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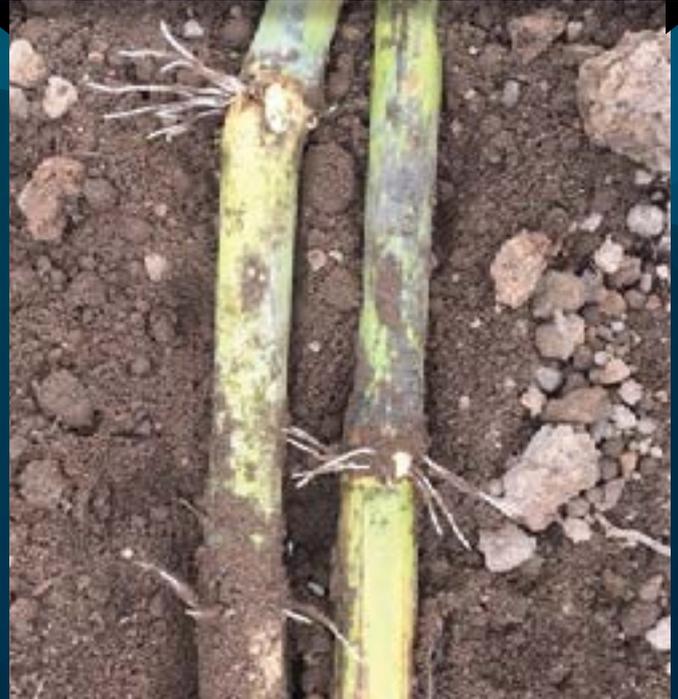
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As electricity prices skyrocket, CANEGROWERS warns of risk to irrigated agriculture.

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The contribution of women to the sugar industry was celebrated at the annual Women in Sugar conference.

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With fertiliser prices on the rise, some growers are turning to mill mud as a means of cutting costs and boosting productivity.

COVER IMAGE: Haulout operator, Nick Perna from Mackay, took this photo at Narpi at 6.30am as the season got underway, Nick is working alongside his father in his first year as a full time operator.

CONTENTS IMAGE: Grower Tony Crisafulli is sold on the benefits of mill mud after conducting trials on his Herbert River cane farm. Read more on page 24.



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Farm income is up, but so are costs

Good rainfall and high commodity prices have driven strong farm financial performance for 2021-22 according to the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

Executive Director Dr Jared Greenville said cropping farms had reported higher than average cash incomes over the last year.

"It's been a boom year. At the national level, farm cash income for cropping farms is estimated to have increased by around 28% to average \$619,000 per farm in 2021-22," Dr Greenville said.

"That said, prices are higher for farm inputs such as fuel and fertiliser, and this has affected returns and will do so even more into 2022-23.

"Ongoing productivity gains in Australian agriculture have helped drive the strong farm performance result in 2020-21.

"Prices are higher for farm inputs ... this has affected returns and will do so even more into 2022-23."



"Over the long-term, average annual productivity growth in the broadacre industry was 1%, and 1.3% in the dairy industry.

"Looking beyond the averages, we see that broadacre sector performance is being driven by larger farms with the largest 10% of broadacre farms producing around half of total output, while the smallest 50% of farms produce around 10% of total output. ■



Ministerial meeting

New CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens hit the ground running with a series of high-profile meetings in June.

Together with CEO Dan Galligan, Mr Menkens met with Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner.

"I had a good meeting with the minister. We discussed many of the issues confronting the industry," Mr Menkens said. "It is important to have a good relationship with political leaders, even though sometimes we may not agree."

Mr Menkens also met with Opposition shadow ministers Tony Perrett (Agriculture) and Sam O'Connor (Environment), and with the Board of the Australian Sugar Milling Council. ■

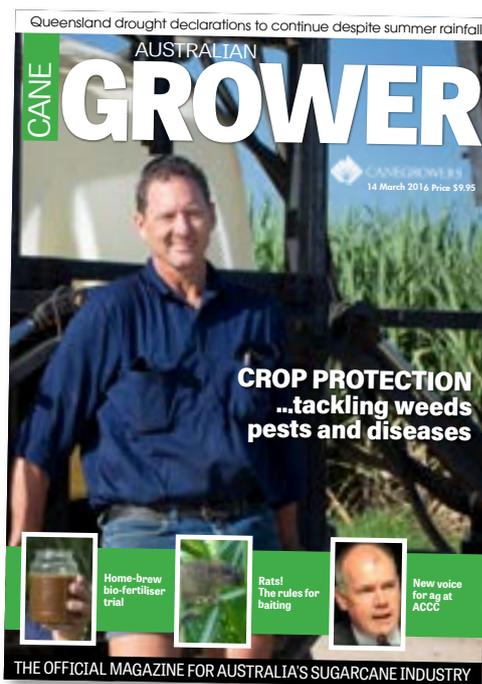
Opportunity to improve on-farm irrigation

Sugar Research Australia is calling for Expressions of Interest from cane growers in the Burdekin, to improve their irrigation management practices, and enhance productivity and sustainability.

This is the third round of funding through the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) where cane growers in the region can access expert services and support. Through the project local service providers Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS), Farmacist and AgriTech Solutions (ATS) work alongside growers to transition to proven, scalable, sustainable, and technologically advanced irrigation practices.

SRA's Burdekin District Manager Terry Granshaw, said that growers have different levels of options as a participant. "Participation in the project means one-on-one support. Growers can choose the best scenario for their own irrigation system," Mr Granshaw said.

For more information or to express your interest in this opportunity for Burdekin sugarcane farmers, contact SRA's Project Officer Armin Wessel at Brandon on 0436 937 555 or Terry Granshaw on 0457 650 181. Completed EOI forms are required by Friday 8 July 2022. ■



Community mourns popular grower

Tully's cane-growing community is in mourning, following the tragic death of popular local grower Mario Raccanello last month.

Mr Raccanello, 59, died in a farming accident involving a front bucket tractor on his new property on the Atherton Tablelands on 9 June.

Originally from Tully, Mr Raccanello had recently sold the Tully farm and moved to a property near Lake Barrine with his wife, Franca, where he was looking forward to taking life a little easier, CANEGROWERS Tully Chairman Bryce Macdonald told ABC Radio.

"It's a tragedy. Mario was very well known in Tully ... a very progressive and very innovative grower. He had the ability to turn a bad paddock good and a bad variety good as well," Mr Macdonald said.

"Mario was very good at farming, almost magical with his farming practices. He used technology to its greatest as well, in all aspects. He certainly pushed the boundaries.

"He was a very hard worker, seven days a week when it required it, but he (enjoyed) family time as well.

"He will be very sadly missed. You won't fulfil that gap with Mario. It's very sad."

Mr Macdonald said the popular grower would be remembered as "a great farmer, a great worker and a great family man. He showed us the way in farming techniques and ability to use technology."

CANEGROWERS Senior Manager Membership Engagement and Innovation Matt Kealley, who worked closely with Mr Raccanello over the years, said he will be sadly missed by many in the cane-growing community.

"I found him to be a fabulous bloke. Innovative, always supportive and prepared to give his time both to CANEGROWERS and the community," Mr Kealley said.

"He was very supportive of me and the implementation of Smartcane BMP in the early days. He will be sadly missed."

Mr Raccanello featured in the March 2016 edition of Australian Canegrower, in an article that highlighted his innovative approach to farming and improving soil health on his 370 hectare Tully cane farm.

He is survived by his wife Franca and children Jared, Jordan and Amaya. ■

Pictured: Popular Tully grower Mario Raccanello died in a farming accident last month. Mr Raccanello featured in the March 2016 Australian Canegrower.

Electricity costs rising – check your tariff!

Following a determination by the Queensland Competition Authority, electricity costs for businesses including farms increase from 1 July 2022.

In his July *Australian Canegrower* column (page 8), CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan warns that continued price rises risk the future of Queensland irrigated agriculture.

"The QCA determination was released in the same week as the national energy market effectively imploded," Mr Galligan said.

"It's tempting to look with dismay at the way Australian governments have positioned us to be paying more for energy than any of our global competitors.

"Essentially, the Australia energy system is gradually killing off any industry that relies upon it. If we are not smart, irrigated agriculture may well be the next victim.

"In many parts of Australia, irrigators are forced to move to high value cropping systems in order to justify the cost of irrigation.

"However, even for high value irrigated horticulture there is a price point at which the numbers will not stack up."

How much your electricity bill will be affected depends on the tariff you have selected. ►

"Essentially, the Australia energy system is gradually killing off any industry that relies upon it. If we are not smart, irrigated agriculture may well be the next victim."

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"Even for high value irrigated horticulture there is a price point at which the numbers will not stack up."

CANEGROWERS has produced an Electricity Fact Sheet which outlines the tariffs and the changes in more detail.

It's important to select the tariff that is most cost-effective for you. The CANEGROWERS Electricity Tariff Selection Tool uses pump size and monthly electricity use (peak and off-peak) information to calculate the optimal tariff for that pump.

If there is a change recommended by the tool, growers will need to consider the operational savings versus any cost, for example to upgrade a meter.

Both the Fact Sheet and the Electricity Tariff Selection Tool are available on the Member Resources page of the CANEGROWERS website (use the membership number on the cover sheet of this magazine and your district name to log in).

CANEGROWERS advocates for an electricity generation and distribution system that efficiently, sustainably and affordably delivers electricity to Queenslanders and campaigns for electricity for irrigation to be capped at 16c/kWh (being 8c/kWh for the network and 8c/kWh for the electrons). ■



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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

PRICE COST SQUEEZE AND HARSH REALITY

The impact of the 1 July regulated electricity price determination (2022-23) by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) will be an awful reality for all irrigators in the state.

After a couple of years of easing in the year-on-year price increase, this year we see increases of up to 15% for small users and more than double that for large customers (see page 6 for more details).

The QCA determination was released in the same week as the national energy market effectively imploded.

It's tempting to look with dismay at the way Australian governments have positioned us to be paying more for energy than any of our global competitors. Essentially, the Australia energy system is gradually killing off any industry that relies upon it. If we are not smart, irrigated agriculture may well be the next victim.

In many parts of Australia, irrigators are forced to move to high value cropping systems in order to justify the cost of irrigation. However, even for high value irrigated horticulture there is a price point at which the numbers will not stack up.

CANEGROWERS, as part of the Queensland and National farmers federations, and with connections with all national irrigation industries, has been at the forefront of providing solutions to bring about reform of the policy, pricing and tariff structures in the electricity system.

