

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 16, Issue 6  
July 2021

## Chair's Update

Mark Pressler  
Chairman



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With the harvesting in full swing, there are quite a lot of positives to take into account.

The weather has been reasonably kind with a welcome rainfall event, even if it had to wait until the harvest started. Some cool weather has helped to get the CCS to start rising, and now some fine weather to help us get the crop to the mill. On top of that, the sugar price has been heading upwards for a while now and hopefully it continues.

The final pay for the 2020 season went into grower's accounts on 26 July and full details of the final price and pools are on page 3.

Bundaberg Sugar put out a tranche recently and the 2022 season target price of \$495 has been achieved already. There was not a lot of interest from growers and I suspect that this is due to the low announced allocation in the Burnett surface water scheme and groundwater system.

The mill seems to have settled down and while the road transport system for Bingera cane has been fair there have been a few issues. Because of the way cane is transported there have been more dry samples than is acceptable. On page 2 there is an explanation from Matt Curtis that outlines the situation and a potential fix.

For those ex Bingera growers please (where possible) consign cane in multiples of three (3) for each con note. Lost time to date is

around 11.2 days made up of 6.5 wet weather days, one (1) day of scheduled stops and the balance mill downtime and other issues. By our estimate, the average hourly rate inclusive of wet weather is around 224 tonnes cane per hour and mill reliability is sitting at around 91%. This should see a 22 November finish if there are no major upsets.

### The top five (5) issues we have been dealing with over the last month are:

1. Ensuring that the Cane Analysis Program is being implemented and that issues are being resolved promptly and as per the program.
2. Working with QSL and Bundaberg Sugar to potentially allow Bundaberg growers to access the QSL Direct pricing platform.
3. The next rates bill is hitting our mailboxes now and Mayor Jack Dempsey and his Councilors' have, and still have, a choice around these rates rises on farmland. They didn't have to apply them, and they can choose to reverse them. We will be continuing the fight against unfair rate increases on your behalf with the alliance of AgForce, BFVG and CANEGROWERS Isis.
4. Helping growers with electricity tariff selection to optimise affordability.
5. Negotiating and administering the contract between growers and ORECO for the supply of cane trash. ■

Our friends in the commercial fishing industry have requested that we bring to your attention a petition that has been put forward by Shane Snow, Vice President, Queensland Seafood Industry Association. The situation that they are in is similar to the battle we are having with reef regulations in that decisions are being made by people who do not live in the region, without adequate consultation, and based on dubious science.

If we are to get sensible outcomes for sustainable regional primary

production industries then we need to be supporting each other. If you wish to lend your support then please access the petition via <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3588>.

Queensland residents draw to the attention of the House that the seafood catching sector has lost confidence in the management of our fisheries resources. Our loss of confidence is based on the potential collective loss of access to our marine resources for recreational and commercial

fishers and the Queensland community. An important example of this loss of confidence is the potential loss of, or extremely restricted access to, the Queensland Spanish Mackerel fishery to both recreational and commercial fishers and critically, the Queensland community.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to call for a full commission of inquiry into the management of Fisheries Queensland. ■

## DRY SAMPLES AT MILLAQUIN MILL

There are an increased number of dry samples being experienced for cane being transported by roll on roll off trucks.

This is being caused by two (2) main factors:

- Con notes not being loaded in multiples of three (3).
- Light bin weights where a three (3) bin sample does not weigh fifteen (15) tonnes.

This system relies on bins being grouped in multiples of three (3) (carrying capacity of a truck). A valid sample requires a minimum of three (3) bins and fifteen (15) tonnes.

Where a grower loads a one (1) bin or two (2) bin multiple on a con note it will result in a dry sample – this will have a knock on effect to other con notes until the cane is cleared for that day.

The majority of growers are loading in three (3) bin multiples – it is the knock on effect that is causing so many dry samples.

We plan to take the following action:

1. Reinforce with harvesters and growers to load in three (3) bin multiples.
2. Where we get ones (1's) and twos (2's) we will cut these from the rake, store them separately and bring them in at the end of each day as a dry sample rake.

Regards

Matt Curtis  
Cane Supply Superintendent  
Bundaberg Sugar Ltd



## Changes to the use of Dangerous Poisons

There has been a recent change to the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulations by the Queensland Government which impacts growers. The change is to the minimum training requirements for users of Dangerous Poisons (Schedule 7 or S7) poisons which came into effect on 19 June 2021.

