list could go on and on. All of us as farmers have experience of this and it places unnecessary pressure on farmers.

I know in my own area of a farmer who has been defending his actions as a cane farmer for no other reason than the aggrieved neighbour, "doesn't like farmers". These disputes can be costly and perhaps erode a cane farmer's willingness to keep on farming.

Right to Farm legislation is not new and has been extensively introduced in other countries. Virtually every state in the United States has some form of Right to Farm legislation and New South Wales and Tasmania also have it.

I have to stress that CANEGROWERS is not promoting legislation to give blanket cover for farmers to do whatever they like. Currently there are laws that regulate the application of chemicals, the use of fire and the movement of farm machinery. We as farmers need to comply with all of the current rules that are appropriate to agriculture and our activities.

What we are promoting is a legislative framework to allow farmers to exercise the quiet enjoyment of going about their own business without having to justify their actions. Currently the only defence a farmer has is that 'we were here first'. We need something stronger than that.

CANEGROWERS is now discussing this proposal with other farm organisations to gauge their support.

Finally, this is an opportunity for political parties in Queensland to adopt Right to Farm legislation to stand up for farmers. I have lost count of the meetings I had with politicians who say they love farmers. This represents a real opportunity for political parties to back farmers and not just talk about it.

### Weathering the storm

At the end of March, it would appear that the much talked about 'big wet' of this summer has largely gone missing for the northern cane region. While the southern regions of Queensland and particularly NSW have had more than enough rain and been hit hard by flooding, the rest of Queensland has had what could be described as a mild 'wet season'.

I know though from personal experience that weather can change literally in a heartbeat. I can recall in the 1990s doing a TV interview at Farleigh at 9.00am indicating we desperately needed rain, by 6.00pm when the interview went to air every paddock in the Mackay region was drowning in water.

Despite the fickleness of weather, most regions are pointing to a promising crop for 2022. Early forecasts indicate that the Queensland crop could be up by around 1.5 to 2 million tonnes on the 2021 result, but it is still early days.

The world sugar price is vulnerable to a myriad of factors such as weather, production and consumption fundamentals and in recent years COVID-19. The price also can be hugely influenced by geopolitical events. One of the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been the surge in world oil prices. That in turn has pushed up the price of ethanol and hence is causing a switch from sugar to ethanol in Brazil, the leading exporter of sugar in the world. So, while production of sugar is up in Brazil, Thailand and India the demand for ethanol is likely to prevent a downward movement of sugar prices.

Current sugar prices are looking attractive in the forward years of 2025 and some pricing has been undertaken for 2024. I urge growers to be proactive about pricing.

Many growers are also in pools that are actively managed at a mill area level. Even in those situations where the grower is not actively locking in a price, I urge growers to ensure they inform themselves of the pricing activity of the managed pool. As recently as 2017 to 2020 sugar prices were barely at times above the costs of production. Sugar prices at some time will come off as sure as night follows day. This current period of higher prices is a great opportunity to capture a high price and lock it away for future years. ■

NEW



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QSL Direct growers can access this product from 1 May to April 20 each season, or until all of their Harvest Pool sugar has been priced.

Disclaimer: The information in this advertisement does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions.

## SECURITY BREACH

# Time to boost cyber security

The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) is encouraging Australian businesses to review their cyber security measures to protect against cyber threats considering recent global events including the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 changed the way we interact day-to-day, the use of online interactions including working from home, shopping and socialising flourished. During the many hours of isolation and lockdowns, it became a familiar and reassuring interaction regardless of the ever-changing government regulations designed to navigate the constant variation of the COVID-19 landscape.

These online transactions have inadvertently increased potential vulnerabilities that perpetrators of cybercrime find very attractive. According to the *Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) Annual Cyber Threat Report - 2020-2021* reports of cybercrime increased by 13% in the last financial year.

No sector of the Australian economy is immune from the impacts of malicious cyber activity. Government agencies at all levels, large organisations, small

to medium enterprises, families and individuals have all been targeted over the reporting period.

"Cybercriminals or scammers will use a range of tactics and technology to target business and individuals, usually seeking to obtain people's money or personal details and sugarcane growers are not immune to these activities," CANEGROWERS IT Manager Ray Millar said.

"It's important to be vigilant and to keep up-to-date. Fortunately, there are some straightforward steps to help protect from cybercrime.

"It doesn't need to be complicated, the ACSC has resources on their website to help make you a tougher target for cybercriminals."

In context the ACSC is not aware of any current specific threats to Australian business, but the current global

environment is a timely reminder to review security practices to help reduce any impacts of possible malicious activity.

Keep your computer up to date with the latest patches and security software, choose strong passwords and keep them safe and don't give out personal information over the phone or internet.

Monitor your bank and credit card statements regularly for unrecognised transactions and report them to your financial institution as soon as possible, also try not to use public Wi-Fi services for financial or personal interactions.

ACSC has a range of practical resources with helpful tips and step-by-step guides to help you become more cyber secure. Visit their website [www.cyber.gov.au/learn](http://www.cyber.gov.au/learn) to learn how to update your devices, recognise and report scams.



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## WHAT IS CYBERCRIME?

A cybercrime is a criminal offence using computers or electronic devices. It can include attacks on computer systems and viruses, cyber-bullying, sexting, online harassment or stalking and identity theft. Many would be aware of email spam and phishing and online scams or fraud.

Cybercriminals have become very adept at mimicking emails and other company details to look like legitimate interactions. This is known as business email compromise (BEC), where cyber criminals send an email that appears to come from a known source making a legitimate request, like a regular supplier or contractor, sending an invoice with updated mailing or banking details, however the email and details are not from the original company.

Fraud-related cybercrime, where criminals use computers or online services to commit fraud, continues to be a prevalent cyber threat to Australians, with this activity accounting for nearly 23% of cybercrime reports.

## WAYS TO MINIMISE THE RISKS

The best way to check legitimacy of the request is to phone the company direct, using your original contact numbers or do an independent search online for their details.

Remember to keep your personal details and passwords safe and be conscious of the services you are using when accessing free public Wi-Fi services.

All organisations should remain alert to the threat of ransomware, a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid. Many cybercriminals have demonstrated a preference for using ransomware to hunt 'big game' entities. Those perceived as high profile, high value, and those that provide critical services are common targets. The preference for big game hunting means that ransomware attacks may have rapid and serious consequences for the Australian community if deployed against essential services, critical infrastructure and supply chains.

The ACSC advises against paying a ransom. Doing so does not guarantee a victim's files will be restored, nor does it prevent the publication of any stolen data, or it being sold for use in other crimes. ■

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Authorised by the Queensland Government, Turbot St, Brisbane

# QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 25 March 2022.

## Sugar Market & Currency



Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	March rainfall has come in below the long-term average, indicating the 2022-season crop may once again be negatively impacted by the La Nina weather pattern.	
Oil	Oil markets have skyrocketed due to the ongoing Russia/Ukraine war, dragging sugar and other commodity prices higher.	
India	The harvest has continued strongly, with forecasts indicating sugar production of greater than 34 million tonnes of sugar, of which about 8 million tonnes could be exported.	
Thailand	As the harvest approaches its final stages, production remains on track to produce approximately 10.1 million tonnes.	Neutral
Speculators	Speculators have not taken a large position in either direction and appear to be sitting on the sidelines given the macroeconomic volatility.	Neutral
Currency	The Aussie dollar has been strongly supported by healthy commodity prices and our economic recovery post-COVID.	

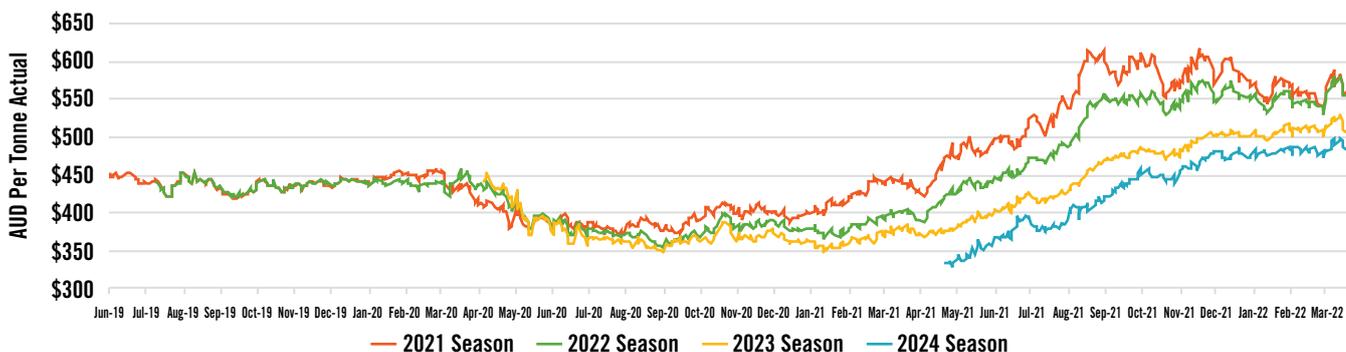
The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices.  A bullish outlook is considered positive.  A bearish outlook is considered negative.

### KEY INDICATORS

	25/03/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (May22)	19.26 USc/lb	+0.98 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	4.83 BRL	-0.34 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US118.04/barrel	+\$US25.21
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	20.00 USc/lb	+2.83 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	88,000 (net long)	+43,000

	25/03/2022	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7513	+\$US0.0326
\$US Index	98.79	+2.97
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.37 CNY	+0.03 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,520.16	+139.90
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

### RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 24.03.22, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 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 or 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.*

## Grower Pricing



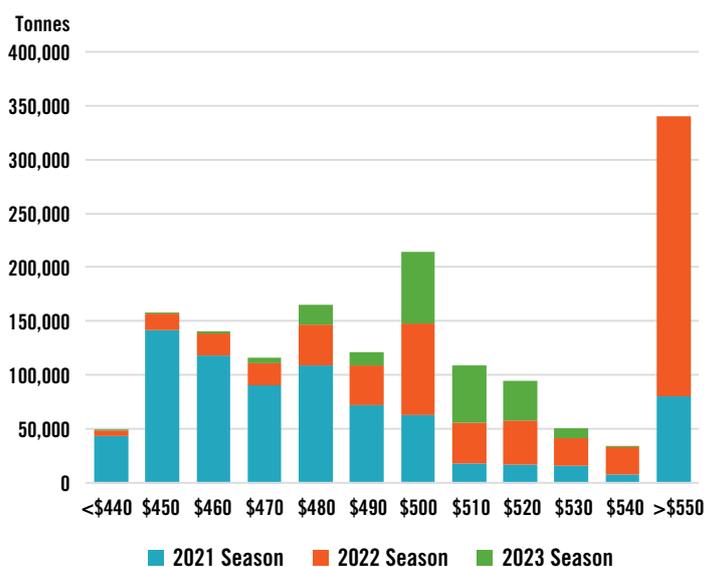
> The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved as of 24 March 2022 (gross price actual/tonne) are:

- 2021 Target Price = \$610 / IFC \$625 (Mar22)
- 2022 Target Price = \$580 / IFC \$590 (Jul22)
- 2023 Target Price = \$525 / IFC \$540 (Jul23)
- 2024 Target Price = \$495 / IFC \$495 (Oct24)

> Key Dates:

- **15 April:** May 2022 ICE 11 contract Pricing Completion Date for growers using the Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.
- **15 April:** Pricing Completion Date for the 2022-Season Defaulting Target Price Contract & Grower Floor Price Contract.
- **30 April:** This is the last day to nominate which QSL pools and pricing products you'd like to use for the 2022 Season. *NOTE: Isis and Bundaberg growers should see their miller for details of their local nomination deadlines.*

## QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2021, 2022 & 2023 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 24.03.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## Macroeconomic Influences: Russia/Ukraine conflict

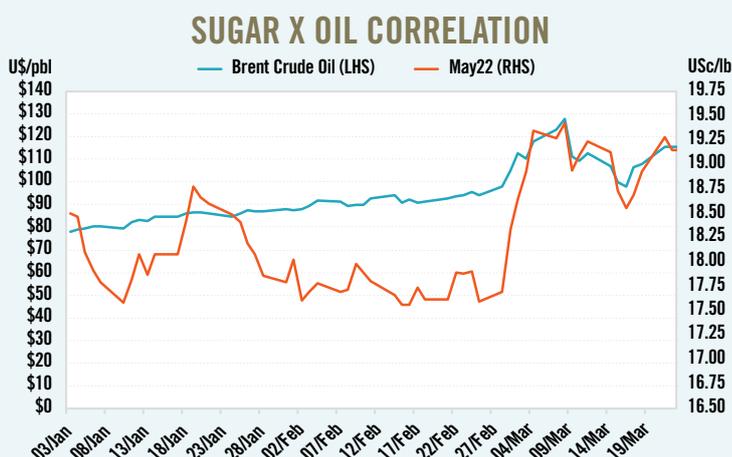


There are many influences outside fundamental raw sugar supply and demand factors which can affect the ICE 11 sugar market. One such factor currently in the headlines is the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Oil prices, which started the year strongly, skyrocketed as the invasion began over fears of reduced supply available from Russia for the world market. Fallout from the war has been felt globally through inflated fuel prices and has directly impacted ethanol parity in Brazil. State-owned Brazilian oil and gas company Petrobras is pivotal for the energy industry in Brazil, and attempted to absorb these costs by artificially holding the price of fuel lower for Brazilian motorists. However, this divergence from the world price became unsustainable and the petroleum giant was forced to partially lift the price of gasoline by 19% in March, raising the ethanol parity significantly.

Another fallout from the war to be monitored is the availability of fertilisers, as a high portion of the world's supply comes from these two countries. Prices are expected to increase as supply becomes unavailable, which has the potential to impact the planting of soft agricultural commodities around the world in the near future.

Oil prices have come off slightly since their early peak, however ongoing sanctions against Russia and the uncertainty around the timing of the end of the conflict will lead to a sustained period of ongoing volatility.





## Farewell and Thank You to retiring growers

The March meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council farewellled eight growers who will retire from representative positions with the organisation when their term finishes on 30 April. Collectively they have clocked up 195 years of service to their fellow growers in a range of roles.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri**, himself one of the retiring growers, told an emotional gathering it had been a great privilege to work with the Policy Council and he thanked them for their support and dedication to the organisation and its members.

"CANEGROWERS is all about people," Mr Schembri said at a recent celebration dinner at Queensland Parliament House.

"We are an organisation that represents the aims and aspirations of growers and advocates for a better industry. The organisation is powered by people who unselfishly give up their time to make for a better industry."

The spotlight was placed on each grower as they were presented with an engraved ceremonial cane knife (*pictured right*).

**Jeff Atkinson** was first elected in 2003 and has been Chairman of CANEGROWERS Maryborough since 2010. With the region's mill closing in 2020 and pressure on cane land from other crops, Mr Schembri described Mr Atkinson as a firm but fair unsung hero of CANEGROWERS.

"When he speaks, everybody sits up and takes notice," Mr Schembri said. "Jeff has had to negotiate his way through those challenges and retain the confidence of his growers. I have been impressed by

the enormous respect that growers have for him."

"You've got to have a passion for the industry and if you do you'll be working in the right direction," Mr Atkinson said. "It's not all about what you do, it's about what you can do for the industry."

He cited the industry-first introduction of forward pricing for Maryborough growers in 2006 as a big achievement along with successfully lobbying for an effluent reuse scheme to supply irrigation water to farms.

**Allan Dingle** has been representing growers in the Bundaberg region since 1997, when he started on the Fairymead Mill Suppliers' Committee, and has held positions with CANEGROWERS since 2001, including the QCGO Board and Policy Council since 2003.

"Allan has had an impressive career starting out with CANEGROWERS at a very young age," Mr Schembri said.

"Allan has made an important contribution to CANEGROWERS, rising to become Senior Vice President for two terms 2013 to 2019.

"Allan, you have given it your best and remain highly regarded and a good bloke as well. Your contribution will be long remembered," Mr Schembri said to him.

Deregulation of the industry along with the financial crisis after the 2010 wet year, when contracts couldn't be filled, loom large in his decades of representing Bundaberg growers. Recently, he says, the transition of land from sugarcane to other crops has impacted mill viability.

"I think it's important to be fair and open minded, try to look for the positives," he says. "Quite often you don't get the outcome you set out to achieve but hopefully you do the best in negotiation that you can, to get the outcome for members."

Mr Dingle will continue as President of the Queensland Farmers' Federation.

**Glen Fasano** joined the CANEGROWERS Mossman board in 2007 and became Chairman in 2019.

"It is always inspiring to see how much growers respect Glen for his leadership," Mr Schembri said. "In my 40 years in CANEGROWERS, Mossman has provided some of the great leaders who are generally people who can see the big picture and, more than anything else, always are positive about the sugar industry. Glen has continued in that fine tradition."

Mr Fasano said he stood for a position in CANEGROWERS after being told it was better to be involved than have other

people make decisions which affect your business.

"Ever since I've been on the board, Mossman Mill has been in trouble. It's been a challenge the whole time," he said. "But I think there's an exciting future for the sugar industry providing we become less reliant on sugar crystals and start value-adding our cane crop."

**Phil Marano** joined Inkerman Canegrowers in 2001 and was a founding director of CANEGROWERS Burdekin, serving as Chairman for three terms. He has been on the QCGO Board and Policy Council since 2007.

"Phil could easily have been sidetracked by the distractions of grower politics. He has risen above that to show enormous loyalty and belief in CANEGROWERS," Mr Schembri said, referring to the Burdekin's numerous grower organisations. "He is no shrinking violet. You know he is going to come down from the Burdekin and represent his growers."

"Over the years there's a lot of things that have changed, some for the better and some have been difficult to come to terms with, but at least with CANEGROWERS you have an opportunity to try to shape the changes," Mr Marano said.

Deregulation, reef regulations and grower choice marketing are big changes.

"For a long time, I believed that we should be involved in the marketing of our sugar and I was told that couldn't happen, that it had to be through the mill," Mr Marano said. "Today, we have a direct relationship with our marketer, whoever we choose that to be. I think that's been a really positive outcome."

**Michael Pisano** first took a CANEGROWERS position in 1989. He has been Chairman of CANEGROWERS Herbert River since 2016 and a director of QCGO since 2013. Mr Schembri described his contribution as powerful.

"Michael's ability to comprehend incredibly complex issues has been something that I have been in awe of," he said. "He was simply inspiring during the sugar marketing dispute. He never once flinched under pressure and took the fight up to the mills. People like Michael gave me the courage to see it right through to our ultimate victory."



Mr Pisano says his experiences with CANEGROWERS had been rewarding, educational and led to personal growth.

"At first I felt like I was there under false pretences," he reminisces. "I've enjoyed my time even though there have been times of high stress. I have seen a lot of changes and feel like I have made a difference and I'm very proud to have represented growers to the best of my ability and thank CANEGROWERS for giving me that opportunity."

"There is always a huge issue to be dealt with, that's just the nature of the industry. The people that are in leadership roles are great, so the industry is in good hands. I look forward to seeing it evolve in ways that I don't expect, as has happened in the past."

**Roger Piva** has represented Burdekin members since 2010 on Inkerman Canegrowers, CANEGROWERS Burdekin and the Policy Council. He cites the Cane Supply Agreement and successful lobbying for grower direct payment from Queensland Sugar Limited, as among the most satisfying achievements.

"As a grower rep you are always trying to do better and better," Mr Piva said. "Some things you can push through and finish and some are ongoing. It's always a battle to help the guys you represent."

Mr Schembri described Mr Piva, a rugby player, as a never-wavering foot soldier who never gave up or gave in.

"Roger gets the job done without fanfare and has been an outstanding team member," he said.

**Tony Ross** was first elected to a CANEGROWERS role in 1992 during challenging times in the Mackay region, as grower representatives worked to merge five area committees and create a uniform single cane supply agreement.

Mr Schembri paid tribute to his loyalty to members and support of growers.

"Tony is the epitome of what makes this organisation great. He just gets the job done quietly and effectively," he said.

"If a grower comes to you with a problem and you can get a resolution reasonably quickly, that's satisfying," Mr Ross said. "Some of the bigger issues, you can do more as a group and that's where we've got to work together as elected representatives."

You can listen to these growers reflect more on their careers in the latest CANEGROWERS podcast via [www.canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/podcasts](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/podcasts)

Paul Schembri will continue to serve as CANEGROWERS Chairman until 30 April and the May edition of *Australian Canegrower* will look back on his career.

The March meeting also reflected on the term just winding up. The CANEGROWERS Policy Council is entirely grower-driven and over the past three years it has advised and led significant outcomes for growers around trade, reef policy, business training and membership benefits and engagement activities.

In May, CANEGROWERS will welcome a new-look Policy Council as representatives of each of the 13 district companies gather to elect a new QCGO Board and re-focus efforts on the issues and challenges facing members. ■

*Pictured: (L-R) Paul Schembri (Mackay) Michael Pisano (Herbert River) Phil Marano (Burdekin) Tony Ross (Mackay) Glen Fasano (Mossman) Allan Dingle (Bundaberg) Jeff Atkinson (Maryborough) Roger Piva (Burdekin).*

## Do you need workers for the 2022 season?

CANEGROWERS has responded to concerns the sugarcane industry may struggle to harvest this year's good-looking crop because of a shortage of workers. A campaign is running to recruit people with agricultural skills from Queensland and other states.