Our objective on pricing has been to see affordable tariffs which would have a ceiling of 8cents/kwh for the retail (R) component and a ceiling of 8c/kwh for the network (N), and in general see greater flexibility in tariffs along with regional retail competition.

Over recent years, with the release of demand-based tariffs, we have come close to this price objective. But so much more needs to be done to keep ahead of price increases.

For many irrigators, the best thing that can be done is to 'get off the grid'. In partnership with QFF over the past six years, we have seen many irrigators access the energy savers program to fund energy audits and seek assistance to implement energy saving technologies on their farms.

This has been an enormously successful program and we are now working hard to see funding continue either from the State or Federal government.

Finally, with pricing, tariff and energy saving initiatives continuing, we are also working hard with growers through our Business Essentials workshops to assist growers to drill into their costs of production to put all costs into perspective. We need to really understand the cost price trade-off that is the key to driving productivity and profit for each farm.

In the end, we understand the vicious impact of escalating input costs. Easy answers don't exist as this relationship between energy, water and input costs require clever thinking and specific tools.

CANEGROWERS will only see this pricing determination as further justification and impetus for the work we have been doing.

We will continue to do everything we can to assist all growers to maintain their position as some of the world's most efficient and sustainable producers. ■



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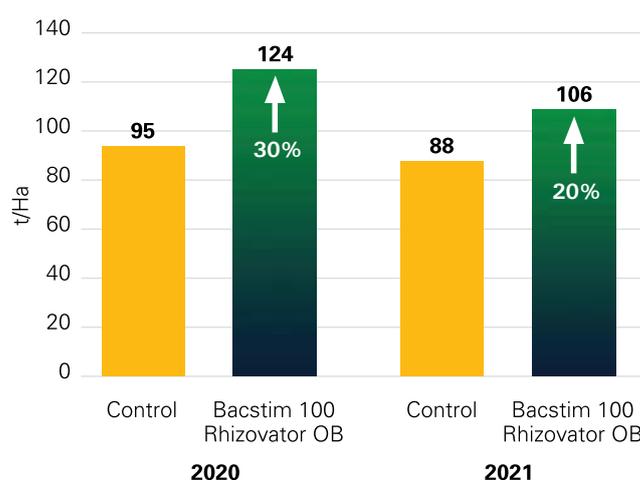
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CRUSHING IT!

2022 SUGARCANE HARVEST KICKS OFF

The sound of cane harvesters roaring to life around Tully heralded the start of Queensland's sugarcane crush, with the first bin of the 2022 season tipped at Tully Mill on 27 May.

Rain delayed the start in a number of districts, while commissioning issues and staff shortages also hampered the commencement of crushing at some mills.

However, by late-June most of Queensland's 19 sugar mills had fired up, with Rocky Point being the last cab off the rank with an expected start date of 1 August.

With an estimated crop of almost 30 million tonnes, growers will be hoping the predicted return of La Nina doesn't eventuate and there is no reoccurrence of mill performance problems that plagued some districts in 2021.

continues page 12 ►

"It's always a relief to get the season underway and this year is no different after flooding and storm damage in some regions."

*Owen Menkens,
CANEGROWERS Chairman*



Supplied by Anthony Bartolo



Supplied by Chloe Ottone



Supplied by Latishia Ottone



Supplied by Sheree Bitcon

Pictured: The CANEGROWERS Facebook community provided some great photos capturing what's happening in the districts as the season kicks off. If you want to see more check out the CANEGROWERS Facebook page - @CANEGROWERSAustralia.



Supplied by Evan Girgenti



Supplied by Anthony Bartolo



Supplied by Evan Girgenti



Supplied by Chloe Ottone



Supplied by Nick Perna

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said growers are hopeful the late summer and autumn rain will push the crop above the pre-season estimate to help them meet rising fuel and fertiliser bills.

"It's always a relief to get the season underway and this year is no different after flooding and storm damage in some regions," Mr Menkens said.

"The official season estimate is close to 30 million tonnes of sugarcane which is higher than the 2021 crop of 28.47 million tonnes. We're cautiously optimistic this year it will cut even higher.

"While that may sound like a windfall season, we are feeling significant pain from rising input prices. My fertiliser costs this year are double what they were last year and with diesel at more than \$2.00 a litre, turning on the tractor and harvester is expensive.

"These increases have to be absorbed into our businesses because, at the end of the day, we are price takers and can't demand any more for our sugar than the world market price.

"The sugar price is good at the moment so we need the weather and milling performance on our side to help us make the most of our crop and balance our books."

Growers in some districts were frustrated in 2021 by a series of technical and mechanical issues that pushed the season beyond Christmas.

"Mill performance and reliability last year was less than ideal, particularly in my home area of the Burdekin, and the Mackay and Herbert River regions," Mr Menkens said.

"Maryborough growers also had significant problems with a cane transfer process in what was their first year supplying the Isis Central Mill at Childers.

"We need to get our crop off at the optimum time to maximise the benefit of its sugar content and seeing delay after delay, like we did in 2021, was frustrating and cost money." ■

To celebrate the start to the 2022 season, CANEGROWERS put out a call for photos that showcased Queensland's cane harvest. The result was a plethora of photos supplied by the budding photographers in the CANEGROWERS Facebook community.

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Reef Champion Awards Now Open

Nominations are open for the 2022 Reef Champions Awards which celebrate the outstanding individuals and organisations working to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef.

The Awards, run by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) with support from the Australian and Queensland governments, celebrate the growing culture of best practice and innovation that is helping protect the reef.

QFF CEO Jo Sheppard said farmers, with the support of extension officers and their communities, play an essential role as responsible land managers and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate those who are excelling as environmental stewards.

"The Awards provide agriculture and the broader community with the opportunity to celebrate the local heroes who are working to improve land management practices and Reef water quality by reducing farm run-off and erosion."

"These important actions are continuing to improve the quality of the water

leaving the farm and they highlight the long-standing commitment farmers and their communities have made to improving the health of the Reef."

This year, two new awards have been introduced that will recognise and celebrate the work of Traditional Owner Reef Champions, reinforcing the collective community efforts that are being made to protect this unique, world heritage listed national treasure.

The Awards are also open to young people, schools, councils and community groups.

Nominations close 12pm Tuesday 12 July 2022.

For more information and to apply, visit www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-champion-awards/ ■



Pictured: Lenny Parisi won The Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award at the 2019 Reef Champion Awards.



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FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens, Chairman CANEGROWERS

INDUSTRY NEEDS TO PULL TOGETHER

The start of the crush is always an exciting time of the year. We are looking towards a 30 million-plus tonne crop in 2022.

It has been a wet start for nearly all districts, so we are looking forward to some dry, cold weather to put some sugar in the cane.

Along with all growers, I am also hoping for better mill performance across many districts too. Last year there were some mills which performed poorly, resulting in late finishes.

I brought the problems of mill reliability and maintenance along with some other issues up with the Australian Sugar Milling Council when I met with its leadership in Brisbane recently.

I pointed out that growers and millers have a long history of working together to improve the industry and have created great assets in partnership, like the sugar terminals, the rail system and even the plant breeding program.

However if we are going to bring diversity to our sugarcane production, we should work together to increase the bottom line of the whole industry.

The mills cannot continue to push a campaign against marketing choice for growers and the sugar Code of Conduct, or we will never be able to unite and work together as an industry.

It was also good during my visit to Brisbane to catch up with a few Queensland political leaders.

I had a good meeting with the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, **Mark Furner**. We discussed many of the issues confronting the industry.

The Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and some leading policy advisers were also present and it was good to see the great regard they have for our CANEGROWERS organisation.

It is important to have a good relationships with politicians, even though sometimes we may not agree on all issues. As a result of my meeting, Mr Furner will be visiting my farm in the Burdekin soon.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the Shadow Agriculture Minister, **Tony Perrett** and Shadow Environment Minister, **Sam O'Connor**.

As it was State Budget week, they were busy but I was able to catch up with them at Parliament House. Unfortunately, the sugar industry and agriculture in general received little attention in the budget announcements.

The next Queensland State election is two years away, which may seem like a long time but now is the time to start helping all sides of politics to understand the intricacies of the sugar industry and the great benefit we bring to Queensland.

We need to have policies that benefit farmers in the long term without creating roadblocks to our profitability.

We are fortunate to have a robust and united voice that comes through our local district boards, the CANEGROWERS Policy Council and our staff.

Our strong policies and the credibility that comes from our representation help to motivate politicians to work with us for the good of growers, as well as the local communities that support them and that they support.

I would like to wish all growers, harvesting workers and mill staff a timely, dry and safe crush. The prices are looking good, so we need every last stick of cane delivered to the mill. ■



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CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SUGAR

by Robyn Devine

There was an abundance of topics and enthusiasm when almost 100 women from across the sugar industry gathered in Ayr recently for the 2022 Women in Sugar Australia (WISA) Conference. Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc hosted the aptly themed Nourish to Flourish conference, where participants were encouraged to explore topics ranging from succession planning and renewables, to advanced research innovations and changes in consumer behaviour.

Burdekin Shire Council Councillor Kaylee Boccalatte welcomed the delegates and identified the Burdekin as one of the most productive agricultural districts in Queensland, with sugarcane production not only a key pillar in the Burdekin economy but one of the largest employers.

“In agricultural production, women, like men, work on the farm, in the farm, supporting the farm, or in roles that service the farm, for example water supply or agronomy. However, within this traditionally male dominated industry, the important contribution of women can, at times, be overlooked,” Cr Boccalatte said.

“The conference not only recognised and celebrated the significant role women play in the production of sugar but provided a wealth of information and interactive presentations on a range of subjects to help the modern woman navigate both her professional and personal life.

“Women from regional areas have a reputation for being strong, independent, and resilient. But in 2022 women are faced with balancing a myriad of challenges: managing work, farms, kids and the duties of life in general, which can become exhausting.

“In agricultural production, women, like men, work on the farm, in the farm, supporting the farm, or in roles that service the farm”

“Women in Sugar groups provide a network of like-minded women working in a range of roles within the sugar industry, a place where women from across the region can find information, expand their knowledge, keep up to date with changing industry benchmarks and process, identify future opportunities and perhaps most importantly, support each other.

“The sugar industry is only as strong as it is because of the contribution of women and men alike who work toward continuous improvement. Groups like Women in Sugar are vital to sustaining and growing the presence of strong, independent and resilient women working in and around the sugar industry.”

Three days into his new role, newly elected CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens spoke about the future facing the new Board, challenges ahead like high input costs, labour shortages and reduced agricultural training opportunities for young people, as well as the opportunities on the horizon like bio-products and growing consumer demand for sustainably-sourced sugar.

