

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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## Chair's Update

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman

**W**ow, what can I say, the weather gods fairly turned it on with 600mm or more rainfall for the month, most water storages are overflowing and there has been some good groundwater recharge.

Water allocations increased for both groundwater and surface water for both the Kolan and Burnett surface water schemes.

The downside to all of this is we have left approximately 15,270 tonnes of grower cane and 35,980 tonnes of miller cane standover. The CCS for the year achieved was 14.25, disappointing but understandable considering the growing year and the wet end to the harvest.

It has also been too wet to plant soybeans. There are alternative varieties that have a longer planting window than A6785 that are still a very real opportunity this season. Please contact Matthew Leighton if you require assistance and/or information.

On a brighter note, 2021 saw some great achievements gained for the Bundaberg sugar industry.

Bundaberg Sugar were able to achieve a very credible performance by Millaquin Mill this year with the integration of the north-side and south-side crop and three (3) different modes of cane transport. Our assessment was that mill availability was around 93%. This put Millaquin near or on top of the performance of all Queensland mills. Thank you Rob Zahn, Matthew Curtis and all mill staff on a job well done.

BRIG negotiated access to an alternative electricity retailer with a very competitive price. This has created competition to ERGON and will hopefully grow over the coming year.

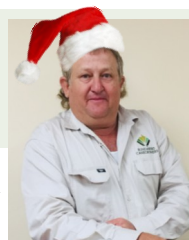
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar are negotiating with QSL towards the potential of implementing the QSL Direct model in the Bundaberg Mill area. Our existing Raw Sugar Supply arrangements and domestic pooling agreements have served us well over the years and the shift will only occur if the new system is better.

Bundaberg Sugar Services are continuing to refine the one-eye setts process and production and this will help with RSD and the fast tracking of new varieties.

There are a number of individuals and organisations that I would like to acknowledge for their ongoing support and assistance to our members on a wide range of issues.

Peter Ridd (Ex university Professor), Marie Vitelli (AgForce) Georgina Davis (QFF), Stephen Bennett (MP), CANEGROWERS Isis and Maryborough and our own Matt Leighton have been exceptional advocates for our campaign against this area's inclusion in reef regulations. To include the Burnett Mary in the reef regulations is unjustifiable. We are getting support at the Federal and State government levels and hopefully will be

*(Continued on page 2)*



**NORTHSIDE  
PRODUCE**  
*Serving Town and Country*

**Brian Gordon**  
**07 4151 5870**  
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**71 Gavin Street**  
**North Bundaberg**

**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

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## Chair's Update continued

(Continued from page 1)

able to report a positive outcome in 2022.

Brian and Jean Gordon from Northside Produce for their ongoing support against the unfair rates grab. The BFVG, AgForce, CANEGROWERS Isis and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS alliance has highlighted the potential for Council to gouge sectors of the community at their whim. Increases in urban values are rumoured to be in excess of 30% and it will be interesting to see if the Council applies the same rules. Hopefully they won't because the last thing this community needs is extra cost.

Also Ray Goodwin for ensuring

growers have adequate insurance cover and for providing an exceptional on-farm service.

I hope that Premier Palaszczuk has heard our request to announce the reinstallation of the Paradise Dam height to at least its original level and give this region the confidence in water availability to grow all the food and fibre products that we supply to the nation and the world. I know that Tom Smith MP from Bundaberg has relayed our hopes to the Queensland Cabinet.

I would like to thank all the staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Services for their ongoing commitment and good work

done and achievements gained on our behalf.

With this being the last newsletter of the year I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year. ■



## 2021 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 26 November 2021

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)	
	Increase	To
<b>Payment Date</b>		
Initial		<b>\$318.00</b>
13-Oct-21	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>\$388.00</b>
17-Nov-21	<b>\$6.00</b>	<b>\$394.00</b>
15-Dec-21	<b>\$42.00</b>	<b>\$436.00</b>
19-Jan-22	\$14.00	\$450.00
16-Feb-22	\$14.00	\$464.00
16-Mar-22	\$29.00	\$493.00
13-Apr-22	\$14.00	\$507.00
18-May-22	\$14.00	\$521.00
15-Jun-22	\$14.00	\$535.00
Final	\$28.00	\$563.00

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.