Although COVID border restrictions have gone, its not just the sugar industry feeling the pinch of worker shortages.

CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** recently attended a Queensland Workforce Summit 2022 convened by Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development **Di Farmer**, and attended by the Premier, Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

The summit looked into the current and future workforce needs for Queensland across a range of sectors.

The sugarcane industry has a fleet of around 700 harvesters and each needs a crew of at least three – at the moment there are a lot of empty positions eight weeks out from the start of the season.

In light of members concerns, CANEGROWERS is proactively reaching out to agricultural workers, recent retirees and people with experience in South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Western Australia who want to travel north to soak up the winter sunshine and put their skills to work.

The CANEGROWERS campaign is raising awareness of the opportunities for work via a Facebook post asking, 'Want a sweet job?'

So far it has prompted almost 400 visits to the Work in the Industry page on the CANEGROWERS website.

Job seekers are posting Work Wanted notices and Jobs ads are being updated constantly and the promotion will continue to evolve. If you have a harvest

job, or you are looking for work, visit [www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/employment/work-in-the-industry](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/employment/work-in-the-industry) or hover your phone over the QR code below and follow the link to the Work in Industry page. ■



## Round 2 of Rotamarker rebate to improve farm safety

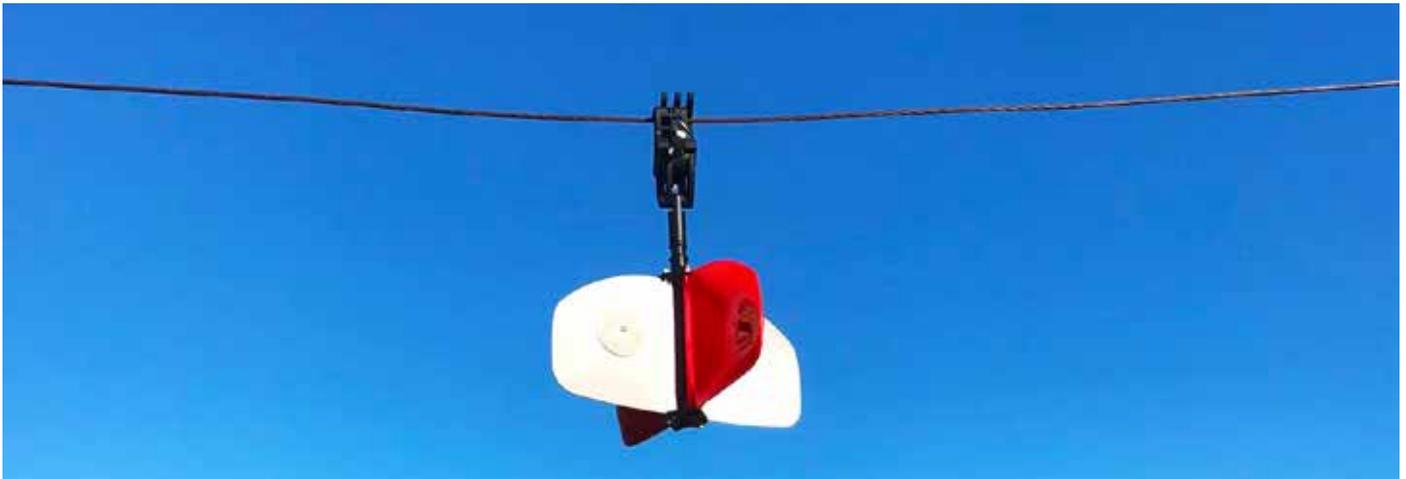
Queensland farmers can now access round two of rebates for the installation of overhead warning markers which indicate powerlines, making their rural workplaces safer.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has again partnered with Ergon Energy Network and Energex to offer farmers belonging to any of QFF's 21 industry members a 50% co-contribution, to a maximum of \$500, to install up to 10 Rotamarkers on their properties.

"Last year, there were 54 agricultural incidents involving overhead powerline contact across Queensland. Powerlines can be very difficult to see and the installation of rotamarkers are a practical and effective measure to reduce the risk of contact," QFF CEO Jo Sheppard said.

As CANEGROWERS is a QFF industry member, this co-contribution is available to CANEGROWERS members.

For more information about the rebate and eligibility criteria visit [www.qff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/QFF-Look-up-and-Live-Flyer-Feb22.pdf](http://www.qff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/QFF-Look-up-and-Live-Flyer-Feb22.pdf) ■



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# Tech tools to target weeds

Growers in the Burdekin are taking up technology options to more accurately pinpoint and deal with weeds in their sugarcane crops. The aim is to use less herbicide and save money while also safeguarding the surrounding environment.

BY NEROLI ROOCKE

Chris Delaney is a Burdekin cane grower, a mine worker and a certified drone pilot. His aircraft is a quadcopter with a 16-litre payload of herbicide and his fellow growers are lining up to have him fly over their crops.

He sees the drone as being useful when the job is not right for a tractor, helicopter or plane.

"The drone can be more accurate than a chopper or a plane, particularly when people need to spray paddocks close to houses or bean crops," Chris says. "I can spray from roughly four metres above the ground and it doesn't drift."

Home Hill grower Greg Rossato, who has had Chris spray for vines in a particular area of his farm, agrees.

"There's a house very near where I wanted to spray so I thought it'd be better to try the drone. I also wanted to

*"There's a saving on expensive chemicals by only spraying where it's needed."*

upgrade to the newer technology, try something different and support a local business," he says.

"The drone can also get into a lot more places safely, like near powerlines, and there's a saving on expensive chemicals by only spraying where it's needed."

Chris first sends up a small drone with a camera to scan the block from the air. Using GPS, he maps the perimeter of the block or area to be sprayed and looks to pinpoint particular problem areas.

"We look at what vegetation there is on the images and we then program where to spray and where to turn it off," he says.

Next, he launches the large drone, an XAG P30, from the same spot or base station and it follows a flight path mapped out on a tablet or phone screen to reach and then spray the weeds.

**“We want to give farmers the technology to save money and work their farm smarter.”**

“At home we’ve had a problem with patches of nut grass. Instead of spraying the whole paddock which is dear, we’ve just sprayed certain areas,” Chris says. “I also have the advantage of being able to fly at nighttime because it’s all programmed and doesn’t need visuals.”

The chemical on board and the spray droplet size can be tailored to the weed, the weather conditions including wind, and how high he plans to fly above the crop.

Chris has a trailer fitted with a generator for charging batteries. It also carries tanks of herbicide and a filling station for the drone’s payload.

“Batteries last about ten minutes and we generally do a tank to a battery,” he says. “It’s usually two tanks to the hectare if I’m covering a wide area.”

He charges around \$46 a hectare or \$209 an hour (ex GST) for spot spraying.

“Through word of mouth, business is picking up which is good. I think the technology is going to get better and better. The scanning will eventually have the ability to tell us which plant is a weed automatically.”

This ability underpins another tech option being trialled in sugarcane after proving to be successful in other crops.

It’s a weed detection and spot spraying system developed in Townsville by two

James Cook University graduates, Dr Alex Olsen and Jake Wood.

Through their undergraduate and postgraduate work, Alex and Jake have developed a platform for real-time image processing in agriculture.

“In 2019, we took our core software for weed and plant detection and put it into an engineering hardware prototype and that’s what we’ve been taking out into the field for extensive trials,” Jake explains. “It’s essentially a unit with a computer and a camera in it.

“It can process the images live on the back of a tractor, detecting what is weeds and what is crop and determine which sprayer along a boom turns on.

“We want to give farmers the technology to save money and work their farm smarter. There are huge environmental impacts possible too by reducing herbicide usage without losing effectiveness.”

Commercialising the system under the name AutoWeed, they are now just months away from having a production model available which promises to be smaller, lighter and cheaper, but just as robust as the prototype which has been put through its paces in a range of crops.

*Continues next page* ►

*Pictured: (main) Burdekin growers Chris Delaney and Greg Rossato look at an aerial image of a cane paddock to identify problem weed areas, (below) Chris charges batteries for his crop-spraying drone, also pictured, in a specially built trailer equipped with a generator.*





*“The big grand vision is that one day we put this technology on the back of an autonomous tractor.”*

“The units were run through harsh non-operational stress testing, the toughest of which were several 8-hour runs through full height cane on a contractor’s self-propelled rig spraying vines. They all held up well even though paint was stripped off the housing,” Jake said.

The onboard processor has been ‘trained’ with machine learning to tell the difference between an image of a weed and the crop plant, including differentiating between different grass species in pasture.

Five trials so far have been undertaken in sugarcane fields using both Irvin leg sprayers and broadcast nozzles.

“We’ve shown in our trials that our system is adaptable to different spraying mechanisms,” Alex says.

**Steve Pilla**, who has hosted a trial on his Giru farm, was impressed when AutoWeed was used on nutgrass in a 5th ratoon of Q200.

“It was travelling at 10 km/hr through my crop processing about 20 shots a second,” he recalls. “The block had a patchy problem with nutgrass so the machine had to work.

“The AutoWeed only turned on where it identified nut grass and I honestly didn’t think it would work with cane leaves moving in the way.

“We followed it, watching and saw the sprayer turn on where it looked like bare ground but when we got down close, it had spotted tiny little nutgrass in amongst the cane.”

The trial also involved strips which were blanket-sprayed and the amount of chemical used was compared. Runoff water from each strip in the trial on

Steve’s farm was captured at the end of the rows after irrigation and analysed to see how much chemical was carried.

The trial project is led by James Cook University and involved staff from Sugar Research Australia as well as the AutoWeed team with the work funded by the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

AutoWeed reports the trials have shown that, on average, the spot spraying tool was 95% as effective as blanket-spraying and reduced herbicide usage by 35%. The reduction of herbicide usage was dependent on the weed density in the paddock, with spot spraying achieving reductions of up to 62% for trial strips with less weeds.

More trials will be conducted in 2022, targeting other grass and broadleaf weeds in sugarcane ratoons as well as plant cane and bean crops.

After the applications on his farm, Steve says he could soon see the nutgrass was affected in all of the strips, showing the AutoWeed system had worked.

“In the area where it was blanket-sprayed the nutgrass was affected and you could see some effect on the broadleaf because of the chemical used and where you had no nutgrass pressure at all it was just wasted chemical,” he said.

“Looking forward, if they can fine-tune the system so you could possibly have multiple jets on the rig for where you’ve got low pressure in a paddock of different weed or grass species, you can carry different products and the system is managing which one it sprays.