The change is that anyone using agricultural chemical products

containing S7 poisons must now have a statement of attainment for two (2) units of competency: AHCCHM304—Transport and store chemicals and AHCCHM307—Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (or their equivalents). These two (2) units of competency are covered in Chemcert or equivalent chemical accreditation training. Previously people applying these products could have been under the supervision of someone with

these qualifications, however now **the person applying the chemical must have the qualifications.**

The most common active ingredients of cane based products that are S7 poisons are Paraquat, Diquat, and MSMA products which are commonly known as Gramoxone, SpraySeed, Reglone and Daconate. ■

## Steel Tracked harvesters when travelling on the road

There has been an update on the requirements for Steel tracked cane harvesters when crossing roads. Steel tracked harvesters with conditional registration (LO6) which need to cross public roads or travel on the road reserve (the road) now require a NHVR permit. For those without this, there could well be an issue with 3rd party insurance cover. Access was previously provided by TMR with an Approval for

Tracked Cane Harvesting Equipment to cross State Controlled Roads which is no longer the case. The cost for this annual NHVR permit is \$75.

Permits are required to cross both State controlled roads as well as council controlled roads with permission sort from the relevant road authority. The permission is requested by NHVR on behalf of the applicant.

If you require a permit you can apply for a permit with NHVR. If you do not have an account growers will need to set one up on the NHVR portal. **If you require assistance in applying for a permit after setting up the portal please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.** ■

## Amount of coral on the reef at a record high

**B**undaberg CANEGROWERS provided support to Katter Party Member, Nick Dametto in the pursuit of reversing the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* that included the Burnett Mary region in the “Reef Regulation” process for the first time in 2019.

Our inclusion is scientifically unjustifiable as the Burnett Mary River catchments are outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It is 70km from the

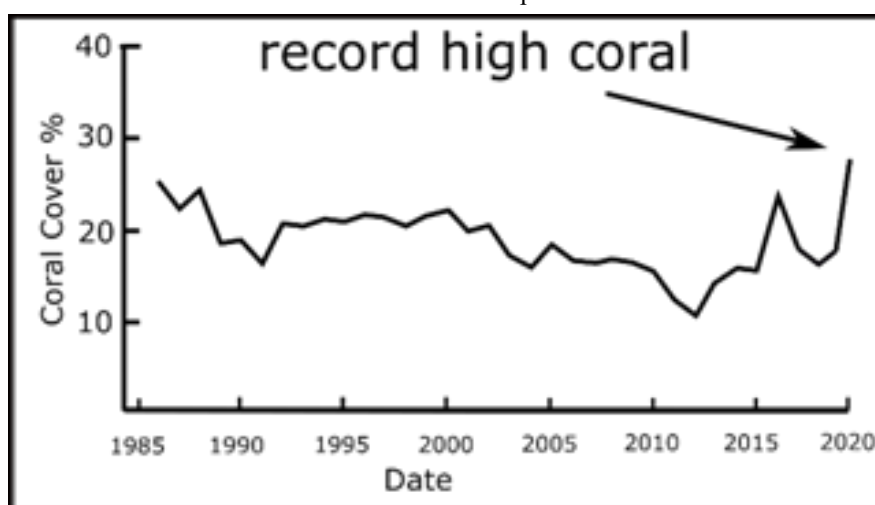
mouth of the Burnett River to the most southern part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Furthermore, the Bureau of Meteorology current forecasting models show that the ocean currents flow south and it is physically IMPOSSIBLE for any nutrients or sediment from the Burnett Mary to impact the Reef, which again, is 70km to the north!

The latest evidence showing that we are having absolutely no impact on the Reef comes from a recent report with the

latest data from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). In this report the Capricorn Bunkers, which is the nearest group of Reefs to the Burnett, are at a RECORD HIGH in coral cover levels and approximately twice the coral cover percentage of the rest of the Reef.

Australian Institute of Marine Science surveys over one hundred (100) reefs every year, and have reported that the amount of coral on the Reef is at record high levels. ■



## 2020 Season Final Pool Prices

**T**he final ‘Net IPS Price’ for the 2020 Season US Quota Pool under the Export RSSA was set at \$703.49 per tonne IPS after deducting the value of the Shared Pool Element attributed to the US Quota Pool (\$78.98 per tonne IPS). Based on the quantity of Raw Sugar Bundaberg Sugar Limited supplied to Queensland Sugar Limited and the quantity of Bundaberg Sugar Limited’s domestic production for the 2020 Season, the value of the US Quota premium has been calculated at \$10.57 per Tonne IPS. The IPS Conversion Factor for the 2020 Season Harvest Pool under the Export RSSA is 1.0367.

