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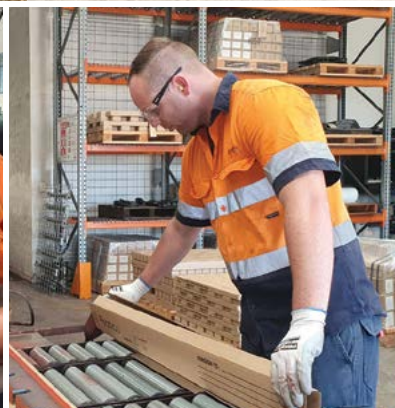
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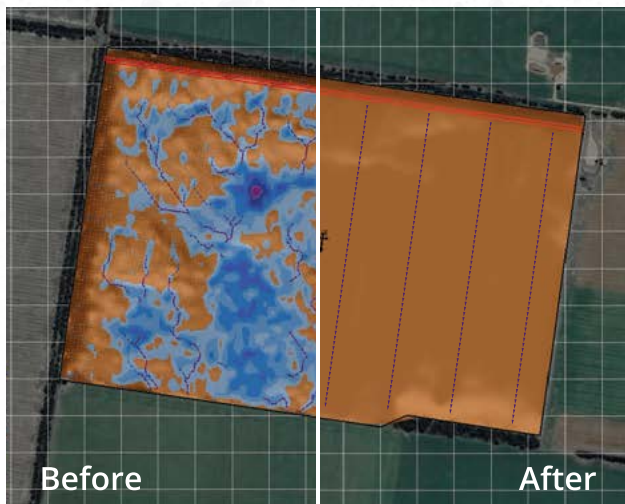


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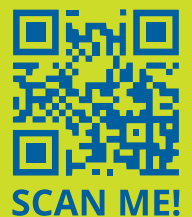
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Rocky Point growers are tired of illegal dumping and authorities shifting the blame within their region.

COVER IMAGE: Rocky Point cane grower Suzie Burow-Pearce was shocked to find 1,300 tyres illegally dumped on her farm. Read more on page 24.

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Relief at dam funding decision

After two years of uncertainty, growers in the Wide Bay region can finally breathe a little easier following news that work to restore Paradise Dam to its original water storage capacity has been fully funded.

"Confirmation that the Queensland and Federal governments will jointly fund the \$1.2 billion needed to restore the dam has taken a huge weight off the shoulders of farmers in the Bundaberg and Childers areas," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"For two years farmers have lived with uncertainty about the long-term availability of water to secure the future of irrigated agriculture in this food bowl region."

"We welcome the cooperation the governments have shown to progress this restoration project and the confidence that it gives to farmers and the many employers and employees who rely on agriculture in the region."

In the Bundaberg-Burnett region, CANEGROWERS calculates almost 1,800 full-time equivalent jobs rely on the sugarcane industry alone which supports around \$450 million of local economic activity.



"Since the wall of Paradise Dam was controversially lowered by 5.8 metres in late 2019 because of concerns about its structural integrity, CANEGROWERS and other agriculture groups have been calling for commitments to restore its water storage capacity," Mr Galligan said.

"On Christmas Eve we had the announcement that technical investigations had shown it was possible to safely re-raise, strengthen and stabilise the wall."

"With the welcome funding commitments from two tiers of government, a very long and nervous wait is over and we look forward to the work being expedited." ■

Reef regs in the spotlight

As this edition of *Australian Canegrower* went to print, the State Government's problematic reef regulations were once again in the spotlight, with a bill seeking to undo the latest tranche regulations being debated in parliament.

If passed, the bill, introduced Katter's Australian Party MP Nick Dametto, would undo the 2019 ramp-up of reef regulations including a controversial government power to change requirements on farmers without consultation or legislation.

On their current trajectory, reef regulations pose a massive cost risk to the Australian sugar industry, regional communities and the economy.

CANEGROWERS calculations have put that cost at up to \$1.3 billion over ten years to the Queensland economy.

The Liberal National Party also has reef regs in its sights, moving an amendment to have growers accredited under in the industry best practice management program, Smartcane BMP, excluded from the current regulations.

Both the KAP bill and LNP amendment may be voted on in early March. ■



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New grower competition

What's the best thing about growing sugarcane?

CANEGROWERS is running a new competition, open to all CANEGROWERS members.

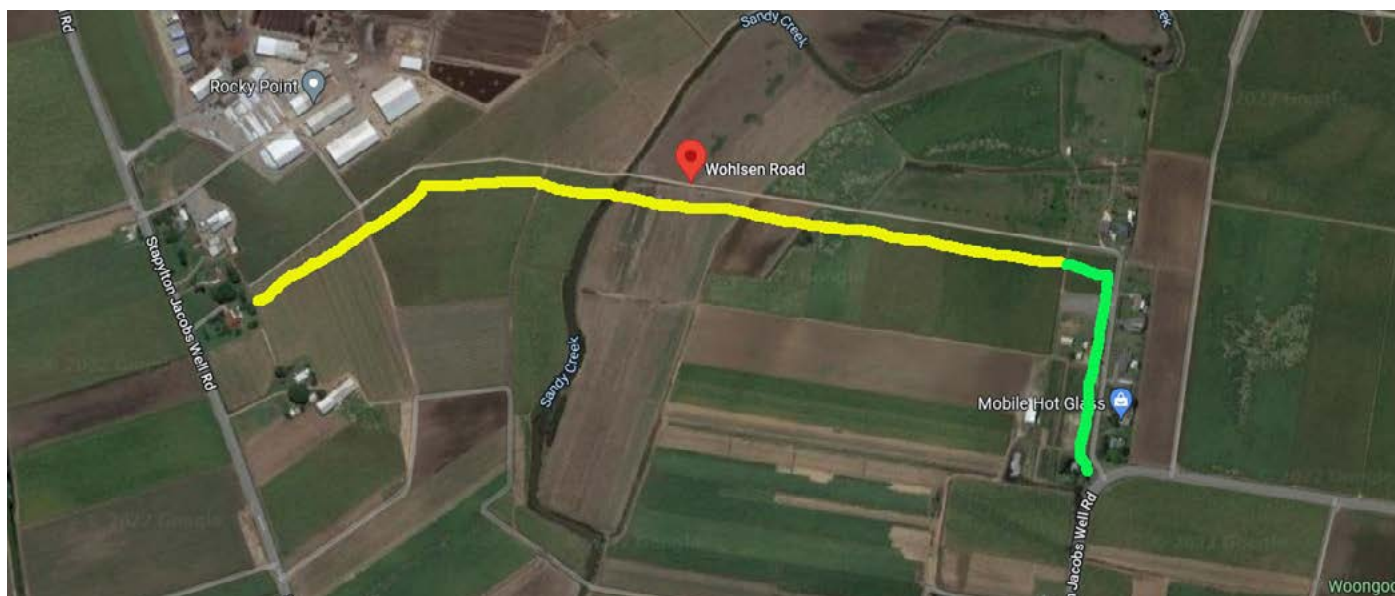
Capture an original photo, create a short video, or write a short poem to finish the sentence, 'The best thing about growing sugarcane is ...'

Entries close 5pm on Friday 25 March.

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Visit www.canegrowers.com.au for the terms and conditions.

Good luck! ■



WRONG TURN - Google Maps campaign continues

CANEGROWERS' campaign to secure corrections and updates to Google Maps is continuing, with the tech giant's legal team saying the company would investigate problems with data on its mobile app.

Growers have reported an increase in the number of drivers becoming lost and ending up on cane farms while following Google's GPS system in recent years, with one of the latest incursions resulting in a courier truck carrying a cargo of crocodiles becoming bogged on a Tableland cane farm.

Grower **Trevor Adil** is no stranger to finding bewildered drivers on his farm outside Mareeba, but it's the first time he's had one carrying a potentially lethal cargo.

"We've had a few instances of people trespassing on the farm while following Google Maps, but I don't think we've ever had any carrying 5-metre crocs before, and I hope never to again," Trevor said.

"The guy was heading to a crocodile farm that backs onto our property and Google Maps was telling him he could follow a certain road through the farm to get there. That road comes to a dead-end and very clearly turns into a narrow farm track.

"Once he realised he'd gone the wrong way, he tried to turn this big Pantech truck around and ended up coming up over the end of an irrigation channel.

"In the end he got stranded while trying to turn around on a sharp embankment and had to be pulled out by the neighbour. It was on a pretty serious lean but thankfully it stayed

upright and none of its occupants escaped."

According to CANEGROWERS legal advisor **Chris Cooper**, the Tableland region is a hot-spot for drivers becoming lost while following Google Maps.

"I have been receiving increasing numbers of complaints from growers and district offices about inaccurate maps leading to potential accidents from wayward travellers," Mr Cooper said.

"The biggest problem areas to date are Rocky Point, Mackay, Burdekin and Tableland.

"Unsuspecting, inexperienced drivers going through private cane farms poses a real risk, with property damage and personal injury a real possibility.

"Concerned growers have contacted Google through the fault reporting process but there has been no changes made and incidents have continued.

"I have taken the matter up with Google's legal team which has advised that the Google mapping section will investigate.

"As far as I am aware no corrections or changes have been made at this stage, but we remain hopeful that Google will address the dangerous problem and we will continue to support our growers in seeking a solution and taking any action if an incident occurs." ■

Pictured: Wohlsen Road in Rocky Point is a prime example of where Google Maps gets it wrong. The area highlighted green is a no through road that joins a private farm track (yellow area) which runs through cane paddocks and ends at the grower's home.

ISING COSTS CREATING TOUGH CHOICES FOR GROWERS

Skyrocketing input costs are impacting revenue and forcing some growers to make tough choices on farming practices. With no end in sight to the global instability driving up prices, growers are banking on a bumper crop and continuing high sugar prices to offset the pain.

Herbert River grower and chairman of CANEGROWERS' Farm Input and Research Committee, **Michael Pisano**, says a steep rise in fertiliser and other input costs in 2021, coupled with a below average yield and low CCS in some regions, had a big impact on cane farmers' bottom lines.

"We saw a huge increase in fertiliser prices last year. They almost doubled over the course of six or seven months," Mr Pisano said.

"When I started planting in April, I was paying about \$700 a tonne, but by the end of the year I was paying around \$1250 a tonne for the same product.

"That kind of increase has a massive impact on farm revenue and all growers are feeling the squeeze."

Growers haven't started their fertilising regimes for 2022 yet, but with global supply chains still stretched and a conflict underway in Ukraine, it's unlikely input prices will drop any time soon, Mr Pisano said.

"Where fertiliser prices will be in a few months is anyone's guess, but I think it's safe to assume prices are not dropping significantly, if at all, in the near future.

"In fact, with the instability we're seeing in the world right now, prices may well continue to rise.

"Gas prices were high already and will be pushed much higher by the conflict in Ukraine, and of course gas is necessary to make nitrogen, so it has that knock-on effect."

Mr Pisano said the rising costs were forcing growers to make tough choices.

"It's not only the price of fertiliser that's increasing – diesel, AdBlue, chemicals – they're all getting more expensive.

"Any time you sit down with growers, it's the weather and the price of chemicals they want to talk about.

"Thankfully the weather has been good for the most part, but the price of glyphosate has skyrocketed, so much so that I know some growers who are choosing to mechanically cultivate land rather than spray out paddocks."

While many growers are cutting back on chemical use, reducing fertiliser would be a double-edged sword. Growers are more



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"That kind of increase has a massive impact on the farm revenue and all growers are feeling the squeeze."

Pictured: Loading of urea in bulk into cargo ship's hold

likely to tweak fertiliser use rather than make significant cuts, Mr Pisano said.

"I don't think you will see many growers cutting back on fertiliser. They may well fine-tune their fertiliser use, but any significant reduction would have an impact on yield, which means less income at the end of the day.

"Those growers using the SIX-EASY-STEPS or BMP are already optimising their fertiliser use. I think you might see more growers looking to these programs to help reduce costs."

Growers will also be praying for a bumper crop and continuing high sugar prices to ease the pain of rising costs.

"Across the board in most districts I think the crop is doing fairly well. Here in the Herbert it's probably the best crop I've seen in years. I'd estimate it's up 20% on last year. If the weather is kind to us and the cyclones stay away, we should have a good harvest and hopefully high CCS.

"If the sugar price also remains high, it could be a good year in terms of income for the industry. It probably won't be good enough to make up for the rising costs, but it will go some way to offsetting the pain."

Turn to page 40 to read more about evaluating economic and productivity considerations when planning a crop nutrient program. ■

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Business Essentials off to a good start

The new CANEGROWERS Business Essentials program held its first workshop in Innisfail in February with a good roll up of interested growers.

Valuable and robust discussions were held as growers took the opportunity to share their diverse perspectives, Chris Gillitt, CANEGROWERS Farm Business Resilience Project Manager said.

"Often the day-to-day farm operations don't allow growers time to think more strategically about their business and the chance to unpack subject matters such as business risk, budgeting and pricing. There were constructive discussions around the impact that these have on profitability," he said.

"It was clear from participant feedback that everyone found value in attending, and gained a good understanding of some of the tools and products available to them."

"We look forward to future workshop discussions and thank all of the growers for their valuable input," Chris said. Visit www.canegrowers.com.au to learn more. ■

CANEGROWERS elections

The nominations are in - it's time to cast your vote

Nominations for CANEGROWERS' triennial elections closed on 25 February and growers will soon be able to cast their vote in districts where ballots are required.

