

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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## Chair's Update

Mark Pressler  
Chairman



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Harvesting is in full swing with CCS steadily climbing, in saying that the mill average CCS has been sluggish in comparison to the previous two (2) seasons.

Mill performance has been quite good and road transport has been going to plan with minimal problems. We are over the 50% completed mark and hopefully on track for a mid November finish.

The sugar price is at a five (5) year high, with optimism for the next two (2) years. Some Long Term Target Pool lots from the latest tranche have been priced.

With the continuing dry spell, I ask you all to be very vigilant when burning cane or trash. Please make sure you have a permit and comply with all the requirements of the permit or notice.

Water allocations are extremely tight with some temporary transfer parcels achieving \$1,000 per ML, with permanent water in the SunWater system trading for around \$2,500 per ML. We need some good early storm rain in the catchments if we are to see any increases in announced allocations, particularly for groundwater and the south side channel irrigators.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is in negotiations with Bundaberg Sugar and QSL towards developing a new Sugar Marketing Agreement. The key benefit of this would be the potential of gaining access to the QSL Direct Portal, this could help growers both small and large access more flexible pricing options. This will take a while to accomplish and we are investigating all options.

The Bundaberg Regional Council rates notices are now due for payment although there is still an opportunity for them to alter the ratable dollar if they had the inclination. Please ask your divisional councillor for their position on this issue.

On Friday 3 September, Dale Holliss and Matthew Leighton travelled to Brisbane to give evidence at the Health and Environment Committee Public Hearing - Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment

I must personally commend both Dale and Matt for an excellent job done. It really is unjustifiable that our region is included in the reef regulations.

If you wish to view the hearing and what Dale and Matt had to say, the recording is available online at <https://tv.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees?reference=C6083#parentVerticalTab6>

Five (5) things that are keeping the office busy are:

1. Preparing for the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Bundaberg Sugar Services and BRIG AGMS that are being held on 13 October;
2. Keeping up to date with Reef Regulation requirements and continue to push back against Reef Regulations.
3. Working with QFF, AgForce, CANEGROWERS and BFGV to get an acceptable outcome in relation to the rates issue;
4. Operating the Cane Analysis and Auditing Program on behalf of the Bundaberg Sugar Industry
5. Investigating Sugar marketing and pricing opportunities and arrangements.

Finally, you will have recently been advised of the potential to switch electricity retailers from ERGON to Q Energy. This is quite an attractive proposal but it will not suit everyone. If you want to gauge whether it is sensible for you to switch please contact the office to have your actual situation assessed. To give you an indication the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office has signed up with Q energy and will save around \$2,200 per year. ■



**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

Phone (07) 4151 2555 Fax: (07) 4153 1986

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Website: [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au)

## Electricity Bill Check Service

If you are an irrigating farmer, chances are you receive a pretty big electrical bill each month. It's part of the cost of doing business and it's a big cost. Electricity bills hurt, yet finding a way to reduce them never seems to be at the top of our to-do lists.

Checking that you are on the best tariff for your usage needs is one way to make sure that you are not paying any more than you need to be.

Comparing tariffs yourself can be confusing and time consuming, especially with the new suite of tariffs released in October. This is why we've created an Electricity Bill Checking Service for our members, where you send us your bills and we'll tell you if you could potentially save by changing tariffs.

**Contact Courtney at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555 for more information on how to get started. ■**

## Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited Annual General Meeting

The Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited Annual General Meeting will be held on 13 October 2021.

Under the BSSL constitution one (1) Grower Elected Director must retire at each Annual General Meeting.

To be a Grower Elected Director you must be a member of the company or a

representative of a corporate member, at least 18 years old, a grower, and a supplier to the Millaquin Mill.

To be eligible for election as a Grower Elected Director the person or some member intending to nominate the person must give notice in writing signed by the nominee giving consent to the nomination.

To be valid the notice must be received at our registered office by close of business Monday, 4 October 2021.

**Anyone interested in nominating is requested to contact Company Secretary Dale Holliss on 4151 2555 for further information and a nomination kit. ■**

## Cane Trash Supply to Oreco

Cane trash baled and delivered to the Oreco factory up to 31 August 2021 is due for payment by way of four (4) equal instalments on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month in the months of September to December

inclusive. Reconciliation of bales/tonnes has been completed and a Recipient Created Tax Invoice will be issued upon receipt of the first payment from Oreco.

