

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

ACN 110 868 801

Annual Report 2020/21



BUNDABERG CANEGROWERS LTD

Chairman

Mark Pressler (Commencing 14 April 2021)
Allan Dingle (Retired 14 April 2021)

Directors

Dean Cayley
Mark Pressler
Allan Dingle

Anna Attard
Michael Cavallaro

Auditor

DGZ Chartered Accountants

Solicitor

CJ Cooper & Associates

Staff

Manager/ Company Secretary - Dale Holliss [MSc Env. Mgt, Grad Dip Ag Econ, BAppSC Hort
Tech, Commissioner for Declarations, GAICD]

Membership Services Extension Officer - Matthew Leighton [B.Agr.Sc.]

Accounts - Kate Odgaard

Executive Officer - Tanya Howard [B.Acct, Commissioner for Declarations, Registered BAS Agent]

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist - Samantha Houston

Project Officer/Cane Analysis Auditor - Courtney Moar

Cane Analysis Auditor - Heather Best

Cane Analysis Auditor - Melissa Radley (*resigned June 2021*)

QUEENSLAND CANE GROWERS POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Allan Dingle Mark Pressler

QUEENSLAND SUGAR LIMITED GROWER REPRESENTATIVES

Allan Dingle Mark Pressler



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/21

“..... During the 2020/21 financial year Bundaberg CANEGROWERS staff and directors continued our focus of being proudly member-focussed and farmer biased. The following is a snapshot of our efforts in providing representation, leadership and services while promoting unity in the interest of growers.”

The Board and staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS are committed to providing representation, leadership, services and promoting unity in the interest of our growers.

This is my first annual report to our members as Chairman of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS. I took on this role in April 2021 and would like to thank Allan Dingle for his leadership of the Board. This organisation achieves a lot on behalf of our members and Allan's leadership over the past 14 years has been critical to achieving real outcomes.

At the end of the 2020 season, Bundaberg Sugar made the decision to close Bingera Mill. A series of droughts, low sugar prices and competing land use all contributed to a reduction in cane supply and whilst this was inevitable in economic terms it was also a very bleak day for the industry. Millaquin has performed very credibly this season with only a few issues.

All three (3) levels of government can have a profound impact on what we do as an organisation and also on how we individually operate our farms. During the year, I was able to meet with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Premier to discuss issues of importance and concern.



Mark Pressler discussing local council rates with Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk

These issues of importance and concern generally fell into the following categories of water, energy, rates, environmental regulation, sugar marketing and pricing options.

We have very good relationships with the State and Federal members in the electorates where our members live.



Mark Pressler, Stephen Bennett, Dean Cayley at Parliament House Showcase

Colin Boyce (Callide), Stephen Bennett (Burnett) and Tom Smith (Bundaberg) at a state level have all listened to our requests and have been more than helpful.

The same can be said for Keith Pitt (Hinkler) and Ken O'Dowd (Flynn) and on behalf of the Board I wish to acknowledge their assistance and genuine attempts to make things better for our members.

Unfortunately, I cannot be as positive about the interactions with our Mayor and Councillors who, with the exception of Councillor Greg Barnes and perhaps Councillor May Mitchell, appear to have all but abandoned the principles that underpin the local government act and their responsibilities to ratepayers, particularly those in Rating Category 9.

The local government principles are:

1. Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest;
2. sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services;
3. democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement;
4. good governance of, and by, local government; and
5. ethical and legal behaviour of councillors, local government employees and councillor advisors.



I would like to thank and acknowledge Tom Marland (AgForce), Joe Lyons (BFVG), Peter McLennan (CANEGROWERS Isis) and our own Dean Cayley, for forming and operating the consortium to highlight the inequity that the Mayor and Councillors forced upon the primary producers of this area when we were given rate increases of up to 235%.



The consortium is still active and we will not stop until we achieve the stated goal that Category 9 ratepayers are refunded the rate rises that they suffered from the 2020/2021 budget such that the increase is no more than CPI and that going forward the Council adheres to the 'Guideline on the equity and fairness in rating Queensland local governments'.



Our regions inclusion into the reef regulations is unjustifiable. We are outside of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and because of the southerly movement of water in the East Australian Current, runoff water from our catchments cannot impact the reef and the islands of the southern section of the Great Barrier Reef. The prevailing currents move in the opposite direction.

We have hosted visits by the GBRMPA and our State MP's to demonstrate the evidence on this. We have also presented the evidence at Parliamentary hearings, senate enquiries and other forums and I think we are starting to get some traction.

Along with many others we have been very insistent that to ensure the wellbeing and development of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area, the Queensland Government must protect the nominal allocations associated with Paradise Dam and ensure that the water allocation security is maintained. We have direct representation on the Community Reference Group as well as the Paradise Dam Industry Forum. There appears to be some positive news on the horizon and recent comments from SunWater engineers and our local Bundaberg MP would indicate that the complete restoration of the wall is being actively considered.

Energy and in particular electricity is a major input to our farming systems. In 2015 we called for the State Government to reduce electricity tariffs as Gazetted for the 2015/16 year by 33%. We also asked for a food and fibre volume based tariff with a ceiling of no more than 16 cents/kwh (8 cents for the network component of the bill and 8 cents for the retail) to be available to irrigators.

It has taken some time and collaboration with a wide number of groups including ERGON energy network and I am very pleased to acknowledge that these targets have been achieved.

