

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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## Chair's Update

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman



I hope everyone had a good break over the festive season with most areas receiving some rain with a broader rain event in the first week of January.

The crop has had a magnificent start, but is in need of some moisture now to keep it powering along.

December saw most of us really chaotic with fertilising and spraying to be done with a crop racing to out of hand. Groundwater allocations have been reassessed and some good increases were announced.

The rain in November interfered with soybean plans with the window for A6785 closing before growers could get them planted, in saying that there has been some Kuranda<sup>b</sup> and Hayman<sup>b</sup> planted due to their later planting window.

1 February sees nominations for board positions open, I urge you to consider nominating for a position to help steer

our industry into the future, if anyone has any questions please feel free to call any of the current Directors.

On a bright note, sugar prices have risen with the 2021 Season likely to reach \$560/tonne with the increase in water allocations and possibility of locking in some forward pricing the outlook is a lot brighter than it has been for some time.

On page 3 you will find information on a proposal from Bundaberg Sugar for a cane railway bridge. We strongly support this initiative as it will get a lot of trucks off the road and potentially open up options for some cane expansion and will be a good outcome for growers and the general community. This project should be supported financially by the State and Federal governments and we will advocate if required.

Here is hoping for some more rain and kind weather. ■

## 2022 CANEGROWERS' Elections

The timetable has been set for the 2022 CANEGROWERS Election process. Held every three (3) years, the elections are an opportunity for all members to elect Directors to sit on the board of their local CANEGROWERS district.

Bundaberg has five (5) Directors that sit on the Board and nominations for the positions open on 1 February 2022. Both men and women of all ages are encouraged to nominate as candidates for these important CANEGROWERS elected positions.

The local boards then nominate representatives to sit on the CANEGROWERS Queensland Policy Council which elects the new CANEGROWERS Queensland Board.

Members wishing to nominate for a district board position have until 5pm on 25 February 2022 to act. The election process will be finalised by 20 April 2022 and the new directors will commence official duties on 1 May 2022.

The first step towards nomination is to contact Mark Pressler on 0414 593 105 or Dale Holliss on 0417 009 236.

Nomination packs are available for collection from reception from 1 February 2022. Nominations must be in writing and signed by the nominee plus at least six (6) members.

CANEGROWERS Queensland will conduct an election if required.

Members are urged to ensure that their membership records are up to date. The official roll for each election is to be finalised by 5pm on 25 February 2022. ■

**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

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



## Five things to consider:

### Nominate to become a BCL Board member

Members wishing to nominate for a district board position have until 5pm on 25 February 2022 to act. The election process will be finalised by 20 April 2022 and the new directors will commence official duties on 1 May 2022.

### Harvesting group arrangements

The Collective Contract stipulates the following arrangements for grouping:

#### 8. Grouping

8.1 *Formation.*— The Mill Owner shall provide an indication of the likely modes of crush for the coming Season in writing to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd by the 14 April. Applications by a grower to join a harvesting group must be received by the Mill Owner by the 21 April of each year and the Mill Owner must advise

the grower by the 5 May of that year of the grower's new Delivery Point to ensure the efficient and economic operation of the Mill transport system.

Growers who have been advised of a new Delivery Point shall notify the Mill Owner by the 15 May if they will accept the new Delivery Point. In the absence of any Application to the Mill Owner from a grower prior to 21 April, and any notification of acceptance of a Delivery Point by a grower to the Mill Owner prior to the 15 May for those growers advised of a new Delivery Point, the grower's membership of their harvesting group shall be deemed to be the same as the previous season.

In order to avoid some of the issues that arose last year I suggest you sort out your harvesting needs sooner than the 21 April deadline.

### Energy Check

The Energy Check Service is available

to help members with electricity tariff selection to optimise affordability. Contact Courtney Moar on 4151 2555 for a review of your electricity bill.

### Rates

Another rates bill is hitting our mailboxes now and Mayor Jack Dempsey and his Councilors' have, and still have, a choice around these rates rises on farmland. They didn't have to apply them, and they can choose to refund them. We will be continuing the fight against unfair rate increases on your behalf.

### Insurance review

As some of you might be aware various insurers have recently increased their rates. Ray Goodwin is always available to review your insurance to find competitive insurers and ensure that your cover is adequate. Call Ray on 0418 891 783. ■

## 2021 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 28 January 2022

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	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>\$448.00</b>
16-Feb-22	<b>\$16.00</b>	<b>\$464.00</b>
16-Mar-22	\$28.00	\$492.00
13-Apr-22	\$14.00	\$506.00
18-May-22	\$14.00	\$520.00
15-Jun-22	\$14.00	\$534.00
Final	\$28.00	\$562.00

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.