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

## Disaster Assistance Loans due to weather damage

The Queensland Government has announced under the joint Commonwealth – State funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements that the Bundaberg Regional Council area has Category B assistance for eligible primary producers. Category B assistance provides for loans up to \$250,000 to assist in re-establishing the normal operations to the enterprise.

The re-establishment of normal operations includes repairs to damaged plant and equipment, carry on requirements such as replanting areas affected by the flooding, essential property operations and paying rates. The loan can be for up to ten (10) years with the possibility of a two (2) year interest free period with an initial interest rate is 0.80%.

There is no grant available with this level of disaster assistance. To access

the grants similar to 2013 and 2017, the region will need to be elevated to a Category C disaster area.

The loans will be managed by QRIDA as per the guidelines which are available on their website: Disaster Assistance Loans, Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority ([qrda.qld.gov.au](http://qrda.qld.gov.au)). For further information growers can contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946 or call Mark Barrett on 0417 775 547. ■

## Storm System and Crop Damage

If you have been hit by hail, a storm super cell or suffered any significant damage as a result of a weather event that is isolated to your property or immediate local area, you may be eligible for assistance under the Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) process.

Without significant regional damage and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) activation (you may know it as Category A / B / C / D

assistance) you may be eligible to access a pool of funds that an IDSP assessment opens up.

### The general IDSP process is:

Where a primary producer is not in an area activated for DRFA assistance but has suffered significant damage from a natural disaster they are able to apply for an Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration which gives access to freight subsidies up to \$5,000

from DAF, and Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) Disaster Assistance loans of up to \$250,000 available at a concessional interest rate.

**If you would like further information or require assistance to arrange an IDSP assessment, please contact Matthew Leighton or Tanya Howard on 4151 2555. ■**

## Community Drought Support Funding closes soon

The Department of Communities have funding available for the Community Drought Support program for our Local Government Area.

The funding is available on a first come first served basis and payment is not guaranteed.

To apply you must complete an

application form with proof of residency and answer a couple of questions about how the drought has affected you.

**For more information or assistance, please contact Kath Clarke from Rural Financial Counselling Service on [kath.clarke@rfcssq.org.au](mailto:kath.clarke@rfcssq.org.au) ■**



### Regional – Rural – Remote

With over 45 years' experience on the land locally, I have the ability to best market your farm in these changing times.

### Jim Mullett

Sale – Rural Specialist

0428 871 799

[jim.mullett@raywhite.com](mailto:jim.mullett@raywhite.com)

Ray White Bundaberg

[raywhitebundaberg.com.au](http://raywhitebundaberg.com.au)

## DrumMuster Performance in Bundaberg

Growers in Bundaberg returned over 97,000 chemical drums to Bundaberg Regional Council collection points during the last financial year using the drumMuster program. This is a fantastic effort however by driving around it is obvious there are more drums on farm to collect.

If growers have 200 clean drums they can contact Impact Community Services on 4155 3411 to request a DrumMuster collection where both drums and fertiliser bags can be collected from on-farm. This service cleans up the farm as well as getting these plastic items recycled and used for other items. ■

## Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

The Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) subsidies and rebates scheme has been reviewed recently.

As part of that the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges Scheme (DRECS) subsidies and rebates scheme has also been reviewed.

If you have electricity accounts that are receiving drought relief you may have received correspondence from ERGON retail.

Unfortunately the letter is not very clear and has caused a lot of questions to the office.

What this letter means is that from 1 January 2022, you can no longer switch tariffs and have your drought relief **automatically** applied to the new tariff.

For example - if you are currently on T66A and move to T20 after 31 December 2021, the drought relief would not apply to the new tariff unless you submit a new application.