It did take six (6) years to get this outcome and it should be a signal to anyone interested that we will not give up on issues that unfairly impact our members.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, QSL, Sugar Research Australia and Women in Sugar for their valued services and products.

We have strong mutually beneficial and professional relationships with all of our industry service providers including Bundaberg Sugar. We collaborate where we can but when necessary recognise that our members come first in every instance.

We have exceptional staff who know their jobs and aren't afraid to insist on a fair go for our members and on behalf of the Board and you, thank them for achieving a number of outcomes over the 2020/21 financial year, many of which are included in the following report for the period.

Finally, to those who have lost family and loved ones in the past year, I offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences.

Mark Pressler
Chairman



2020 BUNDABERG SEASON OVERVIEW

Both Millaquin Mill and Bingera Mill commenced crushing on Monday, 6 July 2020, with both growers and plantation cane.

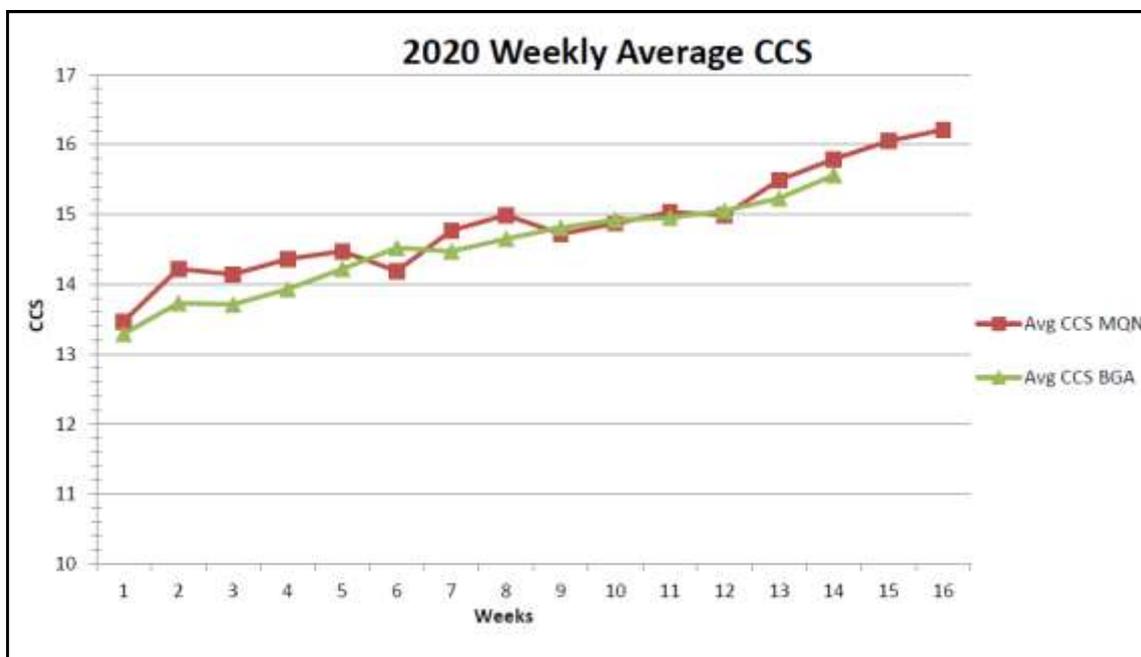
October 2020 while Bingera crushed in five (5) day mode ceasing operations on Wednesday, 7 October 2020.

Millaquin crushed in six (6) day mode ceasing operations in the early hours of Wednesday, 21

The table below shows the tonnes of cane crushed and seasonal average CCS for each mill.

Mill	Tonnes through rollers	Mill CCS	Tonnes assigned area	Payment CCS
Millaquin	588,714.46	14.84	588,429.44	14.84
Bingera	450,829.13	14.45	451,114.15	14.45

- There was no condemned cane this season.
- There were 285.02 tonnes of Bingera cane crushed at Millaquin this season (2020).



2020 Season Final Pool Prices

The 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
	\$ per IPS tonne	\$ per IPS tonne	\$ per IPS tonne
Final Gross IPS price	\$405.13	\$385.78	
US Quota premium	\$10.57	\$10.57	\$10.57
Shared Pool allocation	\$32.92	\$30.17	\$30.17
Total Net Price	\$449.30	\$426.52	

The net price announced by QSL for IPS sugar was \$431.20



Comparative Final Season prices from 2015 to 2019 are presented below:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$389.41	\$519.63	\$424.96	\$378.58	\$432.03

Cane Price 2020 Season

At the average individual mill CCS growers received the following average cane price:

	Average CCS (Relative)	Average Price / Tonne Cane
Bingera	14.3700	\$40.8894
Millaquin	14.8225	\$42.6455

Weekend Harvesting Allowance

Our Collective Agreement has capacity for an allowance to be paid for cane harvested on weekends. The allowance is adjusted every year on 1 April according to the movement in the minimum weekly wage rate for a cane harvesting employee (Level 1).

For the 2020 season the allowance was \$1.53 per tonne harvested on the weekend.

Burnt Cane Deduction

Our Collective Agreement has a clause which enables reimbursement of the burnt cane penalty where cane is burnt in order to improve cane quality or increase productivity. This is 9.8 cents per tonne delivered.

Raw Sugar Quality Scheme Forward Pricing

The Raw Sugar Quality Scheme provides for an equal sharing of net returns from raw sugar quality premiums paid to Bundaberg Sugar. Members' share of net premiums after allowing for costs in 2020 was 1.46 cents per tonne of cane.