“You’d just be using the chemical you absolutely need across the block. It’s going to cut down the cost of chemicals big time.

“I think long-term the reliance on residuals will be less. If you can target the pest species with the right chemical, you’re not having to put the pre-emergent down to suppress everything that comes up.”

Different sprays for different weeds is something Alex and Jake are working towards once they have their commercial unit on the market.

So too is the capture of data, reporting back to the grower which weeds were found where in a paddock via an interface screen or tablet/phone map display.

“From a farmer’s perspective it’s definitely about that cost-saving as well as being able to have more data about what’s happening in the field,” Jake says.

“At the moment we’re tackling weeds, that’s the thing that takes this technology to market, but long term we’re looking at pest detection, plant health, yield estimation over the life of the crop – basically anything a camera could be useful for in a cropping situation.

“The big grand vision is that one day we put this technology on the back of an autonomous tractor. The farmer just presses a button and the tractor goes off to map and spray the paddock for them.”■

*Pictured: (this page) The AutoWeed system on a 13-row self-propelled sprayer during field trials. Developers Dr Alex Olsen and Jake Wood (top right) with the prototype camera and processing unit which is mounted in front of spray nozzles on a boom (below right).*



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# Women in Sugar heading to the Burdekin

Women in Sugar Burdekin will host this year's conference for Women in Sugar Australia to bring together women from across the sugar industry. Past conferences have been in Bundaberg, Mackay and Ingham and this year it's Burdekin's turn to showcase the local region.

The theme for the conference on 26-27 May is *Nourish to Flourish*. It promises to provide a fantastic event for likeminded women to discuss and explore new ideas. This year's speakers will discuss a range of topics including holistic health and wellness for growers.

A gala dinner with live entertainment will be held at the Burdekin Theatre on the Thursday night and is open to all delegates and their partners, sponsors and any industry members who would like to attend.

A bus trip on the Friday will take delegates around the diversity of the Burdekin Region with some special highlights.

Delegates can participate in the entire conference program or chose to dine and/or attend the bus tour. The conference registration form is available on page 49

of this magazine or from the Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc Facebook page.

The conference is open to all - everyone is welcome to learn more about the sugar industry.

The event is proudly sponsored by CANEGROWERS, Burdekin Shire Council,

Lower Burdekin Water, Rabobank, National Australia Bank, QSL & Wilmar Sugar. ■

*Pictured: Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc will welcome delegates to the area for the 2022 Women in Sugar Australia conference.*



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## DESIRE TO GROW – THE MARYBOROUGH STORY

By Tony McDermott  
Smartcane BMP Regional Facilitator

The desire to grow quality sugarcane in southeast Queensland's Maryborough region is just as strong as ever despite all of the setbacks of the past two years.

The Maryborough Sugar Ltd mill closed in 2020 after 126 years of operation.

MSF sold its 5,000 ha company farms to an investment group, RFM, which plans to transition to macadamia production.

In 2021, cane supply was transferred to the closest mill, Isis Central Sugar Mill and the season was affected by rain rainfall and significant cane transport teething problems.

This year the Mary River has flooded twice and damaged the rich alluvial soil farms on its banks.

Through this the sugarcane industry in Maryborough remains as resilient

as the crop itself and is determined to continue with a future in sugar and fibre production. An upward trend in the sugar price and a positive short-term outlook for sugar sales, combined with improved yields over the past two seasons from more consistent rainfall, has encouraged optimism among growers.

The outlook for Maryborough is positive in 2022 with dryland crop yield improvements more than compensating for the flood-damaged cane loss.

Evidence of the district optimism is also found in the progress made in Smartcane BMP accreditation. In the past six months, four growers have achieved

Smartcane BMP accreditation and one grower has been re-accredited, resulting in 3,430 ha of farmland being accredited. Several more growers are currently preparing Smartcane BMP submissions.

Rising fertiliser prices are now driving growers to review their crop nutrition plans to guarantee they get the best value for their dollar. Fertiliser programs are being fine-tuned using soil test recommendations to suit yield expectations, fallow cropping outcomes, and amelioration strategies.

At the same time, the fertiliser plan can be formatted to be compliant with new N&P Budget regulation. Conveniently,

the refocused fertiliser program can fall in line with BMP/6ES and can form part of the submission for Smartcane BMP accreditation.

In Maryborough and Isis most of the hard work in preparing BMP planning and N&P Budgets is undertaken by the productivity board staff. The challenge for growers is to ensure soil tests are taken in a fallow block of each management unit, and the fertiliser application data is recorded. This is the data required by the productivity boards to develop a fertiliser program. This data is also required to check compliance with N&P budgeting, comparing the variance between recommended application rates against actual application rates.

Smartcane BMP, by default, is now being accepted by growers as a means to better plan and fine tune their farming operations, particularly for crop nutrients. ■



*Pictured left: Maryborough local, Alan Otto, a proudly accredited Smartcane BMP grower. Greg and Owen Touzeau farm's damage from the intense rain runoff in the second flood event pictured right. Col Clayton and Tom Malouf, pictured below, are part of a positive increase in the number of Smartcane BMP accreditations for the Maryborough district.*



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

Crop growing conditions continue to be favourable. The initial crop estimate for 2022 is 740,000 tonnes of cane which is similar to last year. Currently, all of it will go to Mossman Mill for crushing in 2022 as no agreement has been reached to toll-crush this year.

This will put a strain on the road/rail transport system and equity, given Mossman Mill will operate on one boiler at a reduced crushing rate.

It will also mean an earlier start, probably around 1 June, and a mid-November finish, weather permitting. Maintenance and capital works

continue on the most important areas of the factory and recruitment of workers is underway.

Growers have been advised by FNM Pty Ltd that government funding was secured, and Mossman Mill will continue operations for the 2023 season. This has given Mossman growers the opportunity to forward price out to the 2023 season to try and lock-in some good sugar prices.

Stakeholders met with SRA, *pictured*, to discuss the District Plan and decide what local activities would be used to implement this plan.

The top three activities were centred around reducing RSD and improving productivity.

CANEGROWERS Mossman is in the midst of a ballot for director positions on the board. The ballot will close on 14 April with a result declared by 20 April.



## TABLELAND

This month has been all about water. For CANEGROWERS Tableland, Angela Sturgess attended a Regional Water Assessment Workshop run by Natural Capital Economics in conjunction with representatives from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There were four different sessions covering grazing, dairy, horticulture, and sugarcane. The conversation was around the amount of water required to grow a successful crop of cane during a 'normal' year as opposed to a dry year. Agronomist Drewe Burgess's research shows a normal year requires 7 – 8 megalitres of water whilst during a dry year this usage goes up to 10 – 10.5.

The main issues for production are water availability, the cost and the existing infrastructure's ability to

handle the required volume. It will be interesting to see what the report assesses the needs of the district to be for the future.

Angela had also met representatives of Sunwater's Leadership Team. They have come from varied walks of life, to manage Queensland's water effectively and efficiently.

Voting was not required for the CANEGROWERS Tableland election, as only five nominations were received. The new Board from 1 May will be **Claude Santucci, Doug Rankine, Wayne Kattenberg, Harry Phillott, and Liam Wallace**. Thank you to these members for putting up their hands to continue advocating for the rights of cane growers in the district.



*Pictured: Sunwater Leadership Team: (L to R) Dr Lisa Caffery-Chair, Charlie Marten-Sunwater Mareeba, Joe Moro-Tinaroo Water Committee Chair, Angela Toppin-Mayor Mareeba Shire, Stuart Armitage-Sunwater Director, Angela Sturgess-CANEGROWERS Tableland, Gerard Kath-Tinaroo Water Committee Deputy Chair, Erin Strang-CFO Sunwater, Maryann Salvetti-Far Northern Milling Chair, Glen Stockton-CEO Sunwater*

## CAIRNS

Flood rains have been experienced across the region, with floodwaters still to reside in some of the lower reaches of the catchments. Reports indicate some plant cane has gone over due to a heavy crop, water logging and high winds.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region welcomed **Matt Kealley**, Senior Manager for Membership Engagement

and Innovation for a round of grower visits in March, an ideal opportunity for local and QCGO staff to get out and about with members to talk about the pressing issues and share some of the achievements of the region.

Matt attended a gathering of the Cairns Region Young Grower Group which is finalising plans for its visit to the Southeast corner of Queensland.

Anyone wanting more details about the Young Grower Group is encouraged to contact **Joel Tierney**.

The Mulgrave SCHLOT harvester loss monitor trial results and feedback session was held at SRA Meringa on 22 March. There was a great turnout of members that gained an insight into new technologies relating to harvesting efficiencies.

## INNISFAIL

The Innisfail region has recently welcomed heavy rain ending an extremely hot, dry period. Some parts of the Johnstone River catchment recorded over 540 mm in the seven-day period ending 20 March. The crop forecast remains fair with initial estimates averaging 80t/ha.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Extension staff coordinated a series of shed meetings in March, attracting almost 60 growers across the Johnstone basin. Guest speakers from MSF Sugar, SRA and Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services joined CANEGROWERS Innisfail Extension Officers to cover a range of topics including feral pigs, *Pachymetra*, seed plots and

varieties. These meetings were a great opportunity for growers to interact and keep up to date with industry matters.

In partnership with MSF Sugar Limited, CANEGROWERS Innisfail has held three 'Understanding your cane pay' sessions with almost 35 people attending. These sessions covered the fundamental principles underpinning cane payment including the cane payment formula, CCS and grower pricing.

Special thanks to **Mick Ward** from MSF for taking the time to prepare the training package.



## TULLY

Compared to much of the state, Tully has had a modest wet season so far, with 1,326 mm of rain for the year.

The 450mm of rain in March was a welcome relief to the terrible heat that was experienced for much of February and March.

Final numbers are in for crop area and we will be dealing with an above average yielding crop from 29,500 ha.

At this stage the crop will be between 2.6 and 2.8 million tonnes and will require an early start and a big effort to harvest and crush.

The CANEGROWERS Business Essentials Course early in the month was a success. The growers who attended committed to continue to meet from time to time to share their progress with their Business Plans.

The risk based process applied to Raw Sugar Marketing was seen as having application to several everyday decisions being made in their businesses.

The district elections have been completed with the current Board of **Bryce Macdonald, Jamie Dore, Joe Vasta, David Singh and Steve Crema** was re-elected unopposed.

## HERBERT RIVER

After some much needed rain, the Herbert River's 2022 crop is in a good position for a good season.

The estimate at present is sitting at 4.4 million tonnes. It is early days, but the crop is looking good.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River will hold its AGM at the CANEGROWERS Herbert River conference room, ground floor of the CANEGROWERS building Thursday 14 April from 11am with a BBQ lunch.