Ballot papers will be posted out to members where required on 15 March and must be completed and returned to the CANEGROWERS office in Brisbane by 5pm on 14 April.

Counting of votes will take place on 19 April with the results announced the following day.

Elected district board directors will commence their three-year terms on 1 May, with one of their first tasks being to choose a representative to serve on the CANEGROWERS Policy Council.

The Policy Council will meet in Brisbane 23-24 May, where councillors will elect the Queensland CANEGROWERS board of directors. ■



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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BASICS

CANEGROWERS enjoys a strong membership base, encompassing a range of cane-farming enterprises, from small family-run farms to large corporate-owned operations.

Because of this we have a unique but significant responsibility to work on whole-of-industry issues. To realise the industry's potential, we believe that strong, collaborative leadership is required.

While CANEGROWERS spends a considerable amount of time taking the traditional advocacy approach to government, almost as much effort is going into collaborative work across the industry.

We are working closely with milling companies, researchers from SRA and universities, logistics operators at QSL and STL, and with prospective investors who are looking to know more about the industry.

With a long history of grower representation and a strong foundation of having growers at the heart of our priority setting and decision making, CANEGROWERS is in a great position to participate in industry-wide discussions with a strong focus on the needs of growers.

Of course, we are not the only industry voice. But this is not about being the biggest or the loudest, it is about looking at issues from the perspective of what is important for growers and bringing others along with us to improve the profitability of growers.

While this longer-term work is important, we are not going to forget about the basics.

CANEGROWERS is just as focused on the here and now profitability drivers for growers. Thinking and planning while acting on the here and now risks is an important part of our work as your industry body.

For many growers, the impact of pigs on the productivity of their farms is significant.

Feral pig control in many of our districts is costing growers a lot of time and money, as well as impacting current and future yield, and in almost all cases it is causing real stress and anxiety.

Our district companies and local grower reps are as close to the action as you can get on this issue – as it is affecting them too. Based on their feedback and insights, we are focusing more efforts on finding real solutions to this awful problem.

Sadly, the cost of protecting your crop can be lost when someone selfishly uses your farm to dispose of their waste.

The issue of illegal dumping is alarmingly common across many districts. The reality of farming near the urban environment, the escalating costs of legal waste disposal, and the innate selfishness of some people is resulting in a costly and dangerous situation for growers.

In some respects, the State Government has recognised this through clean-up grants, but CANEGROWERS will continue to do more to highlight the issue on behalf of impacted growers.

The approach we will continue to take at CANEGROWERS is to think long-term, while taking any action possible in the short term.

We want to see the industry grow, but that will not happen without securing our existing and basic capacity to farm now. ■



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SEARCH BEGINS FOR ALTERNATIVE CANEGRUB CONTROL

by Sugar Research Australia

The sugarcane industry is heavily reliant on neonicotinoids especially the chemical active, imidacloprid, to control canegrubs. To manage risks that imidacloprid could be withdrawn from the market or have its use restricted, or that insects develop resistance over time, the search is underway for an alternative canegrub control treatment.

Imidacloprid belongs to a class of chemicals called the neonicotinoids, which are being reviewed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

SRA Entomology Leader **Dr Kevin Powell** is leading new research examining alternatives.

"There's potential in the future that use of imidacloprid could be reduced and we need to find an alternative to control canegrubs," Dr Powell explained. "That's the main product we have right now."

While levels of the chemical in some waterways are a potential cause for concern, he said after 20 years of imidacloprid use, there was also potential for insecticide resistance to develop.

"We're actually screening a number of different novel insecticides, including biorational insecticides which include a biological control component as well as a chemical control component," Dr Powell said.

"We're testing several different chemical and biorational products from agrochemical companies and the first stage in testing is starting this year.

"That's where we pre-screen the products and that will give us a selection process for which products to take through to field trials, where we will examine efficacy and run-off."

The project will run for four years, with the objective to provide enough data for companies to register alternative canegrub control products.

"We have to get enough laboratory and field trial data that's scientifically validated so we can provide to the APVMA and seek to register any new product. If you don't go through that careful process, then you don't get products registered," Dr Powell said.

"We're also looking at run-off and the potential for those products to get into our waterways because we don't want to be using a product that is damaging to the environment."

Losing imidacloprid through legislative withdrawal or restriction on environmental grounds would have potential economic consequences of more than \$50 million.

It is also better to have more than one chemical available to control canegrubs to reduce the likelihood of resistance occurring. It's important that other options are identified. Canegrubs feed on and damage the root system of sugarcane. If not managed, more than 50 per cent of the cane growing area is potentially at risk. ■



SRA acknowledges the funding contribution of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for this research activity

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

CRITICAL TIME FOR THE CROP AND CANEGROWERS

The famous American writer Mark Twain once wrote, "Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it". It's true, but as critical as weather is, there is nothing we can do about it.

While there have been some big rain events across the industry, and particularly in the southern Maryborough region where flooding has damaged crops, the much-hyped La Nina prediction of above average falls this summer is yet to be realised.

Nevertheless, most districts are reporting a promising crop for 2022. We are at a critical stage in its development.

The next four weeks will be important and I know many growers are looking for some rain.

Over the years, I've found that whenever I write about the weather, the situation changes before the magazine lands in growers' mailboxes.

I hope that is the case once again and that your crop has the conditions it needs to flourish, including a good drink but not too much.

Grower elections

The CANEGROWERS triennial election process is in full swing. Nominations closed on 25 February and we are moving into the actual voting process.

If an election is required in your region, I urge you to exercise your right as a member to vote.

CANEGROWERS has always insisted that our leaders is selected from our membership by our members.

All positions, from district boards right through to the State board and CANEGROWERS Policy Council, will be filled by growers elected by their peers. No third party or external process will elect the leadership of growers.

Reef funding

Recently, the Federal Government announced a further \$1 billion to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

While I'm sure that all Australians, including cane farmers, would welcome any initiative to protect the Reef, \$1 billion is a substantial investment of public funds and it's imperative this money is used wisely.

Farmers have in the past been portrayed as causing damage to the Reef and the Queensland Government imposes an overly bureaucratic set of regulations on daily farm practices such as the use of chemicals and fertilisers.

It is doubtful that these regulations will achieve anything other than frustration and anger among farmers, a lot of paperwork, and gleaning a political dividend for the State Government.

Time and time again it has been shown that where farmers are engaged

in cooperative partnerships with governments, the dividend to farmers, the community and the government is far greater than the handcuffs of regulations.

That is why we believe that the proportion of the \$1 billion earmarked for on-land water quality work should go into projects which are direct partnerships with landholders as a way to reap the greatest dividend out of this investment.

I have been involved in a local project in my area (Jaynes Creek Project) involving cane farmers, industry and government agencies.

The learnings from this project have bought about significant practice changes by farmers. There is no doubt that countless other similar projects are operating across the industry.

Ultimately, government agencies will determine how the \$1 billion is spent. Let's hope that they use it wisely.

As farmers, we know what type of programs will work. Let's not squander the opportunity. ■

CANEGROWERS BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

professional development for growers

The beginning of the 2022 season is a perfect time to think about upskilling.

Learn strategies to manage risk including price fluctuations and better understand factors that influence sugar prices. Learn how to interpret your costs of production, with tools designed specifically for growers.

With local workshops held in all districts, there is bound to be a location near you. The time is right for strategic thinking and to check your business' resilience gauge.



DATES AND LOCATIONS

CONFIRMED

TULLY - Tues 8 and Wed 9 March

HERBERT RIVER - Tues 22 and Wed 23 March

MACKAY - Tues 29 and Wed 30 March

DON'T SEE A WORKSHOP NEAR YOU?

Contact your district CANEGROWERS office to book.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Contact your district CANEGROWERS office <https://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/district-offices> or use the QR code with your phone.

COST

The cost will be \$110.00 (including GST) per participant

ELIGIBILITY

You're eligible for this course if you are:

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

PROPOSED

BURDEKIN - 27-28 April

PROSERPINE, CAIRNS - during May

BUNDABERG, ROCKY POINT - during June



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

Critical checks and balances ensure transparency of payment

The industry's cane payment system, established over 100 years ago, was designed to ensure that growers and millers share in the risks and the rewards of sugar production.

In plentiful years, when yields are good and prices high, both the growing and milling sectors benefit. On the flip-side, they also share the hardships when prices are low and yields are poor.

The system incentivises growers to grow sweeter cane, with a high Commercial Cane Sugar (CCS) content, and mills to optimise their extraction of sugar from that cane.

Cane is analysed at the mill to determine CCS. The Cane Analysis Program provides a critical process for this analysis which determines the growers cane pay.

Working on behalf of members, CANEGROWERS makes sure the analysis process is maintained and that expertise is available to support a sound auditing process in sugar mills.

The program, agreed between milling companies and CANEGROWERS, demonstrates the benefits of transparency to secure checks and balances for both parties.

Cane auditors oversee the entire operations of the program, verifying that the mills comply with the program's obligations.

There may be differences between districts in the way the cane is audited, however, auditors are expected to function independently in the sugar mill environment and understand all aspects of weighing and analysing samples to determine the value of the cane.

Some of the duties of an auditor include random sampling and analysis of cane juice and fibre, and auditing the laboratory samplings and analysis procedures.

The auditor may also be required to perform data validation, like entry and report checking, and be expected to maintain audit details.

"It is an interesting and rewarding career," said **Lyn McDonald**, a cane analysis auditor for more than 30 years.

"Each year I work from June to December and operate out of South Johnstone Mill.

"My role is to maintain an overview of the total operations of the South Johnstone Mill Cane Analysis Program and its requirements as an independent auditor."

Lyn needs to be confident that the laboratory apparatus and the weighbridge machinery are all compliant and calibrated appropriately.

She conducts random checks throughout the season and has been known to walk in unannounced at midnight to observe what is happening. ►

"The auditor is an important role, critical to the cane payment system"

The first expressed sugarcane juice, pictured, show samples of one stage of the cane analysis. CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chair Michael Pisano, pictured right, recognises the value of the Cane Analysis Auditors' role in his district.



Lyn knows the sugar industry well, having grown up on a sugarcane farm in Maryborough. She understands the program's value from the grower viewpoint.

There have been developments in the industry during her time, from the early days of manual operations to the modern digitalised procedures, but Lyn has kept current with on-the-job training.

An important part of her role is to liaise with the program supervisor as well as the CANEGROWERS district office about the integrity of the program.

"I value my role as the auditor and can confidently reassure growers that the audit supports their interests and that all laboratory analysis and procedures are being followed correctly as per the Cane Analysis Program at South Johnstone Mill," Lyn said.

"I enjoy being part of the sugar industry and would encourage others to take up the position.

"It would suit someone looking for a rewarding career working from June to December, then having time to pursue

other interests. I like the independence it gives me."

With a limited number of auditors currently in the industry, CANEGROWERS is keen to open discussions with potential auditors.

"I encourage anyone interested in working in the sugar industry to enquire about a position in the cane analysis program," CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman Michael Pisano said.

"The auditor has an important role, critical to the cane payment system, so contact your district office to learn more.

"It is a very rewarding seasonal job."

By providing transparency of the analysis process, auditing ultimately ensures delivery of a fair payment to the grower, and at the end of the day there can be no sweeter reward. ■



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QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 18 February 2022.

Sugar Market & Currency



Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	Rainfall has started to ease. It remains yet to be seen whether soil moisture levels have recovered after last year's drought.	Neutral
Oil	Ethanol prices remain artificially low as Petrobras holds gasoline prices 10% below global market levels. However, many believe this is unsustainable in the longer term.	
India	2021/22 harvest is recording strong numbers with 507 operating mills producing 18.7million tonnes of sugar by the end of January, up 6% year-on-year.	
Thailand	Wet weather and Chinese New Year holidays interrupted harvesting in January, with 49.6 million tonnes of cane harvested and 5.19 million tonnes of sugar produced by the start of February.	Neutral
Speculators	Specs have continued to liquidate their net-long position, down to 45,000 lots, and limit their exposure to commodities.	
Currency	Potential for the Russia/Ukraine conflict to escalate to an invasion and damage risk sentiment, dragging the Australian Dollar lower against its US counterpart.	

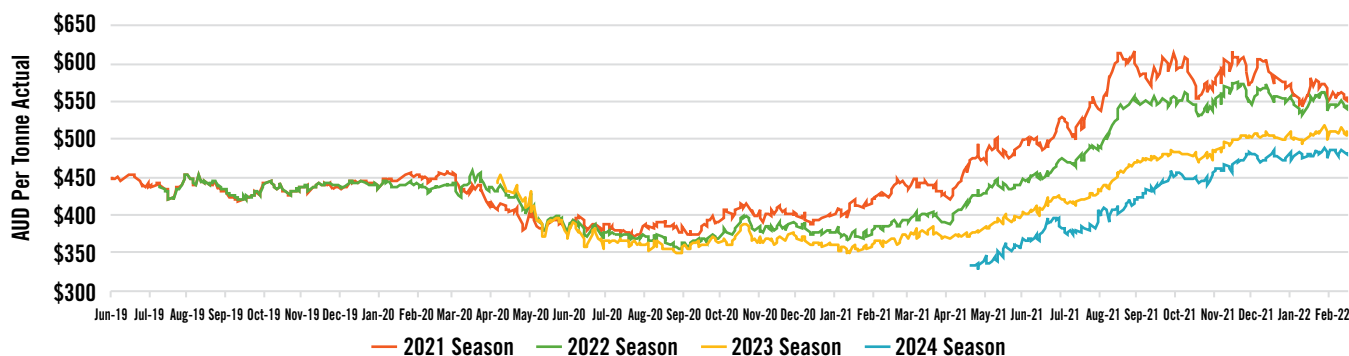
The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices. A bullish outlook is considered positive. A bearish outlook is considered negative.