Questions from the floor encouraged vibrant discussions amongst the participants.

Women in Sugar Herbert River Chairwoman Caroline Pace said there are many special friendships formed during these conferences every year and the women looked forward to the catch ups, shared experiences and to hear what’s new.

“I really enjoy learning about the region which our hosts are from and farming in, and this year it was interesting to learn about the Burdekin Dam with all the water channels and pumping stations that feed the growers their water,” Caroline said.



continues page 18 ►



Pictured left: The 2022 Women in Sugar Australia Conference provided ample opportunities for networking, information and the chance to celebrate women from all facets of the industry.

Caroline Pace, pictured second from right below, and the Women in Sugar Herbert River enjoy the chance to catch up with friends and to learn about the different regions.

The Mackay Women in Sugar Network, pictured bottom right, find the networking opportunities valuable and Ann Jansen, second from the right in the back row, has noticed the changes in opportunities for women during her time in the industry.

The Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc hosted the 2022 conference and did an outstanding job of providing diverse and interesting presentations based on the conference theme Nourish to Flourish.



“Being a part of these groups help women discuss our farms, farming practises. We get to meet other farming women and gather information. We can openly discuss the industry in a supportive environment.”

“Being a part of these groups help women discuss our farms, farming practises. We get to meet other farming women and gather information. We can openly discuss the industry in a supportive environment.

“At our monthly meetings in the Herbert we have CANEGROWERS, QSL and local councillors update us and at most meetings we invite a guest speaker to talk about products, farming practises and it all helps to improve our knowledge. There are no stupid questions in the group, we feel safe to ask any of those things we may not be so sure about, to understand things better.”

Mackay Women in Sugar Network Chairwoman Ann Jansen said listening to all the networking carried out during the breaks at the conference reinforced how important these events are to the women. Ann said she noticed some changes within the industry over her years of attending the network.

“Women are becoming more involved in the different parts of the sugar industry - be it farming, milling and the business side of the sugar industry like banking, marketing, or government departments and they're being recognised and seen in the jobs they do. They're standing up to do the presentations at the different conferences as well, even if they may be nervous, they are giving it a go which is great to see,” Ann said.

“I get so much out of the conferences, but for me the bus trips are always a highlight. It was great to go on the bus trip to Ravenswood, to see how they are developing the gold mine and what impacts that is having on the township.

“I enjoyed learning about the history, thinking about the town's future and seeing the different types of agriculture on the way. I always enjoy the bus trips getting to see what is in the different regions and I don't have to drive!”

Cr Boccalatte said modern farmers, equipped with the benefits of research, knowledge and technological advancements are increasingly embracing their role as stewards of the land, adapting farming practices to better improve soil health and promote environmental sustainability.

“A healthy agricultural sector needs a healthy environment like humans need air to breath,” Cr Boccalatte said.

“With cane prices at some of the highest this generation has seen and the demand for crop production increasing, in correlation with the population, on the face of it, the outlook for cane crop production is extremely positive.

“However, the modern economic and political conditions, including rising input costs like electricity, fuel, and fertiliser, changing government regulation, widescale shortages of labour and equipment and most recently rising interest rates, provide a challenging set of circumstances.

“Whatever challenges the future holds and whatever changes are witnessed over the coming years, farmers will no doubt adapt.”

Caroline agreed that conferences are a great way for women in the industry to stay informed while also having the chance to socialise with friends.

“Every year we look forward to welcoming new members and showing them that Women in Sugar is a great group of women, and that we are well supported by the industry,” Caroline said.

Ann recognised the amount of work that goes into running these events. “We'd like to pass on a huge thank you to the Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc group for organising the informative and interesting two days we all had in Ayr. It's a daunting exercise over 12 months to organise an event like this, thank goodness it only comes around to each group to host every four years,” Ann said.

“Organising a conference is not our normal day job and we still have to carry on with the daily routine of family, life and our work commitments during this time as well. It was great to see how many people turned up and supported the group.”

It was unanimously agreed, by the women attending, the annual WISA conference provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate women from all walks of life working in the industry. ■





Pictured left: Day two of the conference provided an interesting bus trip to Ravenswood to see the town's enterprising gold mine. Pictured above: Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc Chairman Kimberly Mallon (left) and member Lisa Pozzebon (far right) thanked Neroli Roocke and Owen Menkens for their interesting conference presentation. Pictured right: Burdekin Shire Council Councillor Kaylee Boccalatte provided thoughtful insight to the Burdekin region and discussed the highlights and challenges to the industry.

The Premium Nitrification Inhibitor in the Australian Market



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QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 24 June 2022.

Sugar Market & Currency



Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Ethanol	Ethanol parity has fallen after the Brazilian Government reduced the ICMS tax on gasoline from 25% to 17.5%. Ethanol parity is currently calculated to be approximately 18.00 USc/lb.	
Brazil	The 2022 Season harvest is well underway, with over 5 million tonnes of sugar produced and 107 million tonnes of cane harvested to date (40.52% of this cane went to sugar production). Total Recoverable Sugars (ATR) remains poor due to the ongoing effects of negative weather impacts last year.	
India	The Indian government implemented an export cap of 10 million tonnes to ensure domestic food security. The monsoon arrived later than expected and has provided below-average rainfall in the initial stages.	
Thailand	Cumulative rainfall in Thailand has been above average in 2022 which is seen as supportive for the 2022/23 season crop.	
Speculators	The speculator net-long position has reduced rapidly to 71,000 lots after investors exited commodity markets due to fear of rising inflation levels. There is more room now for commercial buyers to enter the ICE 11 market.	Neutral
Currency	The Australian Dollar strengthened in the early stages of June as positive sentiment returned to markets. However, it then collapsed rapidly as CPI data from the US revealed inflation is still increasing against expectations.	

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

	24/06/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Jul22)	18.38 USc/lb	-1.45 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.24 BRL	+0.27 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US110.05/barrel	+\$US0.94
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	20.60 USc/lb	+0.00 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	71,000 (net long)	-21,000

	24/06/2022	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.6897	-\$US0.0059
\$US Index	104.43	+0.62
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.70 CNY	-0.05 CNY
S+P 500 Index	3,795.73	-127.95
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.85%	+0.50%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 24.06.22, based on a current 3:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2022 Season, and 1:2:2:1 ratio for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 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.

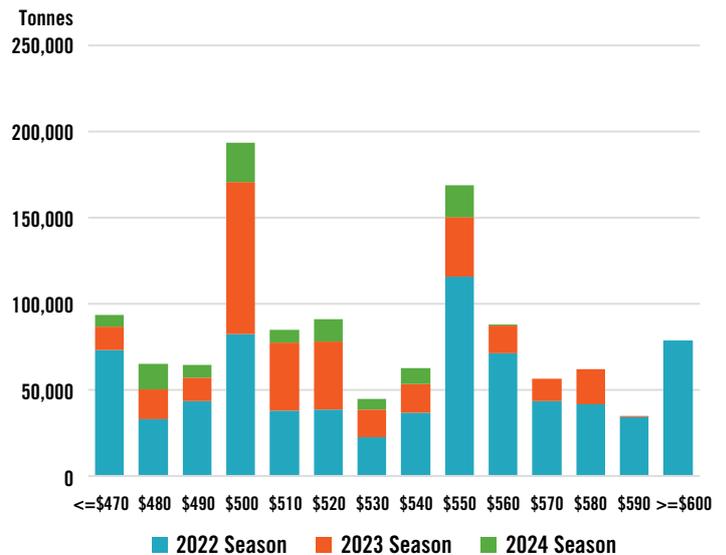


Grower Pricing



- The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2022 Target Price = \$630 / IFC \$635 (Mar23)
 - 2023 Target Price = \$585 / IFC \$595 (Jul23)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$555 / IFC \$560 (Jul24)
- **Commitment Limits Increase:** The amount of GEI Sugar growers can price rises to the following levels from 1 July 2022:
 - 2023 Season 70%
 - 2024 Season 70%
 - 2025 Season 50%
- **2022 Target Price Contract Roll:** The July 2022 portion of any unpriced 2022 Target Price Contract tonnage has now been rolled forward and an adjustment of $-\$0.57$ per tonne has been applied. This means that 2022 Target Price Contract orders now reflect a 3:2:1 ratio against the Oct22, Mar23 and May23 contracts and must reach their set target + $\$0.57$ in order to be filled.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2022, 2023 & 2024 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 24.06.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

Sugar Market Analysis: Fundamental or Technical



Fundamental Analysis is the examination of supply and demand factors of sugar in an attempt to explain why prices have moved and to predict future price movements. An example of fundamental analysis would be researching the weather in Centre South Brazil to forecast the size of the crop.

Technical Analysis is the evaluation of sugar market price charts, volumes and open interest in order to predict future price movements. It is a method of analysis based on patterns, designs and mathematical statistics. Technical analysis takes as an assumption that price moves in trend, and if a trend is in place, it is likely to continue in that same trend. There are many patterns and statistical tools used in technical analysis, one example being Simple Moving Averages (SMA).

Simple Moving Average (SMA)

This tracks the price over a time period and plots the rolling average on a line, "smoothing out" price fluctuations, giving an indication as to where the trend is heading, and signalling to traders where to enter or exit a position.

As displayed on the chart, right, the three different SMA timelines (20 day, 50 day and 100 day) are plotted, reflecting a short-term, medium-term and long-term view. The longer the time frame, the smoother the average becomes. These lines' interactions provide an indication of key price support (bottom, **1**) and/or resistance (top, **2**).

Assumptions underlying technical analysis

1. All information is readily available to all market participants and is reflected in market prices.
2. Prices move in trends.
3. Human behaviour is predictable.

Technical Analysis - Simple Moving Average



SMARTCANE BMP FUNDING TO CONTINUE

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

Smartcane BMP has been embraced by Queensland cane growers, there are accredited enterprises in all sugarcane areas.

The Smartcane BMP program that has been funded by the Queensland Government since its inception in 2014. It has been granted an extension and will now be funded past 30 June, until 31 December this year. During this time industry and government will negotiate a new contract to support the program longer term.

Having successfully met or exceeded all of its contractual targets to date, Smartcane BMP has well over 150,000 hectares of cane land now accredited, edging closer to 40% of the total cane area.

Over 20% of accredited growers are reaccredited, having maintained their accreditation for five years or more.

During Phase 3 of the program (October 2018 - present) there has been an average increase in accredited land of approximately 5% each year.

Each accreditation represents an average of 221 hectares. However accredited farms range in size from a handful of hectares through to thousands of hectares. There is no farm that is too small or too big for Smartcane BMP.