The Bundaberg Regional Council Area is drought declared at present. Generally drought status is reviewed in April each year by the drought committee.

**We will keep you informed of any developments as more information comes to light. If you have any questions, please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■**



## Load Control Tariff Outage Notification System

In response to the learning's from the T33 load control trial, we asked Energy Queensland to develop a text message notification system providing notice to growers of the outage and restoration of power to their load control tariff site to assist in irrigation management around outages.

Although a trial of this system has been conducted, Energy Queensland has advised that the possibility of a tariff-based outage/restoration notification system is dependent on the implementation of the new corporate Load Control and Distribution Management Systems and is not

expected to be considered until after mid -2022.

In recognition of this, Energy Queensland has approached the market to identify a suitable third party option that customers could utilize in the interim. A simple plug-and-play solution has been identified which is effective in providing reliable and cost-effective outage and restoration SMS notifications.

The iSocket - <https://www.isocket.com.au/order/> - retails for around \$246 plus a monthly subscription cost (~\$5.40). In the testing

undertaken on this device, it provides text message notifications within 15 seconds of power outage/restoration being detected.

There may be alternative supplies of similar, suitable equipment and we encourage growers to talk with their electrical contractor about other options that may be suitable.

**If you want one of these systems please contact Courtney at the office. We are happy to purchase and deliver to you at cost. ■**



## Discounted bulk purchase of fertiliser

We have identified the potential to bulk purchase fertiliser at a discounted rate through a local Bundaberg supplier.

Growers who are interested in participating in this offer will need to advise the office of the following details by Friday 7 January 2022:

- Break down of product type (DAP, Urea, One-Shot Blend, Organics etc.
- Break down of quantities required
- Timing of supply - January or February

### Points to note:

- All fertiliser will be supplied in one tonne bags on Chep Pallets which must be exchanged on collection of order
- Limited storage will be available so collated orders would be time slotted for collection based on seven (7) days per week access
- Delivery is not included in price, but can be arranged on a cost recovery basis
- Full Trailer Loads with one (1) drop (20 to 36 tonnes) direct on farm can be arranged at no additional cost, but the same conditions apply to exchanging chep pallets at time of delivery with forklift unloading

required

- Multiple orders dropped to one (1) central location is acceptable providing the other conditions are withheld. It would then be up to individuals to collect their product from that location.
- Fourteen (14) day payment terms with pre-approved account applications set up prior to orders being placed.

**If you are interested in participating in this offer please email the above details to [bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au) or call the office on 4151 2555. ■**





## SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

### Two Varieties added to the Approved Planting List

#### SRA11<sup>Ⓛ</sup>

This variety was first released in the southern region in 2018 by regional variety committee. However it did come with some fibre issues and was put on hold until some milling tests were conducted. During 2021 we had some growers inquiring whether they can plant it.

A meeting was organised with the relevant Bundaberg Sugar personnel and growers. After the field inspection and discussion Bundaberg Sugar agreed to conduct milling tests. Two (2) rakes of fifteen (15) bins (approximately 100 tonne each) went through a few weeks apart with no issues. After analysing the milling results Bundaberg Sugar agreed to its release and has placed it on the approved planting list.

#### Variety features (Southern trials limited data)

- Consistently good productivity across a range of soil types
- Keeps its productivity in ratoons
- Tested up to 4<sup>th</sup> ratoon in trials
- Average early seasonal sugar
- Good mid-late seasonal sugar
- Resistant to a range of diseases including Pachymetra, Smut, Fiji Leaf Gall



Whilst yet unknown, experience in other mill areas indicates that SRA11<sup>Ⓛ</sup> may not have resistance or tolerance to Soldier fly.

#### SRA W33

This variety was fast tracked through the system at the recent RVC meeting because of its possible good early sugar, moderate-high yield, CCS and performed better than the standards in trials across different soil types and disease ratings were good.