KEY INDICATORS

	18/02/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (Mar22)	18.28 USc/lb	-0.65 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.17 BRL	-0.27 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US92.83/barrel	+\$US4.45
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	17.17 USc/lb	-1.27 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	45,000 (net long)	-6,000

	18/02/2022	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7187	-\$US0.0039
\$US Index	95.82	+0.08
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.34 CNY	0.00 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,380.26	-102.47
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 18.02.22, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Seasons.

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

Grower Pricing

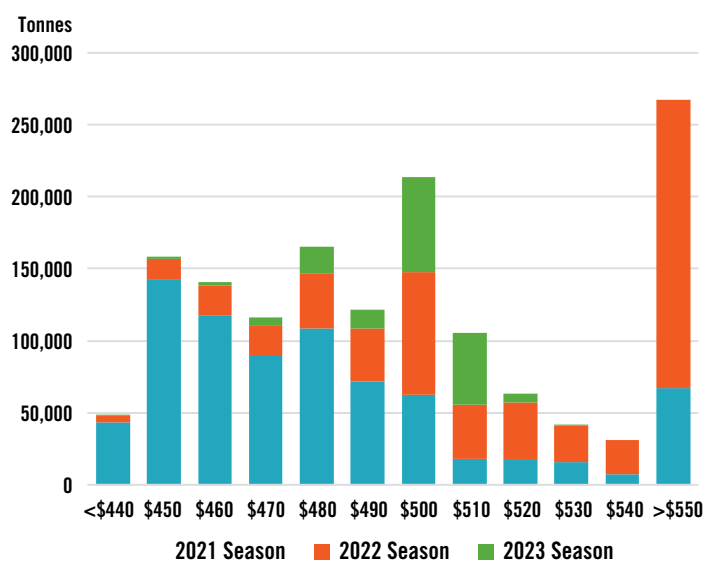


- > The highest QSL grower-managed pricing levels achieved to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2021 Target Price = \$610 / Individual Futures Contract \$625 (Mar22)
 - 2022 Target Price = \$575 / Individual Futures Contract \$590 (Jul22)
 - 2023 Target Price = \$515 / Individual Futures Contract \$525 (Jul23)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$490 / Individual Futures Contract \$485 (Oct24)
- > Nominations for QSL's 2022-Season pricing options close on 30 April 2022.
- > Indicative QSL 2021 Pool Prices as of 28 January 2022 (Net IPS/tonne*) are:

Harvest Pool	\$555.95
US Quota Pool	\$794.37
Actively Managed Pool (AMP)	\$582.34
Early-Start AMP	\$531.60
2-Season AMP	\$469.58
3-Season AMP	\$467.10
March Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$483.02
April Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$505.53

** Net price payable to QSL Direct growers, inclusive of Loyalty Bonus. All pool prices quoted are indicative only until pool returns are finalised in July 2022.*

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 18.02.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

QSL VIDEO MARKET UPDATE

6.30pm 22 March 2022

Tune in to hear the latest on the sugar market from QSL's Senior Manager Treasury and Risk Matt Page and Treasury Manager Ginette Barrett

Available via:

- > The QSL App
- > QSL Website – www.qsl.com.au
- > QSL Facebook Page

Got a question you'd like them to cover?

Send it to info@qsl.com.au



Matt Page



Ginette Barrett



Hard work and adaptability the keys to success

How do you become one of the largest private employers on the Tablelands?
With hard work, learning from your mistakes and being adaptable, according to
Dennis Howe, owner of the successful enterprise, Howe Farming.

Set on the Atherton Tableland between Mareeba and Tolga, Howe Farming at Walkamin is an alluring location with exceptional rich, volcanic, red soil.

But as with all agricultural activities, there are a range of challenges, even in paradise.

Howe Farming is a family-owned company with strong roots in the region.

After the completion of his Bachelor of Engineering degree with Honours in 1976, eldest son Dennis took the reins of the family farm. With the help of his siblings, the small family business has been developed into the large enterprise it is today.

"Mum and Dad started farming in 1950. They started growing tobacco and veggies on the other side of Mareeba and in 1974 we moved to Walkamin where we bought a red soil farm," Dennis explained to *Australian Canegrower* on a recent visit.

BY ROBYN DEVINE

"You don't make money by skimping on inputs. You get what you put in"

"We first planted cane on the home farm not long after the Tableland Mill started somewhere around 1998. Earlier in 1995 we had planted bananas and they now dominate the business. Currently our crops are 70% bananas, 15% avocados and the rest are cane, cotton, coffee, peanuts and other various crops."

Despite sugarcane making up only a small percentage of the business, Howe Farming is still one of the district's largest cane growers, cutting around 30,000 tonnes annually.

Despite its size, the business remains a family affair with Dennis and his three sisters owning it and his son, **James Howe**, in the position of Operations Manager.

Today, Howe Farming has numerous farms strategically located across the area and employs more than 500 staff including seasonal workers. Using the high altitude (600 m above sea level) on

"Our aim is to increase our yields, get those yields up, back to what we used to get"

which the farm is situated, Dennis and his team have developed a bespoke branding tag - *Bananas with Altitude, Avocados with Altitude* and *Coffee with Altitude* to create their point of difference.

Dennis grows sugarcane as an important part of his rotational crop regime on the western properties, but this is not without difficulties. The weather can be unpredictable and surprisingly dry considering its location in Far North Queensland.

The elevated Atherton Tablelands enjoys a temperate year-round climate with less coastal humidity. It's cold for about half the year and otherwise beautifully pleasant but there is limited rainfall. Winters are cool and dry and summers wet and warm.

"Irrigation is the single biggest issue in this area when growing cane," Dennis said. "Getting the irrigation right is a key ingredient."

Howe Farming's current water problems revolve around ageing equipment - irrigators that need updating or modifications.

"The irrigators are all centre pivots and on one farm they're getting to the end of their lives, so we have had to put in one whole new 15 span, re-pipe the 12 span and this year we have to do a nine span, three span and a seven span as they're just all rusting out.

"When one falls over you can lose three weeks' worth of water and you don't catch up.

"When you are irrigating it becomes expensive, there are the electricity costs to consider. We do have one flood

irrigation farm and while it uses a bit more water, there are no electricity costs or maintenance on irrigators."

Dennis' commitment to his cane crop has seen him employ **Michael Deguara** as his sugarcane manager.

Michael has a wealth of experience. As a third-generation grower originally from Mackay, he was the first in Australia to receive accreditation in the industry best practices, Smartcane BMP Soil Health and Nutrition module. This critical module covers the key issue of nitrogen use efficiency.

Michael's knowledge with Smartcane BMP and growing sugarcane is assisting Dennis to manage that part of the business.

"We'll continue to maintain our sugarcane, our aim is to increase our yields, get those yields up back to what we used to get," he said.

"We used to grow up to 55,000 to 65,000 tonnes of sugarcane, now we grow around 30,000 tonnes. We also used to get 130-140 tonnes to the hectare now we struggle to get over 100, except for one paddock in last year's season that did over 120 tonnes to the hectare, but others that looked good in the field did 90-100 tonnes."

Dennis is not complaining, though. He admits that with the sugar price at a global sweet spot and with the ability to forward price, it has been a good year for them. He accepts the challenges of farming as the highs and the lows that go with the job.

Continues next page ►

Irrigation and ageing equipment requiring updates or modifications are some challenges ahead for Dennis Howe's Tableland farm.

Dennis and his son James, pictured right, operate one of the district's largest cane-growing enterprises, cutting around 30,000 tonnes annually.





"You can't dwell on mistakes. If a crop isn't right for you, then change the crop," Dennis explained.

"We had blueberries for a few seasons but we are now transitioning to lychees as we couldn't get our costs low enough and yields high enough to make any money. So sometimes it's important to make sure you cut your losses."

Coordinating such a large operation is a balancing act, ensuring you employ reliable staff, maintain a regular and vibrant crop rotation while keeping an eye out for any potential farms to buy.

The company's expansion has been extensive over the past 10-15 years and Dennis is now looking forward to a time of consolidation, matching a recent trend within the industry.

The average farm size has increased according to the *Financial performance of sugarcane farms 2020-21 to 2021-22* report released by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

It shows that while some people have retired out of the industry, farm consolidation has kept much of the land in cane production as other growers have invested in expanding their businesses.

The average area under cane per farm increased significantly in north Queensland (123 ha to 146 ha) between 2013/14 and 2020/21. Cane yield, however, per hectare in north Queensland went down from 94 tc/ha in 2013/14 to 85 tc/ha in 2020/21 according to the ABARES report.

Howe Farming is the second largest banana grower in Queensland, and after a lifetime as a grower, Dennis is across the challenges that arise throughout the season.

"It's our field crops of sugarcane, cotton and peanuts that probably cause 20% of our angst and bring in 10% our income.

"Bananas are pretty well set but you are subject to the market prices. Last year, up to the end of October things were looking pretty good but leading into that season we were looking at one of the worst years we have had in years. Avocados have been really good but coming forward we are looking at an oversupply period.

"It's all about market supply and demand but that's farming for you, you have your ups and downs."

Having planted mandarins and lemons in the past year, Dennis said they're working on turning some of their western country into horticulture. He admits it is still early days and he's learning what the market is going to be like for these new crops.

He says a lot of farming is 'gut instinct' and having the confidence to back yourself in the decisions made, and with experience comes knowledge.

"We have a fairly good rotation now with the cotton, peanuts and sugarcane over a three-year sequence, that helps to break the weed cycle of Guinea and Johnson grass and of course it's good for the soil," he said.

"The reef regulations are something we are working through with our sugarcane, and we'll see this year when we do everything right if we can get the yields back to what we have experienced before.

"We used to use way more fertiliser back in the day. So, we will watch and see how it all goes."

These investments, innovations and learnings come at a cost, whether that be time or financial, but Dennis said, "You don't make money by skimping on inputs. You get what you put in."

He is hopeful that the export market will return to a constructive position from the last few years of disruption with COVID and the global political arena.

Looking further forward, he's optimistic.

"We'll be doing more of the same, we're always on the lookout for other crops to grow or other farms to buy if something comes available," he said.

"We are a pretty good size, so our main idea is to maintain our banana and avocado supply as we have some excellent markets for them. We have chain store orders and we want to continue to look after them."

His optimism is as strong as is his ability to adapt and strive for continued growth and diversification. These are characteristics that saw him bestowed as *Farming Legend of the Year* at the 2016 ABC Rural Australian Farmer of the Year Awards. These annual awards, co-hosted by ABC Rural and the Kondinin Group, celebrate innovation, diversity, passion and success, showcasing the modern face of farming and paying tribute to those who have made enormous contributions.

"The last wet season was good, last year was almost a perfect year for us," Dennis said with confidence and an assurance that the future was looking prosperous, rich with potential rewards for all the hard work and innovation.

That's farming! ■

Pictured above: Michael Deguara is using his previous Smartcane BMP experience to support the Howe Farming's cane production.

Pictured right, Dennis is the second largest banana grower in Queensland and was bestowed Farming Legend at the inaugural 2016 ABC Rural Farmer of the Year awards.





DUMPED!

A cane grower was left wondering where to turn after a mountain of tyres was dumped on a farm and authorities initially refused to help.

A Gold Coast cane grower is facing thousands of dollars in clean-up costs after more than 1000 old tyres were illegally dumped on her Rocky Point cane farm in February.

Suzie Burow-Pearce was shocked when she set out for work on 9 February and found her way blocked by a 50-metre-long hill of tyres, dumped on a farm track in the dead of night.

"I couldn't believe it," Suzie said. "The sheer number of tyres that had been dumped and the fact that they'd managed to do it all in one night really shocked me.

"We could see from the tyre marks that whoever did it had actually turned on the road and reversed about 200 metres down the track before dumping the tyres almost out of view from the road.

"Due to the number of tyres, they must have either had two trucks or did it in a couple of runs. It couldn't have been an easy thing to do in the pitch dark," Suzie said.

Suzie set about contacting authorities for assistance but was immediately met with roadblocks of a different sort.

"Illegal dumping is obviously a crime and on this scale it's a pretty significant one, so we contacted the police, but they wouldn't do anything, they told us it was a council problem.

"When we contacted the council, they told us they wouldn't do anything either because it was on private property.

"They said if the tyres had been dumped on the road instead of on the farm, then they'd have to remove them.

"The thing is, if we moved the tyres onto council land, we'd be the ones illegally dumping and no doubt we'd be prosecuted for it.

"We got some quotes to have them removed and disposed of and the cheapest one came in at \$7,000. The guy estimated there were at least 1,300 tyres in the pile.

"The whole thing is very frustrating. You've got these shonky operators who are paid to dispose of these tyres, but instead they're just coming out on farmland and dumping them, leaving the farmer to deal with the mess."

Illegal dumping on farmland is not a new phenomenon. Generations of growers

have been left to foot the bill for other people's rubbish, as tonnes of old white goods, building waste, household rubbish and even burnt-out cars are dumped on farms across the country every week.