Accreditation gives growers recognition:

- Smartcane BMP is a Recognised Program under the Queensland Government's Reef Regulations and as such, accreditation in Smartcane BMP is deemed an alternate pathway to compliance.
- Alignment between Smartcane BMP standards and the requirements of Bonsucro and Vive/Protera is providing a pathway for the marketing of Australian sustainable sugar.
- Smartcane BMP standards have been recognised by several financial institutions as meeting their green credentials for responsible lending for their environmental and sustainability criteria.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To be part of this successful program and your industry's sustainable future, contact your local facilitator to find out what Smartcane BMP could mean for your business. Visit smartcane.com.au to find out more. ■



Smartcane BMP Accredited Land

Area Accredited: **153,568 ha**

Accredited Enterprises: **694**

**1 in every 2.5
hectares of QLD
cane land is
accredited**

**20% of
accredited
enterprises are
re-accredited**

**Each accreditation
averages 221
hectares**



Mill mud not a dirty word

by Robyn Devine

At a time of spiralling fertiliser costs, some growers are finding mill mud an effective way to cut costs, boost productivity and improve soil health, all while reducing potential run-off.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River is leading an exciting suite of targeted projects working with growers on their nutrient management practices and ultimately improving the quality of water leaving farms and reaching the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program is a three and a half year, \$16.2 million-dollar program that aims to prevent dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) from reaching the Reef by focusing on improving land management to increase the profitability, productivity and sustainability of cane farms.

Initiatives like Project CaNE™, delivered by Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL), work with growers to improve farming practices to reduce DIN from leaving farms. The Agro Group project is modernising on-farm mill mud application, while the Major Grants Project provides financial incentives for growers to become more sustainable.

"The program encourages enduring practice change that can be sustained by growers. Our aim is for growers to want to adopt the practices and to continue them in the long term," Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Coordinator **Caroline Coppo** said.

"It's great to be working with growers like **Tony Crisafulli**, who is active in the projects. He's working with HCPSL and Agro Group, as well as receiving major grant funding to help purchase a rate control system for his fertiliser box."

Having spent his life growing sugarcane at Ingham, Tony is interested in sustainable farming practices that improve his cane and is willing to participate in trials to see the outcomes for himself. As part of the program, Tony has been working with HCPSL on a nutrient management plan and is using Agro Group's mill mud spreading systems.

"About four years ago Wilmar did a trial at our place, they did all the rates on top at 200t/ha, 100t/ha, 50t/ha and then I had the idea to make a V and put the mill mud down below the surface in the trial," Tony said.

"We applied about 100 tonnes a hectare and when we went to cut it, it was amazing. Over six rows we were filling up about two bins and where there was no mill mud we were doing about a bin and a half.

continues page 26 ►

Pictured: Kristen and Regan Kernke inspect Vince Trovato's cane; Agro Group were able to extend their fleet of trucks with funding for their Modernising On-Farm Mill Mud Application project.





"Growers can fine tune their nutrient rates following mill mud application which may include reducing fertiliser rates."

"When the trials came back the most economical result was the one using 100 tonnes down in the furrow, because the tonnes were up and the sugar was not much lower. That sold me on using mill mud and now I use it every year as much as I can."

Kristen and Regan Kerneke from Agro Group say their project is a win-win for everyone, by aiming to provide growers with tools and a better understanding of the options of mill mud application.

Agro Group supplies mill mud in the region, and in recent years has modified its fleet of trucks to have the capability to apply the mill mud in a targeted and more accurate capacity, helping growers to improve soil health and increase yields more economically.

Mill mud is a mill by-product. It contains a high level of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, organic matter, trace elements, water, fibre, soil, soluble sugars and other proteins from within the sugarcane stalk. It also contains lime that has been applied during the clarification process in the sugar mill.

"At a time when fertiliser prices are so high, mill mud really is a great alternative for farmers," Kristen said.

"That calcium you find in the mill mud comes from lime as part of the factory process at the mill and it normally would be an extra external cost to the farmer if they need to add soil ameliorants such as gypsum or lime," Kristen said.

"There are also trace elements in mill mud, including nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter and it has moisture, which can be key at planting, especially in dry years, which is another benefit of using mill mud."

This is the second year Agro Group has been part of the program. With funding for its successful Modernising On-Farm Mill Mud Application project, it was able to get its specially engineered trucks out into the district, shifting mill mud into areas that have not been able to benefit from it previously.

Agro Group is focusing on increasing mill mud distribution to a greater percentage of growers, working on supplying farms that have traditionally not used mill mud on their crops as they are located more than 30kms from the mill. Historically, at more than 100t/ha, the supply of mill mud further from the mill has been cost prohibitive to growers.

"One of the challenges remains community perception," Kristen said. "You mention mill mud and growers still believe its unaffordable or uneconomical if you live out further from the mill.

"The other common thing you hear is that mill mud can decrease the CCS.

"With our ability to spread mill mud at a reduced and more accurate application rate, it becomes more economical for the grower as they are able to cover more ground with the same amount of product.

"With the new trucks we can regulate the rows' width spacing. A field might have 1.8m spacing or 1.6m or 2.1m on different farms. We simply change the dial in the truck in relation to the row width and put that mud exactly where the farmer wants.

"We are getting new growers on board with this technology. Growers who maybe couldn't afford it before are finding it is economical and it is a cost-effective product and we're pushing it into areas it hasn't been, so ultimately helping to lift soil health around the district.

"Mill mud is placed with precision, with less chance of runoff and less waste and risk of nutrients getting out into the nearby waterways.

"Thanks to trials like Tony's, we're seeing more and new growers trailing mill mud use and have noticed an uptake on subsurface applications.

"We find out what row spacing is required, we adjust the trucks we come in and spread it in the furrows and the grower covers it in. There is less nutrients in run off now because it's capped in the subsurface."

Growers can fine tune their nutrient rates following mill mud application, which may include reducing fertiliser rates, according to their individual nutrient management program in SIX EASY STEPS.

continues page 28 ►

Pictured: Vince Trovato followed Tony Crisafulli in using the Agro Group mill mud and is happy with the result.



"With our ability to spread mill mud at a reduced and more accurate application rate, it becomes more economical for the grower."



"In the current economy with the fertiliser price what it is, it's good to be able to give growers an alternative nutrient supply that is beyond anything that you could get in a commercial fertiliser," Kristen said.

"Because mill mud is high in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, you have to take that into account when you're fertilising too, so you have the opportunity to reduce the fertiliser rate.

"We have farmers saying another cost benefit is they can get longer ratooning out of their crops, with some of our farmers saying they are getting up to six ratoons when they'd normally plough out after three or four.

"On the nutrient side, the phosphorus is readily available and the nitrogen is encased in other compounds meaning it's a slow release over time.

"We're putting it where the plant needs it, putting just enough so the plant will take it up, so we are expecting to see some great data to support the trials that some growers are conducting after this season, especially in terms of reducing fertiliser rates to determine just how this affects CCS."

There are many options to improving soil health, each with their own cost profile and growers often make decisions based on advice and shared experiences from other growers.

Tony's neighbour, Vince Trovato has been growing cane in the area since 1953 and has followed Tony introducing mill mud on his cane for the first time. He says he has never seen a crop like this year's cane and is very happy with the results.

"The mill mud has such good nutrients, so you can cut back on fertiliser. That's good with the price of fertiliser at the moment," Vince said.

"The soil here is about a 5 out of 10. It's a yellow clay soil, so there are limited varieties you can grow.

"I'm using variety Q253 here. It's a good option for this soil, and I used the mill mud here for the first time and I'm very happy with how it's grown. I'll use mill mud again."

According to Tony the best thing to do is a trial. "Go ahead and try, if you're not sure just trial it. Split your paddock up, do some with and some without and the next year you'll be using it all over your paddocks," he said.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program projects are helping growers improve farming practices to not only reduce negative impacts on the reef but to increase productivity and provide sustainability choices.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program is funded by a partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. ■

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program includes the six projects as part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Trust Partnership

Project CaNe™ - Crop and Nutrient Efficiency delivered by Herbert River Cane Productivity Services Limited with support from TropWATER helps farmers to improve practices that reduce dissolved inorganic nitrogen and other pollutants from entering local water ways.

Project Catalyst managed by Catchment Solutions helps growers to adopt agricultural practices to improve on farm management practices.

Reef Credits managed by GreenCollar in the Lower Herbert region. Landholders generate and sell Reef Credits through validated and audited dissolve inorganic nitrogen reduction activities that go above and beyond regulations.

Agro Group is modernising on farm mill mud application to provide growers with the tools and knowledge to apply mill mud more accurately and efficiently to their paddocks.

Local Area Nutrient Datahub (LAND) LiqaForce's LAND project utilises data such as crop history, land structure and soil composition to produce an optimised Six Easy Steps nutrient management plan.

Major Grants provides financial incentives to growers who improve water quality through practice change. Financial incentives through the grants project are available to growers in the district that meet criteria and are willing to contribute a matching cash amount.



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

A force for good: sustainable investing with Australian Retirement Trust

At Australian Retirement Trust, we're committed to being a force for good that enhances retirement outcomes and makes the world a better place. As a profit-for-members fund, we believe integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into our investment processes delivers better investment outcomes and contributes to a better future for our members.

Australian Retirement Trust's newly appointed Head of Sustainable Investment, Nicole Bradford (*pictured*) is an industry leader in responsible investing and brings a wealth of knowledge from her experience working in Australia and overseas.

Nicole will play a pivotal role in helping build on Australian Retirement Trust's work in the rapidly maturing space of responsible investment.

"Australian Retirement Trust is committed to using our size and scale to be a force for good. That means deploying capital in a way that will help positively shape the society in which our members will retire. It's exciting to be part of," she said.



Our Socially Conscious Balanced option

While ESG factors are managed across all our investment options, we offer the *Super Savings Socially Conscious Balanced option* for members who want to invest their superannuation according to a wider set of ethical criteria.

This option excludes companies that have a material exposure to live animal exports; the production or manufacture of alcohol; nuclear and controversial armaments; pornography; gambling; and fossil fuel exploration, mining and energy generation.

A company deriving more than 5% of its total revenue from these industries constitutes material exposure. This option also incorporates sustainability-orientated investments.

Our climate change policy

Climate change represents one of the most significant challenges of our time, and as global investors we're committed to doing our part towards investing in a low carbon economy and creating a more sustainable future for all Australians.

We believe that a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050 will increasingly be accepted by markets as the base case through which economies will operate.

We believe aligning the Australian Retirement Trust portfolio to this pathway will help avoid unrewarded risks as businesses and economies transition to a low-carbon future, and result in better outcomes for our members.