#### Variety features (Southern trials limited data)

- Yellow-green stalk colour
- Suited to a range of soil types
- Good early-mid seasonal sugar
- Average late seasonal sugar due to some side-shooting observed at top of stalk in mature cane
- Yield/CCS – moderate to high
- Resistant to a range of diseases including smut, Fiji leaf gall and mosaic.
- Intermediate – resistant to Pachymetra



Further information on these varieties can be found on the SRA website in QCANESelect. We have also updated the varieties page on our website to include these fact sheets. To view, visit [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au) and click the Sugar Services logo on the bottom right.

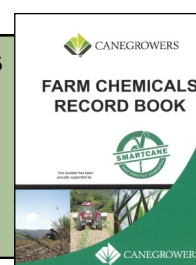
#### Availability (Autumn 2022)

Supplies of one-eye setts of these two (2) varieties may be limited depending on the demand of orders and the amount of mother stock material available in the mother plot, an assessment will be conducted in early January, which will give an indication of seedling numbers that can be propagated. Once I have these numbers and order requirements and if any changes are required to your order I will contact you and let you know.

For more information please contact Michael Turner on (07) 4151 2555 or 0427 130 467. ■

**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)**





## 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:
03.11.2021	QCGO Growers Meeting	To update members	Mark Pressler, Tanya Howard
10.11.2021	Meeting with Shadow Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Sam O'Connor	To discuss Reef Regulations	Dale Holliss, Matthew Leighton
12.11.2021	Sugar Industry Dinner & Awards Committee Meeting	To begin planning	Tanya Howard
16.11.2021	GBRMPA Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee	To represent members	Dale Holliss
17.11.2021	Chamber of Commerce Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
18.11.2021	Meeting with Richard from AgriTrend	To receive update	Dale Holliss
22.11.2021	Meeting with Stephen Bennett MP	To represent members	Dale Holliss, Tanya Howard
22.11.2021	Meeting with Senator Chisholm	To represent members	Dale Holliss, Matthew Leighton
23.11.2021	QSL Sugar Marketing Agreement	To receive update	Mark Pressler, Dale Holliss
24.11.2021	District Managers Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
25.11.2021	Meeting with Adam Knapp, QFF	To represent members	Dale Holliss, Matthew Leighton
26.11.2021	Burnett Mary Regional Group Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
29.11.2021	SRA RSD Regional Meeting	To represent members	Courtney Moar
06.12.2021	Soybean Pre-Season Workshop Meeting	To receive update	Matthew Leighton
09.12.2021	Energy Qld Customer Council	To represent members	Dale Holliss
09.12.2021	Meeting with Guy Basile, Bundaberg Sugar	To represent members	Mark Pressler, Dale Holliss
09.12.2021	SRA Industry Dinner	To receive update	Mark Pressler, Dale Holliss
13.12.2021	District Managers Meeting	To receive update	Dale Holliss

## Soybean News

### Soybean Agronomy

With the recent rain increasing both the groundwater and surface water allocations growers may be considering planting soybeans to utilize any additional water they have received. Last month's newsletter discussed farming practices growers' should be considering in preparation of growing soybeans. Another option to help growers is the fee for service soybean agronomy package.

The soybean agronomy package offers growers professional agronomic advice based on local knowledge to assist growers maximise yield and grain quality. The package includes a minimum of five (5) on farm visits as well as invitations to various relevant field days and notifications of any specific disease or pest outbreaks. The cost of the package is a sign on fee of \$110 incl GST plus \$22 per hectare incl GST.

For further information or to sign up to the soybean agronomy package contact Matt Leighton on either 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.

### Soybean diseases

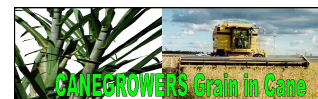
With the current hot and humid weather the conditions are ideal for soybean diseases such as soybean anthracnose. While the crop can be infected at any stage, the greatest impact is during the reproductive phases of the crop. While there is good air movement around the crop the prevalence of the disease is low, however once canopy closure occurs the disease can take off.

There is no known variety resistance to the disease, however crops planted in January and February can have lower incidences of the disease in the crop due to a smaller plant having more air flow around the plant during the main infection months of January and

February. There is also a permit to use the fungicide Veritas for the control of anthracnose.