It is a growing problem and the Queensland Government has acknowledged the scale of it by offering clean-up grants to help landholders with removal costs.

Almost \$3 million is also available to fund more 'boots on the ground' at local councils to investigate and prosecute cases of illegal dumping as part of the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program.

The City of Gold Coast was one of 27 local government areas to receive funding

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point has lodged an application for a clean-up grant on Suzie's behalf, however it could be weeks before they receive an outcome.

Chairman **Greg Zipf** is also frustrated and says grants are only one part of the solution. Perpetrators must be found and prosecuted if the government wants to deter illegal dumping, he says.

"It's very frustrating for growers to come onto their farm time and again and find rubbish just dumped on the headland and they then have to spend time and money cleaning it up," Greg said.

"Even worse is when rubbish is dumped in the cane itself and you don't see it until you hit it with a harvester. That can be potentially very dangerous and can do significant damage to machinery.

"So, while grants are good to help fund those clean-up costs, without meaningful investigations and prosecutions, people are just going to keep doing it."

While Greg acknowledges it can be difficult to identify small scale dumpers, he believes in Suzie's case the perpetrators must have left some trail for authorities to follow.

"There is some CCTV around the local area which we think they managed to avoid, but these guys came from outside the area in large trucks. They've probably used the highway and there are lots of intersections and roundabouts to get here that would probably have CCTV. The authorities should be able to track them down."

But whose responsibility is it to investigate?

Despite originally telling Suzie to contact the council, when approached by *Australian Canegrower* the Queensland Police Service said the State Government was responsible for investigating illegal dumping. However, they also acknowledged there is some scope for police to investigate the case.

"The lead agency in Queensland for illegal dumping is the Department of Environment and Science which investigates large scale dumping utilising the *Environmental Protection Act*. In relation to trespassing, police can investigate a complaint and the owner is encouraged to contact police to formally make a complaint," a spokesperson for Queensland Police said.

The council also backtracked when contacted by *Australian Canegrower*.

After initially telling Suzie they couldn't investigate the dumping as it occurred on private property, council officials later acknowledged having both the resources and jurisdiction to act. However, they also made it clear that council would not assist with removing the tyres or clean-up costs.

"Under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act*, City compliance officers can investigate reports of illegal dumping across both private and public land, however clean-up on private land remains the responsibility of the landowner," a spokesperson for the Gold Coast City Council said.

It's not surprising that landholders are confused over who to contact about illegal dumping.

Even the Department of Environment and Science (DES) doesn't seem to have a definitive answer on whose responsibility it is to investigate and prosecute cases.

"The lead agency for investigations into illegal dumping is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the scope of the investigation and available resources," a department spokesperson said.

Continues next page ►



Pictured: Rocky Point cane grower Suzie Burow-Pearce says farmers shouldn't be left to foot the clean-up bill when rubbish is illegally dumped on their property.



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"The Department of Environment and Science (DES) works in partnership with local councils across Queensland to investigate littering and illegal dumping.

"Illegal dumping can occur on state land, council land or private property. Where investigation results in the offender being identified, the offender is liable for the clean-up."

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor **Chris Cooper** said growers should pursue all avenues in cases of illegal dumping, however their first point of contact should be the Queensland Government's illegal dumping hotline on 13 74 68.

Alternatively, landholders can complete an online report at <https://report-littering-dumping.ehp.qld.gov.au/>.

Local councillor **Mark Hammel**, who has links to the Rocky Point cane growing community, has vowed to push for an investigation and has offered to support Suzie's clean-up grant application.

However, he also reiterated the council's policy of not assisting with the clean-up of material illegally dumped on private land.



"As a farm owner myself, I think it is an absolute disgrace and completely unconscionable that someone could treat another person's farm and business as their own personal rubbish tip," Councillor Hammel said.

"I intend to do everything I can as local area councillor to ensure City compliance officers investigate this particularly egregious case of illegal dumping. As such, I encourage locals to come forward with any information that may assist us with our investigations.

"Council is only responsible for removing illegally dumped material or littering from public land.

"I agree it is unfortunate that property owners often have to foot the bill to have illegally dumped material cleared from their land. However, Council is not responsible for removing dumped material from private property."

Back on her Rocky Point farm, Suzie would rather the authorities stopped pointing the finger at each other and just did something to help.

"Farmers shouldn't have to hand over thousands of dollars to clean up someone else's mess, just so those people can save money on tip fees or make a profit. It's just not fair."

For more information on illegal dumping visit: www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/waste/litter-illegal-dumping/illegal-dumping or contact your local CANEGROWERS office. ■

Pictured: Perpetrators reversed trucks 200 metres up this farm track in the dead of night to dump more than 1,000 used tyres on Suzie Burow-Pearce's Rocky Point cane farm.



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

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

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

to suit the specific application. There are normally two twin swizzle nozzles per shielded spray head with air induction nozzles.

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

"Silvan has the unique ability to build spray application solutions that meet the exact needs of growers," Mr Carr said.

"We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs."

"We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs."

A further example of meeting customer needs has been the development of a 3000L trailed sugarcane sprayer to compliment the existing three point linkage range.

Fitted with large row crop tyres for maximum ground clearance, the trailed version reduces tank re-fills so more time can be spent spraying.

The trailed cane sprayer still has the choice of four or six row boom with either spider or shielded spray heads.

For more information or technical advice call 1300 SILVAN (1300 745 826) or email info@silvanaust.com.

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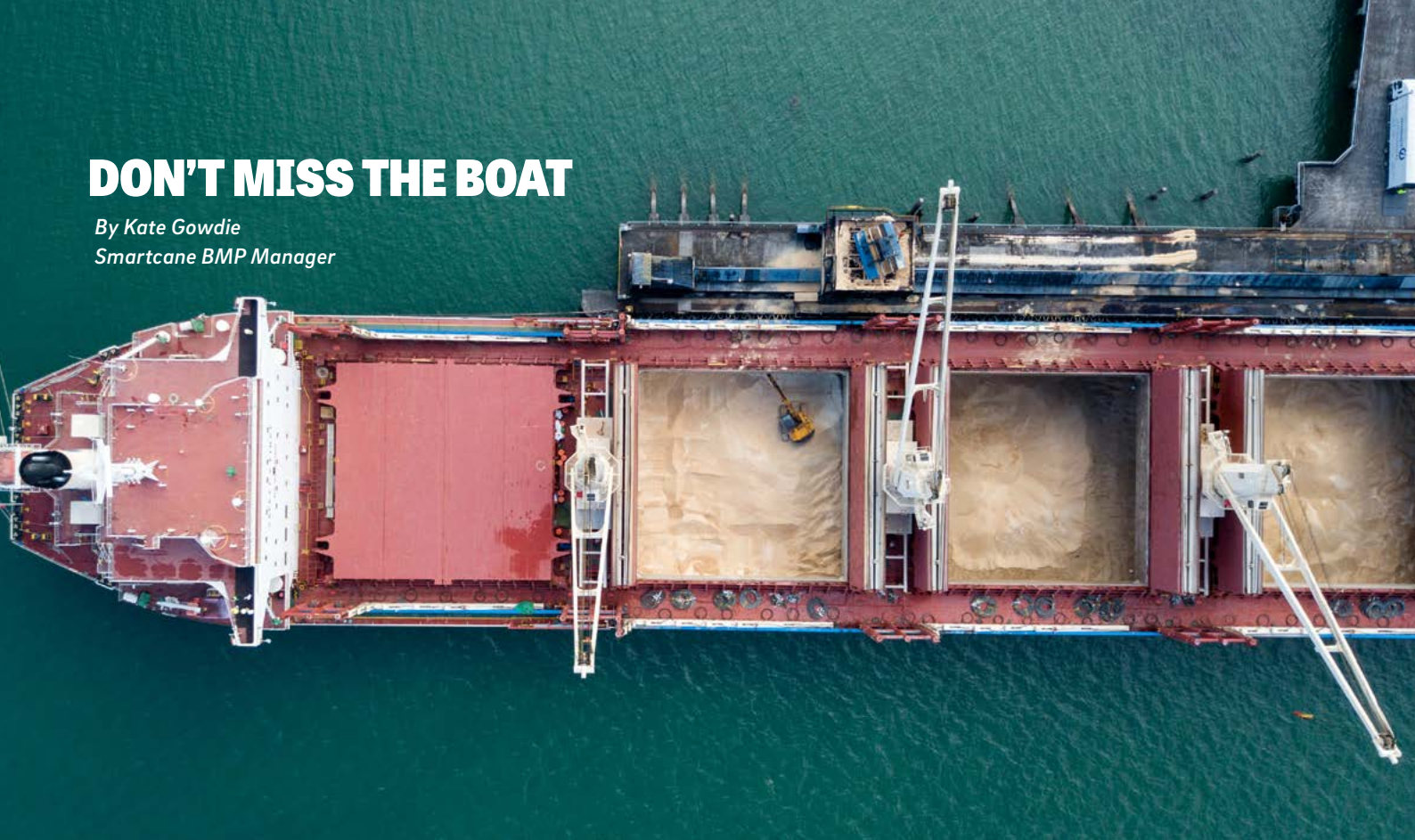


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DON'T MISS THE BOAT

By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager



If you are yet to be accredited in the Smartcane BMP program, act now! Smartcane BMP accreditation is your ticket to ride.

With almost 40% of Queensland's cane area producing sugar that is recognised as a sustainable product by marketers, investors, financial institutions, end users, and consumers - Queensland's sustainable sugar is in hot demand.

Buzz words and phrases like Sustainable, Responsibly Sourced, Ethical, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) are terms that have been present in the agriculture space for some time.

Over the past 18 months these terms have become part of the Queensland sugar industry's everyday lexicon, and for good reason.

Smartcane BMP accredited growers are producing sugarcane to industry-best standards, or above. And what's more, they're being recognized for it.

The resulting sugar and associated by-products are deemed to be 'Sustainable Products' across a range of markets and applications.

By meeting the industry-best standards for chemical use, record keeping, nutrient applications, and irrigation management

- to name but a few - the sugar produced from your farming enterprise is being sought out by end users on behalf of discerning consumers.

Smartcane BMP's standards are underpinned by peer reviewed science, assessed independently, and evaluated for currency on a regular basis.

The rigour and integrity that underpins the Smartcane BMP program aligns with and satisfies the strict criteria for many of our stakeholders throughout the sugar value chain.

As the Smartcane BMP program continues to evolve and mature, so too does the correlation between our program and the requirements of our stakeholders.

Consumers want to buy products that have known provenance and meet their ethical standards.

I visited Taronga Zoo in Sydney recently. The highlight was the seal show, which is engaging, entertaining and educational.

Each seal's history is a reminder of the impact of seals and humans sharing our

"If you are not participating in Smartcane BMP because you believe its only purpose is to satisfy reef regulations, then you may be missing a much bigger boat."

habitats and recreational spaces. There are seals who have been injured by boat propellers, caught in fishing nets or found malnourished.

The audience is left with a very clear take-home message – buy seafood that is certified by The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC Certified) to preserve seals (and the marine environment in general) into the future.

MSC's website states - for all types of seafood caught in the wild, the MSC blue fish tick ensures your seafood has been caught sustainably and there's plenty left for tomorrow.

Since MSC was founded in 1997, fisheries responsible for nearly 15% of global wild marine catch have been certified to the MSC Fisheries Standard.

MSC certified products can be found in our local supermarkets and on our pantry shelves. The presence of the MSC tick on products allows consumers to make a choice.

Consumers make choices, will your sugar be their choice?

Our program was born, in part, in response to a requirement to demonstrate that the Queensland sugar industry meets or exceeds the

governments requirements for Reef Regulations. Most growers do this regardless of their Smartcane BMP accreditation status.

If you are not participating in Smartcane BMP because you believe its only purpose is to satisfy reef regulations, then you may be missing a much bigger boat.

For more information about Smartcane BMP and the accreditation process, please contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator. ■

"Consumers make choices, will your sugar be their choice?"

Pictured right: The MSC logo on a tin of tuna and Taronga Zoo's Murphy the seal, pictured below, sits above the MSC certified logo.



CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

Rain continued to fall throughout the month, with a final total for January of over 100mm, which is above the 54-year average. Growing conditions have been favourable so far and the crop looks good for this time of year as we haven't experienced any major events to date.

Meetings started up again for 2022, with the Douglas Chamber of Commerce on 1 February followed by an information session with the new

Tourism and Economic Development Officer for the Douglas Shire Council.

The Wet Tropic Waterways Partnership also held its first meeting of 2022, where partners heard about data correlation in preparation for the release of the next Report Card and the second edition of their Reef and Rivers magazine.

There was also a Douglas Shire Area Fire Management Group meeting

where participants considered potential high-risk fire areas and planned mitigation activities.

Far Northern Milling Pty Ltd also looked to engage with growers during planned shed meetings in late February and early March, with funding, transport arrangements, and productivity being the main topics of conversation.

TABLELAND

Preparation for the upcoming season has started with harvest groups to be submitted to the respective mills by 28 February. There has been a suggested deferment on the Mossman Mill as clarification is being sought on how much, if any, toll crush is happening this season, and the situation with transport.