The individual components attributable to the various pools to be set by Bundaberg Sugar Limited are set out in the following table:

	Harvest Pool Export RSSA	Bundaberg Domestic Pool RSSA	FPFC/TPC
	\$ per IPS tonne	\$ per IPS tonne	\$ per IPS tonne
Final Gross IPS price	\$405.81	\$385.78	
US Quota premium	\$10.57	\$10.57	\$10.57
Shared Pool allocation	\$32.92	\$30.17	\$30.17
<b>Total Net Price</b>	<b>\$449.30</b>	<b>\$426.52</b>	

The Net Price per Tonne IPS Raw Sugar as announced by Queensland Sugar Limited (for non-committed Raw Sugar) is **\$431.20**. ■

## Employment assistance for Growers

**H**arvest trail is a free recruitment service assisting growers within the Agricultural sector to locate workers to fill any vacancies they may have.

MADEC are available to offer the below services:

- Locating workers, including Working Holiday Makers and Australians either locally or those who are travelling within Australia looking for harvesting work
- Conducting screenings for suitability for your vacancies
- Conducting working right checks for VISA holders

- Inducting workers prior to commencing with a Farm Safe Induction, which can be amended to suit your farm as required
- Issuing MADEC Work Entitlements Cards to show VISA details and Induction details
- Ability to facilitate all new and existing staff members inductions to alleviate this task from your farm

For more information, please visit <https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search> or call 1800 062 332 between 8:00am and 8:00pm.

### AgMove

AgMove is a reimbursement of costs for eligible people who relocate to take up short-term agricultural work including harvest work. To be eligible, you must be over the age of 18, and relocate at least ninety (90) minutes from your current location to a regional, remote or harvest area and take up short term agricultural work.

For more information about AgMove visit <https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search> or call 1800 805 260. ■

## Time to review your WH&S Plan for COVID-19

**I**t has been twelve (12) months since Bundaberg CANEGROWERS provided you with a Work Health and Safety Plan for COVID-19 to assist with meeting your COVID-19 and Work

Health and Safety requirements.

As with any compliance documents, we recommend that you undertake a review of your documents and associated

practices to ensure that activities and controls are still current to the workplace and Government guidelines. ■

## 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants for lockdown - impacted businesses in Queensland

**Y**our business may be eligible for financial support through the 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants. \$5,000 grants will be made available to small and medium businesses across Queensland affected by the COVID-19 lockdown that commenced on Saturday 31 July 2021 and lockdowns in other states.

The Queensland Government recognises the short interval between lockdowns in South East Queensland, and the unique circumstances faced by regional economies who are impacted by multiple border closures. These \$5,000 grants will provide cash flow support for businesses to help them adapt to evolving circumstances.

### Available funding

You may be eligible to receive a grant of \$5,000 (excluding GST). This grant

may be used for business expenses.

### Eligibility criteria

The grant provides support to employing small and medium businesses across Queensland impacted by the South East Queensland lockdown that commenced on 31 July 2021. Your business doesn't have to be located in South East Queensland, but you must have experienced at least a 30% reduction in turnover as a result of the lockdown.

Small and medium businesses are defined as having:

- A turnover of more than \$75,000 per annum
- An annual payroll in Queensland of up to \$10 million.

More information on eligibility criteria will be available shortly.

Applications will open in mid-August.

You will need to apply online with supporting evidence. Grants will be processed in the order they are received. You will be paid the grant funds within two (2) weeks of being notified that your application has been approved.

More information on how to apply, including the opening date for applications, will be available shortly.

Visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/grants/covid19-support-grants> for further information or call the office on 4151 2555 if you require assistance. ■

**Visit our website: [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au)**



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*Regards,*

*Brian and Jean*

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**[www.northsideproduceagency.com.au](http://www.northsideproduceagency.com.au)**







**drumMUSTER**

*rinse them out, round them up and run them in.*

## **drumMUSTER On-farm pickup service**



### **Did you know that IMPACT's Material Recycling Facility offers an on-farm pick-up service?**

It's never been easier to recycle. We can collect your empty drums & Bulka bags.

In delivering this service we are proud to partner with two leading environmental programs, drumMUSTER and Farm Waste Recovery.

drumMUSTER provides Bundaberg agricultural chemical users with a recycling pathway for eligible empty containers. Farm Waste Recovery facilitates the collection and processing of plastic waste.



IMPACT's recycling activities are a social enterprise and part of IMPACT Community Services; a not-for-profit organisation that each year supports more than 5000 people who may be experiencing disadvantage, poverty or exclusion from social and employment networks in the Bundaberg and Burnett regions.