## Cane Rail Bridge



**B**undaberg Sugar Ltd (BSL) has made a request to Council to designate premises for development of infrastructure comprising a cane rail bridge, approach trestles and cane rail line.

On the west side of the Burnett River, the new rail line will extend from existing BSL cane rail infrastructure at Lot 5 RP41027 on River Road through BSL land (with a level crossing at Gahans Road and Fairymead Access Road) before transitioning on BSL land to trestles as it approaches the Burnett River.

The bridge itself crosses the river from

a point just north of River Road to Strathdees Road on the eastern bank.

On the east side of the river, the bridge will connect to trestles situated in the northern verge of Strathdees Road road reserve before the rail line loops at grade across Strathdees Road to connect with existing BSL cane rail infrastructure in the vicinity of Barrons Road road reserve.

The bridge incorporates a 25 metre wide retractable opening span which will remain in the open position outside of the cane crushing season. During the cane crushing season, the opening span is operated by telemetry

from the Millaquin Mill Traffic Control Office. This Office is manned on a 24/7 basis during the crush. A vessel whose height above waterline necessitates the opening of the bridge (ie above 3.5m at HAT or above 7.1m at LAT) can either pre-book an opening or telephone the Traffic Control Office to request the bridge be opened.

Please contact either Evan Fritz of Bundaberg Regional Council on telephone number 1300 883 699 or Randall Barrington (on behalf of BSL) on telephone number 0428 527044 if you have any questions about the proposal. ■



Photomontage of the bridge at high tide from Strathdees Road, Rubyanna

## Sunsuper and QSuper merge

**S**unsuper and QSuper are merging on 28 February 2022 to become Australian Retirement Trust. You can continue to use the Unique Superannuation Identifier (USI) for Sunsuper until 1 July 2022. *Employer*

*Online* will be available for use before 28 February 2022 and thereafter, you can access your new account via *Employer Online* at [australianretirementtrust.com.au/employer-online](http://australianretirementtrust.com.au/employer-online) using the same details

you currently use in Sunsuper.

For more information regarding the merger, visit [www.sunsuper.com.au/merger](http://www.sunsuper.com.au/merger). ■

# Extreme Weather Events and Safety

## How prepared are you?

**S**taying safe during a severe weather event is something which affects all of us – both personally and when working with others.

While we may all face a different hand from Mother Nature's playbook – be that severe storms, bushfires or cyclones – one thing remains the same: **how prepared are we ?**

## Prepare for any event

### Bush Fires

During a bushfire, your safety depends on your preparations and the decisions you make. Make your bushfire survival plan now and know exactly what you can do to protect yourself, your family, and your property.

There are bush fire resources available from the Qld Government here:

<https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/bushfires>

### Cyclones

#### Understand your risk

Queensland homes within 50 kilometres of the coastline north from Bundaberg need to be strong enough to withstand cyclonic winds. In addition, homes located within 100 to 200 metres of an open shoreline are at risk of impacts from breaking waves caused by storm tide.

To understand your storm tide risk, you can request a [Coastal Hazard Property Map](#) which shows the estimated storm tide levels for your particular property. You can also talk to a coastal engineer who can confirm whether your property is likely to be impacted by waves during a storm tide.

#### Damage and impact

As a cyclone approaches, the wind and rain gradually increases over several hours. Winds caused by cyclones are powerful enough to break large trees, roll over sea containers, and blow away unsecured caravans, garden sheds and poorly constructed roofed patios. Strong winds associated with cyclones can cause extensive property damage and turn loose items into wind-borne debris that cause further building damage. Slow moving cyclones can take many hours to move past a particular location, causing extreme wind and rain that can last up to 12 hours.

There are cyclone and storm surge resources available from the Qld Government here:

<https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/understand-your-risk/types-natural-disasters/cyclone-and-storm-surge>

### Summer safety tips

According to insurance industry data, more than a quarter of all claims related to electrical faults, barbecue fires or explosions, and holiday theft, occurred during December or January. Here are some handy tips to keep you safe this summer.

- Ensure that electrical decorations and lights are in good working order and installed correctly.
- Lights generate heat so don't leave them near flammable items and never use indoor lights outside.
- A family BBQ is a quintessential summer tradition, but before sizzling those snags, follow safety precautions like checking the gas bottle for leaks, and not leaving the BBQ unattended.
- If you go on holiday, be sure your doors and windows are locked and your house is secure.

*Continued...*



## Severe Storms / floods

Have you taken your eye off the golf ball-sized hailstones when it comes to severe storms ?

How many of these items do you have in your emergency kit, and how many have just been added to your impromptu weekend shopping list ?