Congratulations to MSF for meeting the goals set for its Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiatives, as reported in the Newsletter dated 15 February 2022:

"The Project Uplift team is proud of exceeding the 18,000-hectare target for the program that was set by the Federal Government. Total contracted hectares for Project Uplift exceeded the target in December 2020 with 18,083 hectares secured from a total of 70 growers that have joined the program, which is now closed to new applicants. Grower hectares under legally binding contracts is an important metric that is being used to measure the Project's success, so it was particularly satisfying to reach this milestone with over a year of the program still left to run. The focus of the program is now on administration of remaining grant funds and endeavouring to assist growers to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation."

Growers are encouraged to take advantage of the services being offered by **John Barbetti**, the Smartcane BMP Facilitator working from this office. John has announced that he will be retiring on 30 June 2022. John can also help with N&P budgeting documentation.

A meeting was held with SRA, MSF and CANEGROWERS Tableland representatives to work on a draft action plan for the district that will be undertaken by SRA over the next 12 to 24 months.

High priority topics discussed included efficient and effective irrigation, new

varieties, RSD and chemical ripeners. The positive message that came out of this meeting was that to improve the industry in this region all parties need to be united.

Members who are wanting to plant cane this season should have their on-farm seed source tested for disease before planting. The seed plot that is run by **Drewe** has approved clean seed available, offering different varieties, that will ensure on farm seed source for the future.

Pictured: Harvesting and weighing of clean seed for members at Arriga.



CAIRNS

The crop across the region is looking exceptionally good. The weather has been pleasing and both the cane and fallow crops are looking well. Growers have a variety of legumes in the fallow. Sunn hemp has been popular this year leading to some very large biomass crops in the region.

Members are encouraged to engage with the local Smartcane BMP Facilitator before the 2022 season to implement a plan to work towards accreditation before they get too busy with harvest and related activities.

The GBRF Mulgrave Russell water quality program is now well and truly underway in the region, with on-ground

delivery projects able to assist growers to implement whole-of-farm planning as part of the Precision to Decision Project.

Involvement in the project is a great opportunity for growers to also get assistance to develop nitrogen and phosphorous budgets in line with the regulation changes as part of the project.

The Mulgrave Russell project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

INNISFAIL

Pig damage continues to be very topical amongst Innisfail growers, with damage to an otherwise promising crop quite disheartening. Growers are urged to communicate crop damage (estimated hectares affected) to Deb at the local office. This data is critical and will be used to make decisions and seek support for an integrated pig management program.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail representatives continue to work with Cassowary Coast Regional Council in this regard and recently welcomed the opportunity to show council staff the extent of damage on farm.

Smartcane BMP reaccreditations are well underway with minimal effort required to prepare growers for audit. It is also very encouraging to see a number of new accreditations across the district.

Pictured: Chairman, Joseph Marano and two staff members from the Cassowary Coast Regional Council assessing pig damage on farm.



TULLY

The modest wet season continues in Tully, however there is scope for some rain to come yet. The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is due towards the end of February and this often stimulates monsoon activity in the district.

At the moment the crop has had good rainfall and sunshine and is well ahead of where it was at the same time last year.

The CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshop will be held in Tully on 8-9 March, giving growers in introduction to the CANEGROWERS Cost of Production Tool, Marketing Information Service and other risk management tools.

The winners of the local Grower Productivity and Harvesting Awards for the 2021 Season will be announced with the publishing of the yearly CAPA Report, and a function is being arranged for April.

With the year advancing, it will be soon time for growers to consider their harvest rotations and with group size increasing each year, the clauses of the Rotation dealing with out-of-rotation cane for wet weather are as important as ever to maintain equity within a group and facilitating a smooth finish to the season.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

HERBERT RIVER



Herbert River's 2022 crop is still looking quite good. The weather and rainfall have been ideal for growing.

As we move into 2022, transport issues are becoming quite prevalent. Along with assisting members to apply for road access permits for the year, the CANEGROWERS Herbert River manager has been liaising with TMR, NHVR and Wilmar Sugar on several matters regarding transport.

In relation to grower grants, we have welcomed a lot of interest in the Major Grants Program/Grower Incentive Grants we are running. Our project grants officer has been visiting growers and assisting them with their applications.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River has been successful in applying for an agriculture technology grant from AgiFutures Australia. The grant's primary goal is to increase the uptake of technology in the agriculture sector in Australia and will allow CANEGROWERS Herbert River to subsidise cane loss monitors for harvesters in the district.

If you are interested in applying for this funding on behalf of your harvester group please email frank_scardamaglia@canegrowers.com.au or contact Frank on 4776 5350.

MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

With a little breathing space between crushes, now is a great time to do some training and encourage family and community members to skill up in the sugar industry.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is supporting and running several courses in the coming months.

High demand for haulout drivers has led to the introduction of a second four-day Sugarcane Haulout Training course. The courses are free and open to everyone, whether already working or seeking employment.

The training is done on-farm and delivered by experienced growers, haulout operators and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) trainer.

The course has been a popular success for around 13 years, delivering participants a great introduction to safe and effective haulout.

The first course will start on 9 May and is funded by the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative through Queensland Government Department of Employment Small Business and Training, while Queensland Agricultural Workers Network (QAWN) is funding the second course, beginning 16 May.

Each course will train ten people across four units of competency in operation of cane haulage vehicles, tractors, operational machinery maintenance, and Workplace Health and Safety. These units are part of the Certificate II in Rural Operations.

To find out more, and to register for screening, contact Central QAWN Officer **Peter Albertson** peter_albertson@canegrowers.com.au, or CANEGROWERS Mackay Training Coordinator **Shelley Dent** on 4944 2600.

There are several other courses coming up, including the in-demand agricultural chemical accreditation (14-15 March) and CANEGROWERS Business Essentials (29-30 March). CANEGROWERS Mackay is calling for expressions of interest in Pilot and Escort Pilot/Escort Level I & II vehicle driving training, for a course scheduled in March.

Although the climate pattern has delivered peak rain events alternating with very hot, drier spells, rainfall has been on average overall across the growing district over the summer months, with that trend forecast to continue into March. April is forecast to bring a 65% chance of above average rainfall across the growing district.



BURDEKIN

Growers in the Burdekin have been preoccupied with irrigating and watching the heavens to see if forecast rain is going to deliver a reprieve from being tethered to the watering schedule.

Overall, the crop looks good, except for the late plant and ratoons which will yield less for growers. We are looking forward to what the preliminary estimate reveals for the 2022 season for the Burdekin district.

In some areas, yellow canopy syndrome is unfortunately starting to raise it's head again.

Whilst it is great to see government invest in major infrastructure projects, such as the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade on the Bruce Highway, it will take some time to see the drainage implications on surrounding farms.

One member has raised concerns about the depth of the drains adjoining cane fields (*pictured*) in a specific area where a higher water table does offer some benefits in providing pressure to keep salt intrusion at bay. He feels the drains are below this table and may have consequences on water levels.

Previous rain events along the new roadworks have caused ponding of water which in some cases has inundated paddocks where it has not been able to drain away quickly.

This project is still in progress with more civil works to be done including the completion of drainage and removal of the old highway and we will need to

see how it all plays out when the work is completed and mother nature visits as she inevitably does.

Whilst growers are in a positive and confident frame of mind as result of good sugar prices, the accumulated impacts of rising inflation are being felt in increasing prices for key farm inputs such as chemicals, fuel, fertilisers etc.

As we know, farmers are at the end of the line and don't have the option to pass these costs on. We now need a persistently higher level of sugar prices to help offset our rising input costs.

There seems to be a higher level of activity around harvesting group changes in preparation for the 2022 season, due to a combination of farm sales and contractors calling time on their vocations after many decades of being in business.

Recruitment of drivers for the 2022 season is of concern. Low unemployment levels and the COVID-19 induced reduction in the mobile labour force is playing out for all to see.

The Burdekin is to host the CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Committee on 1 – 2 March.

Lower Burdekin Water has kindly agreed to host them for a field trip to see how they successfully manage the aquifer and the provision of water to growers in the Delta.

This is one of the most well-managed pieces of water infrastructure in

the southern hemisphere and it will be good for committee members (all CANEGROWERS Policy Council members) to gain a first-hand insight into how it all comes together.

The local CBL Board election process is underway and we have two vacant Board positions to fill. We are hopeful that quality replacements will be announced in due course so that CANEGROWERS can continue to serve the cane-growing community with the on ground leadership at a local and state level they need and deserve.



PROSERPINE

The outlook for Proserpine's 2022 crop remains positive with most growers reporting more cane compared to the same time last year.

While rain has been a little sporadic, there has been sufficient moisture to sustain the crop. With minimal rain forecast for the next few weeks, it's still too early to speculate on the size of the crop.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine has met with milling representatives to discuss some emerging transport and logistical

challenges. Harvest groupings continues to be an area of particular concern and growers are reminded that any change to last year's grouping should be notified to the mill prior to 30 March.

Should any grower experience difficulties in this regard, they should contact CS&T at the earliest opportunity.

Nominations for the co-operative's triennial elections for grower representatives closed on 25 February.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be distributed on 15 March and must be returned by 5:00pm on 14 April.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine has commenced early preparations for the CANEGROWERS Business Essentials course which is scheduled to be held in the district 10-11 May.

As places are limited, members are encouraged to register early, either online on the CANEGROWERS website or by contacting the office.

Continues next page ➤

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BUNDABERG

December saw most growers busy with fertilising and spraying, with a crop racing out of hand. Groundwater allocations have been reassessed and some good increases were announced.

The rain in November interfered with soybean plans with the window for A6785 closing before growers could get them planted. There has been some Kuranda and Hayman planted due to the later planting window but overall the soy harvest will be significantly down this year.

Sugar prices have risen with the 2021 season likely to reach \$560/tonne. With the increase in water allocations and the possibility of locking in some forward pricing, the outlook is a lot brighter than it has been for some time.

Both the State and Federal governments have committed \$600 million for the restoration of Paradise Dam to its original level and there are also plans for an expansion of the distribution scheme. There is a lot to be done but we are pleased that work seems to have started.

Another rates bill is hitting our mailboxes now. Mayor Jack Dempsey and his Councillors' had, and still have, a choice around these rates rises on farmland. They didn't have to apply them, and they can choose to refund them. We will be continuing the fight against unfair rate increases until they do.

Here's hoping for some more rain, kind weather and even better prices.



Pictured: (L-R) Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Chairman Mark Pressler and Manager Dale Holliss with Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce at the announcement of funding to rebuild Paradise Dam.

ISIS

The significant wet weather in January was followed by welcome showers across the district resulting in cane jumping out of the ground which bodes well for a big 2022 crop.

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

- Planned and commenced work on our integrated district initiative 'We've got your back – be reef reg ready' with a focus on record keeping (jotforms) and soil tests, pictured, for fallow blocks on all farms.
- Progressed Isis CSA review with Isis Central Sugar Mill with support from Chris Cooper. Due for finalisation in March 2022.
- District board member nomination process.
- Continued advocacy with the mill on identifying improvements in the 2021 Isis Cane Analysis Program to improve the reports and data for 2022.
- Finalised the e-book 'Walking the Wire', *Strengthening the Financial Resilience of Rural Women*, in partnership with QFF.

- Continued advocacy for Isis growers who experienced damage from ex Tropical Cyclone Seth to be included in a government review and increased to Category C Disaster Assistance.
- Progressed the determination of \$ value for each membership levy dollar paid to enable the district office to better support members and continue to offer value for levies paid.



MARYBOROUGH

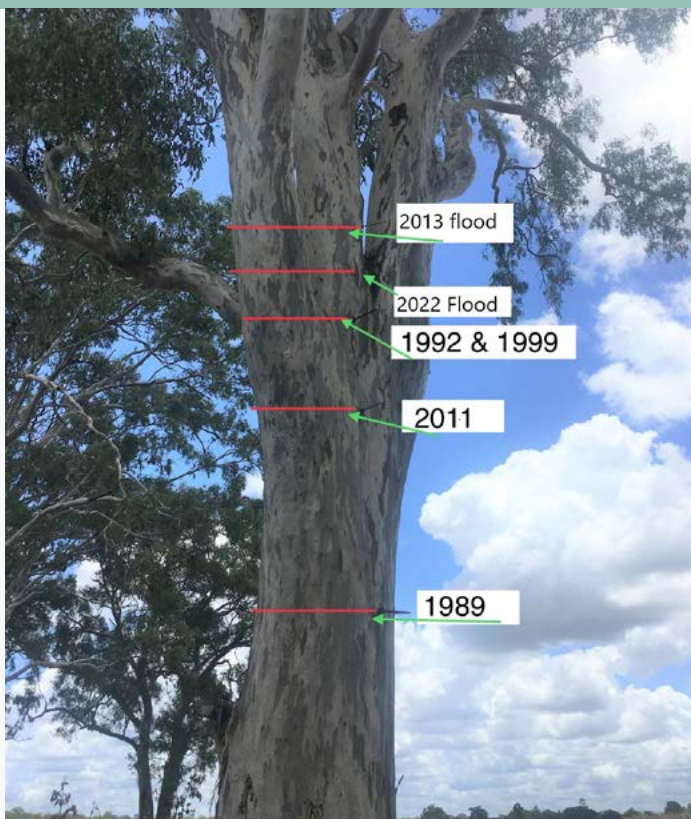
Following a few weeks of relatively low rainfall, the damage assessment from the recent floods is a bit clearer.