Comparative premiums from 2015 to 2019 are presented below:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4.239c/t	4.26c/t	3.164c/t	5.53c/t	1.79c/t

Forward Pricing

Bundaberg growers have a range of individual and long term target pricing options available to them.

Season	2020		
	Target Price Range	Tonnes Sugar Submitted	Tonnes Sugar Priced
Tranche 28	430	0	0
Aggregate	460	305	305
Open 2021	490	1,524	1,524
		1,829	1,829
Tranche 29	440	0	0
Aggregate	470	305	305
Open 2021	500	305	0
		610	305
Tranche 30	450	0	0
Aggregate	480	610	610
Open 2021	510	610	0
		1,219	610
Tranche 31	490	914	0
Aggregate	510	305	0
Open 2021/2022	530	305	0
		1,524	0
Total Aggregate		5,182	2,744
Total Individual	435-520	10,668	3,048
Total Sugar		15,850	5,792
Total Cane Equivalent		195,679	71,501



REPRESENTATION



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Representation on Your Behalf

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

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

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS elected members and staff provide leadership and represent our members on a wide range of environmental, agri-political and economic bodies.

Some of these are listed below:



Mark Pressler
Chairman

(Commenced as Chairman 14 April 2021)



Allan Dingle
Director

(Retired as Chairman 14 April 2021)

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Chairman
Policy Council Member Queensland CANEGROWERS Organisation
Chairman Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd (Retired 1 July 2021)
Director Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group Ltd
Elected QSL Grower Representative (22 July 2020)
Member Industry Management Committee
Member Bundaberg Irrigation Area Advisory Group
Member Cane Quality Management Committee
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Member Community Reference Group for the Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan.

First appointed Chairman 1 May 2013 – 14 April 2021
Director Queensland CANEGROWERS Organisation
President Queensland Farmers Federation
Chairman Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group Ltd
Elected QSL Grower Representative (22 July 2020)
Chairman Bundaberg District Groundwater and Advisory Committee.
Member Bundaberg Industry Management Committee
Member Bundaberg Local Negotiations Team
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

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



Dean Cayley
Director

Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Member Bundaberg Rates Consortium.



Anna Attard
Director

Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Vice-President Bundaberg Women in Sugar.



Michael Cavallaro
Director

Director Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd.
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Member Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management
Area Advisory Committee
Member Bundaberg Chamber of Commerce.



Dale Holliss
Manager/Company Secretary

Director National Irrigators Council Ltd
Company Secretary Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd
Company Secretary Bundaberg Regional Irrigators
Group Ltd
Cooperative Secretary Grain in Cane Cooperative
Chair National Irrigators Council Energy Committee
Member QCGO Economics and Trade Committee
Member Australian Energy Regulators Queensland
Jurisdictional Consultative Group
Secretary Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative
Bundaberg
Sugar Industry Representative on the Burnett Great
Barrier Reef Marine Park Local Management
Advisory Committee
Member Energy Consumers Australia Consultation
Group
Member Energy Charter End Users Group
Member Energy Qld Consumer Consultation Group
Secretary EH & FC Churchward Sugar Industry Trust.



Tanya Howard
Executive Officer

Company Secretary Bundaberg Ag-Food and
Fibre Alliance
Member Cane Quality Committee
Member Bundaberg Rates Consortium.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

OUR VISION

To ensure a secure and profitable future for Bundaberg cane growers.



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
02.07.2020	Pre-Season Meeting at Millaquin Mill	To ensure laboratory program is ready
03.07.2020	Meeting with Greg Beashel QSL	To discuss pool options
06.07.2020	QAWN School holiday program	To formulate policy and procedure
08.07.2020	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Board Meeting	Monthly Meeting
08.07.2020	Meeting with Lachlan Lamont– QLD Energy Class Action	To review participation
16.07.2020	Meeting with Ken O'Dowd, Federal Member for Flynn	To represent members
20.07.2020	Potential Ag Alliance	To represent members
20.07.2020	Meeting with Stephen Bennett and David Batt	To brief on current issues
21.07.2020	National Irrigators Council Teleconference	To represent members
21.07.2020	Meeting with Minister Angus Taylor	To represent members
21.07.2020	Policy Council Meeting	To resolve policy and issues
22.07.2020	Sugar Research Australia Teleconference	To represent members
24.07.2020	Bundaberg Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy—Stakeholder Advisory Meeting	To represent members
27.07.2020	Senate Hearing on Reef Regulations	To represent members
30.07.2020	NRM Prioritisation Workshop	To represent members
04.08.2020	SunWater CEO Meeting	To represent members
10.08.2020	Tim Sayre, Chamber of Commerce	To discuss rates
12.08.2020	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Board Meeting	Monthly Meeting
14.08.2020	QAWN School Holiday Job Program Information Session	To finalise program
19.08.2020	Rates Strategy Group	To represent members
25.08.2020	Elston governance briefing	To update staff
26.08.2020	COVID-19 Awareness teleconference	To update staff
03.09.2020	Meeting with Jim Binney	To discuss Paradise Dam
11.09.2020	QAWN School Holiday Job Program	To interview students
17.09.2020	National Irrigators Council Meeting	To represent members
23.09.2020	QLD Farmers' Federation Ag Systems Webinar	To represent members
24.09.2020	Energy Consumers Australia Board meeting	To represent members
06.10.2020	Budget Night Event	To represent members
07.10.2020	Reef Regulations—Townsville	To represent members
08.10.2020	Groundwater Teleconference	To represent members
08.10.2020	Meeting with Josh Thomas, CEO, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Area	To represent members
15.10.2020	Meeting with Councillor Greg Barnes	To represent members
15.10.2020	BMRG & CQ University Ag Tech Facility	To represent members
22.10.2020	Meeting with Daniel Elder– QRIDA	To represent members
03.11.2020	District Manager's Meeting	To review update
06.11.2020	Bundaberg Farmers' Consortium Rates Meeting	To represent members
10.11.2020	QCGO Annual General Meeting and Policy Council Meeting	To represent members
13.11.2020	Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards Committee meeting	To discuss event plans
16.11.2020	Tariff Review Discussion	To represent members
19.11.2020	District Manager's Meeting	To represent members
19.11.2020	End of Season Meeting	To review Cane Analysis Program
25.11.2020	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Board Meeting	Monthly Meeting