**If you have any queries in relation to quantity of bales/tonnes advised by Oreco, please call Kate at the office on 4151 2555. ■**

## 2021 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 27 August 2021

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)	
Payment Date	Increase	To
Initial		<b>\$318.00</b>
13-Oct-21	\$78.00	\$396.00
17-Nov-21	\$14.00	\$410.00
15-Dec-21	\$14.00	\$424.00
19-Jan-22	\$28.00	\$452.00
16-Feb-22	\$15.00	\$467.00
16-Mar-22	\$28.00	\$495.00
13-Apr-22	\$14.00	\$509.00
18-May-22	\$14.00	\$523.00
15-Jun-22	\$14.00	\$537.00
Final	\$29.00	\$566.00

Notes:

1. The program above represents indicative advances payable by QSL to Bundaberg Sugar based on estimated pool returns, the marketing plan and forecast cash flows at the time. These indicative amounts will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated for changes in forecasts. **Advances highlighted in bold in the table above have been approved by the QSL Board.**

2. This program is indicative only and should not be taken as a commitment by Queensland Sugar (or Bundaberg Sugar) with regard to the estimated pool return, advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in a number of factors including the marketing plan, sugar price and currency movements and timing of cash flows.

3. The advance rates are GST exclusive.

**Disclaimer:** This report has been prepared for general information only. It does not have regard to the specific circumstances of any individual or group who may read it. It is not intended as an offer to buy or sell commodities, futures or options, nor is the accuracy of the report content guaranteed. However, as market circumstances can change quickly, Queensland Sugar Limited and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd disclaim any responsibility or liability for decisions or actions of any individual relying in whole or in part on information contained herein. Individuals contemplating decisions relating to any material discussed in this publication should take appropriate financial advice.

## Electrical Safety week sparks rotamarker rebate program



Queensland farmers can now access a rebate for overhead warning markers indicating powerlines on their properties to make rural workplaces safer.

Coinciding with Electricity Safety Week (6-10 September), the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has partnered with Ergon Energy Network and Energex to offer farmers belonging to any of QFF's twenty (20) industry

members a 50 per cent co-contribution to install up to ten (10) rotamarkers on their properties.

Any farming business with overhead powerlines on their property that plants, harvests, sprays, irrigates or uses aerial applications should have a powerline safety plan and install overhead powerline markers to increase visibility and help prevent contact.

It is imperative that farmers see safety as the foundation that all our other business decisions are made so the agriculture sector can promote and advance safe farms across the state.

**For more information about the rebate and eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.qff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Rotamarker-Rebate-Program.pdf>.** ■

## Chemical Updates

As the time comes to apply herbicides for weed control, it is a good time to review labels to make sure that the correct rate is being applied. Any records required are kept and herbicides are applied at the correct time of year with the correct weather conditions.

Generally the biggest issue with applying the correct rate of a chemical comes about from various concentrations of the active ingredient supplied by the local resellers or a change from the manufacturer. A couple of the most common occur with paraquat (Gramoxone) which has 250 & 360 gai/L, fluroxypyr (Starane) which has 200, 333 & 400 gai/L and 2,4-D

Amine which has 625 & 700 gai/L. It is important to know which product you have so that the correct rate per hectare can be applied. For example with paraquat 250 the maximum rate in cane is 1.5L/ha while the newer Gramoxone Pro 360 has a maximum rate in cane of 1.1 L/ha. This means that using the newer product at the old rate is illegal as well as the grower spending more money than needed on herbicides.

All chemicals applied to the farm must be recorded within three (3) days of application with temperature, relative humidity, windspeed/direction and cloud cover recorded as well as the blocks, dates, product/s applied and rates for Reef Regulations. Growers

need to check labels as some products have a requirement that the records be made within two (2) days and that weather forecasts, specifically rainfall, are checked as well.

**If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Leighton on 4151 2555** ■

## Emergency Plus App

If a medical emergency or accident were to happen at a farm without a road number could you provide enough information to 000 for an ambulance to find you in a timely manner?

If you answer NO to this question then you should consider using the Emergency Plus app.

The Emergency Plus app was developed by Australia's emergency services and their government industry partners using a mobile phone GPS functionality to provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smart phone.

The app also has the contact details to a wide range of important services such as

SES, PoliceLink and Lifeline as well as how to perform CPR. Emergency Plus is available for apple and android devices. ■

## COVID-19 update

There have been some recent changes to the requirements for farms with employees or contractors in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Queensland Government now requires a record of employees and contractors on a farm to be kept.

One way to do this is with the Check In Qld App [www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qlld](https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qlld) ■

## Third JobMaker Hiring Credit claim period is now open



Australian Government  
Australian Taxation Office

The third JobMaker Hiring Credit claim period is now open. If you've hired new eligible employees from 7 April 2021, your business may be eligible to receive payments under the JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme.

Eligible businesses may be able to claim up to:

- \$10,400 over one (1) year, for each additional eligible employee hired aged 16 to 20 years
- \$5,200 over one (1) year, for each additional eligible employee hired aged 30 to 35 years.