Wilmar provided an update regarding their 2022 capital projects. The company plans to spend \$7.7 million on rolling stock bins and locos which includes 167 new big bins which have

been built for the 2022 season and another 150 big bins to be fabricated during the season, \$12.4 million on the Macknade Mill powerhouse HV system and pan 5, \$13.2 million on the Victoria Mill cane carrier and boiler and 10 wet scrubbers. The total is approximately \$33 million.

Women in Sugar Herbert held its AGM recently and announced the committee as: President - **Caroline Pace**, Vice President - **Leah Russo**, Secretary - **Sharon Figuera**, Treasurer - **Leanne Bonassi** and Media Officer - **Sara Barbagallo**. The group also has a new Facebook page which is [www.facebook.com/WISHwomeninsugarHerbert/](https://www.facebook.com/WISHwomeninsugarHerbert/)

Nominations for the 2022-2025 CANEGROWERS Herbert River Board closed on 25 February and from the process a board was formed. Please congratulate **Chris Bosworth, Sam Torrisi, Steve Marbelli, Paul Marbelli, Terry Motti, Zenan Reinaudo**, and our newest member to the board **Leah Russo**, for their appointment commencing 1 May 2022.

We would like to thank retiring Directors **Michael Pisano**, who was chairman for six years and a member of the board since 1989 and **Jeff Cantamessa**, a member of the board since 1998.

Continues next page ►

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BURDEKIN

Wet season ... what wet season?

At the time of writing, the Burdekin had received less than 50% of its typical rainfall and growers have missed out on free water from the sky at a critical time for crop growth. Nothing can give sugarcane a good growth hit like rain and the price to pay for not having a decent wet season is the amount of time and money spent on irrigation.

As a result, growers have increased their business costs for electricity and water, but the benefit of growing cane in the Burdekin is the enviable security of having a reliable water supply. With the high sugar prices on offer we are fortunate that we can turn the pumps on when we need to grow the best crop we can.

Wilmar is currently doing the ring around to growers to finalise its estimate for the 2022 season which will be announced in the first week of April. The consensus is that it will be the same as last year at around 7.9 million tonnes as they are not seeing any movement due to the lack of rain at the right time.

Some feedback from growers who have been cutting cane for plants is the perceived tonnage is not what they thought it would be, so there would appear to be little scope in bettering the estimate from last season.

Planting commenced in March and will ramp up in earnest in April. For the first time pre-orders for seed cane has exceeded the actual supply and some

growers may be scaled back or miss out if they did not pre-order.

Planting is a period of high risk for RSD, so growers are reminded to make sure clean seed is used and that all machinery is sterilised between farm movements. This simple habit of is just so critical in managing the transmission risk of RSD and any complacency can be costly.

In regard to planting the next crop, under the reef regulations from 1 December 2021 growers are supposed to have a Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget in place before applying nutrients.

There is not however enough agronomic resources available in the Burdekin to cater for the volume of sign-offs required in such a short timeframe making it difficult for growers to comply. CANEGROWERS Burdekin is asking that government auditors be cognisant of this resourcing issue when completing future audits as it is going to take time to adjust and address this issue.

With the Federal Election just around the corner, the promises with dollars are starting to flow with the announcement of \$5.6 billion dollars for Hells Gate Dam and \$483 million dollars for Urannah Dam. Dams are nation-building projects which we support for the economic activity and prosperity that they can create for regions, but we need to be mindful of the consequences that trapping water for storage might have on the

environment and existing industries down stream of any new catchments.

The Burdekin sugarcane industry has proven its sustainability for over a hundred years and to that end, we will be seeking reassurance from government that the catchment of water above the current Burdekin industry won't have any detrimental impacts on existing water flows which are needed to recharge the aquifer and for environmental benefits.

A positive from these proposed new dams is that any future expansion for new area under sugarcane might create the opportunity for a new direction to grow energy canes for a new sugarcane industry premised on the production of green energy/products instead of just more sugar crystal.

Last month saw retiring CBL Board members **Phil Marano** and **Roger Piva** attend their last Policy Council meeting and it was great to see them acknowledged for their commitment and contribution over many years of service to the sugar cane industry.

We are pleased to welcome two new Board members in replacement, **Charles Papale** and **Rian Swindley** who bring a diverse set of business skills to the table. We look forward to them actively representing Burdekin growers in the community over the coming years.

## PROSERPINE

Much of the district received beneficial rain over the past month and the outlook for the 2022 crop remains positive. The mill is yet to release its preliminary estimate, however current indications are for a crop of between 1.6 and 1.7 million tonnes.

The Peter Faust Dam catchment has received limited rain and the water level has dropped below 52%.

Despite the drop, the nominal water allocations are not expected to be affected for the coming Water Year.

Lightning strikes have caused two separate cane fires over the past month. Fortunately the affected growers were covered by the CANEGROWERS Fire Perils crop insurance cover.

Over the past few weeks, there have been a couple of reports of diesel theft. Given the increasing price of fuel, growers are reminded to take appropriate action to secure their tanks and reserves.

## MACKAY / PLANE CREEK

Crops across the Mackay/Plane Creek growing districts are performing well, despite patchy rainfall. Most parts have received half or less of their usual median rainfall for January and February.

Preliminary crop estimates suggest that tonnage in both districts will be a little up on 2021 figures, which were 5,300,755 tonnes at Mackay Sugar's three mills, and 1,367,480 tonnes at Wilmar's Plane Creek Mill.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is anticipating official estimates within the month, and from there will be negotiating an optimal start date with the mills.

Addressing an expected critical haulout labour shortages has been a primary focus of activity over recent times and this activity is expected to continue into the crush. The QAWN Officer, Peter Albertson, has surveyed 30 local growers and harvest operators and found most expect a worker shortage in the coming crush.

Training courses in haulout operation are being marketed across the community, and outside the region, as has the CANEGROWERS Mackay Farm Jobs Noticeboard on the website

We encourage growers to let their labour needs be known early by posting positions vacant there, and to regularly

review the content as workers post 'Work Wanted' ads to the electronic noticeboard.

Anyone wanting to do the haulout operation course should contact CANEGROWERS Mackay on 4944 2600 by Thursday 14 April. Any growers requiring assistance to source harvest labour are welcome to call that number.

Haulout training, Plane Creek district. Photo credit: Kirili Lamb.



Continues next page ►



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# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BUNDABERG

Growing conditions have been pretty good, and we have to go back a long time to remember the crop looking so good at this time of the year. Most areas received good rain at the end of January/early February and again now with totals between 75 – 175mm.

Fortunately we seem to have dodged a bullet and have not had any of the devastation that our colleagues in Maryborough have experienced.

At this stage the estimate looks to be a bit better than last year. It is very early, however.

We met with **Keith Pitt MP** to brief him about issues that are affecting us and will meet with all the Federal and State

MPs that operate in our electorates over the coming months. Irrigation water, electricity cost, rates, reef regulation and National Heavy Vehicle Regulation rules are all on the list.

The Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association was recently formed to represent and support local ratepayers. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Director, **Dean Cayley** is on the management committee and will continue the campaign asking **Mayor Dempsey** and Bundaberg Regional Council to ensure that the Category 9 ratepayers are refunded the rate rises that they suffered from the 2020/2021 budget such that the increase is no more than CPI and that going forward the Council

adheres to the 'Guideline on the equity and fairness in rating Queensland local governments'.



*Pictured: Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Chairman Mark Pressler discussed current issues for the district with Keith Pitt MP and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS manager Dale Holliss.*

## MARYBOROUGH

A large rain event in February has seen a wide area hit by flood damage. Sadly, all the growers working through the damage from January were hit with a flood almost one meter higher than the first. Additionally, the Sunshine Coast growers saw flooding in the Maroochy River catchment that had farms inundated and the Gympie area had record rainfalls and flooding records broken.

In some spots, access has only been possible in the last few days of March. Once again the quick announcement of support through personal disaster payments (for any one flooded out of their homes) and the Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants means planning recovery efforts can begin ASAP.

This time the grant has been increased to \$75,000 with first tier basic payment up to \$15,000.

QRIDA has confirmed claims for the damage repairs from first flood remain separate to any claims for the February flood.

Contact QRIDA on **1800 623 946** to discuss your situation or give the CANEGROWERS Maryborough office a call on **4121 4441**.

The impact to the crop varies. Any cane on lowest level river flat is significantly damaged or destroyed along the Mary River. Heavily waterlogged blocks were reported on the Sunshine Coast and some sheds were inundated. The Mary River banks have also become prone to slippage, with numerous sites identified by growers along the river.

Take care inspecting close to the river as undercutting of the bank is hard to spot from ground level.

The flood damage has slightly reduced our estimate on the crop and meetings to advance preparations for the 2022

harvest are also now more frequent. Combined there is still a sizeable crop that needs to be processed.

For growers, checking the state of your loading pad will be essential if any flood impacts need to be repaired and internal farm road access will also be important. This type of repair work can be claimed via the recovery grant.

Negotiations with Isis Central Sugar Mill recommenced 22 March 2022 for a Cane Supply Agreement for future seasons.

The District Board has also been updating MSF Sugar on the preparations for this season as we would prefer to avoid the problems experienced last season.

*Pictured: (L-R) Excavator completing clean up after the first flood in January, and the Alan Otto farm after the second flood.*



## ISIS

With another significant rainfall event affecting our district earlier this month the crop has not looked this good in March for a number of years. The reduced irrigation requirement has been a welcome relief for growers' back pockets and many have had the time to enjoy a well-deserved break knowing the cane is jumping out of the ground.

CANEGROWERS Isis has been working for members on the following activities:

- **Election results** – growers across the district were pleased that all five directors were returned to their post, especially as their experience and leadership will be important during this next 2-3

years of fighting increased input costs and amalgamation with Maryborough restructuring into one united district

- **CSA review and negotiations** towards a single Agreement for the Isis-Maryborough cane supply area is progressing although has recently slowed with a new Sugar Marketing Agreement and Transport clauses yet to be finalised
- **Reef regs** - with the next phase of reef regulations due to take effect on 1 December 2022 we have partnered with Isis Productivity Limited to ensure every grower in our district is *Reef Reg Ready*. The team has developed three simple

steps to help growers achieve compliance. Isis District growers can rest assured 'we've got their backs'

- **Storm damage** - assisting growers lodge Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants
- **Tariff checks** - as its likely the Drought Declaration will be lifted very soon, we have been assisting growers review their electricity tariffs to ensure they are on the most effective tariff for their business

## ROCKY POINT

During the recent flood event in Rocky Point, the flood waters across the district were slightly smaller than the 1974 floods (by about half a metre).

The Logan River broke its banks and breached the levy bank in a number of places on the northern side of the district.