### **Please ensure you have the following for on-farm pickup service to be available:**

- 200 drums or more (approx.)
- Must have the drumMUSTER logo
- Drums must be clean with lids removed
- Access for a large truck
- Large Chemical Bulka Bags to be clean, empty, folded flat and tied as a bundle for lifting onto the truck

This ongoing service is offered to help get your farm clean and free of empty drums. Your local drumMUSTER collection site is located at:

**Bundaberg Recycling Hub  
78 University Drive  
Bundaberg QLD 4670**



**Call IMPACT Community Services - Recycling on 4155 3411**



CANEGROWERS

## Representation on Your Behalf

The Chairman, Elected Members and Staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS represented cane growers on a number of occasions. Executive members also attended many Branch meetings and other engagements in their own time.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
21.06.2021	Tony Perrett - LNP	To provide a briefing	Dale Holliss Michael Cavallaro
24.06.2021	Groundwater Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
08.07.2021	Ag Alliance Rates Meeting	To plan future action	Dean Cayley Tanya Howard
13.07.2021	Soldier Fly Discussion - with Anthony Young	To discuss options	Dale Holliss
13.07.2021	National Irrigators Council Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
14.07.2021	Ag Energy Taskforce	To represent members	Dale Holliss
20.07.2021	QCGO Policy Council Meeting	To represent members	Allan Dingle
02.08.2021	EQL Customer Council	To represent members	Dale Holliss
02.08.2021	Meeting with SRA	To represent members	Dale Holliss

## Seatbelts and mobile phone detection cameras now live across Queensland

Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) new portable and static mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras are now operating across Queensland.

Queensland is leading the way with this new technology using cameras to detect seatbelt offences is an Australian first, and they are an important tool in the fight to keep the community safe on the roads. Using a phone illegally while driving is as dangerous as drink driving, and an alarming number of drivers admit to not wearing a seatbelt.

These behaviours contribute significantly to the number of lives lost and serious injuries on Queensland roads each year.

Initially, there will be a three (3) month warning period when motorists caught committing offences on camera will not be issued penalties. Instead, registered owners will receive a warning letter encouraging them to change their behaviour. During this period, police will continue roadside enforcement, with the usual penalties applying.

Queensland Police Service (QPS) have also strengthened the road rules relating to mobile phone use - a driver must not have a mobile phone in their hand or resting on any part of their body, including their lap, while driving – regardless of whether the phone is on or in use.

From 1 November, penalties will apply to those caught by the cameras and include:

- \$1,033 fine and four (4) demerit points for illegal mobile phone use.
- \$413 fine and three (3) demerit points for failing to wear a seatbelt. Drivers can also be fined a further \$413 and three (3) demerit points for each passenger not properly restrained.
- Double demerit points apply for repeat mobile phone and seatbelt offences committed within a twelve (12) month period.

The cameras will be moved to multiple locations in urban and regional areas. Motorists should assume they can be caught anywhere, anytime.

QPS know the technology works thanks to the successful trial run last year when more than 2,200 drivers and front seat passengers were photographed not wearing seatbelts, and more than 15,000 drivers were caught using their mobile phones illegally.

A public education program is letting Queenslanders know about the cameras, with a major media campaign planned to link in with the introduction of penalties. TMR will be posting content via our StreetSmarts social media channels – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Further information about the new cameras, fines, road rules and exemptions can be found at [qld.gov.au/RoadCameras](http://qld.gov.au/RoadCameras). ■



## Wage rates from 1 July 2021

For full details including weekend penalty rates, overtime and public holiday rates, refer to Fair Work Ombudsman website – Pay Guides – Sugar Industry Award 2020 MA000087.

Type of Employment	Full/Part-Time Hourly Rate	Full/Part-Time Single Contract Hourly Rate	Casual Hourly Rate (Ordinary Hours exc Weekends)	Casual Single Contract Hourly Rate
Basis of Pay	(Ordinary Hours)			

### Classification

#### Cultivation/Cane Production Employee

Youths under 18 years	\$12.78	\$14.70	\$15.98	\$17.89
Youths 18-19 years	\$15.98	\$18.38	\$19.98	\$22.37
Inductee/Trainee	\$20.53	\$23.61	\$25.66	\$28.74
Grade 1	\$22.07	\$25.38	\$27.59	\$30.90
Grade 2	\$22.83	\$26.25	\$28.54	\$31.96

