

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 16, Issue 8
November 2021

Chair's Update

Mark Pressler
Chairman



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TERMINATION OF CRUSHING

Weather and other factors permitting, crushing operations for the 2021 season are expected to cease on or about:

**Tuesday, 23rd November, 2021
at MILLAQUIN MILL**

All cane must be delivered by 5pm on that date. Grower Services Officers will advise of any changes to these arrangements due to weather and other factors.

As I write these notes you could not credit how much things have changed, the sugar price is still strong albeit a little weaker at the moment with the two (2) year outlook still very positive. Then we have the weather with most areas in the district receiving some good storm rain. Unfortunately there has been no top up of Paradise and Fred Haigh dams, however there has been a slight increase in the Bucca weir and the Kolan barrage overtopping.

Despite the slight increases there has been no increase in allocations as yet. There was a small increase in some groundwater allocations back at the start of October. As always, good general rainfall from the recently announced La Nina event for this summer is what is really needed to ensure a good crop for next year.

The ratoons are mostly looking spectacular, the downside to this is weeds and grass which is having a field day. Please contact Matt Leighton if you need any advice on herbicide application. As mentioned in the last newsletter there are some restrictions when using certain herbicides at this time of year.

With the rain and good growth of the ratoons there has been a bit of a downside with the year to date CCS stalling. To get the best out of the CCS, the harvest needs to continue with minimal stops. Mill performance on a whole has been really good with reliability up around 94%. By all reports transport of the north-side crops have been relatively smooth after a few hiccups early on.

We are looking at a finish date of around 23 November 2021 weather permitting as per the notice from Bundaberg Sugar.

Things to consider:

Soybeans

The recent weather has been more favourable than the last couple of years for preparing ground for soybeans and if growers are considering growing soybeans they should commence planning now to ensure a successful crop. While soybean prices are down slightly on last year for edible soybeans at \$700 per tonne, there is still the opportunity for a reasonable return as well as some additional nitrogen from the soybeans. There is a full article on page 5 describing what growers should be considering when planting soybeans including reducing the planting rate for those with reduced water allocations.

Christmas closure for excess dimension agricultural vehicles

With the harvest going a bit longer than previous years growers are reminded of the restrictions for moving vehicles wider than 2.5m during the Christmas period. If grower's think they will be travelling on critical roads between Christmas and New Year they need to apply for permits to travel. Full information including all the critical dates are provided on page 6.

Rotamarker

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

(Continued on page 2)



**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS
Ltd Newsletter**

Phone (07) 4151 2555 Fax: (07) 4153 1986
Email: bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au

(Continued from page 1)

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.

Drought funding

The Drought Communities Outreach Program have extended the closing date for the funding program through Rotary.

Bundaberg is a drought declared area and I would recommend putting through an application form. Every dollar counts and this is a great funding program to assist farmers and their staff with the on going costs.

At the moment Rotary have been able to process the application forms quickly and provide the funding within two (2) weeks.

You must be a Permanent Australian Resident or Australian Citizen, be over the age of 18, live and or work within a drought affected area, be in need of financial assistance due to the current drought, and not have received the \$500 EFTPOS visa card from Drought Communities Outreach Program in the past.

To apply, please contact the office on 4151 2555 to organise an application form or email Rod Medew on rod.medew@rotary9560.org

CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farms

To coincide with National Safe Work Month, CANEGROWERS has launched the **CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Guide for sugarcane farms**.

The guide has been developed to be a practical user-friendly document with the aim of supporting our growers and raising awareness and understanding of the requirements of the *Old Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*.

The intention of the guide is that it can be used by individual growers as you see fit. The guide is available on the CANEGROWERS website. ■

2021 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 29 October 2021

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance	
	(AUD/tonne IPS)	
Payment Date	Increase	To
Initial		\$318.00
13-Oct-21	\$70.00	\$388.00
17-Nov-21	\$6.00	\$394.00
15-Dec-21	\$13.00	\$407.00
19-Jan-22	\$27.00	\$434.00
16-Feb-22	\$14.00	\$448.00
16-Mar-22	\$27.00	\$475.00
13-Apr-22	\$14.00	\$489.00
18-May-22	\$13.00	\$502.00
15-Jun-22	\$14.00	\$516.00
Final	\$27.00	\$543.00

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.

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Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

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



Obsolete tariffs and Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme

Electricity customers who were transitioned to a standard tariff on 1 July 2021 should have received a bill on the new tariff by now and are reminded to check how new tariffs may be impacting bills to ensure they are on the best tariff before irrigation season.

If you feel that the new tariff is not the best tariff option, customers are free to change tariffs.