Invest ethically with Australian Retirement Trust

If you are interested in making a real difference to you and your employees' retirement by joining Australian Retirement Trust, it's easy to get started.

If you're an employer, register with Employer Online via our secure employer portal, or become a member by joining through Member Join Online. Both options are available at australianretirementtrust.com.au

Alternatively, to speak to a member of our team, call our Contact Centre on 13 11 84 between 8.00am to 6.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday.

About Australian Retirement Trust

Australian Retirement Trust is the super fund formed through the merger of Sunsuper and QSuper on 28 February 2022. We are one of Australia's largest super funds, proud to take care of over \$200 billion in retirement savings for more than two million members.

Disclaimer:

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NETZERO ENERGY SAVINGS TO MITIGATE RISING ENERGY COSTS

With the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) announcing in late May the steep rise in wholesale energy costs set to take effect from July 1, 2022, there has never been a better time to reassess your business' energy needs.

For Queensland commercial sites, they will see a 0.2% to 13.5% increase (above inflation) in their energy bills. This is a 49.5% rise since 2021.

Prioritising greener electricity through renewable energy sources will be key as we face volatility and uncertainty in the current energy market.

Being a cane grower using renewable energy, you can become your own energy provider and take control of your energy needs again.

When you install a solar system on a commercial property, you are generating your own power to use.

In addition to this, the cheapest energy you can buy, is the clean green energy generated from your own roof.

As Australian farmers look for security of supply, a smaller carbon footprint and more affordable electricity prices, a Solar Power Purchase Agreement is the ideal solution to clean energy savings and a pathway to NetZero with Zero Capital Outlay.

Together, Horan & Bird and Juice Capital will fund, design, build and maintain a solar system on your premises through a through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

By funding the solar installation, we allow businesses to go solar for zero up-front cost and achieve energy savings from day one. Furthermore, we eliminate the cost and risk of ownership and maintenance of solar PV assets.

"You now have a choice in who you buy your power from, you now have a choice on where your excess solar energy goes, you

now get to maximise your energy savings," Paul Horan, Sales Manager, said.

COMMUNITY SHARING

We believe that cheaper energy from solar should be available to everyone.

By partnering with us and switching to Next Business Energy, you will be joining our clean energy community.

Community sharing is achieved when unused energy is traded, shared or donated using Power Tracing Technology, with other members of the community.

The more people within the community, the more people have access to better, cleaner and reduced electricity costs.

Farmers can all benefit from sharing their solar between different pumps and electricity accounts if they join the community, and together, we can build a resilient local grid that produces greener energy.

Future proof your farm and start the NetZero Journey today with Horan & Bird.

Call Paul Horan on 0447 213 885 for a discussion and an assessment of your current energy bill or visit www.horanandbird.com.au/canegrowers to see our offer for CANEGROWERS members.

Pictured above: Horan & Bird Founder, John Horan and Residential Sales Manager, Jody Horan.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY NEEDS

\$0
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- ✓ SAVINGS GUARANTEED
- ✓ 100% RISK FREE

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Energy is delivered directly at a fixed rate that is cheaper than the grid.

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Call **Paul Horan** on **0447 213 885** for a discussion and an assessment of your current energy bill or visit www.horanandbird.com.au/canegrowers to see our offer for CANEGROWERS members.



HORAN & BIRD
EVERYDAY ENERGY SOLUTIONS



JUICE
CAPITAL

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

The May monthly rainfall was only 30mm more than the historical average, but it fell in a way that left paddocks already wet from heavy April showers too wet to harvest at the start of June. The start was delayed initially because of this and then again due to some transport preparedness issues. Mossman Mill growers started cutting on the Tableland on 19 June to supply for the scheduled start on Monday 20 June. However, some factory difficulties required an early shut down to deal with these issues.

CANEGROWERS held a Business Essentials two-day workshop in Cairns at the end of May. A small group of growers from Mossman, Tableland and the Cairns region attended and worked towards developing a Farm Business Risk and Resilience Plan. Three presenters spoke about the CANEGROWERS Budget Tool, the online FEAT financial tool, business SWOT Analysis and understanding the risk management process, sugar market risks and forward pricing.

Mossman Agricultural Services has run a SIX EASY STEPS workshop and a Grub and Chemical workshop for growers in May and June as part of its Prod180 project for improved productivity and management practices. They have also focused on Smartcane BMP reaccreditation with a number of growers coming up for their five years reaccreditation

audit. Four growers passed their check audits and continued to maintain their accreditation.

The Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership met in Cairns in June and reviewed the data for the next report on the health of the Wet Tropics catchments. The report will be officially released in August 2022 to coincide with the release of the 2nd edition of Reef and Rivers magazine.

The winners of the Far Northern Milling Best Productivity Awards for the seven zones on the coast were – Daintree: **Colin McDowall**; Bamboo/Syndicate/Whyanbeel: **Tano Caltabiano**; Miallo: **C Fasano & Co**; Mossman: **Joe & Janice D'Addona**; Shannovale/Cassowary: **Birkbrook Pty Ltd (Padovan)**; Mowbray: **Chris & Lynelle McClelland**; Julatten: **Peter & Doug Verri**. Congratulations to these winners who had best productivity judged on actual tonnes of sugar produced per hectare.

Pictured: (top & bottom left) Business Essentials course with Caleb Connolly from DAF presenting to the group. (top right) Productivity Awards winners L-R Chris McClelland, Peter Verri, Joe D'Addona, Scott Fasano, Tano Caltabiano and Gerard Padovan. (bottom) The first cane in the tipper and the over the weigh bridge (photos FNM Facebook page).



TABLELAND

 Harvest week - 1  Tonnes to date - 22,715

The 2022 season is underway with both mills up and running. Tableland Mill started on 14 June and Mossman Mill commenced on 20 June.

June was a busy month with meetings held with both mills, the Queensland Government Electrical Safety Office, and the Productivity Awards, held at the Mareeba Soccer Club.

Kattenberg Farming (Mossman Mill) and **Cabassi Farming** (Tableland Mill) won the Outstanding Cane Growers awards. These growers had the highest tonnes of sugar per hectare for their respective districts.

The meeting held with the Queensland Government Electrical Safety Office was very informative. Electricity is not talked about until supply is interrupted, or someone has been hurt, so please be safe this season and "Look Up and Live".



CAIRNS REGION

 Harvest week - 1  Tonnes to date - 54,414

The 2022 harvest is well underway for all growers in the Cairns Region, with cane being supplied to both the Mulgrave and South Johnstone factories. The focus is now moving to planting. There has been some wet weather across the catchments and delays to crushing and farming activities have been experienced.

The CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Young Grower Group held a leadership, self-awareness and teamwork workshop facilitated by Carolyn Alchin from Career Motivate. Eight of the group attended over two days and a list of challenges moving forward was identified. It is hoped that a platform has been established for these future leaders to continue with their professional development. A big shout out to **Desley** and **John Ferrando** for hosting a social evening for those involved.

Rotamarker Incentive Program - to assist the agriculture and aviation industries, we are currently offering to install up to 10 rotamarkers per property at a reduced cost of \$100 each (more than ten markers per property may incur extra installation costs).

Pictured: Champion Farm Mossman Mill. Photos: Wayne Kattenberg representing Kattenberg Farming Trust being presented the award by Glen Park from SRA. Champion Farm Tableland Mill Luke and Anthony Cabassi representing Cabassi Farming being presented the award by Glen Park from SRA.

INNISFAIL

 Harvest week - 1  Tonnes to date - 53,561

The South Johnstone Mill commenced crushing as planned on 14 May and is estimated to crush 1.48 million tonnes this year. An additional 242,000 tonnes of South Johnstone contracted cane will be transferred to MSF's Mulgrave factory for crushing.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail held its Annual General Meeting (pictured below) on 19 May, with more than 50 grower members, guests and staff in attendance. Guest speakers for the evening were Dr **Hardev Sandhu**, Associate Professor, University of Florida and **Matt Kealley**, Senior Manager for Membership Engagement and Innovation, CANEGROWERS. Despite his best efforts, Deputy Premier, **Steven Miles** was unable to attend but instead, prepared a video for the grower group. Other valued guests included, **John Pickering**, Evidn; **Bernard Schroeder**, USQ; **Mark Magnanini**, **Mick Ward** and **Dennis Wright**, MSF and Mayor **Mark Nolan** and Cr **Renee McLeod**, Cassowary Coast Regional Council. The evening was a great chance for growers to catch up with each other and key stakeholders prior to the commencement of the season.

The Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming project held five shed meeting across the district with discussions around productivity improvement and strategies to manage high fertiliser prices.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail once again participated in the Cassowary Coast Careers Day held at the Innisfail State College. The day was a great follow up to the MSF Careers Day held in early May.



Continues next page ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

TULLY

Harvest week - 3



Tonnes to date - 304,452

The season in Tully got off to an early start on 27 May and by the end of week 3 over 360,000 tonnes had been crushed. However, the crop is proving to be larger than expected and is currently cutting above the 93 tonnes per hectare estimate.

Driving around the area there are blocks being prepared for planting and several growers have managed to get some cane in as blocks have dried out. The focus for the time being will be getting cane harvested and preparing land for planting.

Greetings from Elisha La Fauci, "I am thrilled to have joined CANEGROWERS Tully and welcome the opportunity of

supporting the Board to progress members' best interests. I am confident that my legal qualifications and business skills will allow me to provide a valuable service to the organisation.

"I will be travelling to CANEGROWERS Brisbane office at the end of the month for an induction into the organisation. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months."

Peter Lucy will remain with CANEGROWERS Tully in a supportive role for a transition period.

HERBERT RIVER

Harvest week - 1



Tonnes to date - 96,051

The CANEGROWERS Herbert River board has farewelled retiring Chairman **Michael Pisano** and Director **Jeff Cantamessa** and thanked them for their service to the industry and in particular the Herbert River District.

The district's season commenced at Victoria Mill at 11am on Tuesday 14 June and crushed 58,300 tonnes for the week. Macknade Mill had a good start crushing 37,700 for the week.

The district CCS average was 10.9 for the first week. The Relative CCS workshops for members in the Herbert were very successful with over 60 members attending.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River would like to thank Agrifutures Australia for subsidising two harvester groups in district to purchase a cane loss and yield monitor.

The miller has reported that cane quality has been varied so far with some very poor rakes (high EM and stools) entering the factory, but it has been encouraging to see bin weights better than last year.