To claim, you'll need to:

- register at any time until 6 October 2021
- nominate your additional eligible employees
- claim your payment.

The third claim period closes 31 October 2021.

The JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme is open to eligible employers who hire additional eligible employees by 6 October 2021.

### Eligible employers

Employers may be eligible for JobMaker Hiring Credit payments if all the following apply.

The employer:

- has registered for the JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme
- either
  - Operates a business in Australia
  - is a deductible gift recipient (DGR) endorsed either as a public fund or for a public

fund you operated under the Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Scheme (DGR item 9.1.1) or for developed country relief (DGR item 9.1.2)

- holds an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- is registered for pay as you go (PAYG) withholding
- has not claimed JobKeeper payments for a fortnight that started during the JobMaker period
- is up to date with income tax and GST returns for the two (2) years up to the end of the JobMaker period for which they are claiming
- satisfies the payroll increase and the headcount increase conditions
- satisfies reporting requirements, including up to date Single Touch Payroll (STP) reporting
- does not belong to one (1) of the ineligible employer categories.

### Eligible Employees

Each employee must meet all eligibility criteria for you to claim the JobMaker Hiring Credit. There are criteria relating to the employee, and their employment with you.

Employees are eligible if they:

- are an employee of the entity during the JobMaker period
- are between 16–35 years old (inclusive) when they started employment
- started employment on or after 7 October 2020 and before 7 October 2021
- worked or have been paid for an average of at least twenty (20) hours per week they were employed in the JobMaker period

- have completed a JobMaker Hiring Credit employee notice for the employer
- have not already provided a JobMaker Hiring Credit employee notice to another current employer
- received one of the following payments for at least 28 consecutive days (or two (2) fortnights) in the 84 days (or six (6) fortnights) prior to starting employment
  - JobSeeker Payment
  - Parenting Payment
  - Youth Allowance (except if they were receiving the allowance because they were undertaking full-time study or are a new apprentice).

### Ineligible employees

The following employees are not eligible for the JobMaker scheme. This is even if they satisfy some of the requirements:

- Business participants
- Close associates (including relatives)
- Widely held companies and unit trusts
- Previously engaged other than as an employee
- Employee started current employment twelve (12) months or more before the start of the period.

You are not required to pass the JobMaker Hiring Credit payment to your employees.

The JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme will end on 6 October 2022. ■

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



## Request stapled super details for employees

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has advised that from 1 November 2021, if you have new employees start, you may have an extra step to take to comply with choice of fund rules if they don't choose a super fund. You may now need to request their 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO (being an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs). The ATO also warns that if choice of super fund obligations are not met, additional penalties may apply.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

If you don't meet your choice of super fund obligations, additional penalties may apply. The change aims to reduce account fees by stopping new super accounts from being opened every time an employee starts a new job.

### Get ready

To make sure you're ready to request stapled super fund details, check and update the access levels of your authorised representatives in ATO online services.

If an authorised representative doesn't:

- Have full access in ATO online services, they will need to have the 'Employee Commencement Form' permission in order to request a stapled super fund
- Need to access this service, you should remove this permission for them to protect your employees' personal information.

### What you need to do from November 1

You don't need to offer a choice of super fund to some employees, but you may still need to request their stapled super fund details. This includes employees that are either:

- Temporary residents
- Covered by an enterprise agreement or workplace determination made before 1 January 2021.

### Step 1: Offer your eligible employees a choice of super fund

You need to offer your eligible employees a choice of super fund and pay their super into the account they tell you. Most employees are eligible to choose what fund their super goes into. They can choose a super account they already have or choose your default fund.

If you pay contractors mainly for their labour, they are employees for superannuation guarantee purposes and you may need to pay super to a fund for them. If you need to pay super and they do not make a choice, you will have to request a stapled super fund.

There is no change to this step of your super obligations. If your employee has chosen a super fund, you can pay super contributions to the chosen fund. You cannot provide recommendations or advice about super to your employees, unless you are licensed by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) to provide financial advice.

### Step 2: Request stapled super fund details

If your employee doesn't choose a super fund, you may need to log into the ATO online services to request their stapled super fund details. A tax practitioner can also do this for you.

You'll be able to request your employee's stapled super fund after you have submitted a Tax File Number declaration or Single Touch Payroll pay event linking you to them. There is no limit to the number of requests you can make.

To request a stapled super fund, you, or your authorised representative, need to:

1. Log into ATO online services
2. Enter your employee's details, including their:
  - Tax File Number (TFN) - an exemption code can be where an employee cannot provide their TFN, but this could result in processing delays
  - Full name - including 'other given name' if known
  - Date of birth
  - Address (residential or

postal), if TFN not given

3. The online system will use rules based on the regulations to work out and return a stapled super fund in response to a request.