If you were moved from T66 and wish to return to T66A whilst we remain

drought declared, you are able to do so by contacting Ergon directly.

For more information please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■

Customers can apply for ETAS reassessment

The Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme (ETAS) rebate calculation has been based on historical usage for the 2020/21 year.

the previous two (2) years, then a reassessment can be requested before the end of December 2021.

These reassessments are usually resolved within a week or less. Call

1300 554 029 to request a reassessment.

Please contact Courtney at the office on 4151 2555 if you have any questions or require assistance. ■

Annual General Meetings

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited held their Annual General Meetings on 13 October. Special guest speaker Craig Nalder from Q Energy discussed the exclusive offer for Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group members. ■



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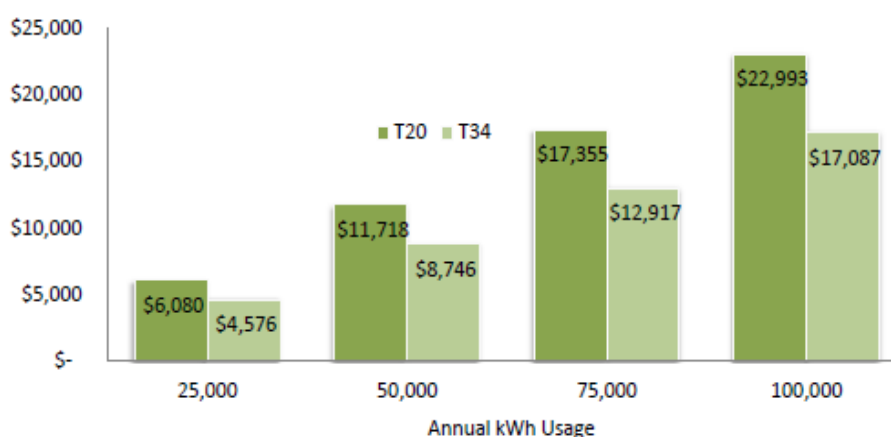
Load control tariff options for irrigators

- Reminder that load control tariff options that could provide significant cost saving opportunities, are available for both small and large customers.
- Load control tariff rates are around 25% cheaper than standard tariff rates (compared to Tariff 20).
- For an irrigator using 25,000kWh per year, this is around \$1,500/year saving; for an irrigator using 50,000 kWh per year, it's around \$3,000/year.
- These tariffs are not suitable for all operations – Ergon Network has detailed information on the pros, cons and issues to consider when considering moving a load control tariff on their website www.ergon.com.au/loadcontroltariffs including general guidance on power supply interruption frequency.
- All Ergon Network load control tariffs for business customers have a tariff condition that supply can be interrupted up to six (6) hours per day; however given changes to load control switching operations over recent years, in reality the switching is less than six (6) hours when it happens, and is not every day.
- Irrigators considering these tariffs should have a Plan B – consider how a switching event will impact their operations and what will they do to respond.
- Ergon Network has plans to develop SMS notifications to advise when power is interrupted and restored, however no firm timeframe is available. In the meantime, there are off the shelf systems available that will do a similar function – for example, the Isocket plug in device (no electrician required if there is a powerpoint in the switchboard). ■

	T20	Consumption kWh	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
c/kWh	0.22551	Usage \$	\$ 5,638	\$ 11,276	\$ 16,913	\$ 22,551
daily	1.21032	Fixed \$	\$ 442	\$ 442	\$ 442	\$ 442
		Total Cost \$	\$ 6,080	\$ 11,718	\$ 17,355	\$ 22,993

	T34	Consumption kWh	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
c/kWh	0.16682	Usage \$	\$ 4,171	\$ 8,341	\$ 12,512	\$ 16,682
daily	1.10983	Fixed \$	\$ 405	\$ 405	\$ 405	\$ 405
		Total Cost \$	\$ 4,576	\$ 8,746	\$ 12,917	\$ 17,087

Difference	\$ 1,504	\$ 2,971	\$ 4,438	\$ 5,906
% Saving	25%	25%	26%	26%



Soybean planning 2021

Soybean planting season is rapidly approaching and planning needs to occur to get the best results for the crop.

Nutrition

Soybeans like other legumes prefer a pH above 5.8 and preferably 6.2 so areas of acid soils need to be limed. The main planting fertiliser is CK 55(S) as it supplies enough starter fertiliser to ensure the crop gets away to a good start. To be certain of this a soil test is preferred.