The other most common soybean disease associated with wetter weather is soybean rust. Soybean rust is a disease of cooler wet conditions more commonly found during the autumn period.

There is some variety resistance to soybean rust with Stuart<sup>®</sup> being the most tolerant followed by Kuranda<sup>®</sup> while the rest of the varieties are susceptible to varying degrees. There is a permit for the application of Tebuconazole 430 Fungicide for the control of rust before the R5 stage which is the beginning of pod fill. ■



## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

3 row spray trailer 600L for inter row tractor \$1000 + GST.  
Soy planter 4 twin covington boxes \$2000 + GST.  
Ph: 0435 805 584

### FOR SALE

1.25 hp hermetic condensing unit  
Buffalo trident evaporator  
Corel digital read out  
Purchased new in April 2008. Unit is in very good condition \$500. Ph: 0417 009 236

## 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

## Drought Preparedness Grants

Primary producers can now apply for a grant of 25 per cent of the cost of purchasing new permanent capital infrastructure to a maximum amount of \$50,000.

Growers will need to have a business plan that identifies activities to improve business risk and resilience when applying for the Queensland Government's new drought assistance through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

If a grower engages professional assistance to help develop their plan, they can apply for a Farm Management Grant to receive a 50 per cent rebate of up to \$2,500 of the cost.

The Drought Preparedness grant aims to assist producers with the cost of implementing on-farm capital improvements and carrying out drought preparedness activities identified in their Farm Business Resilience Plan.

Producers may receive a maximum cumulative amount of \$50,000 over five (5) years which can be used for new permanent capital infrastructure, including: (Note: This is not an exhaustive list)

### How funding can be used

- pipes, water tanks and water troughs;
- dam construction and/or expansion;
- drilling a new working bore;
- water conservation infrastructure and equipment including more efficient irrigation;
- water pumps and power supply used to run water pumps;
- storage, mixing and feeding out equipment for grain, fodder, molasses and other supplements;
- grain storage and equipment that improves the ability of the business to manage drought;
- reasonable freight components to purchase and install equipment or infrastructure;
- consumables including fuel for own machinery used in relation to the drought preparedness project; and
- contractor costs to install infrastructure.

### Funding can NOT be used for the following

- salary and wage expenses not associated with the drought preparedness project;
- purchase of machinery and equipment to complete capital works;
- motor vehicles;
- dry hire for own machinery;

- own operator costs;
- replacement, repairs or maintenance of existing infrastructure;
- conducting feasibility studies;
- costs associated with drilling of dry bore or test bores; and
- repayments, refinancing or restructuring existing loan arrangements.

The Queensland Government will also offer new drought preparedness, assistance, and recovery loans available from QRIDA from early 2022. Drought Ready and Recovery Loans of up to \$250,000 at a concessional interest rate will be available, if needed, to complement the Drought Preparedness Grant.

Additional information on Farm Business Resilience Plans, the Farm Management Grant and the Plan template can be found at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/drought-assist/farm-business-resilience-plan>.

And further information on Drought Preparedness Grants is available at <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-preparedness-grants>. ■

# ***MERRY CHRISTMAS***

**from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS**

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Directors and Staff would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

## **Office Closure**

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office will close at 2:30pm on Friday, 24 December 2021 for the Christmas/New Year break and will re-open at 8:30am on Tuesday, 4 January 2022.

## **Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Wages Scheme**

Wages due for processing on 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.

## ***Sugar Industry Dinner 2021 Season Awards***

***Friday, 25 March 2022  
Bundaberg Multiplex  
1 Civic Avenue***

Commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 6:00pm.  
Followed by a 2 course dinner and entertainment from 7:00pm.

**Subscription: \$45 per person** (includes 2 complimentary glasses of beer, wine or soft drink)

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

PO Box 953  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS  
32 Bourbong Street (PO Box 953)  
Bundaberg Qld 4670  
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