### Classification

#### Cane Haulage

Inductee/Trainee	\$21.54	\$24.77	\$26.93	\$30.16
Grade 1	\$22.07	\$25.38	\$27.59	\$30.90
Grade 2	\$22.83	\$26.25	\$28.54	\$31.96

### Classification

#### Cane Harvesting Employee

Inductee/Trainee	\$22.07	\$25.38	\$27.59	\$30.90
Grade 1	\$22.83	\$26.25	\$28.54	\$30.96
Grade 2	\$23.67	\$27.22	\$29.59	\$33.14

Superannuation contributions are calculated at 10% of ordinary hours of work including over award payments, commissions, allowances and paid leave. Ordinary Time Earnings include all hours worked at Single Contract Hourly Rate (115%).

For more information, full terms and conditions and references please contact the office to organise a copy or view the details online at <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements>. ■



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## SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

**M**ark Pressler has resigned mid-term from the Board of Bundaberg Sugar Services as a grower appointed Director to concentrate on his role as Chair of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

This has created a casual vacancy which has been filled by Anna Attard. Anna will hold this position until the next general meeting which will be held in October 2021 and an election by ballot will be held to fill this position.

At the last Board meeting Michael Cavallaro was elected as Chair and Matthew Curtis as Deputy Chair. ■

Chair	Michael Cavallaro	0434 381 998	racmac2016@gmail.com
Deputy Chair	Matthew Curtis	0417 005 068	mfcurtis@bundysugar.com.au
Director	Anna Attard	0409 594 541	annieattard@bigpond.com
Director	Ian Dart	0427 969 205	ikdart@bundysugar.com.au

Dale Holliss  
Company Secretary

## Ratoon Stunting Disease

**W**ith Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) starting to become prevalent across the district again (results from inspections conducted), this is a timely reminder of what to do to minimise RSD spread from a harvester.

Harvester hygiene pays dividends.

Below is a link to the SRA video on how to clean down a harvester. While the video focuses mainly on cleaning the harvester for movement between the sugar quarantine zones it is useful in providing a guide where to clean/wash the harvester to remove dirt and plant material before commencing to spray

harvester/machinery with steriliser to control RSD.

Other tips to assist in reducing the spread include:

- Use only a clean approved seed source that has been inspected and tested prior to use.
- Spray down harvester and any other equipment whenever changing blocks or varieties. If this is not possible start harvesting the youngest block/ratoon, and therefore the cleanest cane, then move to the oldest, suspect, positive blocks last, then wash and sterilise machinery.

- Remember when planting cane to ensure the planting contractor has all cane removed from their equipment and it is sprayed with a steriliser. This includes harvester, haulouts and planter.

### Soil tests

Growers interested or who would like one of the following tests taken (nutrient, Pachymetra, Nematode) this season can contact BSSL staff to arrange a test. ■

**Michael Turner 0427 130 467**  
**Caitlyn Killick 0428 508 818**

## Water Trading Register

**O**ur water trading register is available for anyone who is looking to buy or sell water on a temporary or permanent basis.

The register is available to anyone within the agricultural industry to assist with the pressures of the drought we are all dealing with.

The register allows you to advertise your listing and allows the buyer or seller to contact you directly.

We do not contact either parties to discuss the sale, price or details of the trade, that is between you and the other party.

With offering the register this way, we do not take a commission on the sale, the transfer of water is directly between you and the buyer or seller.

To view the register, visit <https://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au/irrigation/water-trading/> and to include a listing, please phone the office on 07 4151 2555 to discuss. ■



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

***OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES,  
AND PROMOTE UNITY IN THE INTEREST OF GROWERS***

# UPTON

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As a free service to financial  
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and employment advertisements of  
up to 30 words only will be printed.

Advertisements will be accepted  
from non-members, charged at \$11  
per 7-word line or part thereof.

Contact:  
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office  
on telephone 4151 2555 or fax  
4153 1986. or email  
[bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au)

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\$1500 ONO. Ph: 0431 519 095

#### WANTED

Multiplier. Ph: 07 4134 0206

#### FOR SALE

HIGH CLEARANCE SPRAY TRACTOR:  
Farmliner 445 tricycle ex Bundaberg Sugar  
machine. 5 row Irvin Legs. Dual Tanks  
(1000L + 500L) and PTO Pumps.  
Bundaberg Area. \$19,000 + GST. Ph  
0437 209 107.

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

PO Box 953  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS  
32 Bourbong Street (PO Box 953)  
Bundaberg Qld 4670  
Phone: (07) 4151 2555 Fax: (07) 4153 1986  
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