This inflow caused an excessive load on two of the other major drainage outlets in the district, which created a longer flooding period for those on the western side.

Approximately 2,000 ha of cane land has been affected. We have suffered some complete loss in the cane crop. Quantities are difficult to estimate at this stage, as the real effect of the flood will only be realised at harvest.

To the best of our knowledge there were only a few machines underwater.



*Pictured:  
Suzi Burow-  
Pearce's flood  
affected property.*



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# FARM GROUPS URGE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

CANEGROWERS participates in two industry forums that lobby for policies and regulations that encourage best practice use of pesticides. One forum is the National Working Party on Pesticide Applications (NWPPA) which has worked since 2010 to bring a cross-industry approach to spray drift issues.

This group lobbies for science-based regulation that recognises how new technology and site-specific information can adequately manage the risk of spray drift with smaller, more practical buffer zones. It played a major role in having the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) adopt a regulatory approach in 2019 that enables users to modify buffer zones when using drift-reduction technology. The previous system was inflexible and based on worst-case scenario modelling, providing no incentive to adopt best practice.

More recently, the group assisted the APVMA with developing a tool for assessing spray drift risk for specific situations. This tool is being trialled with cereal growers in NSW. Applicators can input site-specific information and calculate the buffer zones applicable to their local conditions and application preferences. If this pilot program is successful, the tool will be rolled out to other industries.

The pesticide application group is also advocating for evidence-based regulations for pesticide application from autonomous appliances, including drones, and for the use of vertical booms for certain crops.

The Agvet Chemical Users is the second forum we attend. This group was recently formed by the APVMA to address their lack of regular contact with the users of agvet chemicals, as they typically interact most with chemical companies seeking registration of their products. The group will focus on farmers' ongoing access to safe and effective pesticides, as well as technologies to improve ease of application.

It is worth remembering that the APVMA determines the regulations around the use of registered pesticide products, and these regulations are described in the label instructions that accompany each product. Ensuring that chemical users comply with the label conditions is the responsibility of each State government.

## MCPA

The aerial application of effective knock-down chemicals can be critical for crop production, especially when conditions favour the growth of broad-leaf weeds and vines but prevent machinery access to paddocks. 2,4-D was commonly used for this purpose but the current downwind buffers required near vegetation and natural water bodies can make this impractical.

MCPA was used as an option but we now have clarity that current product labels do not permit its aerial application to cane. CANEGROWERS understands that an application is with the APVMA for a minor use permit allowing aerial use, as well as a separate application to vary the label for one of the MCPA products.

However, it is unclear if the residue data required for approval of these applications is available. ■



## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT MICK QUIRK

### KEY POINTS:

- ▶ CANEGROWERS participates in industry forums advocating for policies and regulations that encourage best practice use of pesticides.
- ▶ Regulations now account for use of drift-reduction technologies, and should soon account for site-specific environmental conditions.
- ▶ A new challenge is ensuring regulations accommodate optimal use of autonomous appliances including drones.

# ACCESSING PUBLIC ROADS LEGALLY

It is the time of year when growers have a chance to ensure that they are meeting their legal obligations. The permissions required for the movement of over dimension agricultural vehicles is one area to check.

The sugarcane industry operates in a relatively highly populated area with busy roads. The grey nomads and backpackers may have been missing for a few years due to COVID-19 restrictions but they are expected to be back this winter and the last thing we want is any form of accident with an oversized agricultural vehicles.

It could be argued that the risk of an accident with an oversized agricultural vehicle is fairly low. They are big, ugly machines and can be seen for miles. On top of this, most growers and contractors are responsible drivers and choose a time of travel and routes which they know are the safest. The evidence available (which is limited) seems to bear this out with (touch wood) very few serious accidents.

Where oversize agricultural vehicles travel legally, the risk is in general covered by insurance. However the potential consequences for a grower or contractor having an accident when travelling illegally could be catastrophic if insurance does not pay.

A grower may choose to run the gauntlet (not recommended) where they believe the risk is so low that the effort to get a permit or the expected conditions in the permit will be unreasonable when related to the growers assessed (perceived) risk. The regulator on the other hand is likely to assess a higher level of risk and may have to justify (i.e. to the coroner) their decision to give that vehicle access. This creates a dilemma whereby the grower and regulator have different assessments (perceptions) and methods of viewing risk.

Ensuring a balance between the grower and regulator is part of what CANEGROWERS does. Obviously growers cannot have unfettered access to all roads and regulators cannot make the conditions unworkable for growers. This is a constant dilemma with the regulators more focussed on freight type issues than movement of agricultural machinery over short distances, multiple times on roads well known to the operators.

The important thing for me is that growers fully understand the access requirements, so they don't unknowingly access public roads illegally.

CANEGROWERS has developed tools to help which are available in the Member Resources area of the CANEGROWERS website.

Firstly, there is a *Decision Flow Chart of Access for Over Width Agricultural Vehicles* which shows what is required to access roads legally based on the width, mill area and road type (critical, major or minor roads). Then, based on the mill areas, there is a *Dimension Limits for Agricultural Vehicle Access to Roads in the Queensland Sugar Industry* which covers all the agricultural vehicle dimensions and mass limits for access. It is recommended that growers acquaint themselves with these.

Bear in mind any agricultural vehicle over the general access dimension limits will need to fit into the *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Operators Guide* [www.nhvr.gov.au/C2020G00213](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/C2020G00213) or permit is required. ■



## INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

### KEY POINTS:

- ▶ It's important that growers with oversized agricultural vehicles access public roads legally.
- ▶ Guides to help growers are available in the Member Resources area of the CANEGROWERS website .
- ▶ CANEGROWERS advocates for a balance between what growers and regulators need and see as a risk.

# IN THE DISTRICTS

I had the opportunity to visit the Cairns district in March to meet with growers and industry people. The sugarcane was looking healthy. The growers were glad to see the back of the hot weather and happy that the cane was growing strong.

Sarah Standen and Joel Tierney of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region organised a busy four days. We met with growers at the Babinda office and visited growers on their farms in Babinda, Mulgrave and the northern rivers areas. Similar themes of changing land use, high fertiliser prices, fuel costs and difficulty getting parts for equipment come through.

The region is changing. The roadworks on the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale have consumed cane land. New houses are growing along with bananas. Things change and as with other districts, there is a transition to the next generation of growers. I joined the Cairns Young Farmers Group meeting, listened to their concerns and also their ideas for the future. There is optimism and a belief that value will come from both sugar and other products coming from the cane.



## MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION MATT KEALLEY

### KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The landscapes in cane growing districts continues to change and there is mixed optimism about the future value of cane
- ▶ Research with identified key membership groups reviews the needs and views of CANEGROWERS members
- ▶ Consumers are increasingly requesting food and beverage manufacturers show provenance and traceability of ingredients
- ▶ New opportunities to capitalise on farming practices that provide sustainability outcomes are being explored for growers

### MEMBER RESEARCH

The results of the 2021 CANEGROWERS member survey have led to further research on the needs and views of our members.

### EARLY CAREER GROWERS

A focus group was held and eight growers from Proserpine, Cairns, Mackay, Bundaberg and Rocky Point were invited to discuss their needs, how they connect and how CANEGROWERS serves them.

The facilitator-led discussions provided insightful feedback with actions recommended back to CANEGROWERS.

### OVER 20,000 TONNE GROWERS

The research with the over 20,000 tonne growers commenced in February 2022. 15 growers from all growing districts were selected with the assistance of CANEGROWERS District Managers. 30-minute phone interviews were conducted by an independent consultant in March. The results are currently being collated and a report with recommendations and actions for this demographic will be produced.

### EMERGING VALUE OPPORTUNITIES

Work on validating options to create value from Smartcane BMP using Blockchain technology is continuing. The need to show provenance and traceability of ingredients including sugar, remains important to food and beverage manufacturers, customers and consumers. Meeting sustainability criteria and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors is important for business credibility and investor confidence. Banks and financial institutions are facing growing calls to play a greater role in addressing today's global environmental challenges.

In Queensland, the major environmental driver continues to be the Great Barrier Reef. While climate change is considered the greatest risk to the health of the reef, farming practices that provide sustainability outcomes to the reef and environment can offer greater market access and new opportunities for value creation. Financial products such as sustainable-linked loans could offer an innovative incentive to sugarcane growers who can demonstrate sustainability outcomes and, at the same time, help financial institutions to deliver on their own sustainability or environmental commitments. ■

# CANEGROWERS community news



## International Womens' Day

To celebrate International Womens' Day, the CANEGROWERS Brisbane office hosted a morning tea for staff from the Australian Sugar Milling Council, Sugar Terminals Limited, Queensland Sugar Limited and Sugar Research Australia. CANEGROWERS is sponsoring the Women in Sugar Australia conference in the Burdekin in May.

If you have news to share with the CANEGROWERS community, send us an email [editor@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:editor@canegrowers.com.au)



## Maryborough identity remembered

The retired Manager for Northern AgriServices in the Maryborough region, Bill Baxter, passed away unexpectedly on Friday 4 March at the age of 70.

Bill had serviced the local agricultural industry for 46 years in the fertiliser business, his son Mitchell took over his legacy after his retirement in 2018.

Hailing from Melbourne in 1972, he learnt to endure the Queensland heat and originally settled in Bundaberg with his young family in tow, before making Maryborough his home in 1981.

A well-known identity in the Maryborough sugar industry, his family and friends remember his extensive contribution to the industry with respect and appreciation.

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# NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS BUDGETS WHO CAN BE AN APPROPRIATE PERSON?

## Summary

1. Smartcane Best Management Practice (BMP) accredited growers can develop and verify their own N and P budget without using an appropriate person.
2. A non-BMP accredited grower can develop and verify their own N & P Budget if they have the relevant skills obtained through a training program endorsed by the Department of Environment and Science (DES).
3. A non-BMP accredited grower who has not completed a DES approved training program may develop and verify their own N & P Budget **provided** the grower has the professional qualifications, training or skills or experience relevant to completing the N & P Budget.



By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor



## Background

On 1 December 2019, the Queensland Government made new regulations with the stated intention of addressing land-based sources of industrial and agricultural nutrient and sediment run off.

These new Reef Regulations are being phased in over three years. The new requirements introduced a Standard which is required by government to be complied with. Significant penalties can apply for non-compliance. The Standard covers things like record keeping, minimum practice agricultural standards and permit requirements for new or expanding cropping areas greater than five hectares.

## Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget

The new Reef Regulations Standard also introduced the requirement for cane growers to implement a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget (N & P Budget) in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and the Mackay Whitsunday regions from 1 December 2021 and in the Burnett Mary region from 1 December 2022.