Victoria Mill has now commissioned both milling trains and all process house equipment with exception of continuous pans (waiting upon enough product). There were a few commissioning issues with the newly installed cane carrier and tippler, with product holding up in chute and belt tracking issues, but these have now been resolved. A derailment also stopped dual train for five hours.

Macknade had a coupling on number 1 mill fail and the repairs took 14 hours.

Pictured: Chris Bosworth CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chair handing Michael Pisano (top) and Jeff Cantamessa (bottom) a departing gift.



BURDEKIN

Harvest week - 1



Tonnes to date - 120,041

The start to crushing was delayed in the Burdekin by wet weather but paddocks eventually dried out to provide some semblance of continuity of supply, enabling the season to get underway, albeit with a staggered start across the district.

Crushing commenced on 14 June at Invicta and Inkerman mills, while Kalamia and Pioneer mills tipped their first bins on 20 June. There were some teething issues on start-up as expected, with Inkerman Mill in particular encountering a number of problems which have prolonged commissioning at that site.

Growers in some areas have been surprised by how wet their ground still is due to flat cane and colder days with minimal wind to assist the drying process. Wilmar is mindful of predictions of a wet crush period and has advised that its strategy early in the season is to lift crushing rates at all four factories as they settle and plant is fully commissioned.

With the later start, all eyes will now be on mill performance and the weather to see if we can achieve a November finish as growers are very keen to convert their hard work in the paddock into crystal in the sheds in order to capture the high sugar price.

BURDEKIN (CONTINUED)

One area of concern for Burdekin growers is the reluctance of aerial spraying contractors to spray cane farms where there are horticulture farms nearby. Contractors are unable to obtain insurance for spray drift are managing this risk by avoiding spraying near horticulture farms altogether. The profit margin on spraying a cane farm with 2,4-D simply does not compensate the contractor for the risk of being sued by a vegetable grower for crop loss.

Over the years, as farms have sold in the Burdekin, the landscape has changed from being predominantly sugarcane to a mix of cane and horticulture. While a cane farmer can't make an aerial contractor spray his farm if they decline to do so, some options for a way forward may include spraying cane early before horticultural neighbours plant crops, using dropzone to minimize drift and considering farm insurance policies that have spray drift cover. As an industry, we will need to review the position with various stakeholders to seek a better outcome for cane growers left stranded due to the risk of contractors being sued.

In terms of environmental regulation, it is our perception that compliance activity from Department of Environment and Science and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries appears to be ramping up.

Growers are reminded to get into the good habit of recording nutrient and chemical applications as soon as the job is done rather than recording much later after the application event. It is easier to prepare for an audit if the data is being automatically captured through good process.

At a local community level, it can be challenging to find people to fill Board positions, whether it be not-for-profit industry bodies or sporting clubs. Local sugarcane industry organisations, BCAS and BPS have recently been seeking Director nominations to fill Board vacancies and it has been pleasing to see local growers nominate for these positions to ensure these important industry service organisations are well-led to serve and meet the needs of the Burdekin sugarcane industry.

Pictured: Season start for Kalamia Mill on 20 June 2022.



Continues next page ►

PROSERPINE

The mill had to delayed the start of the Proserpine crush, due mainly to COVID-19 related supply chain issues. Unfortunately, some of these issues were exacerbated by the flood events in southern Queensland and New South Wales earlier this year. Experienced labour resources from Wilmar's Burdekin mills, as well as some key contractors, have been brought in to assist.

There has been no change to the original crop estimate of 1.64 million tonnes for the region although the cool and dry conditions have raised expectations for some yield increases.

Despite the later start, the harvest is still expected to be completed by mid- to late-November. With the improved weather conditions, most growers have been busy catching up on pre-harvest planting programs.

The annual Show Cane Awards were held in June in conjunction with Show Whitsunday. It was pleasing to see many new competitors this year, particularly younger growers exhibiting cane for the first time.

Winner of the Perpetual Trophy for the most successful exhibitor was **BJ & BL Holcombe** from Gunyarra. Runner-up, by a narrow margin was son, **Dale Holcombe**. Special mention must be made of Champion Six Sticks of the show winner, **BE & CL Penhallurick** for their SRA9 entry.



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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

MACKAY

📅 Harvest week - 1

🚜 Tonnes to date - 68,513

PLANE CREEK

📅 Harvest week - 1

🚜 Tonnes to date - 28,739

Mackay and Plane Creek milling areas have both commenced crushing, with the four mills starting across the week from 13 June. Marian, Plane Creek and Farleigh mills had some difficulties in start-up across week one.

Wet weather had brought on a delay to the start of crushing at Wilmar Plane Creek, while Mackay Sugar's Racecourse and Marian Mills were delayed with mill issues. Racecourse Mill had experienced issues with Boiler #3 ID fan during commissioning, which in turn delayed the steam trial process. Marian Mill had planned for a 9 June start, but capital and maintenance works were not completed in time.

Activity at CANEGROWERS Mackay has revolved around continuing to promote harvest jobs, community and on-farm safety messaging. That includes road safety, cane loco awareness, and Look Up & Live messaging. CQ QAWN officer **Peter Albertson** is assisting with an online electrical safety course and Rotamarker rebates for growers, and more recently, for harvest contractors.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has an online siding induction, so we are actively encouraging growers to make sure that siding inductions were up to date for themselves and employees. Mackay Sugar On-line Siding Inductions last for three years. If they need to be renewed, please phone the office on 07 4944 2600 to arrange payment (discounted for members), or head to the training tab at www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au. Plane Creek growers need to look to Wilmar for their induction.

Any growers still requiring assistance to source harvest labour are welcome to call 07 4944 2600, or post positions vacant direct to www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au/farmers-notice-board



BUNDABERG

Due to the wet conditions, Bundaberg Sugar has not been able to complete the agreed pre-crush plan. As a result, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS agreed to changing the growers' start date to 27 June on the proviso that 40,000 tonnes of mill-owned cane is removed from the core season and crushed at the end of the season. Bundaberg Sugar began crushing pre-season mill-owned cane on Wednesday 15 June.

Following a concerted effort, we have achieved a better outcome for the drought revocation date. Drought Relief from Electricity Charges will be extended to 31 May 2022 and cease from that date. A big thank you to **Jo Sheppard** and her team at QFF and **Chris Cooper** from CANEGROWERS for their tenacity and assistance in getting a good outcome for our growers.

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Meaghan Scanlon MP met with CANEGROWERS Bundaberg and Isis representatives recently when she was in Bundaberg.

Matt Leighton gave the Minister and the local Bundaberg MP Tom Smith a presentation on the sustainable measures that we have been doing for a considerable time and outlined why the inclusion of this region in the reef regulations is unjustifiable because we cannot impact the reef, which at its most southern point is at least 80 kilometres to the north-east of our river systems and the prevailing currents predominantly flow south.

Following a very early morning start in Bundaberg, the Minister, local MP and advisers met with Brian Pressler to hear about initiatives and practices employed at a practical level.

Tanya Howard will commence as CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Manager on 1 July 2022. This is a key step in the review process of CANEGROWERS Bundaberg. Tanya, who has been part of the Board's succession plan for the past three years, is well placed to take on the roles of our core business of negotiating and the aftercare of the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement and the Cane Analysis Program.

Dale Holliss will become the Executive Director of Bundaberg Ag – Food and Fibre Alliance Ltd (BAFFA) and remain as the Company Secretary of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, BRIG, Sugar Services and Grain in Cane on a part-time basis.

We remain committed to providing grower-biased, needs-based and outcome-focused services, representation and leadership.

ISIS



Harvest week - 1



Tonnes to date - 12,672

The 2022 Isis harvest season got underway on Tuesday 14 June. The first week of crushing, which only lasted three days, saw around 12,600 tonnes of cane crushed. The district is still very wet in many places, but the larger crop has made the early start necessary.

Most of our work over recent weeks has been heavily focused on negotiating a new Cane Supply Agreement with Isis Central Sugar Mill. Directors have worked tirelessly and we are hoping to be able to present the new agreement to growers very soon. We have also reviewed the Cane Analysis Audit reporting procedure and will test a new template this season.



ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point is gearing up for the start of the season, with the mill indicating it will be ready to commence in early August. The area has a pre-season estimate of 364,000 tonnes.

The weather has turned fine over the past couple of weeks, allowing for some much-needed farm work.

We are currently harvesting soybeans. The bulk of the soybean crop was lost to the constant wet weather, with some remaining soybeans of a poor but acceptable quality being harvested two months behind schedule.

MARYBOROUGH



Harvest week - 1



Tonnes to date - 3,414

The first few weeks of the crush have been steadily building momentum as conditions have stayed dry throughout. With Week 2 almost complete at the time of writing, we have been steadily building to supply just under 4,000 tonnes per day. Announcements of the end of La Nina (for now) also seem to be good news. Up to 23 June, we have delivered just over 25,000 tonnes of cane (that took 5 weeks in 2021) and cut to estimate seems to be holding. CCS is not yet to hand.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough's 126th Anniversary of Sugar Crushing Dinner was held on 2 June and a few photos were taken through the night. If you recall having a snap taken, give the office a call and we can send you a copy.

Over the past few weeks, we have been seeking indications of area under cane in 2023 and the accumulated figure is close to 8,500 hectares. Progress toward the restart in 2023 is continuing.

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Maryborough's 126th Anniversary of Sugar Crushing Dinner. (L-R) Nicole, Zeke and Reuben Stonier.

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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MICK QUIRK

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The Australian Government is evaluating the effectiveness of its 10 years of Reef Trust projects to determine what worked well and what didn't.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS is surprised that there will be little if any discussion with growers and other landholders who participated and provided significant amounts of time and/or money to the projects.
- ▶ The Emissions Reduction Fund has approved its first 'blue carbon' method for earning carbon credits. It rewards projects that reintroduce tidal flows to areas previously drained and gated.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS will advocate strongly for the design and implementation of blue carbon projects so that they do not impact cane supply to sugar mills.

REEF PROJECTS – WHAT WORKED?

The Australian Government is evaluating the effectiveness of its 10 years of Reef Trust projects, which focussed on improving water quality from sugarcane farms and cattle properties.

Its objective is to determine what worked well and what didn't. The information will be used to design future funding programs that aim to get the most benefit for water quality, an outcome which will require strong buy-in from farmers.

The Reef Trust programs commenced in 2014, succeeding the Reef Rescue program which invested \$200 million between 2008 and 2013 to improve water quality. The six phases of the Reef Trust will, by mid-2023, have invested an additional \$130 million for improving water quality from agriculture.

The evaluation of the Reef Trust will depend mainly on an analysis of reports from individual projects and the projects' water quality benefits as measured through the Paddock to Reef modelling program. There will be some consultation with entities that coordinated or delivered projects.