## Need assistance with your insurance?

Ray Goodwin has a vast knowledge of insurance and is available to review your insurance requirements. Ray has access to many insurers who can provide competitive quotations for all types of insurance including farm, motor, home, landlord, caravan, boat, travel and commercial.

Ray can be contacted on 0418 891 783. ■

## Disaster Assistance Grants up to \$50,000

Following the November and the January rain events there have been two (2) disaster declarations for the Bundaberg Regional Council area where growers are able to apply for Disaster Assistance grants with assistance up to \$50,000. While growers are able to apply for both grants if they suffered losses and damage in both events, proof of the damage from both events will be required.

The best form of evidence is photos showing the damage however other forms of evidence are accepted. The evidence shown in the photos should

be of the damage which includes erosion to the paddocks and headlands, damage to fences, water levels in pump sheds over the equipment damaged and photos of water in the paddocks. There is other information required such as rates notices, copies of bank statements and financial records to prove growers are a primary producer under the QRIDA definition and make payments of the grants easier.

Eligible items or activities under the grant program include fencing, reconditioning or repairing essential plant and equipment, repairing and restoring fields (laser leveling and

ameliorants) and purchasing or hiring equipment to help in the clean up to immediately resume the business. For a full list of the guidelines and what is eligible either visit the QRIDA website <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/> or collect a copy from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS reception.

**If you have any questions or queries about how to apply or what is required to apply contact either Mark Barrett from QRIDA on 0417 775 547 or Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■**



## 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:
15.12.21	Ag Energy Taskforce	To represent members	Dale Holliss
16.12.21	Energy Qld Networking breakfast	To represent members	Dale Holliss
16.12.21	Bundaberg District Groundwater Area Advisory Group	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
05.01.22	WEPC re QCA electricity	To represent members	Dale Holliss
18.01.22	Chamber of Commerce Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
19.01.22	QCGO Economics and Trade Committee	To represent members	Dale Holliss
25.01.22	Grain in Cane	To make preparations for start of season	Matthew Leighton
02.02.22	SRA	To discuss varieties	Mark Pressler Dale Holliss
03.02.22	SRA	To discuss Southern District Plan	Mark Pressler Michael Cavallaro Dale Holliss
04.02.22	QCGO District Chairs	To discuss plans for 2022	Dean Cayley Tanya Howard

## Ergon Drought Relief

With the good summer season so far and the various changes to tariffs that have occurred over the last couple of years it is potentially a timely exercise to review your electricity tariff selection in readiness for when the drought declaration is potentially lifted.

For those growers who signed up for Ergon Energy drought relief back in 2019 and selected to revert back to their previous tariff, this review will be

essential as the irrigation tariffs that many were on at that time such as T62 and T65 have since been removed. Due to these changes, Ergon Energy Retail has advised that when the drought declaration is revoked, the drought waiver will be removed, and the tariff left as is. This has the potential for some unfortunate bill shock if tariffs are left on T66A and unexpectedly incur the fixed capacity charge, especially for larger motors.

A comprehensive tariff review can be undertaken on your electricity accounts which will provide the most suitable tariff for your usage ahead of the drought revocation and in preparedness for a tariff change when required.

**Please contact the office on 4151 2555 if you would like to have a review completed. ■**

## Electricity Bill Check Service

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

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

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

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

## Investing in Queensland Women grant program

Applications are now open for the first round of the 2022 Investing in Queensland Women grant program.

This grant program supports community groups and organisations across Queensland to develop and deliver events and/or projects that align with the Queensland Government's strategic priorities and address the unique issues faced by women and girls.

Funding of up to \$15,000 (excluding GST) is available for initiatives with a duration of up to 6 months that align with the purpose of the grant program. Grant rounds will be released twice a

year, with a total allocation of \$270,000 in funds (excluding GST) per round.

Full details on the Investing in Queensland Women program, including how to apply, are available at [www.qld.gov.au/grants-for-women](http://www.qld.gov.au/grants-for-women). Queensland Women's Week 2022 will run from March 5-13, for further information visit: [www.justice.qld.gov.au/ofwvp-events](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/ofwvp-events)

**Applications close 28 February 2022. For assistance with an application please call the office on 4151 2555. ■**

### CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified and employment advertisements of up to 30 words only will be printed.

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

#### Contact:

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### WANTED

2ML permanent trade groundwater – Zone 60 (can be Zone 25-60).  
Call 0427 273 120

## *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)

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



#### 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)





## **SAFFLOWER**

### **A new crop for the Bundaberg region**

Looking for an oilseed crop grown over winter?  
Planted April /May and harvested in September

For more information please contact  
Matthew Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.



The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



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