Early estimates of affected farm area is up to 2,000 ha. What has become apparent is the damage sustained has been limited to a couple of notable properties, with the worst affected being growers at the Pocket, Bells Bridge and Walkers Point.

Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants are available for primary producers for amounts up to \$50,000 on a tiered system, with initial claims up to \$10,000 being simplified. Please check with the office for information or assistance.

The latest discussions with Isis Central Mill for the season ahead are aimed at dealing with the larger crop currently forecast.

Mill repairs are needed and the review of harvest and transport operations is currently underway. Progress on the 2023 CSA has been hampered, with illness in the legal team for Isis Mill, but should be underway by time growers receive this edition of the magazine.



ROCKY POINT

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point has been busy planning the SRA Productivity work for the year ahead, including some exciting field days and projects. We have had perfect growing conditions, but there are growers who are struggling to finish planting soybeans due to continuing wet weather.

A grant application for government assistance with illegal dumping was lodged in February after some 1,300 tyres were dumped on a farm track in the district (see page 24 for the full story).

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point has corresponded with the mill requesting negotiations commence for the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement (post-2022 season). We hope to get this addressed as soon as possible in order to forward price some sugar at favourable rates.



Cane Harvester Parts

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\$400k NQ Monsoon Trough grants closing soon

Applications for the \$400,000 co-contribution grants to help primary producers following the 2019 Monsoon Trough will close on 30 June 2022.

As one of the largest historical grant offerings, the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants have assisted producers across 14 local government areas in North and North West Queensland restore the productivity of their enterprise following the disaster.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority's (QRIDA's) Manager for Natural Disaster and Drought, Sheree Finney (pictured), said the financial strain of recovery is still being felt.

"Three years down the track some producers are still feeling the pressure of recovering their enterprise," she said.

"The 2019 Monsoon Trough was a significant event which is why there is substantial assistance available through

this grant and I encourage producers to apply now before time runs out.

"The co-contribution grant can be used to offset costs that producers incurred as a result of the disaster event, including to replace lost livestock, replant lost crops or restore damaged or lost infrastructure," Ms Finney said.

Successful applicants have until 30 March 2024 to draw down on the grant funds and use them when conditions are in their favour.

With boots on the ground across Queensland, producers can get in contact with their local QRIDA Regional Area Manager to talk about the application process and eligibility criteria.

Ms Finney said it's important that applicants don't self-assess.

"Everyone's situation is unique and we understand that here at QRIDA. I encourage you not to self-assess but to jump on the phone and talk to your

local Regional Area Manager. Ask them questions and find out what options are available to you," she said.

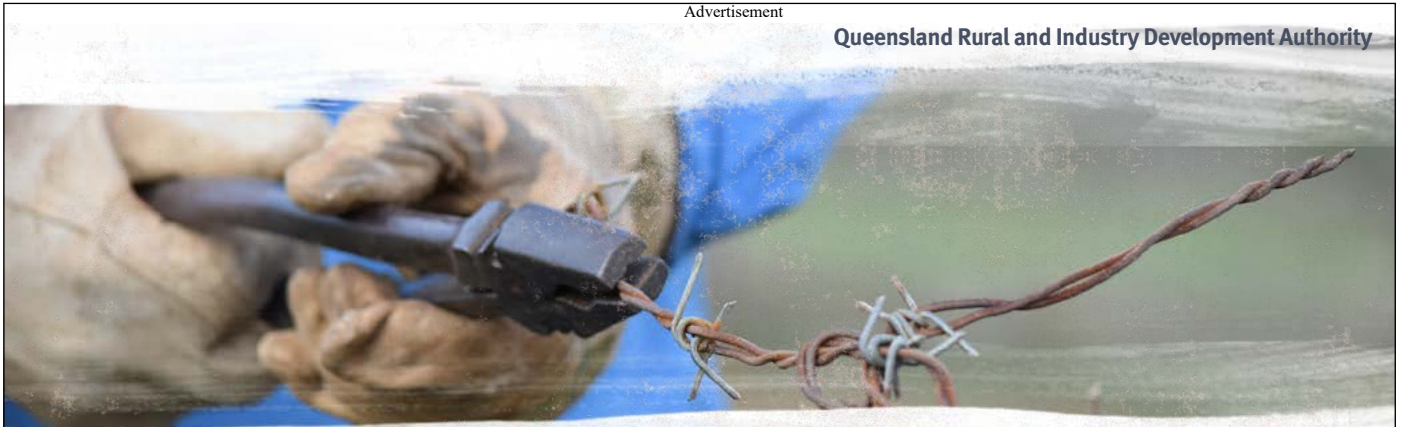
FURTHER INFORMATION

To get in touch with your local Regional Area Manager call **1800 623 946**. For more information on the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants visit qrda.qld.gov.au ■



Advertisement

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority



2019 NQ Monsoon Trough grants closing 30 June 2022

Are you still trying to recover costs from the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough?

It's not too late to apply for a \$400,000 co-contribution **Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grant** which can help primary producers offset the costs of their recovery plan. Applications close on **30 June 2022** so make a start on your application today. Eligibility criteria apply.

To find out more talk to your local Regional Area Manager on **1800 623 946** or visit qrda.qld.gov.au

The North Queensland Restocking, Replanting & On-farm Infrastructure Grants are funded by the Australian Government and administered by QRIDA.

The information contained herein is for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon this information as a basis for making any business, legal or any other decisions.



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Queensland Government

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

MORE DOLLARS FOR REEF, HOPEFULLY WITH MORE SENSE

The Federal Government recently announced its commitment to \$1 billion of reef-related investments over nine years, from 2021-22 to 2029-30. Around half of these funds will be allocated to improving water quality for the inshore reef, with an emphasis on working with farmers and not against them.

In addition, the Queensland Government announced, some time ago, a commitment of \$270 million over five years, from 2021-22, with the majority of funding allocated to on-ground water quality improvement projects. The detail of this program, which was developed without industry consultation, was meant to be released last year, but nothing has emerged to date.

The promised federal funds will be used to:

- support farmers to voluntarily change practices to improve water quality while building a more sustainable and profitable agricultural sector
- repair landscapes with actively eroding gullies and stream banks
- address impacts on water quality from other land uses, including urban and public lands.

CANEGROWERS has informed the Federal Government of the need for strong industry participation in planning the use of these funds. The lack of a true partnership with industry in the past has resulted in the ongoing issues with poorly designed programs driven by unrealistic expectations of what growers can practically and economically do, especially in relation to nutrient management.

CANEGROWERS is ready to provide government with evidence-based guidance on best practice management that can both reduce the risk to water quality while maintaining or improving crop productivity.

This has been clearly documented in the Smartcane BMP Program for some years now, but the policies and programs of government continue to be based on a misalignment between BMP and their own beliefs in what industry could afford to do.

CANEGROWERS is also ready to help the Federal Government work with growers in a way that will start to rebuild their confidence in reef-related programs.

Industry's capacity to lead discussions on these issues will be greatly assisted by having its own plan on managing farm impacts on catchment water quality.

Drafting of this plan is nearing completion and will be considered by the upcoming meeting of the CANEGROWERS Policy Council.

This plan will consider industry's responsibility to manage its impacts on catchment water quality, in a manner proportionate to the environmental risks; the practices that are consistent with both improved water quality and farm profit; the factors affecting the adoption of such practices; the potential improvements that industry could make to water quality in the medium and long term; how adoption of practices should be incentivised and supported; and the use of Smartcane BMP to measure progress. ■



SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MICK QUIRK

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ The Federal and Queensland governments have recently committed more money to programs to improve water quality for the Reef.
- ▶ There must be strong industry participation in planning the use of these funds so projects are realistic and achievable
- ▶ CANEGROWERS can advise government on farm best practice that can reduce the risk to water quality while maintaining or improving crop productivity.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS is drafting an industry plan to manage farm impacts to use to lead discussions.

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES BEGIN TO EMERGE



SENIOR MANAGER
- MEMBERSHIP
ENGAGEMENT &
INNOVATION
MATT KEALLEY

KEY POINTS:

- ▶ CANEGROWERS has been investigating how to use blockchain technology to show traceability of sustainable sugar.
- ▶ In the 2021 season, the KPMG Origins platform was successfully tested using real data from farms, mills and marketers.
- ▶ The Smartcane BMP accreditation of growers was linked to sugar processed for domestic and export markets showing how value can be returned to the grower.
- ▶ Sustainable financing products with banks and opportunities for carbon trading are further opportunities which are being explored.

CANEGROWERS is investigating how to use blockchain technology to show traceability of Smartcane BMP sugar and get value back to growers.

Phase 3 of the project, which is close to completion, has focused on testing the traceability platform or process in real time using grower and miller data. We've also been investigating sustainable financing products with banks and opportunities for carbon trading - both of which are starting to show promise.

TRACEABILITY PLATFORM PILOT – DELIVERING VALUE TO GROWERS VIA SUSTAINABLE FINANCE SOLUTIONS

This involved following the journey of sustainable sugar from the Tully region for the export market and the Mackay region for the domestic market.

The pilot involved collaboration between 10 organisations and captured, permissioned and shared data between participants which included growers, CANEGROWERS, mills, marketers and a bank.

Four Smartcane BMP accredited farms which supply the participating mills/marketers were involved. The pilot sourced data from their Smartcane BMP certification, soil tests and the mill, including rake information. The data was uploaded to the traceability platform across nine different events, from the point of harvest through to the marketer receiving ownership of raw sugar (*the diagram shows the process*). Smartcane BMP certificates and traceability information was aggregated (collected), permissioned and shared via the KPMG Origins platform.

The pilot successfully traced 27,412 tonnes of sugarcane delivered to the mill in 231 rakes and proved the traceability, data standardisation and permissioning capability of the KPMG Origins platform.

The pilot also enabled the bank (as the financier) to validate its ability to integrate with KPMG Origins and pilot data to develop opportunities for sustainable financing products and carbon solutions which it could then offer to growers.

SCOPING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCENTIVISE SMARTCANE BMP AND GET VALUE BACK TO GROWERS

The work in phase 3 centred on Smartcane BMP accreditation requirements to explore how they compare against the current market appetite to monetise natural capital, carbon trading, and sustainability credentials from on-farm environmental outcomes.

Carbon-based opportunities

Carbon is seen as one of the greatest future environmental and economic opportunities for the agriculture sector in Australia. However, there are challenges for cane growers to generate eligible Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU's) due to limitations in the current methodologies.

From this pilot, the bank identified that a key data point for future carbon opportunities was soil organic carbon from existing grower soil tests. Soil tests were uploaded relating to a specific farm location, which then enabled the automatic attachment of the data to each sugarcane delivery, originating from that farm.

Financial opportunities

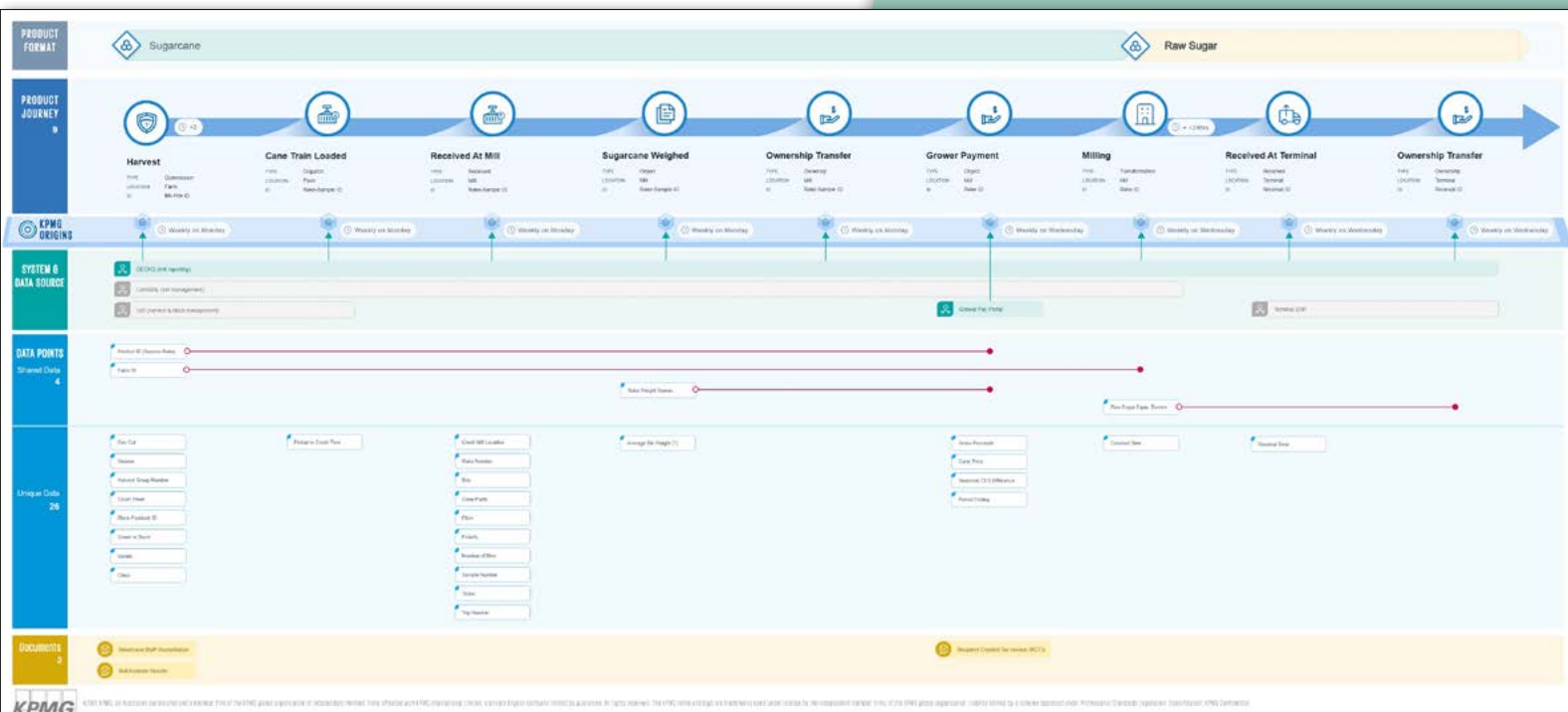
Financial institutions are starting to collect data from growers that could influence the structure of lending and underpin their own ESG ambitions. In return for sustainability practices that are higher than regulations, financial institutions could offer sustainable finance products to growers such as sustainability-linked loans, green bonds, green asset financing, resilience lending and harvest advance loans.