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
25.11.2020	Bundaberg Farmers' Consortium Rates Meeting	To represent members
26.11.2020	Wide Bay Bumett Supply Chain Forum	To represent members
27.11.2020	Bumett Mary Regional Group Annual General Meeting	To represent members
27.11.2020	Sugar Research Australia Strategy and Operating Model Review	To receive planning suggestions
07.12.2020	Colin Bendall, EGM Ops ,Sunwater	Discuss Paradise Dam
08.12.2020	Energy Queensland Customer Council Meeting	To represent members
08.12.2020	Paradise Dam PDIF	To represent members
09.12.2020	Queensland Farmers' Federation	To represent members
10.12.2020	Paradise Dam Customer Reference Group (CRG)	To represent members
14.12.2020	Federal Scientific Quality Assurance Agency Proposal (Zoom)	To review proposal
15.12.2020	Paradise Dam PDIF 2	To represent members
17.12.2020	Coastal Bumett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting	To review allocations
19.01.2021	Reef Credits Zoom Call	To understand system
21.01.2021	Rural Rates Increase Meeting	To represent members
21.01.2021	Paradise Dam PDIF	To represent members
08.02.2021	Consultation session on the draft standard conditions for new cropping in the Great Barrier Reef catchment	To provide input
09.02.2021	Meeting with Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg	To discuss issues
10.02.2021	Meeting with QSL	To review domestic pool
11.02.2021	Bumett Mary Regional Integrated Science Forum	To represent members
17.02.2021	Meeting with Ross Henry, QRIDA	To represent members
19.02.2021	District Managers Meeting—Auditors	To determine needs for 2021
25.02.2021	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Field Day	To represent members
02.03.2021	Economics and Trade Committee Meeting	To represent members
03.03.2021	Meeting with ORECO	To develop new contracts
04.03.2021	Accounting for Nature Workshop	To obtain accreditation
08.03.2021	RACE for 2030 Agriculture Industry Roundtable	To review opportunities
10.03.2021	Queensland Farmers Federation teleconference	To represent members
11.03.2021	SunWater, Paradise Dam CRG	To represent members
11.03.2021	Paradise Dam Industry Group	To represent members
16.03.2021	QCGO Policy Council Meeting	To represent members
18.03.2021	Energy Consumers Australia Reference Committee	To represent members
24.03.2021	Bundaberg Area Fire Management Group Meeting	To represent members
12.04.2021	Meeting with Deb Frecklington at Paradise Dam	To represent members
19.04.2021	BMRG Regional Environmental Account Kick - Off	To receive updates
20.04.2021	Meeting with Minister Steven Miles	To represent members
04.05.2021	Dinner with Deputy Prime Minister McCormack and Ken O'Dowd	To represent members
10.05.2021	Budget Night - Canberra	To represent members
11.05.2021	SRA & USQ Irrigation Workshop	To receive training
11.05.2021	Meeting with Ash Salardini, National Farmers Federation	To discuss requirements
14.05.2021	CPA Bundaberg Budget Breakfast	To represent members
20.05.2021	Energy Consumers Australia Reference Committee	To represent members
24.05.2021	CANEGROWERS Leadership Forum - Cairns	To represent members
31.05.2021	Growing Regional Leaders Program	Professional Development
01.06.2021	Information session on the new Reef Regulations	To understand changes
03.06.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Members shed meetings	To provide an update
17.06.2021	Raising the Bar - Regional Promotion Night - State Parliament	To represent members



LEADERSHIP

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS resourced a number of strong advocacy campaigns targeting electricity pricing, reef regulations and irrigation water issues during the 2020/21 financial year.

Our leadership ensured that federal, state and local government politicians were absolutely aware of the impacts of policy and red-tape on our members as well as the community, and our growers concerns in relation to these issues.

We work diligently with all policy makers at all levels to ensure our growers get the best outcome possible.

Electricity

Our focus on achieving outcomes for members with respect to electricity pricing has been based on three (3) work streams:

Work Stream 1

Electricity Bill = Price x Quantity used

An affordable and sustainable electricity price is one that has a ceiling of 8 cents per kilowatt-hour for the electrons and 8 cents per kilowatt-hour for the network,. (GST exclusive).

Work Stream 2

Electricity Bill = Price x Quantity used

Work stream 2 is all about energy productivity and along with BSSL and BRIG we have undertaken over twenty (20) audits across the Bundaberg region aimed at improving energy productivity.