CANEGROWERS is surprised that there will be little if any discussion with growers and other landholders. Surely the experience of farmers who participated in these programs, and provided significant amounts of time and/or money to the projects, is essential to any true evaluation of what worked well? Such input should be like gold to anyone looking to design the next round of reef investments.

But landholders are apparently seen as passive beneficiaries of these projects, not as those on the frontline with actual skin in the game.

Accordingly, CANEGROWERS has strongly encouraged the Federal Government to not design future reef trust investments without hearing from growers about what worked well and resulted in long-lasting changes of benefit for their farms and for water quality. We have offered to facilitate this process so that growers' voices can be heard.

Blue Carbon – new approach not without its risks

Blue carbon is a short-hand term for the carbon that is captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Coastal ecosystems such as seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangrove forests are reported to be among the most efficient natural carbon sinks.

They capture and store carbon 30-50 times faster than terrestrial forests and can lock away carbon for hundreds of years. So there is now much interest in the potential for additional carbon storage by restoring these ecosystems.

For example, the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Fund has approved its first blue carbon method for earning credits. It rewards projects that reintroduce tidal flow to an area of land through the removal or modification of a bund, drain or tidal gate.

The Queensland Government has completed an assessment of blue carbon opportunities which found the regions with most potential for carbon capture via reinstated tidal exchange were the Fitzroy, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsunday.

CANEGROWERS will advocate strongly for the design and implementation of blue carbon projects that do not reduce cane supply to sugar mills, for example by focussing on land that is currently not used to support regional economies. It is important that such initiatives create win-win situations for local farmers and their communities. ■

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

The CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee, which reports to the Policy Council, has held the first meeting of its new term.

Of the six grower members, five are new to the committee so the first order of business was bringing them up to speed with the work of the previous committee.

Unsurprisingly, there'll be little change in the committee's priorities. Productivity is still top of the list, followed by research priorities and farm business management.

There is an old saying that you can't be disappointed if you don't have expectations. With productivity remaining the number one priority there is clearly a productivity expectation that is not being met. What is this expectation?

Two things always come to mind for me.

Firstly, what is the potential productivity given the environmental conditions each season (completely out of growers control)?

Secondly, what are the constraints which prevent growers from reaching that potential?

Crop growth models, such as APSIM and Irrigweb, can use historical weather, irrigation and soil data to produce an estimated potential yield (tonnes of cane per hectare) for any given season.

Benchmarking against other growers with similar conditions (water and soil) can also give an indication of the potential.

This is commonly provided by mill productivity data and often shows a wide range of yields from the highest to lowest, sometime varying as much as 40t cane/ha.

But it's not enough to know the potential, you also need to understand the constraints. Why is potential not being reached?

This is a complex area dealing with the constraints which the grower can control (farm management and on farm decisions) and those which can only be changed with external assistance, for example research outcomes such as improved varieties.

There is often debate around whether the main issue for productivity is lack of adoption or lack of good research outcomes to adopt.

It is clearly a bit of both and CANEGROWERS provides some tools for improved farm management and leadership for research priorities and strategic direction.

For understanding where you sit as a grower with regard to good farm management principles, Smartcane BMP is a useful self-assessment tool particularly the Business Management module.

The CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service, Cost of Production Tool and the Business Essentials workshops are all part of assisting growers to improve farm management.

CANEGROWERS, at district, state and federal levels also provides input into industry leadership and strategic planning activities. These are critical to getting the right research funded to set the industry in the right strategic direction.

There is a lot of work to do and we need to be smart. ■



INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The Farm Input and Research Committee held the first meeting of its new term. Five of the six grower members are new to the committee.
- ▶ Productivity, industry research and farm business management remain the committee's top research priorities.
- ▶ There is much debate around whether the main issue for productivity is lack of adoption or lack of good research outcome to adopt.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS offers members a suite of tools and services to help growers improve farm management.

EMERGING CARBON OPPORTUNITIES

Climate change policy has been contentious for a decade or more in Australia with debates around targets for reducing emissions, confidence in the science underpinning the targets and the transience of policy mechanisms shaping the political landscape.

Yet away from the politics, carbon has been recognised as one of the greatest future environmental and economic opportunities for the agriculture sector in Australia.

New carbon farming opportunities which contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and capture and store carbon in vegetation and soils are becoming recognised through various national and international voluntary schemes such as the Emissions Reduction Fund.

These schemes aim to provide incentives for businesses and landowners to adopt practices and technologies to reduce carbon emissions.

Research by CANEGROWERS in the sustainable sugar blockchain project has shown that carbon markets are emerging for sugarcane which may offer opportunities for diversification and additional value from carbon trading.



MEMBERSHIP
ENGAGEMENT &
INNOVATION
MATT KEALLEY

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ Many companies are setting internal net-zero targets for carbon emissions increasing voluntary carbon market activity.
- ▶ The Carbon Farming Resource Handbook collates resources and methodologies for Queensland agriculture businesses to enter the carbon market.
- ▶ While the overall feasibility for sugarcane is currently low, there is high potential for the future.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS is looking for opportunities to leverage Smartcane BMP to offer opportunities for diversification and additional value from carbon under the new climate targets.

AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

In late 2015, 196 countries reached agreement on the international commitments to greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, adaptation and finance which led to the Paris Agreement.

Under the Paris Agreement, Australia set a target to reduce GHG emissions to 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Australia is one of the world's highest per capita carbon emitters. Finding bipartisan agreement to achieve reductions has been challenging. In 2012 the Labor Government established a carbon pricing mechanism, which was repealed by the Coalition Government in 2014.

This led to the establishment of the voluntary Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) which is administered by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER).

The recent change in government led to a change in policy and in June 2022, the Labor Government under Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced more ambitious climate targets for Australia, pledging reductions by 43% from 2005 levels by 2030.

THE PRESSURE IS BUILDING

COP26, the 2021 United Nations climate change conference, created a stronger imperative for countries to act on climate change, which in turn, is influencing the ESG (Environmental Social and Governance) actions of companies, investors and consumers.

Current global initiatives to support climate change goals in the Paris Agreement show a strong commitment to addressing climate change through carbon emissions.

Many companies are setting internal net-zero targets for carbon emissions which has increased voluntary carbon market activity. Banks and financial institutions are also looking to offset risk and decarbonise their balance sheets through carbon trading opportunities to manage ESG factors as part of their business risk and growth strategy.



WHERE DO AUSTRALIA'S EMISSIONS COME FROM?

The Australian Government tracks greenhouse gas emissions through the National Greenhouse Gas Accounts. According to annual data published in September 2021, Australia produced 501.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e) emissions.

These came from various sectors including electricity, transport and industrial processes.

Agricultural emissions accounted for 76.1 Mt CO₂-e (15.2%) which came from livestock (approximately 70% of agricultural emissions), application of fertilisers and soil additives, soil emissions and burning of agricultural residues.

CARBON BASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUGARCANE

Along with the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), the Queensland Land Restoration Fund (LRF) supports projects that deliver demonstrated environmental, socio-economic and/or First Nations outcomes (co-benefits) in addition to sequestering or avoiding carbon emissions on registered ERF Projects.

There are challenges for cane growers to generate eligible Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU's) under these programs given the lack of compatibility with cane farming and the current methodologies aligned to carbon project areas.

The vegetation and agricultural methods for emissions reduction are the most relevant for sugarcane growers.

Agricultural methods such as soil carbon are amongst the promising opportunities for agriculture.

However, industry research has shown that soil carbon is not increasing under the current management systems. Further research is required so the industry can take advantage of the interest in carbon and make new and developing carbon schemes attractive to sugarcane farming in the short term.

The Carbon Farming Resource Handbook produced by NRM regions Queensland, Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Queensland Government has collated resources and methodologies for agriculture businesses to enter the carbon market.

While the overall feasibility for sugarcane is currently low, there is high potential for the future, especially with Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Practices which could be included in a soil carbon methodology are minimum tillage, retaining a cane trash blanket and restoring native vegetation. Additional data required would include carbon in biomass, soil organic carbon and farm emissions.

Financial products including sustainability-linked loans also offer an additional 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 will continue to monitor this emerging sector and look for opportunities to leverage Smartcane BMP to offer opportunities for diversification and additional value from carbon under the climate targets. ■



Delivery Points

A grower's delivery point is one of the most important 'assets' of the cane farming business. So let's look at some of the important considerations surrounding a delivery point.

WHAT IS A DELIVERY POINT?

Growers grow sugarcane for supply to a sugar mill. A geographical point must be determined where the act of delivery of the grower's cane to the mill takes place.

WHY IS A DELIVERY POINT IMPORTANT?

The delivery point determines where the responsibility for the cane changes. Up until the point of delivery, the grower owns the cane and is responsible for it. Upon delivery at the point of delivery, the risk in the cane, and the ownership of the cane, transfers from the grower to the mill.

HOW IS THE DELIVERY POINT DETERMINED?

For a grower to supply sugar cane to a mill, the grower must have a written and signed cane supply agreement (CSA) with the mill owner. As a general rule, clauses in the CSA will determine each grower's delivery point.

USUAL GROWER DELIVERY POINTS

Most sugar cane areas have similar provisions in the respective CSAs regarding delivery points. The delivery point for a grower is deemed to be the same delivery point as applied in the previous season. For an established grower, the delivery point cannot be changed in each area from their existing point unless the grower and the mill owner agree.



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*



CAN A DELIVERY POINT BE CHANGED WITHOUT AGREEMENT?

In most sugarcane areas there is no clear right to change a delivery point without consent. If a Plane Creek grower for example wants to change the delivery point, then they will need to discuss and negotiate with Wilmar.

If Wilmar wants to change a Plane Creek grower's delivery point, then Wilmar will need to discuss and negotiate with the Plane Creek grower.

In the Mackay Sugar area, there is a clear right to have a dispute about a change in delivery point determined by independent third-party decision. If either Mackay Sugar or the grower wants to change the delivery point and can't reach agreement after discussion and negotiation to make the change, then either the grower or Mackay Sugar can refer to dispute to an arbitrator. The arbitrator will conduct a hearing and decide whether to change the delivery point or not and that decision will be binding on Mackay Sugar and the grower.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A CHANGE WITHOUT CONSENT

From time to time a proposed change in delivery point may arise. Transport efficiencies and rationalisation and other circumstances sometimes suggest a change in delivery point is a sensible, reasonable and positive change and the grower maybe agreeable to that on certain terms and conditions. Where however a mill owner proposes a change without the grower's support, a dispute can arise. In the case of Mackay area that dispute can be referred to arbitration.