The Standard includes a set of conditions relating to N & P Budgets as follows:-

- (i) the development of a nitrogen budget for agricultural property before fertilising that property;

- (ii) the development and verification of the first nitrogen budget by 'an **appropriate person**', and
- (iii) the review, update and verification of the nitrogen budget every five years by an '**appropriate person**'.

The term 'appropriate person' is defined as follows:

*(Appropriate person) means a person who has professional qualifications, training or skills or experience relevant to completing a Farm Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget. This must include the ability to give an authoritative assessment, advice and analysis relevant to the farm, block and/or management zone, using protocols, standards, methods or literature, where relevant.*

*A grower can be considered an **appropriate person** if they demonstrate they have the appropriate skills, qualifications, or experience to complete the Farm Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget acquired through a recognised program endorsed by the department.*

The Standard requires an **appropriate person** to develop and verify the first N & P Budget, and to review and verify the N & P Budget every five years.

Continues next page ►

## Can a cane grower be an 'appropriate person'?

To answer this question CANEGROWERS sought the legal advice of a highly regarded Queen's Counsel.

The answer to this simple question is best considered in three parts:-

- (1) Smartcane BMP accredited grower:-  
A BMP accredited grower does not need to use an **appropriate person**. A BMP accredited grower does not have to have an agronomist or other third party develop and verify their N & P Budget.
- (2) Non-BMP accredited grower with DES approved training program qualifications. Yes, a non-BMP accredited grower who has completed a DES endorsed training program, such as Better Soils Management course can be the **appropriate person** and develop and verify their own N & P Budget.
- (3) Non-BMP accredited grower without other DES endorsed training.

Counsel's opinion on this question was:

*"a sugarcane grower who has the professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to completing a nitrogen budget can be an **appropriate person**. Put differently, such a grower does not have to engage an agronomist or other third party in order to come within the definition in the Standard."*

The answer in the third part then, based on Queen's Counsel's advice, is that yes, in some circumstances a grower who is not BMP accredited and has not completed a DES endorsed training program can still be regarded as an **appropriate person**. Such growers can develop and verify and sign off on their own N & P Budget.

Counsel further advises that:

*"a sugarcane grower who has the requisite skills can be an **appropriate person** under the Standard. Such a grower does not have to engage an agronomist or other third party. They can acquire the requisite skills through an approved departmental program or through other means."*

I expect not every non-BMP accredited grower will meet the necessary level of qualifications, training or skills or experience to reasonably be regarded as an **appropriate person**. Non-accredited growers without other training qualifications who want to do their own N & P Budgets and develop and verify themselves will need to consider whether they have and can demonstrate, if called upon, the requisite skills. If they have the necessary skills acquired through experience or qualifications, then in accordance with Queen's Counsel's advice they may be regarded as being an **appropriate person** and can develop and verify and sign off on their own N & P Budget.

If a non-BMP accredited grower without other training qualifications doubts they have the requisite skills to meet the requirement of the Standard and the requirement to have a N & P Budget developed and verified by an **appropriate person**, they have the following options:-

- (1) they should consider becoming BMP accredited; or
- (2) complete a DES endorsed training program; or
- (3) take positive steps to acquire those skills and experience or qualifications; or
- (4) engage an agronomist or some other third party who has the requisite skills to develop, verify and sign the N & P Budget.

## Conclusion

1. The new Reef Regulations Standard introduced the requirement for cane growers to implement a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget (N & P Budget) in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, the Mackay Whitsunday regions from 1 December 2021 and in the Burnett Mary regions from 1 December 2022.
2. Growers need to determine whether they must have an appropriate person develop and verify an N & P Budget and if so consider whether the grower can complete the N & P Budget themselves or do they need to engage an agronomist or other third party to develop and verify and sign the N & P Budget.



"Smartcane BMP accredited growers are exempt from the appropriate person regulations"

3. The following check list may help growers make their decision.

**I am Smartcane BMP Accredited**

You can develop and verify your own N and P budget without using an appropriate person.

**I am not BMP accredited but I have completed a training program endorsed by the Department of Environment and Science**

You may develop and verify and sign your own N & P Budget. You are regarded as an **appropriate person**.

**I am not BMP accredited and have not completed a DES endorsed training program. I am confident that I can demonstrate, if called upon by a DES inspection, that I have the qualifications, training or skills or experience relevant to completing an N & P Budget. I am confident I have the ability to give authoritative assessment advice and analysis relevant to my farm.**

Based on Queen's Counsel's advice, you may develop and verify and sign your own N & P Budget. You are likely to be regarded as an **appropriate person**.

**I am not BMP accredited and have not completed a DES endorsed training program. I am not confident that I can reasonably demonstrate, if called upon by a DES inspection, that I have the qualifications, training or skills or experience relevant to completing an N & P Budget. I am not confident I have the ability to give authoritative assessment advice and analysis relevant to my farm.**

Based on Queen's Counsel's advice, you are not likely to be regarded as an **appropriate person**. To ensure compliance with the Standard it would be prudent for you to engage an agronomist or other suitably qualified person to develop, verify and sign your N & P Budget.

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

### Further information

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



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# Classifieds

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Next deadline is **19 April 2022**.

\* 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.

### Mossman-Tully

1T Fertiliser Box with Coulters. Hodge 4 Furrow Plough. Ten Tynes Grubber. 650 Fiat Tractor. Ph:0417722229.

2018 Fuso FK Fighter Series Crane Truck with 6meter 5mm Steel Tray and Effer 65/3S forward-mounted crane including remote control. 14000kg GVM /20000kg GCM,7390kg Tare (inc crane). Good Condition with Service Book 144,000 km. Price \$120,000 (inc GST) ONO. Available for inspection Ph: 0429568829. Truck Available for Sale April 2022.2 Row Grubber with 1 tonne Fert Box; 2 Row Trash Inc. with 1 1/4 tonne Fert Box; Ripper Coulter; 2 x Front Mount Tank Frames for MF Tractor. Ph: 0458553038.

Spitwater Pressure Cleaner with Honda Motor 2500psi; 2x Newton 4T Tipper Bins, 800L Silvan Spray Tank, 2x HBM Plant Cane Bins Dble, HBM Billet Planter on Ford 7910 4WD Tractor. All GC. Ph after 7pm: 0740645153.

JD4055 coupled to Newton 6T Side-Tipper \$30,000 + GST. Fiat M100 coupled to Newton 6T Side Tipper \$30,000 + GST. Ph: 0429652235. BILLET PLANTING OUTFIT: 1994 Toft 7700 Harv; HBM Billet Plntr adj to 1.8m, Adaptor for Dual Row, Mounted

to Ford 7840 with 2 x 600L Tanks, Reg; 2 x Ford 5000 coupled to HBM Tippers, Reg. \$80,000 +GST. Ph: 0429652235.

Case 580 SR yom 2006 side shift extenda hoe ROPS AirCab 4-1 bucket 300mm bucket. One owner in VGC, located Cairns, \$55,000 + GST. Contact Mal at Lane Machinery, [lanemachinery@gmail.com](mailto:lanemachinery@gmail.com). Ph: 0400657058.

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

### Herbert River-Burdekin

100 Inch Howard HR40 Rotary Hoe with flat roller very good condition. Only used as a spare for last 12 years. Make: Howard. Model: HR40 1996 100 inch. \$7,000. 3.55m Celli Tiger 250 Rotary Hoe. Make: CELLI. Model: Tiger 250 3.55m. Year: 2012. Colour: Green. Size: 3.55m. Excellent condition. \$20,000. All +GST. Ph: 0417611539.

New Holland TM190 11,500hrs. Good Condition. \$33,000 incl. GST ONO. Ph: 0407636055.

### Mackay-Proserpine

CHAMBERLAIN C6100: very good condition; enclosed ROPS cab; Perkins 6354 engine,

high-flow hydraulic pump; draw bar; good tyres. \$7,000+gst. Ph: 0417612883.

FARM IMPLEMENTS: various including: McLeod 5-leg ripper; McLeod 2-leg ripper; Double-row ratoon grubbers with arch; Hodge 4-furrow reversible plough; Cane break pusher; McLeod 3-row frame. Call for prices. Ph: 0417612883.

Muller Sorter Planter, 6inch single chain, can go to double chain. Stainless Steel shoot, extra large fertiliser bin, has capacity to hold 2.5 tonne of billets in sorter. Excellent condition. \$7,500. Ph: 0438541448.

P&H Billet Planter will plant any width currently set at 1.8m Automatic primary hopper \$40,000 + GST. Ph: 0418196170.

2x Howard 80" AR rotary hoe reconditioned. Howard 100" HR rotary hoe reconditioned. Parts available for Howard AR, AH & HR models. Taking orders for reconditioning of hoes on AR, AH & HR models with most sizes available. Ph: 0407643441 or 49595883.

Moller Sorter Planter. Contractors model. Own hydraulics, liquid fertilizer, steering, 250lt lorsban tank. 700 lts fungicide tank. Suitable for small contractor or medium size farmer. Good condition. Ready to go. \$25,000 ONO. Ph: 0408733793.

Case Full Track Harvester 8800, New Tracks, Sprockets, Elevator Chain, Very Good Condition. 4691 Hrs. Work ready - all maintenance/service up to date. \$200K + GST. Ph: Lionel - 0408755453 Michelle - 0438755459.

24 wavy discs, near new. \$130 ea + GST. Ph: 0407595218.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438606578.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. 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. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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

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## Bundaberg–Rocky Point

1 LG double 6t side tipper, 1 double 6t side tipper. Ph: 0428578234.

6t tipper, excellent condition - Bundaberg \$12,000 (incl GST) neg. Ph: 0427597247.

HBM billet planter sped up for dual row or single. \$10,000 + GST. Twin 2.5 tonne billet planter tipper bin, carries 5 tonne \$5,000 + GST. Ph: 0413584728.

Valley pivot pipes. 8 poly line pipes 11.5m x 150mm. 8 sub tower pipes 150mm. POA. Ph: 0477704134.

Two LG 6 ton side tipper bins on bogie super single tyres, bins in VGC with no rust, fits up to standard drawbar PTO driven pump with electronic controls for tipping \$9,500 each + GST ONO. Cameco 3500 harvester 2003 model John Deere engine done approx 9000 hrs, whole topper tracks in good condition \$90,000 + GST ONO. HBM billet planter in good condition always shedded has rear wheel steer and suscon applicator \$11,000 + GST. Ph: 0419270981.

Billet planter double disc opener (QUINCO machinery) VGC. Moller tricycle high clearance sprayer GC. Bonel trash incorporators x 2. TRAILCO 15 chain water winch VGC. AVOCA 15 chain water winch VGC. Ph: 0408770163.