Work Stream 3

Work stream 3 came about in case the first two (2) could not be achieved. In this project a range of entities partnered with the Killer Family and ARENA to develop a method to use solar/grid and potentially solar/diesel to come up with an affordable alternative.

All three (3) work streams have delivered results and more recently a fourth dimension has been added with the Memorandum of Understanding being negotiated by BRIG with Q Energy.

Ag Energy Taskforce

The Ag Energy Taskforce is a group of representative bodies including National Irrigators Council, CANEGROWERS, National Farmers Federation, NSW Farmers, Queensland Farmers Federation, Central Irrigation Trust, Cotton Australia, New South Wales Irrigators Council, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Winemakers Federation of Australia, Pioneer Valley Water, Dairy Connect, Australian Pork Limited and Murrumbidgee Groundwater.

The taskforce was first established in 2014 to draw attention to the impacts of high electricity costs on irrigated agriculture.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is represented on the taskforce and have participated in a number of reviews and inquiries. The focus of the taskforce is to advocate for an electricity price that has a ceiling of 16 cents/kwh across the National Electricity market. This group has achieved a lot for irrigated agriculture.

Reef

The inclusion of our region into the reef regulation requirements in late 2019 has resulted in a lot of effort by Bundaberg CANEGROWERS aimed at having this region returned to its previous status. It is unjustifiable to include an area that is outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that can have no impact on it.

GBRMPA

On 25 February 2021 Josh Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, and David Wachenfeld, Chief Scientist, both of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) visited Bundaberg.

This tour was organised and hosted by the Maryborough, Isis and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Organisations and the Burnett Mary Regional NRM Group.

The purpose of bringing GBRMPA to our region was to demonstrate that Reef Regulation in our catchment is neither necessary nor justifiable.

Apart from the site visits the group was presented with a literature review of peer reviewed research papers that show good coral growth in our region, low nutrient status of the water as well as examples of research papers that seem to be ignored in the 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement.

This literature review demonstrated the lack of credibility of the “science” used to vilify farmers and to justify expensive regulation of the Burnett Mary farming community.

GBRMPA were provided with a very strong case for having the level of regulation taken back to pre November 2019 levels and were asked to publicly acknowledge that there is no need for Regulations in the Burnett Mary catchment to protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.



Senate Inquiry on Reef Regulations held on 28 July 2020

Dale Holliss represented Bundaberg CANEGROWERS to the Senate Inquiry into the Identification of Leading Practices in Ensuring Evidence-Based Regulation of Farm Practices That Impact Water Quality which was held on 28 July 2020. Key highlights raised with the Senators were:

We have worked closely with the Burnett Mary Regional NRM Group. We have a long and demonstrated track record of participation in programs aimed at improving farming practice and delivering environmental, economic and social benefits to the Bundaberg Region.

- 90% of our farms practice Green Cane Trash Blanket
- 70% of runoff from our farms goes through at least one (1) settling pond
- 80% of our farms have detailed nutrient management plans.

Our continual involvement in this area ensures that the facts are available and we will continue to represent all of our members.

GBRMPA Local Marine Advisory Committee

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS’ Manager Dale Holliss represents the Bundaberg regional sugar cane industry on this committee along with a range of community representatives.



State Election

We provided a briefing paper to all of the Bundaberg, Burnett, and Callide candidates in the 2020 State election so that candidates could identify where their policies and election platforms would assist our members and the community in general.

COUNCIL RATES

The most urgent issue to be addressed is that of the inequitable gouging of farmers by the Bundaberg Regional Council in the recent council budget.

Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) has increased the rates levied on Category 9 Agricultural land by up to 235% on 2019 levels. This increase is directly threatening the livelihoods of farmers in this region.

Given the reliance on agriculture for the region’s economy and future prosperity, a solution needs to be determined and implemented very quickly.

The elected Councillors have been requested to rescind this recent rates decision and recast their budget such that all ratepayers pay no more than CPI.

Council has responded stating that legislation prohibits them from doing so.

Prior to the dissolution of the Queensland parliament, the following amendment was made to the legislation:

94A Regulation-making power for additional decisions about levying of rates and charges for 2020–2021 financial year.

(1) A regulation may provide for a local government to decide, by resolution made other than at the local government’s budget meeting for the 2020–2021 financial year, what rates and charges are to be levied for a relevant part of that financial year.

Unfortunately the necessary regulation to implement section 94A has not been made.



If elected, will you and your party undertake to implement the necessary regulation in the first 30 days, and then investigate sustainable funding methods for local Government?

RIGHT TO FARM & PROPERTY RIGHTS

In terms of gross value added, employment and business numbers, the Bundaberg local government area has a much greater reliance on agriculture (approx 13 per cent) than Queensland as a whole (approx 3.4 per cent).

This reliance on agribusiness means that any negative impact on our farmers' ability to generate and market the crops and products they produce, has a much greater impact on our community than in other areas.

We have instances where significant areas of land are becoming un-farmable because of urban encroachment and other land use issues. Growers are continually being harassed about burning, not burning (trash), dust, chemical complaints, and noise etc.

In most cases these complaints are vexatious.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS seeks to have farmers' 'right to farm' protected by *legislation*. The 'right to farm' relates to a cane farmer's free ability to carry out lawful agricultural activities without undue objection, harassment or complaint from neighbours or other land users.

It is imperative that 'Right to Farm Guidelines' and supporting local laws be developed to support and protect existing farming operations as well as attracting agricultural investment and to ensure the long-term future of irrigated agriculture in the Bundaberg region.