Supply chain opportunities

Supply chain participants are publishing sets of criteria to identify suppliers who align to their internal procurement policies and targets. Premiums are starting to re-emerge and new opportunities from supply chain participants include supply chain adaptation funds and sustainable finance in partnership with financial institutions. All Smartcane BMP modules are relevant and the alignment of Smartcane BMP with other certifications such as Bonsucro, Vive and ProTerra increases the feasibility of supply chain opportunities.

Work continues on the blockchain project. These emerging opportunities will be evaluated over the next few months to support traceability needs and deliver value back to growers.

The sustainable sugar project is funded by the Australian Government through Landcare Australia's Smart Farming Partnership. ■





ECONOMIC FERTILISER DECISIONS WITH HIGH PRICES

Cane growers, like farmers across Australia, are grappling with high fertiliser prices and the effect they will have on profitability. This means there are some important economic considerations to take into account when making decisions on a fertiliser program for 2022.

The first, and possibly the most important, information required in this decision-making process is a nutrient response curve. This should indicate how much more (or less) sugar (cane and CCS) per hectare you get with additional nutrient application.

Armed with this information, the marginal income from increases in N application can be calculated. Marginal income is the income from increased N applications (based on tonnes cane, CCS, constant and sugar price) minus harvesting costs, levies and the cost of N.

Take a close look at the graph opposite, Figure 1, where the Herbert River N response curve (the blue line) from the CANEGROWERS report *Nitrogen Management in Queensland Sugarcane Industry (July 2020)* has been used to calculate the marginal income for different sugarcane and Nitrogen (N) prices.

The table below shows the high price option with \$490/t sugar (the assumed price for 2023) with an N price of \$3.50/kg (the assumed price in 2022 at the time of purchase) and the low price option with \$450/t sugar with an N price of \$2.00 is used as a comparison.

ASSUMPTIONS		HIGH PRICE	LOW PRICE
Sugar price	\$/ts	\$490	\$450
Constant	\$/tc	\$0.60	\$0.60
Harv & levies	\$/tc	\$9.00	\$9.00
N price	\$/kg	\$3.50	\$2.00

Figure 1 shows the N response curve (blue line) and the marginal income for the high price option (green) and the low price option (orange). There are some interesting points.

The N response curve is very flat. The difference in cane yield between applying 120kg N/ha and 180kg N/ha is 5.6t.

This is an agronomist's nightmare and dream. A nightmare because there is no easy answer, but a dream because there is a job for life trying to find the answer.

The peak cane yield is at 220 kg N/ha, however the maximum marginal income for both high and low price options is at 160kg N/ha.

The difference between the marginal income from 140kg N/ha and 180kg N/ha is small (<\$30/ha) and is not considered significant enough to make a clear economic decision. This is shown in the green-shaded area of the graph.

This example is from the Herbert River and I strongly recommend you contact your agronomic advisor to discuss a response curve particular to your circumstances.

INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

KEY POINTS:

- High fertiliser prices mean economic considerations and crop productivity must be weighed up when making nutrient decisions.
- A nutrient response curve can help by indicating how much sugar/cane per hectare can be produced at different fertiliser rates.
- Agronomic advisers can assist in developing a nutrient response curve for a particular region or farm. This article explains how to use it based on a Herbert River example.
- The SIX EASY STEPS guideline is still the best starting point for decisions on a fertiliser program.

There are of course so many other variables because crop yield is determined by the most limiting factor, which may not be N.

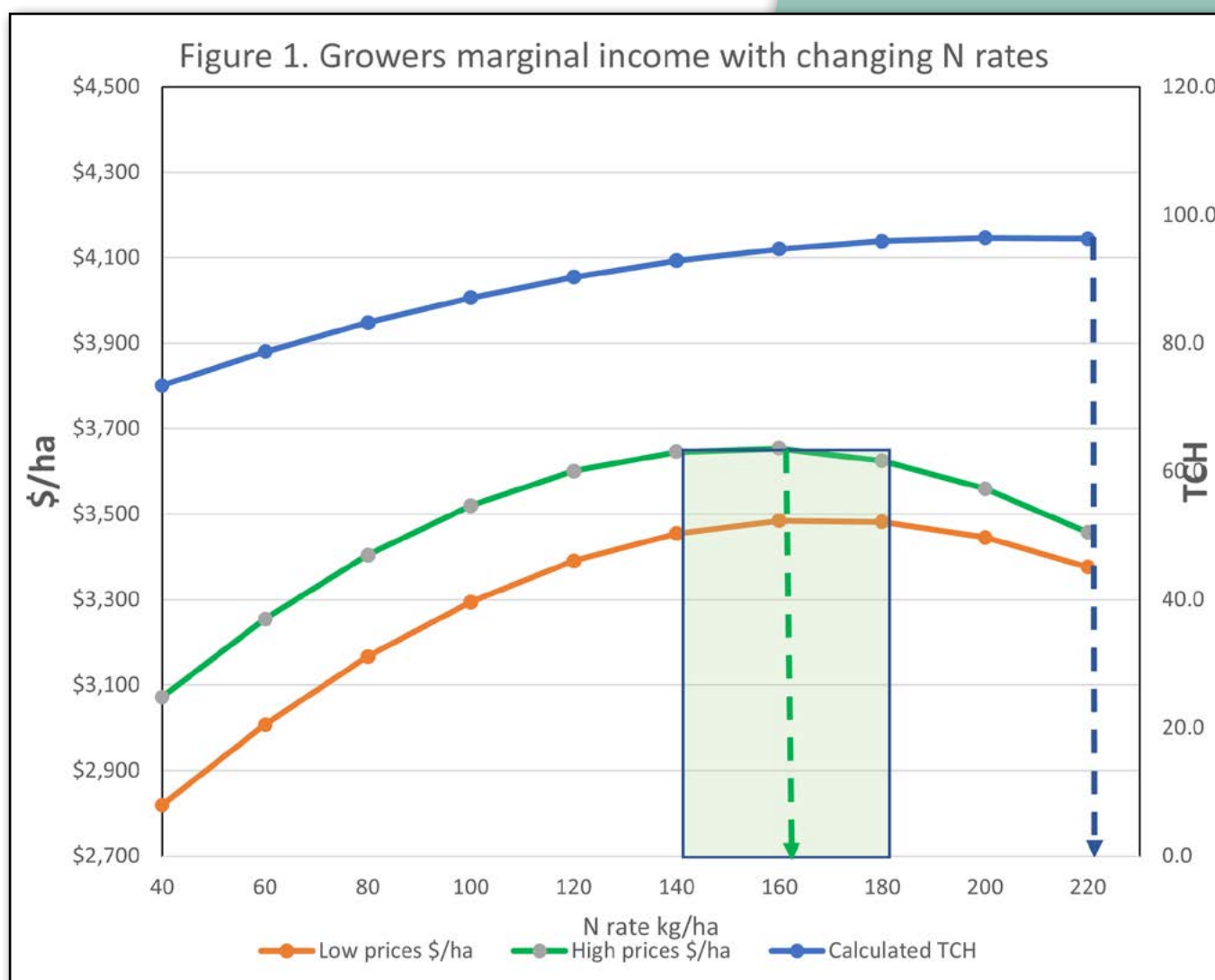
One caveat is that cash flow is king. If you have to borrow the money, the cost of this (interest) must be included, and if you are unable to increase borrowing this could lead to suboptimal decisions.

The good news is that the high price option (both sugar and N price) gives a higher marginal income than the low price option i.e. the higher sugar price is more than offsetting the higher N price.

The SIX EASY STEPS guideline is still the best starting point and decisions made from there are likely to be based largely on an individual's risk appetite in the shaded zone and within regulations.

We don't know where prices (sugar or N) will go. The Middle East Granular Urea price which went from US\$272 in November 2021 to US\$929.50 in November 2022 was down to US\$605 in February 2022. The 2023 QSL Target Price Contract currently available is AU\$505.

Let's hope for movements in the right direction ■



CANEGROWERS elections – democracy in action

The CANEGROWERS three-yearly elections are currently underway. Let's look at who can nominate and stand for election as a grower director and who can vote in the ballot.

WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION?

The constitutions of local CANEGROWERS companies quite clearly set out that only a current member can stand for election and hold the position of director.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?

CANEGROWERS is a members-only organisation. As only growers can become members, all elected grower representative will themselves be cane growers.

A grower is defined as a person or entity who supplies sugarcane to a mill. Under CANEGROWERS policy a person or entity is deemed to supply cane to a mill only if they have a valid Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) with the mill.

So, to be a member of CANEGROWERS a person or entity must supply sugarcane to a mill under the terms of a valid CSA and must apply to become, and be admitted as, a member. Usually, the member is also identified by an ABN.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF MEMBER STRUCTURES

A farming business can have a variety of structures. For CANEGROWERS purposes there are really three types of structures:

1. The grower might be an individual person; or
2. The grower might be a partnership of two or more individual people; or
3. The grower might be a company, a trust, or some other type of corporate entity.



*By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*



In the case of 1, the individual person who supplies cane to the mill, and the person who has a CSA with the mill, is the member. The person is a member in their own personal, individual right. Only this person can stand for office as a director.

In the case of 2, the farming business is conducted by a partnership and it is the partnership that supplies the cane to the mill and has a CSA with the mill. It is the partnership that is the member. Even though there is more than one individual person involved in the partnership, only one of the partners has the right to stand for election. It is the person who is listed first in the partnership name that is the person allowed to represent the partnership and stand for office.

However, if all the partners agree, they can appoint, using the authorised representative form, a different partner than the first named if they so decide.

In the case of 3, a corporate entity supplies the cane to the mill and the corporate entity has a CSA with the mill. It is the corporate entity that is the member. The corporate entity can nominate an individual person to be an authorised representative of the corporate entity by lodging the appropriate form with the local CANEGROWERS office. The person nominated must be connected to the entity, such as an officer, shareholder or beneficiary depending on the nature of the corporate entity. The duly appointed authorised representative can represent the entity and stand for office as a director.

WHO CAN VOTE IN THE ELECTION

It is the member who is entitled to vote in the election. For most CANEGROWERS local companies, each member has one vote in the election. In some areas, such as Mossman and Tableland, voting is on a basis of one vote per 70 hectares of cane area.

The voting right is tied to the membership. So in the three cases above :

4. An individual member's vote is exercised by the individual;
5. A partnership member's vote is exercised by the first named partner, unless the partners lodge an authorised representative form nominating another partner to exercise the vote.
6. A corporate entity's vote is exercised by the person who is nominated, by lodging of the relevant form with the local CANEGROWERS office, as the authorised representative for the corporate entity.

It is essential for members to ensure their membership is correctly described in CANEGROWERS membership register. It is also really important to ensure that for corporate entities and potentially some partnerships that valid and up to date authorised representative forms are lodged with the relevant CANEGROWERS local company.

If proper authorised representative forms are not up to date, the right to nominate and/or stand for election, and the right to vote might be lost.

(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. ■

CANEGROWERS community news



Reflection

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** believes this awesome photo taken at the end of the 2021 Mackay season epitomises the struggle of the harvest and the hope of a new year.

The photo was taken by **Sean Yasserie**, his family are well-known within the Mackay region. Sean drives a loco at Farleigh Mill called Inverness. Inverness is a bit of a rock star/ legend in the locomotive world.

CANEGROWERS Isis celebrate

A staff morning tea in Childers was a special celebration for **Joanne Hall** on a milestone birthday recently. An avid photographer, Joanne's photos are often featured in *Australian Canegrower* and are in the CANEGROWERS calendar but this time, CANEGROWERS Isis District Manager **Angela Williams** was behind the camera to snap Joanne for a change.

Member **Deb Russo** made her spectacular vanilla slice, allegedly one of a kind, a game of musical popcorn was played to **Kylie Minogue** music and a surprise visit from Joanne's bestie from the NT rounded out the event.

Joanne has been with CANEGROWERS Isis for three years as the membership support officer and has become part of the fabric of the grower community. She grew up on a local cane farm and fully understands the challenges growers face, working one-on-one to customise support for them. Happy Birthday Jo!



Brooke revved up about a new career

Brooke McNee was born with a passion for performance vehicles in her veins.

"My grandma has always been into cars, she passed that passion onto my dad and as soon as they took me to my first *Summernats* I was hooked," Brooke said.