You will receive the response on-screen. You should be notified of the result of the stapled super fund request within minutes. The ATO will notify your employee of the stapled super fund request and the fund details that have been provided.

If the request was made on your behalf by an authorised representative, the ATO will notify you of the outcome of that request. The ATO will be monitoring the service to ensure employers are using it appropriately and making genuine requests for stapled super fund details.

### Step 3: Pay super into the stapled super fund

If you are provided a stapled super fund result for your employee, you must pay your employee's super guarantee contributions to the stapled super fund details provided.

You can pay into your default fund, or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules if:

- Your employee doesn't choose a super fund, and
- You have been advised that they don't have a stapled super fund.

### Meeting your obligations

The ATO are committed to helping employers and their agents understand and become familiar with the new requirements related to stapled super funds to make this change as easy as possible.

As this change is introduced, the ATO will support employers with help and assistance as a first step to improving compliance, recognising initial non-compliance may be a result of a lack of knowledge or business readiness rather than a non-compliant attitude. Notwithstanding an employer or agent's best efforts, genuine mistakes and misunderstandings will occur.

**If you require further assistance to meet your obligations please call the ATO on 13 10 20. ■**



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:
03.08.2021	Bin Tare Weight meeting	To review Tare	Dale Holliss Courtney Moar
11.08.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Board Meeting	To provide guidance	Mark Pressler Dean Cayley Anna Attard Allan Dingle Michael Cavallaro
23.08.2021	SRA Virtual Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
26.08.2021	Bundaberg Sugar and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Marketing Meeting	To review options	Dale Holliss
30.08.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS audit	Governance regulation	Tanya Howard
03.09.2021	Reef Regulation Hearing Brisbane Parliament House	To represent members	Dale Holliss Matthew Leighton
08.09.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Board Meeting	To provide guidance	Mark Pressler Dean Cayley Anna Attard Allan Dingle Michael Cavallaro

### ADVERTISEMENT

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Authorised by AgForce, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and CANEGROWERS Isis, 32 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg QLD 4670.

## Tougher quad bike safety standards from October 2021

As part of the staged improvement to quad bike safety, the second stage begins on 11 October 2021. As part of the improvements all new and imported second-hand general use quad bikes are required to be fitted with an operator protection device (OPD) or have one integrated into their design and meet the minimum requirements for safety.

The purpose of the OPD is to hold the quad bike off the ground, helping protect the rider from being crushed or pinned in the event of a rollover. A general use quad bike must have either of the following fitted/attached; an ATV lifeguard, a Quadbar, a device that

offers the same or better level of protection to the rider. Currently youth bikes are exempt from this new regulation.

There is also a requirement regarding the static stability of the quad bike which is at what angle will it tip. The new bikes must have a lateral roll stability – minimum tilt table ratio of 0.55 and a front and rear longitudinal pitch stability – minimum tilt table of 0.8. Again, these do not apply to youth bikes.

The reason for the new standards was that there were twenty-four (24) deaths

in 2020, with the majority coming from vehicle rollovers.

Growers are also reminded that when they are riding their quad bike or side by side on the road or road reserve that they need to be wearing a helmet. This relates to previous legislation from 2017.

Research has shown over half of quad bike fatalities between 2011-2018 were caused by quad bike rollovers and in only ten (10) per cent of fatalities the rider was wearing a helmet. ■

## Insurance Tips

... By Ray Goodwin, Insurance Regional Manager, CANEGROWERS Insurance

1. Do you have contractors visit your property to undertake a service, such as a Harvesting or Planting Contractor?
2. Remember to request a copy of their insurance Certificate of Currency. This will verify that their machinery and public liability insurance is in order.
3. Accidents can and do occur, some examples are:
  - A Harvester could impact a powerline or pole
  - Machinery could impact a building or farm improvement
4. Having the contractors Certificate of Currency, will assist your insurer with a claim under your policy. Your insurer may even waive your excess, as they have all the important details to seek recovery from the contractor responsible. ■



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### CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified 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)



#### Brian Gordon

07 4151 5870

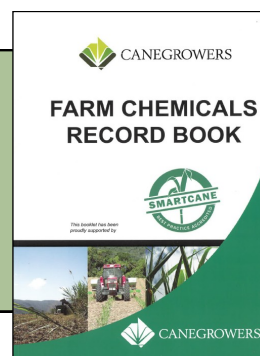
0415 457 497

71 Gavin Street



Completing this book assists growers to meet their record keeping obligations as part of the Reef Regulations.

To collect a record keeping book call into the office or contact us on 4151 2555 or [bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au)



The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



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BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS

32 Bourbong Street (PO Box 953)

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