What is needed?

- ✓ *Development of specific laws and standards that deal with issues such as farm generated noise, dust and other complaints in a practical and sustainable manner.*
- ✓ *Any development near agricultural areas include appropriate buffer zones contained within the development area and not the rural land.*
- ✓ *Encourage diversification in the rural economy but avoid the expansion of uses that are incompatible with existing agricultural production.*

If elected, what would you do and how would you approach this issue?

LOCAL MANAGEMENT

The Bundaberg Irrigation Area Scheme (BIA Scheme) is owned and operated by SunWater as the monopoly provider of water from river and channel supplies in the scheme area.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS supports the reinvestigation of providing for local management and ownership of the SunWater distribution schemes and see this as a possible method of increasing our efficiency in our production systems and also productivity gains to offset real term price declines.

If elected will you establish a process to investigate Local Management of the SunWater owned Distribution Scheme?

PARADISE DAM

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS was part of a consortium that estimated the cost of inaction on Paradise Dam would be approximately \$2.4 billion over the next 30 years.

To ensure the wellbeing and development of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area, the Queensland Government must protect the nominal allocations associated with Paradise Dam and ensure that the water allocation security is maintained.

If elected, what would you do and how would you approach this issue?



Water

Groundwater

Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee (CBGMAAC) remains an active, autonomous group representing all industry sectors and geographical areas of the CBGMA and continues to play a vital role in the department’s planning processes. Discussions are frank and transparent and the group has had a major influence on key water resource planning outcomes, including water sharing rules, control of seawater intrusion, specification of groundwater entitlements, groundwater monitoring and improved water use efficiency and sustainability.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has representation on the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee and continues to provide the secretarial requirements of that organisation.

The 2020/21 announced groundwater allocation was 65,020 ML and metered use was 37,470 ML (including 5,600 ML used by Bundaberg Regional Council). The 2019/20 usage was 43,100 ML. Groundwater is an important source of irrigation and the sustainable extraction of this resource is key to the objectives of the committee.

Surface Water



The total Metered use for Irrigation for the SunWater Scheme for 2020/21 was 156,258 ML or 75% of Irrigation Nominal Allocations of 209,627 ML.

The total metered use for the SunWater Scheme for 2019/20 was 186,269 ML or 49% of Nominal Allocations (*see below*).

Women in Sugar



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS auspice the Women in Sugar group and provide a meeting venue when required, administration and public liability insurance coverage.

For the 2020/21 financial year, office bearers were:

- President: Krystal Golchert
- Vice President: Anna Attard
- Secretary: Hayley Loeskow
- Treasurer: Krystal Rasmussen



Women in Sugar Members with Michael Turner from Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd on a field day.

Water Supply Scheme	Customer Segment	No. of Customers	Water Entitlements (ML)	Available Water (ML)	Available Water (%)	Water Deliveries (ML)	Water Deliveries (%)	Temporary Transfer Purchase Volume (ML)
Bundaberg	Industrial		374	1,162		661		300
	Irrigation		209,627	218,471		156,258		35,892
	Urban		10,571	10,571		5,849		744
	Other		46	46		21		0
	Sunwater		159,711	56,770		23,480		475
	Total	1,089	380,329	287,020	75	186,269	49	37,411



SERVICES

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has a long tradition of service to growers in this district. All of our staff think about how to make our members more profitable and we are committed to representing members interests in every area that can have an impact on their farming operation. We are needs based, outcomes focussed and intentionally member biased.

Membership Services Extension Officer

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Membership Services Extension Officer Matt Leighton, is available to assist growers with general enquires on a range of issues. Matt is a fully qualified agronomist with experience in cane as well as pulse crops.



Matt is associated with a wide range of activities and enquiries including:

- Updating the board of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on issues or concerns affecting growers.
- Assisting growers with information about leasing cane farms as either the lessor or lessee, and normal payment terms.
- Providing information to government and natural resource groups, demonstrating that Bundaberg cane growers are not applying excess fertiliser and have very little runoff from the farms reaching the creeks, without passing through farm dams or tail water recycling pits.
- Providing advice on soybean agronomy, soybean costs and returns as well as general information on other break crops.
- Providing information on water trading including a likely trading range for both permanent and seasonal (temporary) trades, carryover water as well as attending groundwater meetings as required.

Grain in Cane Agronomy Service

During the past year Matt Leighton has provided an agronomy service to nine (9) members representing 148 hectares of soybeans. This agronomy advice is a fee for service arrangement with the growers paying \$110 base fee plus \$22 per hectare. The growers who used this service achieved a mixture of edible and full fat grain quality with growers in both of these groups achieving over \$700 per tonne of grain in a falling market.

Energy Check

Electricity is a major expense for irrigating farmers. As a service to our members, we offer a Bill

Checking Service, where we review electricity bills, checking for billing errors and cost effectiveness of current Tariff's.

The aim is to ensure that a grower's electricity usage is aligned with the most cost effective tariff to minimise c/kWh cost.

If a connection point is identified as having a high c/kWh cost, investigations can then be made as to why and what action may be required to bring the c/kWh down. This may include looking at what alternative tariff options are available or looking closely at usage patterns and time of use so as to minimise peak costs.

The Electricity Bill Check Service is delivered by our Projects Officer, Courtney Moar and is available to all members of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

Wage Service

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS continues to provide a wage service for growers and harvesting contractors. Employers must adhere to a list of Australian Taxation Office (ATO) rules and regulations as well as compliance with the Fair Work Act, National Employment Standards and the Sugar Industry Award.