3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, 2,200litre diesel fuel tanker is a complete trailer Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance. Ph: 0427598333.

Valentini Maxi Squali Rotary Hoe. 4.7m working width. Hydraulic folding. Very good condition. \$37K + GST. Ph: 0427696541.

2 x Massey Ferguson 102 cane harvesters VGC Shedded \$5,000 each, 4 tyne Paraplow Ripper \$4,000, Croplands Ute Sprayer 1200L 16M BOOM \$5,000, Grain Bin Trailer \$1,000, 2 x Linkage break pusher \$400 each, Side Dresser Fertiliser Box \$1,200, ½ Tonne Linkage Spreader \$500. All + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

## Wanted

Self-propelled elevated late model Toft transporter. Mackay area. Ph: 0412964155.

One tonne bag lifter with long boom. Mossman area. Ph: 0488010030.

High Rise Spray Tractor. Prefer with cab and adjustable wheels. Willing to consider all models. Mackay area. Ph: 0467778041.

Howard HR40 Rotary Hoe 70" or 80" in good condition. Ph: 0413013790.

Rear tractor tyre 20.8 38in Radial or a 520-85 38in Radial. Ph: 49541174.

Tractor Tyres: 600 x16", 11"x28" and 12"x28". Ph: 49595207.

Fiat 90-90 or 90-100 tractor or something similar, Ingham area. Ph: +61419748769.

## Positions Vacant

2x Haul-Out Operators, Innisfail Area, experience preferred but not essential, own transport required. Ph: 0429653461.

Position available on a sugarcane and cattle farm in the Mackay area. Duties include all aspects of sugar production, irrigation and harvesting, beef cattle production and maintenance of machinery and equipment.

Must have valid Drivers licence. Experience preferred. Ph: 0408750285.

Sugarcane Haulout Truck Drivers and Infield Transporter Drivers. Gary Stockham Harvesting Company Pty Ltd require drivers for the 2022 Sugar Cane Harvesting Season. Giru Area. Early June start for approximately 5-6 months. 4am starts, 6 on 2 off roster. HR licence essential. Email resume to sharon@garystockhamharvesting.com.au or call Gary 0418180634 or Ashley 0417748118.

Truck Driver carting cane required for harvesting season 2022. HR licence essential. Plane Creek area. Ph Fred: 0418710958.

Position available on cane farm in Tully area. Previous cane farming experience preferred but not essential. Ph: 0427680660.

## Rainfall Report

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Feb 2022)	Month to date (1 Mar-29 Mar)	Year to date	Jan-Mar
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	243.8	250.6	1089.2	1707.2
Mareeba Airport	109.2	73.4	461.2	592.9
Cairns Aero	127.2	352.6	854.8	1256.6
Mt Sophia	367	682	1772	1848.7
Babinda Post Office	401	0	905.3	2164.9
Innisfail	348.6	451.2	1429	1759
Tully Sugar Mill	453	470	1344.1	2079.5
Cardwell Marine Pde	248.1	155	659	1305
Lucinda Township	286.2	143.2	638.4	1265.3
Ingham Composite	290.7	147.2	637.4	1262.6
Abergowrie Alert	130	29	309	868.3
Townsville Aero	120.2	39.6	498	764.8
Ayr DPI Research Stn	105.2	4.2	289.2	608.9
Proserpine Airport	403.6	123.4	680	858.4
Mirani Mary Street	102.5	48.9	240.7	872
Mackay MO	170	123.8	370.2	865.7
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	145.2	123	419	1037.4
Bundaberg Aero	237.2	153	584.2	436.1
Childers South	153.8	149.2	597.6	355.6
Maryborough	311.6	98.6	598.8	492.3
Tewantin RSL Park	794.6	167.6	1165.8	611.5
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	809	95.2	1176	721.3
Nambour DPI - Hillside	871.6	275.6	1437.6	845.6
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	606.4	171.7	926.8	446.6
Murwillumbah Bray Park	481.4	103.3	888	661.2
Ballina Airport	577.8	529.8	1395.6	604.2
New Italy (Woodburn)	754.6	398.8	1357.6	526.9

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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.

Farm Hand with HC Licence position available. Seeking an experienced HC Truck Driver with Loader Operator experience (desired) for our Woongoolba Farm, Gold Coast. Full-time diverse role. Assist the team with maintenance during the non-harvest season and be part of the baling team during the harvest season. To apply email: [keryna@rockypoint.com.au](mailto:keryna@rockypoint.com.au)

Farm Operations Manager position available, Gold Coast. Assist with the coordination, operation, and oversight of our cane growing enterprise. Responsible for machinery operations such as seeding, spraying, harvesting, machinery and implement maintenance, general farm maintenance and project management. Work independently and supervise staff/contractors. To apply email: [keryna@rockypoint.com.au](mailto:keryna@rockypoint.com.au)

Contractor looking for 1x Haulout Drivers for 2022 cane season, Giru Invicta area 65,000/70000 ton. Volvo's Auto Trucks roll on roll off 6 days on 2days off. Ph Tino: 0416311878.

Haulout operators wanted, Gargett area West of Mackay 6 on 2 off roster 60000 ton 9 ton elevating bins on tractors. Ph Dave: 0428333029.

Relief Harvester driver/bin hauler and elevator tipper bin haulers. Mulgrave Mill Area. Ph: 0408744252.

Harvester Driver - South Johnstone Farms. Permanent position of Harvester Driver to join the MSF Sugar team located at Silkwood Farms, 20kms south of Innisfail. Driving a harvester during the season then doing maintenance in the off season. Role involves shift work. Must be available to work all hours required on a rostered, rotational basis. Please email resumes to: [robertbrooks@msfsugar.com.au](mailto:robertbrooks@msfsugar.com.au) or phone Rob Brooks, Operations Manager: 0427238320.

Casual staff for conveyor maintenance at coal mines in the Bowen Basin. Standard 11 generics & coal board medical would be preferred, however training will be considered. Work suited to farmers. Ph: 0427595626.

Position available on a sugarcane farm in the Tully Area. Duties involve the preparation of farm land, fertilising, spraying, machinery maintenance and general farm duties. Must have Drivers licence. Experience in the operation of farm equipment preferred. Ph: 0418181646.

## Work Wanted

Driver with a HR license, experience as a co-driver in a road train as well as tip truck work (a while ago), physically fit, will be attending the CANEGROWERS haulout course in May looking to do crush season only. Currently in Stanthorpe Qld but will relocate. Ph: 0403609629 or [angieah85@hotmail.com](mailto:angieah85@hotmail.com)

2x drivers looking for work. Experience includes forklift operator, tractor and train wagon driver. Have C class license and forklift ticket. Work location is flexible. Resumes available. Ph Mel: 0435885704.

Driver recently moved from Victoria to Babinda FNQ, hold open HR licence, interstate truck driving and supervising loading experience, light vehicle maintenance. Ready and eager to work. References available. Ph John: 0477941964.

Driver with HR license and tractor experience. Lives at Beaudesert SEQ but willing to travel. Ph Reg: 0412144852.

48 yo male seeking employment (general shed duties (not welding) 1 day per week. Foxdale-Lethebrook area. Ph: 0436397416.

Looking for cane harvesting and farm job, knowledge in mechanic well-experienced, from Mauritius. Mackay or NSW area. Email: [Cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com](mailto:Cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com) for the incoming season 2022.

## Property - For Sale

TREBONNE CANE FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER - Approximately 45.2077 hectares of cane farming land at Rotondos Road, Trebonne, has been placed on the market for sale by tender. The Seller is inviting tenders on the farm described as Lot 3 on SP127740 Title Reference 50322240. The 2022 Crop is not included in the sale. Further Information and Tender packs available from Keir Steele Waldon Lawyers, Attention: Michael Keir / Ashleigh Guy Ph: (07) 4776 1488 or email [info@kswlawyers.com.au](mailto:info@kswlawyers.com.au). Tenders close at 5:00pm on Thursday 28 April 2022.

70ha Cane Farm with 61.5ha under cane. Located 8 km from town centre and 1 km from Victoria Mill. Property is flood free with town water supply running along property front. Paddocks have all been lasered and are well maintained and up to date with new varieties. Ph: 0427912277.

Cane farm 87 hectares- 215 acres at Como Road on Trebonne Creek, 5 mins from Ingham CBD. Includes 2 bedroom cottage and farm shed. Contact Sam on 0419715206.

144 hectares Gin Gin Wallaville area. 501 megalitres BSW allocation. 6 centre pivots gravity feed. 84 hectares cane to harvest 2022. 47 hectares soya bean planted. House and sheds. Ph: 0477704134.

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph Larry: 0418496864.

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. 52.9ha on 2 titles. Only 45mins to CBD. Peaceful location, close to panoramic river, boat ramp & mountain views. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres Cane Production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam Allocation. Supplied to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Ph: 0466241656.

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415881092.

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 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

## Property - Wanted

Cane farm to lease Munburra, Sunnyside or Oakenden areas. Have own equipment. Ph: 0408011983.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Ph Paul: 0447545550.

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Ph James: 0429621145.

Wanting to lease - cane farm in the Walkerston/Eton/Pleystowe areas and surrounds. Ph: 0421520331.

Young grower wanting to expand. Looking for farms to lease. Mulgrave Area. Ph: 0431036229.

# Women in Sugar Australia

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022, BURDEKIN, MAY 26 - 27**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

WISA Member Yes/No Group \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation you represent \_\_\_\_\_

## Events Attending

- Conference, Dinner and Bus Tour (Member Price \$85/ Non-member price \$100)
- Conference and Dinner (Member Price \$50/ Non-member Price \$60)
- Dinner Only (Member Price \$35/ Non-member Price \$45)
- Bus Tour Only (Member Price \$50/ Non-member Price \$60)

Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Method

Book Tickets Online



Scan HERE

OR

### For Bank Transfer - Complete this form

Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc

BSB: 014 500

Account No: 201909683

Ref. Your Name

**Registration must be returned by  
22 April 2022**

*womeninsugarburdekin@hotmail.com*



## Important COVID-19 Information

To adhere to the current Queensland Government vaccination requirements patrons of the Burdekin Theatre and other related conference venues will require proof of double vaccination.

# Women in Sugar Australia

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022**

**MAY 26 - 27**  
**CONFERENCE, DINNER, BUS TOUR**

*Nourish  
to  
Flourish*

Book Tickets Online



Scan HERE

*Hosted at*

**BURDEKIN  
THEATRE**

Contact Women in Sugar Burdekin for  
Registration Details

Phone: Lisa 0427 826 926

Email: [womeninsugarburdekin@hotmail.com](mailto:womeninsugarburdekin@hotmail.com)



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Burdekin Inc*