Brooke grew up on a Burdekin cane farm surrounded by big agricultural equipment, so there was no chance the love of machinery and motor sport would skip a generation.

Now the 22-year-old is about to jump behind the wheel of an 85 litre, 3,500 horsepower engine as one of 60 new trainee haul truck drivers at Bravus Mining and Resources' Carmichael Mine.

"Not only is this my start in an amazing industry and working with massive, sophisticated machinery, it's an opportunity that will open doors to other goals like building my first home," Brooke said. ■

If you have news to share with the CANEGROWERS community, send us an email

editor@canegrowers.com.au

ADAMA Nimitz® – a key tool for plant-parasitic nematode management strategies

Supplied by ADAMA Nimitz®

Although not a high focus at planting, nematodes cost cane growers up to \$82 million dollars in reduced yields each year. Root lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus zeae*) is very common in all cane growing regions and soil types, whereas root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) are more commonly found in soils with low clay content but are damaging at much lower thresholds. Either species can reach economically damaging levels if not managed with good crop rotation or the use of a nematicide.

ADAMA Commercial Manager- Central Queensland, **Brett Hansen**, says the economic impact of nematodes varies by region and species.

"Trials conducted by ADAMA in Australia have shown nematodes can reduce yield by an average of 15 to 20% – and up to 40% in plant cane," he says.

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

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

Australian trials conducted in Mackay, Oakenden, Burnett Heads and South Ballina found the application of Nimitz at the label rate increased yield by an average of 15–20% compared with untreated crops.

"Until Nimitz, there have been few effective options at planting for the control of nematodes in sugarcane," Brett says. "It contains a unique active ingredient, which has an irreversible effect on target species.

"Nematodes cease feeding and quickly become paralysed within one hour of contact, with death occurring within 24 to 72 hours. Any eggs laid after exposure are unlikely to be viable, while any juveniles that do hatch will not survive.

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

It is compatible with a range of other crop protection products for one-pass control of insects and fungal diseases.

"Nimitz is applied as a coarse spray in a 50 cm wide band over the centre of the row immediately before covering the sett with soil during planting. Application at planting targets nematodes during the crop establishment phase when the young plant is most vulnerable. Even low levels of nematodes can reduce early root and tiller establishment, affecting yield potential.

"Importantly, Nimitz has minimal impact on non-target and beneficial species. Their preservation contributes toward maintaining healthy soils, maximising yield potential and prolonging the life of the crop. We have also noticed first ratoons perform better the following season with the use of Nimitz."

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local ADAMA representative or visit adama.com ■

First ratoon cane following treatment with Nimitz at planting in 2019. Trial conducted at Chris Pitiris' cane farm, Home Hill Queensland.



Same block of first ratoon cane- untreated with Nimitz.



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

Next deadline is **22 March 2022**.

* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

Mossman-Tully

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. Ph: 0407160673.

3 Ton Gessner 3 row Stool Splitter. Case International 5150 tractor. Case 1896 tractor. Ph: 0417686282.

2010 Austoft A8800 Cane Harvester, New Motor, 1800hrs, Walking Gear done 1 Season; T7.170 New Holland FWA Tractor. Ph: 0407630499 or 0428453640.

21ft De Havellen boat, canopy, 130hp 2 stroke Salt Water Yamaha, power steering, GPS + sounder. \$10,000 ONO inc. GST. Ph: 0438988858.

Howard HD 6Ft slasher c/w spare blades and clutch plates VG cond \$4,500. Rondini Gal PTO super spreader used once \$700. All + GST. Ph: 0425366700.

Fiat 980 2WD-3,500hrs, Fiat 1000 2WD - 5,000hrs, John Deere 4040 2WD - 3,600hrs, Chamberlain JD 4080 2 WD - 5,000hrs, Case 2590 2WD - 5,700hrs, Michigan 110-14 Elevator Scraper-New engine & Spare engine, D Massey Ferguson 3635 4WD - 5,500hrs, 6tonne 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.

1990 7700 Austoft, M11 340 hp recondition motor, upgraded pumps to 94', variable primary and billet length, good walking gear, \$45,000. Ph: 0412488898.

Kawasaki KLX450AEF Motorcycle, GC, \$5,800 (GST incl). Ph: 0417771425.

A 4000L diesel trainer tanker 12-volt pump with lock up front. Ph: 0473332751.

Valpadana Tractor 33 horsepower 3. Leakage Ph: 0473332751.

Marine Steel Works side dresser 3 tonnes stainless steel trailer bin. Ph: 0473332751.

Spitwater Honda motor 2500psi; 2x Newton 4T tipper bins, 800L Silvan spray tank, 1996 Toft Harv, 2x HBM plant cane bins Dble, HBM billet planter on Ford 7910 4WD tractor. All GC. Ph: 40645153 after 7pm.

International tractor 766D rear tyres 18-4-38. A good reliable worker. \$6,500 + GST. Ph: 0412797006.

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

Herbert River-Burdekin

Quintrex Boat 4.4 MTS 50HP Yamaha Motor, side console, registered plus extras \$4,400. Ph: 0427829260.

4 Tonne Ford Truck, 3 Tonne Thomas Winch, Unregistered, Runs Well \$4,000 ONO, New Spray Tank 1150 Lts Tank Only \$750. Ph: 0427829260.

110HP Lamborghini 1106 4WD tractor (runs); 2T tipper bin on trailer; stick planter (make offer); 2x 85HP Shibaura tractors (1 runs/1 parts); 5 furrow International plough. Ph: 0429772276.

4 Ton Tipper adjustable lift height 26" wheels, good tyres, always shedded. Good condition. \$4,400 Incl. GST. Ph: 0407746859.

Chamberlain 4080. Good engine, fair condition. \$9,000 + GST. Ph: 0419188185.

Mackay-Proserpine

Moller rotary rock picker, high-lift bin \$8800; 710/70R38 tyre, good condition, stored in back of shed \$880. Ph: 0438784684.

JD3350 4WD a/c cab tractor with 6t Bob Smith side tipper attached. Can separate. Both in good condition. Ph: 0427606328.

Silvan Shire Boss Contractor heavy duty galvanised 6FT slasher VGC. \$6000 + GST. Ph: 0400889549.

Chamberlain C6100: very good condition; enclosed ROPS cab; Perkins 6354 engine, high-flow hydraulic pump; draw bar; good tyres. \$7,000 +GST. Ph: 0417612883.

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

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

100in Howard rotary hoe with crumble roller and Massey Ferguson 1105. Both in good working order. Ph: 0413656963.

Irrigation motor on trailer with pump and foot valve. 4 inch inlet. Good cond. 4 Cylinder Perkins motor. 4 inch pump. \$5,000 + GST. Ph: 0407117281.

8x Irvin Spray Legs - 4x New \$150 each, 4x Used \$50 each. All + GST. Ph: 0418186525.

Irrigators for Sale - Idrofoggia 125-500, 125mm diameter, 500m long hose, \$30,000

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ONO. Trailco 125-350, 125mm diameter, 350m long hose, \$25,000 ONO. Proserpine. Ph Stacey: 0427678572.

Kubota M9000 – Open cab, Hydraulic quick hitch, Tyres 80%, 1965 hrs, \$ 25,000 + GST. Ph: 0418186525.

Ford 8210 Tractor. 5300 hours. Mechanically VGC. \$19,000. Ph: 0438592861.

4080 Chamberlain tractor, air con cab, John Deere engine. In good cond. Ph: 0409264351.

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

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

2 JCB 3230's with 14 tonne carta bins good condition \$135,000 + GST each. Case 8800 2013 model. Ph: 0428588197.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. 6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. Mackay. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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

9 tonne alloy ramps, \$1100 Inc. Don wholestick planter with suscon box, \$660 Inc. 2 trailers to suit \$220 Inc. Thrash rake, every second row inter rows, \$660 Inc. Ph: 0427556322.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ritchie tipper, new 23-1-34 tyres, new PTO clutch, new hydraulic pump, new high-low, new air con, also wet weather buggy wheels. \$22,000 incl GST. Will separate. Ph: 0409875241.

Soybean planter 3 x 2 row at 1.6m, hyd driven vacuum John Deere planter boxes, disc planter will plant worked or no till ground \$18000 + GST. Ph: 0409632656.

3PL cane planter, whole stick planter, made to tow trailers. \$700 + GST. Ph: 0413584728.

3PL 3 row stool rake. \$700 + GST. Ph: 0413584728.

Tandem cane trailer built for 4 tonne bins, very well built \$2,500. Extractor hood plastic secondary suit TOFT 7000 in good condition \$220. Ph: 0413584728.

Extractor hood plastic secondary suit TOFT 7000 in good condition \$220. Ph: 0413584728.

JD6910 \$24k; 24 Plate Shearer Offset \$4.4k; 7 Tyne HD Subsoiler \$3.3k; 2 Row Cutaways \$1,320; 4F Rev Sq Plough \$4.4k; 7 Tyne Cultivator \$1.6k Ph: 0408761463.

3pt linkage Silvan blower mister, good condition. Ph: 0407733321.

Wanted

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

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

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

Quick hitch Massey Ferguson Cat 2. Ph: 0418185663.

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

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

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

Positions Vacant

Harvester Driver - South Johnstone Farms. Applications are invited for the permanent position of Harvester Driver to join the MSF Sugar team located at Silkwood Farms, 20kms south of Innisfail. During the Sugar Cane Season, you will be driving a harvester and then in the off season you will be doing maintenance. As our operations are

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jan 2022)	Month to date (1 Feb-23 Feb)	Year to date	Jan–Feb
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	594.8	220.8	815.6	1108.9
Mareeba Airport	278.6	86.8	365.4	443.7
Cairns Aero	375	117.8	492.8	844.2
Mt Sophia	723	263	986	1198.3
Babinda Post Office	504.3	401	905.3	1379.8
Innisfail	629.2	342.8	972	1095.8
Tully Sugar Mill	421.1	453	874.1	1330.9
Cardwell Marine Pde	255.9	233.6	489.5	905.2
Lucinda Township	209	284.4	493.4	851.7
Ingham Composite	199.5	289.2	488.7	865.9
Abergowrie Alert	150	128	278	600
Townsville Aero	338.2	119	457.2	573.7
Ayr DPI Research Stn	179.8	99.8	279.6	457.1
Proserpine Airport	153	336.4	489.4	646.4
Mirani Mary Street	89.3	102.3	191.6	602
Mackay MO	76.4	163.2	239.6	585.9
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	150.8	57.8	208.6	743.2
Bundaberg Aero	194	76.6	270.6	323.4
Childers South	294.6	66.8	361.4	244.4
Maryborough	188.6	115	303.6	334.1
Tewantin RSL Park	203.6	298.2	501.8	367.7
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	271.8	375.6	647.4	478.5
Nambour DPI - Hillside	290.4	330.6	621	530.1
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	148.7	153.9	302.6	287.9
Murwillumbah Bray Park	303.3	268.4	571.7	438.6
Ballina Airport	288	335.6	623.6	381.2
New Italy (Woodburn)	204.2	311.6	515.8	313.4



dream with
your eyes open

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

continuous (24/7), this role will involve shift work. Before submitting your application, you will need to ensure you are available to work all hours required on a rostered, rotational basis. MSF Sugar offers a supportive and positive team environment. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a major player in Australian agribusiness. Please email resumes to: robertbrooks@msfsugar.com.au or phone Rob Brooks, Operations Manager – 0427238320.

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

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

Work Wanted

48 yo male seeking employment (general shed duties (not welding) 1 day per week. Foxdale-Lethebrook area. Ph: 0436397416. Looking for cane harvesting for 2022 and to do farm job, knowledge in mechanic well-

experienced, I am from Mauritius. Contact via email Cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com for the incoming seasons 2022. Mackay or NSW area.

Property - For Sale

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Property - Wanted

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.

The best thing about growing sugarcane is...

Complete this sentence with a



Photo



Video



Poem

For a chance to win a \$100 gift card



BEST PHOTO



BEST VIDEO



BEST POEM

Open to all CANEGROWERS members
Competition opens Friday 25 February
Closes 5pm Friday 25 March



CANEGROWERS

New grower competition

1

Capture an original photo, create a short video (30 secs max) or write a short poem to finish the sentence, 'The best thing about growing sugarcane is....'

2

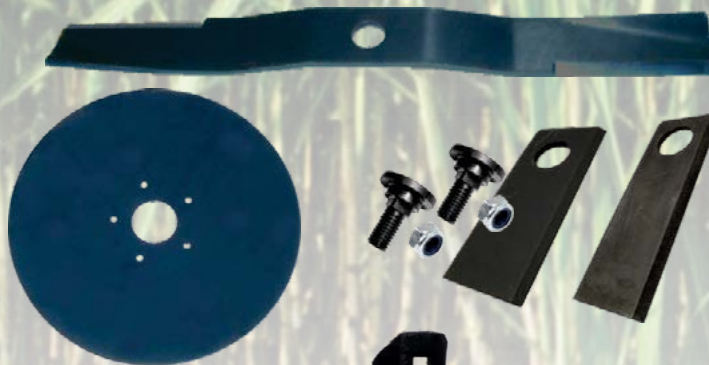
Head to www.canegrowers.com.au to submit your entry and see more details about the competition including terms and conditions

3

Winners will be announced in the April Australian Canegrower magazine

Enter now!

www.asproducts.com.au



Ph: 1800 253 229

Email: sales@asproducts.com.au