Varieties

There are a number of soybean varieties that have been released that can be grown in Bundaberg. The following is some information about the three (3) main varieties:

- A-6785: this has been the main variety for over twenty (20) years and is still a strong performer with good market access to all quality markets. Is best planted in December and very early January and is harvested from Mid April until early May.
- Hayman[®]: this variety is best planted in late December until late January and is harvested from early May until late May. It is accepted in all quality markets.
- Kuranda[®]: is a new variety which can be planted from early January until early February and is harvested from mid May until early June. It is not accepted for export for tofu and milk which can limit its market access depending on the season. Currently prices are lower than on offer for A-6785 and Hayman[®].
- Information on other varieties can be obtained from calling Matt Leighton at the office on 4151 2555.

Planting rate

This will depend on the amount of water a grower has access to. Normally the planting rate is about 375,000 seeds/ha which is a planting rate of 60-80 kg/ha depending on seed size and variety. Given the low water allocations some growers should consider to lowering the planting rate to 220-250,000 seeds/ha which is approximately 35-55 kg/ha again depending on seed size and variety as well as the final planting rate. At these lower rates weed control is crucial as there is less competition from the soybeans.

Row Spacing

Normally there is no impact on row spacing for soybeans between 37-90cm, however last year it was noticed that Hayman matured more evenly with four (4) rows on a 1.8m cane row spacing, rows 45cm apart, compared to 90cm rows. A block of A-6785 planted on four (4) rows also matured more evenly than other blocks across the district.

Irrigation

Over the last two (2) years which have been quite dry in December and January yields have been higher in the later planted varieties of Hayman[®] and Kuranda[®]. Partly due to not trying to grow them over the two (2) hottest months but also they have still been growing and flowering when the rain fell later in the year and were able to take advantage of the rain and turn that into yield.

Normally it is recommended to irrigate on a similar rotation to cane, however higher yields in recent years have been achieved when crops have been irrigated every 5-7 days.



However if growers have a lower allocation they could consider planting later and limiting available irrigation until just before flowering through to podfill to focus on maximizing the grain yield.

Herbicides

There are two (2) things to consider with herbicides in soybeans. What is going to be grown next and what is the best timing to apply the herbicide. In regards to the first question, the reason to ask is the plant back periods of some herbicides used in soybeans have a two (2) year plant back period.

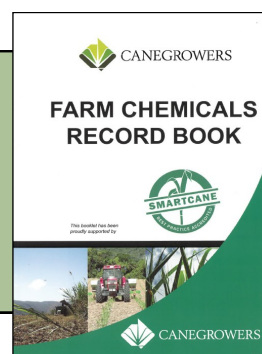
In regards to the timing of the application it is about receiving good weed control, however there is also the potential to exceed maximum residue limits (MRL's) when herbicides are applied at the incorrect time. There have been two (2) recent examples in soybeans where Verdict[®] was applied post flowering instead of before and residues were found in the grain.

The other was with Glyphosate where it was applied according to the label as a desiccant, however it too was found above the MRL. These instances mean that all grain received at the marketing locations must have a Vendor declaration on delivery to be accepted.

If legume weeds are an issue and a short plant back is required, Valor[®] can be applied as a post plant pre emergent herbicide and knockdown herbicides such as Verdict[®] for grasses or Blazer[®] for broadleaf weeds used if required. For situations where nutgrass is an issue and the following crop is cane, Spinnaker[®] can be used and it also has an effect on small grasses and small non legume broadleaf plants. ■

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





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:
09.09.2021	Ag Hub	To represent members	Dale Holliss
10.09.2021	Sunwater IAC	To represent members	Dale Holliss
15.09.2021	National Irrigators Council teleconference	To represent members	Dale Holliss
22.09.2021	Rates Strategy Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
23.09.2021	Groundwater meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
28.09.2021	QFF Metering Update	To represent members	Dale Holliss
28.09.2021	SRA Meeting	Meet new District Manager	Dale Holliss, Michael Cavallaro
07.10.2021	Ergon Tariff Reform Group	Review tariff strategy	Dale Holliss
11.10.2021	District Managers Meeting	To receive updates	Dale Holliss, Tanya Howard
13.10.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Board Meeting	To represent members	Mark Pressler
13.10.2021	Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd and Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd Annual General Meetings	To represent members	Mark Pressler, Michael Cavallaro, Dale Holliss
29.10.2021	Chamber of Commerce AGM	To represent members	Tanya Howard, Michael Cavallaro

Transport Regulations Regarding Christmas Period

While most growers have heard of the Christmas and Easter Restrictions about moving wide loads between Christmas and New Year, they may not have thought how this impacts them directly. When reading the new National Class 1 Agricultural vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice Operator's Guide, on page 36 there are some specific directions about movement of **vehicles over 2.5m wide during the Christmas/ New Year period**. During the Christmas New Year period, agricultural vehicles or combinations must be accompanied by at least one (1) pilot (ag pilot) vehicle extra to the normal travel requirements. The holiday periods are listed in the table below:

Holiday	Period of restricted travel
Christmas and New Year's* If no pilot or escort is required or if no more than one (1) pilot or escort is required	Midnight 23/24 December (though practically sunset 23 December for excess dimension vehicles that are not able to travel on roads at night due to width) to midnight 3/4 January
Christmas and New Year's* If more than one (1) pilot or escort is required	Midnight 18/19 December to midnight 3/4 January
*When Christmas day falls on a Sunday or a Monday the Christmas and New Year's holiday period will commence earlier from midday on the Friday prior to Christmas day *When 1 January falls on a Friday, the Christmas and New Year's holiday will finish later and is extended to 11.59pm on 3 January that year (effectively can start moving on 4 January)	

The travel restrictions during the Christmas New Year period basically means there is no movement through critical areas (Bundaberg City), critical roads (Port Road, Bargara Road, Elliott Heads Road, Innes Park Road, Goodwood Road, Isis Highway, Bundaberg Gin Gin Road and Moore Park Road) and major roads (Rosedale Road and Cedar Crossing connecting roads) **from sunset Thursday 23 December to sunrise Tuesday 4 January**, though this is extended based upon the number of pilot (ag pilot) or escort vehicles required to move the machinery normally as listed in the table. Movement around the council road network (roads other than listed above) during this time is permitted provided the oversize agricultural vehicle or combination is being accompanied by at least one (1) agricultural pilot above the minimum requirements of this Guideline. If growers need to move tractors, machinery or equipment wider than 2.5m on critical and major roads during these periods, permits from NHVR are required. As part of that application for a permit, a traffic management plan is required and Matt Leighton can assist growers in completing the traffic management plan. ■

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

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Missed deliveries, call or voicemail (Flubot) scams

Since August 2021, many Australians have been receiving scam text messages about missed calls, voicemails or deliveries. ScamWatch has received over 16,000 reports of these scams.

The text messages ask you to tap on a link to download or access something. There are a large number of variants of the Flubot text messages, but often they ask you to download an app to track or organise a time for a delivery, hear a voicemail message, or view photos that have been uploaded. However, the message is fake, there is no delivery, voicemail, or photos uploaded and the app is actually malicious software called Flubot. If you receive one of these messages, do not click or tap on the link. Delete the message immediately.

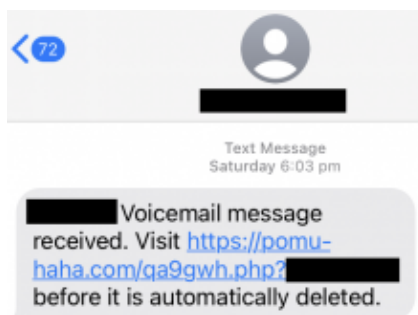
Flubot text messages change regularly

Flubot scammers are regularly updating the text messages they send out to try and infect your device with Flubot. Recently, ScamWatch has received reports of messages relating to Zoom invites, Google verifications and 'thank you' messages from clinics. Flubot text messages include a link which almost

always contains a series of 5-9 random letters and numbers at the end of the link and as a general rule, if you receive a text message that contains a link, do not click on the link.

Delivery notifications

Starting in September 2021, many



Flubot messages now talk about a delivery. They usually refer to DHL and always ask you to take some form of action in relation to the 'delivery'. ScamWatch have also started to see reports referring to Amazon deliveries.



Text Message
Today 5:53 pm

Your DHL package is on ITS way! Click <https://tinhotbtv24h.net/t.php?ajt4> TO track

Messages can include:

- scheduling a delivery time
- tracking a delivery
- managing a delivery that is 'in transit' or will be 'delivered soon'
- telling you it's your last chance to arrange pick up/delivery of a parcel
- asking you to enter your details to receive a package
- getting 'more information' about your delivery.

Unlike earlier Flubot messages (which are also still circulating), the new text messages may not contain spelling mistakes, so they can be harder to spot. However, they do contain a website link followed by 5-9 random letters and numbers.

For more information, visit
www.scamwatch.gov.au



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Attention: Wage Scheme Employers

Any wages due for processing 28 December 2021 or 3 January 2022 will need to be rescheduled due to the office closure. Advance wages can be submitted for payment on Thursday 23 December 2021 or, alternatively, can be processed upon the office re-opening on Tuesday 4 January 2022 if employees are agreeable.

Articles appearing in *The Bundaberg District Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies and views of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.



If undeliverable return to:



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