With respect to legal compliance, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' payroll services keep pace with the complicated, changing legislation and tax obligations associated with payroll, and our team pass this information on to our valued clients.

Over \$1.9 million in wages was recorded during the 2020/21 financial year on behalf of thirteen (13) employers with eighty (80) employees.

This compared with \$1.9 million in wages recorded for the 2019/20 year for thirteen (13) active employers and eighty-two (82) employees. The office processed superannuation contributions totalling over \$180,000 including additional contributions.

ORECO

During the 2020 season, there were thirty-five (35) contracted Bundaberg growers supplying 12,711 bales of trash weighing 5,733.8 tonnes to the Oreco factory, with a total value of \$228,319.91 (inc GST).

Legal Representation

Chris Cooper provides a wide range of services to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members. Chris is principal of the law firm, CJ Cooper & Associates, and since 1983 has been legal consultant to CANEGROWERS.





As well as providing legal services to members, Chris is retained by CANEGROWERS to provide legal services to the Australian, Queensland and District Cane Growers Organisation companies including Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

As the organisation’s legal adviser he covers corporate governance matters, company constitutional issues, membership issues, company corporate compliance issues, property management and related issues and not-for-profit issues.

General legal advice and consultation over the phone is a free service to members.

Commissioner of Declarations

Tanya Howard and Dale Holliss are both qualified as Commissioners for Declarations and are available to witness any document copies or Statutory Declarations growers may need certified.

Members’ Crop Insurance

One of the benefits of membership of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is access to the state-wide crop insurance policy. The scheme operates on simple procedures with premiums deducted by levy, assistance with claims and ease of administration. The policy is also flexible, offering growers the ability to top-up their cover above the district level by paying a small additional premium.

All Bundaberg CANEGROWERS members have crop insurance cover as part of their membership fee. For the 2020 season, the cover is set at \$40 per tonne with a fifty (50) tonne excess and covers growers for:

- Total crop loss from unharvested cane after a fire;
- Partial crop loss from reduced yield of a harvested crop after a fire; and
- The loss of a trash blanket and the cost of re-establishing the crop after the fire in a trash blanket.

Members are also able to take out top - up insurance cover, to “Top-Up” their insurance beyond \$40 per tonne with the payment of additional premium.

CANEGROWERS General Insurance Scheme

CANEGROWERS Insurance Scheme is owned by growers, and commenced in 2012 to look after growers’ insurance needs.



Wide Bay Authorised Representative Ray Goodwin has extensive experience in looking after the insurance needs of the rural sector and has already assisted many of our growers to ensure that their insurance cover is tailored to their requirements. Ray provides a personalised on-farm service to

growers, primarily servicing CGU’s Canepol insurance policies.

He also has access to a broad range of other insurance products and alternative underwriters so that appropriate insurance cover can be obtained for all aspects of a grower’s businesses at the best price.

CANEGROWERS Insurance aims to help in three (3) ways:

1. Expert advice – our advice doesn’t stop once we’ve arranged your insurance policy
2. Faster claims - Ray can assist with the claims process from lodgement through to finalisation allowing you time to focus on what really matters
3. Better outcomes - we leverage the support of our network to ensure that you’ve got the added benefit of a large organisation that can help if any issues arise.

Ray can assist members with a review of their current insurance cover to ensure that they have all aspects of their business adequately insured.

This service provides all members with the opportunity for a review of their insurance cover and provides advice and recommendations as required.

Water Trading Register

Our Water Trading Register is available to anyone looking to buy or sell water.

We do not take a commission from any transfers that take place, we simply advertise what we have been notified as currently available and the parties negotiate a price and the details of that trade, directly with each other.

Communication Newsletter

The Bundaberg District Canegrower Newsletter



is produced in-house and aims to provide our growers with the information that they need in a timely manner. In addition to our grower members, we circulate the newsletter to a wide range of industry stakeholders, community leaders and politicians so that they can be better informed on issues facing the industry. Our newsletter is also available on our website.

Website

Our website was launched in 2012 and we review the content weekly to ensure that all information is current and accurate. The website is desktop and smart device friendly and includes our area specific weather monitoring service and soil moisture monitoring graphs for members of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd.



Twitter

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS holds a Twitter account under the handle @bundyCANEGROWER for the purpose of keeping up to date with media and political interests and we use this profile to share information and media releases to a wider, industry based audience. The account has been active since February 2015.

Facebook

Our Facebook page was started in 2020 to promote the organisation and the sugar industry to a wider audience including the general public. The page is used to promote the positive aspects of the industry as well as share important information. Most recently Facebook has been a valuable tool in promoting our stance on the local rates issue and our push-back against reef regulations in our region.

Bundaberg Cane Audit Service

The audit service was carried out at the mills by a team of three (3) auditors, Courtney Moar, Melissa Radley and Heather Best providing relief coverage throughout the season.

Manual corrections made by the Auditors to data for first expressed juice samples (not including fibre value changes) are presented in the table below. The percentage values for manual corrections and missed samples are calculated from 'potential samples', being the sum of the actual samples analysed and the missed samples. The percentage of dry samples is calculated from total deliveries of cane.