CANEGROWERS has supported many growers in the past in delivery point dispute determinations. In many such disputes the growers have been successful and there has been no change ordered. In some cases though, the arbitrator/tribunal has made an order changing the delivery point. In each of these cases although the change to delivery point was made, there was also an order that the grower be compensated for the extra costs involved in such a change.

Each case will always be determined on its own facts and circumstances, but we would argue very strongly that these principles should continue to apply and any change without agreement should be accompanied by compensation to offset any additional grower costs.

These comments are only general in nature. If growers have delivery point issues, they should contact their local CANEGROWERS office for further advice and assistance.

(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. ■

A dream machine for the future

Life could be about to get a little easier and less expensive for Aussie farmers, with John Deere announcing the launch of a fully autonomous, battery-powered electric tractor in 2026.

Production System Manager Steph Gersekowski said in less than four years, farmers will be able to leverage this intelligent and efficient equipment across their farms, creating what she said is a significant step-change for high-value crop production.

"A trial with a prototype of the battery electric utility tractor will soon commence on Australian farms to extensively test the equipment under our nation's unique farming conditions," Ms Gersekowski said.

"Alongside the tractor, John Deere will also bring electric batteries and chargers to market to facilitate the new technology. We believe this move will create a mindset shift towards power and will prioritise the use of green energy on farms."

There is potential for autonomous tractors to be one solution to the industry's challenge of sourcing labour while electrically powered machinery supports the use of green energy and reduces noise pollution.

"Automation is also perfectly scalable, meaning farmers can rapidly scale up automation during pinch-point moments, like harvest or spraying, where labour may be scarce, and then just as easily scale down when they have less time constraints or greater access to skilled workers," Ms Gersekowski said. ■

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LiquaForce claims fert award

North Queensland liquid fertiliser company, LiquaForce, has been awarded the Fertiliser Australia Kookaburra Environmental Award for its dedication to improving the efficiencies of fertiliser use in sugarcane.

The approach of Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser (EEF) product improvements, improved application processes, and investment in new technologies to improve the knowledge base that informs fertiliser application rates and practices, is driving productivity and environmental outcomes for growers.

The Kookaburra Award was one of three awards presented at the Fertiliser Australia Conference Gala Dinner in Darwin by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, former Governor of Queensland, distinguished Australian diplomat, and National Soils Advocate.

Ms Wensley said all of the award recipients had gone above and beyond the normal course of their work to improve the environmental performance of the industry and address issues of high local, regional and national priority.

"The award recipients have undertaken work which ultimately improves nutrient use efficiency, minimises nutrient loss and benefits the environment, stretching from the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) to the estuaries in southwestern Western Australia and beyond," Ms Wensley said.

Commenting on the LiquaForce approach, Managing Director Cameron Liddle said, "I am delighted to see our team being recognised for our efforts to drive productivity and environmental outcomes for growers."

"Plant Starter and BigShot are examples of products developed by LiquaForce to save growers time, improve plant uptake and crop yield and reduce environmental risks caused by leaching."

LiquaForce is also championing the use of variable rate application (VRA) practices across key GBR catchments.

The VRA fertiliser application process uses a main tank with a prescribed nitrogen, potassium and sulphur formulation and secondary tanks of nitrogen, phosphorus and trace elements to apply additional nutrition based on the differentiating soil types within a farm.

This migration to precision liquid injection processes has also contributed to productivity increases, cost savings, and improved safety outcomes for farmers and contractors.

"One of the greatest opportunities to significantly reduce nitrogen load at the

end of priority GBR catchments comes from the ability to drive widespread practice change in the grower communities so that optimal fertiliser rates, application methods and farm management practices are adopted," Mr Liddle said.

Nutrient management planning is now recognised as the cornerstone to improving water quality outcomes for agriculture and is an important part of achieving farm practice change.

"LiquaForce recognised vast improvements were required to systems of information available to growers, so between 2019 and 2021 we invested over \$800,000 into development of LAND – a Local Area Nutrient Datahub."

LAND delivers a paradigm shift in actionable insight and accessibility of key agronomic information in line with 6ES.

"This three-tiered approach is driving a significant shift in the sugarcane farming industry's use of fertilisers, which is leading to productivity and profitability improvements on farm, and water quality improvements in key Great Barrier Reef catchments," Mr Liddle said. ■

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International tractor 766D rear tyres 18-4-38. A good reliable worker. \$6,000 + GST. Also implements to suit. Ph: 0412797006.

2 x Olympic Tyres 16-9-28 50% \$350 ea GST incl. 1 x Olympic Tyre 20-8-38, 6 ply 60% \$700 GST incl. 1 x Dunlop Tyre 60/00 POA. Ph: 0438616791.

Expressions of interest are invited in the purchase of harvester, haulout equipment and a contract of 42,000 tonnes of cane to harvest. Mulgrave Mill Area, 2022 Season. For enquires please phone: 0407160673.

Fiat 980 2WD 3,500hrs, Fiat 1000 2WD 5,000hrs, John Deere 4040 2WD 3,600hrs, Chamberlain JD 4080 2WD 5,000hrs, Case 2590 2WD 5,700hrs, Michigan 110-

14 Elevator Scraper-New engine & Spare engine, D Massey Ferguson 3635 4WD 5,500hrs, 6 tonne tipper bin, Silvan Euro Spand CX2 Spreader, Portable bulk bin, Hustler Super Z Zero turn mower, Bunning Lowlander Mk 40-60 Ag Spreader near new, Complete tracks to suit cane harvester, Half tracks to suit cane harvester, and Fuel trailer tank. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0407160673.

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

Herbert River-Burdekin

Fold up Rinaudo Confidor applicator, 600lt tank, two pumps, 4 coulters, variable width adjustable depth wheels. Coulter disc 95%. \$20,000 + GST. Ph: 0457177269.

Tractor - 1988 Ford 7700 6720 hours, 2WD single remotes, GC \$17,000 + GST Ph: 0407154250.

2015 Case 8800 Harvester. 2007 JCB 3230 + 14t Carta Bin. 2008 JCB 3220 + 12t Carta Bin. 1986 Isuzu Dual Cab Harvester Truck - with 2000lt Fuel Tank, Compressor & Water Pump. Ph: 0499888919 or 074777 2130.

Mackay-Proserpine

7700 (1995) harvester, Cummins engine modified for 1.8m row, swing-out radiator,

Westhill chop adjuster. Reliable plant cutter or backup machine. 35k. Neg. price. Ph: 0413316897.

Richie 6t side tipper \$12,000. Ph: 0418716043.

4080 Chamberlain tractor, air con cab with John Deere engine, in good cond. 4280 Chamberlain tractor with John Deere engine, good for spare parts only. Ph: 0409264351.

2 x Kubota M8540 Tractors; open cab, bucket & forks. Year 2011 - 1135 hrs, Year 2013 - 1009 hrs. Ph: 0418186525.

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.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Isis Mill Shares for sale Ph: 0419932924.

2003 Hino Ranger, 6m tipping body, 2t crane, \$27,500 as is where is Ph: 0438389416.

As new billet planter, only done 50 acres. 450mm shute, always shedded, rubber belt, sprays no dip, 200kg fertiliser box. \$25,000 incl GST. Ph: 0419641518.

John Deere 6155R. 2018.4wd Air cab, Front & Cab susp. 4 electric remotes. 2310 Hrs. Power quad trans, as new condition with Agleader, steer command with an incommand 1200 GPS display. Has a 600 litre Rapid spray tank on front plumbed to back. Ph: 0419641518.

HBM billet planter set 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.

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.

SNG

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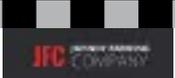
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Wanted

Steel wheels for HBM stick planter. Tully. Ph Anthony: 0408728072.

Double 4 tonne tandem cane trailer. Must be in good condition. Ph 0427783522.

Tractor tyres: 20.8 x 38. Wanting one or two, Mackay/Sarina area. Ph: 0409050890.

Work Wanted

Motivated worker looking for work on farm as cane carter or learn the ropes for cane farming caretaker. Located Calen but can travel to surrounds. Ph Natalie: 0409195057. Seeking truck work, farm hand or haul-out work in the Innisfail area. Holds HC, forklift & loader licences with 6 years' experience and own transport. Ph: Paul 0423455989.

Property - For Sale

Cane farm 87 hectares - 215 acres at Como Road on Trebonne Creek, 5 minutes from the Ingham CBD. Includes a two-bedroom cottage and farm shed. Contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on (07)47765007 or felix@reitano.com.au.

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

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.

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

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438545251.

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.

Rainfall Report

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (May 2022)	Month to date (1 Jun-28 Jun)	Year to date	Jan-Jun
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	206.8	25.8	2186	2229.1
Mareeba Airport	63.8	11.2	635.6	661.5
Cairns Aero	178	5.2	1419.6	1596.9
Mt Sophia	457	37	2984	2601.9
Babinda Post Office	553.6	0	2917.2	3260.7
Innisfail	571	102.4	2494	2700.9
Tully Sugar Mill	438	68	2505.3	3139.8
Cardwell Marine Pde	294.6	27.9	1288.9	1652
Lucinda Township	365.2	19.6	1555.2	1664.3
Ingham Composite	287.1	8.6	1368.7	1625.6
Abergowrie Alert	4	0	324	1081.9
Townsville Aero	153	24	968.4	885.1
Ayr DPI Research Stn	198.2	35.6	715.2	723.2
Proserpine Airport	181.2	1.2	983.2	1079.7
Mirani Mary Street	182.2	2	603.7	1056
Mackay MO	124	3.6	706.4	1174.3
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	146	0.2	832.8	1291.7
Bundaberg Aero	223.4	18.4	838.4	608.8
Childers South	255.8	31	900.2	519
Maryborough	182.2	24	842.2	721.4
Tewantin RSL Park	642.6	24.6	1912.2	1040
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	645.4	0	1943.8	1110.7
Nambour DPI - Hillside	594.2	11.4	2159	1243
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	315.2	16.8	1142.5	701.2
Murwillumbah Bray Park	337.1	2.5	1370.6	1045.6
Ballina Airport	278.4	24.2	2079.4	1169.1
New Italy (Woodburn)	241.6	21	2028	891.6

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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. Weather report sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

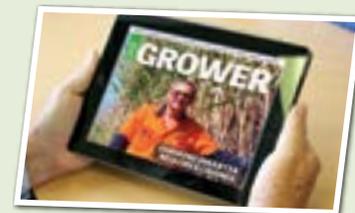
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If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit planthealthaustralia.com.au/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



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