

# Water

Cane growers take our natural resource of water very seriously. They use water wisely to ensure a profitable, healthy crop.

There are several ways growers use water effectively and efficiently. They collect it, store it and keep it clean. Here are 9 ways growers collect water, store it on their farm and filter it so when it leaves the farm it's as clean as possible. This is the way farmers make sure they work with the environment, not against it.

## collect it

1

Cane growers collect water in different ways in order to grow the sugarcane plants.

2

They build man-made dams and wetlands to collect the rainwater. This stores the water but also provides a good spot for wildlife, birds and fish.

3

They use irrigators that apply water to the cane. They try to put the right amount on at the right time, ensuring little water wastage.

## store it

4

Rain soaks into the soil and is used by the cane. Sometimes heavy rain runs off the paddock. By using the natural lay of the land, cane growers are able to **channel** water into their **wetlands** and dams.

5

Excess water that can not be stored is filtered naturally through grasses and soil. This cleans the water before it flows back into the rivers.

6

**Sediment traps** are also used to ensure any soil being carried by running water is trapped, keeping the soil on the farm.

## Keep it clean

7

Natural processes are used as much as possible so the cane farmer does not work against the land. This helps to keep the farm a success.

8

Nutrients (food for the cane) are needed to help the cane grow. Only the right amount needed is applied to the crop because too much would be a waste of money and will not be good for the land.

9

Growers can use environmentally-friendly weed killers which do not build up in the soil or move off the farm in water. They only apply the spray where needed.

## Being Green

Sugarcane farmers love the land they work on. It is in their best interests to protect and nurture their land to ensure their farm stays productive and well managed for the future.

We need farmers to grow our food and we trust them to grow the food in the best way for us and the land.

## Good for the environment and saves money

There are just some of the good things farmers do on their farm which, in turn, helps to protect the Great Barrier Reef and improves water quality. These good practices are important for our environment and helps the farmers to save money.

Farm inputs such as fertiliser, herbicides and water are expensive. Through technology, farmers have the ability to use less of these items and to precisely target the crop to achieve the same harvest outcome is environmentally friendly and cost effective.

Water and pumping rates are responsible for one-third of all costs. For around 60% of Australia's cane growers who irrigate, saving water is good for business.

# Energy In Energy Out



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