Mill	CCS Samples	Missed	Dry	Manual Corrections
Millaquin	12766	198 (1.53%)	153 (1.17%)	243 (1.87%)
Bingera	5789	13 (0.46%)	261 (4.30%)	80 (1.38%)

Weighbridges

Standard test weights were performed on both Millaquin and Bingera rail weighbridges at weekly intervals to comply with the Program. The Millaquin road weighbridge was checked against the dispatch weighbridge on a weekly basis by the Auditors. All checks were found to be within tolerance for the season.

At Millaquin, the taring of all rail bins was carried out pre-season and when repairs were made to bins throughout the season. The taring of multilift bins was also carried out pre-season. Standard weight tests were performed weekly during the scheduled maintenance stops with all tests being within the tolerance range.

The dummy bin was weighed each eight (8) hour shift and was within tolerance limits on each occasion. There were 756 'camera view' bin checks carried out via the laboratory computer during the season. These were found to be incorrect on eight (8) occasions. On each occasion the weighbridge operator was aware and in the process of correcting.

No. 1 Mill

At Millaquin, 49% of inspections of No. 1 Mill resulted in reports of unsatisfactory hygiene which was mainly due to juice and froth spilling out and covering the floor area in front of No. 1 Mill.

Leuconostoc growth was evident on four (4) occasions. This was addressed when reported to mill personnel. No overflows of the sample tray were noted during the season. No hosing at the top of No.1 mill was noticed via the cameras throughout the season.

At Bingera, 82 inspections of No.1 Mill throughout the season resulted in four (4) reports of unsatisfactory hygiene (4.88%) mainly due to juice and or cush covering the floor area in front of No. 1 Mill. Evidence of Leuconostoc growth was recorded on one (1) occasion throughout the season and one (1) overflow of the collection tray was noted. The tray was pulled apart and cleaned, no further instances occurred.

Interaction with Growers

There were a total of sixteen (16) queries from Growers, Grower Services Officers and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS for both mills during the season. Millaquin recorded ten (10) queries and Bingera recorded six (6). These were investigated by Audit staff and resolved by the procedure in Appendix G of the Cane Analysis Program.

At Millaquin, Auditors contacted Grower Services Officers on 161 occasions resulting in six (6) changes being made and at Bingera on 139 occasions with no changes being required. These changes involved variety, class, block numbers and green/burnt.

Cut to Crush issues were investigated and referred to the Cane Supply Manager. CCS was adjusted for nine (9) delayed samples and the average bin weight adjusted for one (1) sample after consultation with the Cane Supply Manager.

Pre and post season meetings were held with Senior Mill Management, Program Supervisor/NIR Coordinator, Auditors and CANEGROWERS' Representatives to discuss operational issues and findings from the seasonal audit activities.



BUNDABERG MILLS PRODUCTION STATISTICS 2016 to 2020 Seasons

Crushing Statistics - Bundaberg District

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Crushing Commenced [#] :	6 July	1 July	18 June	19 June	13 June
Crushing Finished:	24 October	13 October	21 October	14 December	8 December
Average Season Length (weeks): [#]	15.6	14.8	17.8	25.4	25.4
Average Wet Weather Lost Time (days): [#] :	5.76	0.5	4.7	57.9	32.25
Tonnes Cane Harvested from Mill Area*:	1,047,595	1,095,130	1,315,907	1,656,572	1,825,357
Hectares Harvested in Mill Area*:	13,752	15,461	18,050	19,261	19,535
Hectares Unharvested in Mill Area	267	8.15	159	1,088	101
Yield (tonnes/hectare)*:	76.2	70.8	72.9	86.0	93.44
Average CCS:	14.67	14.60	14.80	13.81	14.09

Production and Value

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Manufactured Sugar (tonnes IPS):	153,032	159,852	196,101	227,734	260,491
Value of Sugar Production \$M:	65.991	69.06 ¹	74.24	96.78	135.35
Estimated Value of Queensland Sugar Production \$M:	1,853.23	1,697.17 ²	1,676.75	1,809.89	2,345.99
Estimated Value of Bundaberg Production as % of State:	3.56%	4.07% ²	4.43%	5.35%	5.77%

Excludes early season cane

* Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing

¹ Bundaberg Mill area sugar price of \$431.20/t

² Determined by using Harvest Pool Price announced by Queensland Sugar Ltd of \$449.30/t



BUNDABERG PRODUCTION STATISTICS 2016 to 2020 Seasons

Number of Growers and CPA

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
No. of Growers	168	198	225	228	239
No. of CPAs	168	198 ¹	225 ¹	228 ¹	239 ¹
Total CPA (Hectares)	32,447	33,272	32,732	36,280	35,723

Green Cane Harvesting

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Tonnes Cane Crushed ²	1,047,595	1,095,130	1,315,907	1,656,572	1,825,357
Tonnes Cane Cut Green	984,186	984,251	1,122,986	1,461,200	1,614,838
% Green	93.9	89.9	85.3	88.2	88.5

Mechanical Harvesting

	Tonnes Cane ²	% of Total	Number of Machines
Tonnes cut by cane growers not contracting outside their own farm	41,473.35	3.96%	10
Tonnes cut by cooperative groups	20,545.52	1.96%	2
Tonnes cut by cane grower/contractors - on own property and for other farms	790,208.17	75.43%	45
Tonnes cut by independent contractors	195,367.73	18.65%	11
Total	1,047,594.77	100.00%	68

¹ The CPA count has changed from individual growers to combined business units which may include multiple farms, CPA's and ABN's, as long as they are managed by the same entity.

² Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing.



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