

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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Chair's Update

Mark Pressler
Chairman



As I write this column the growing conditions have been pretty good, I have to go back a long time to remember the crop looking so good at this time of the year. Most areas received good rain at the end of January early February and again now with totals between 75 – 175mm.

Fortunately we seem to have dodged a bullet and have not had any of the devastation that our colleagues in Maryborough have experienced. We have advised Jeff Atkinson, Chair of Maryborough CANEGROWERS that we will help them when and where needed.

At this stage the estimate looks to be a bit better than last year. It is very early however, I am advised that Bundaberg Sugar are looking at a tentative start date for growers of 20 June, with company and organic cane starting two (2) weeks prior to that. Obviously that is subject to change as the estimate is firmed up.

I met with Keith Pitt to brief him about issues that are affecting us and will meet with all the Federal and State MPs that operate in our electorates over the coming months. Irrigation water, electricity cost, rates, reef regulation and National Heavy Vehicle Regulation rules are all on the list.

The soybean crop is looking magnificent considering the wet lead up to the planting; I guess that is the reason why they look so good with good subsoil moisture. Grain in Cane held their AGM on 9 February 2022 and presented on last year's production.

With the heavy rain going south into northern NSW everyone is waiting to see what the damage to the crops will be. If there are significant losses there is the potential for an increase in the price which the Grain in Cane Co-op contract can capture increasing the returns to growers.

Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association was recently formed to represent and support local ratepayers. For further information contact the office on 4151 2555 or search for the group on Facebook. We will continue the campaign asking Mayor Dempsey and Bundaberg Regional Council to ensure that the 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'.

There were five (5) nominations for the five (5) Director positions and there is no need for an election. I wish to thank Sam Ford for putting his hand up to replace Allan Dingle and also to Dean Cayley, Anna Attard and Michael Cavallaro for re-nominating. We are finalising administrative electoral arrangements and expect the five (5) appointments will commence their new term on 1 May.

Welcome to Tayman Ilett who has recently started as Receptionist/Administration Assistant who is replacing Sam Houston. When you see or talk to Tayman please make her feel welcome.

We are facing challenging times and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS will continue to provide representation, leadership, services and promote unity in the interests of growers. ■



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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Six things to consider:

Category C Disaster Relief

Growers who have suffered damage or losses due to the rainfall from November or January can contact Matt Leighton for assistance in completing their application form for the \$50,000 grant.

Sugar Industry Dinner

The Sugar Industry Dinner is on Friday 25 March at the Multiplex complex. Tickets are available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office for \$45 per ticket.

Steel Tracked Machines

Growers who are contractors or use contractors with steel tracks should contact Matt Leighton urgently to try and get permits for the tracked machines to drive across the road or along the road reserve for the 2022 season.

AgroTrend

We will be attending AgroTrend on Friday 8 April. More information will be posted to growers soon.

Harvesting Groups

If you are thinking of changing harvesting groups for the 2022 season, please be aware that you must apply in writing to the mill before 21 April 2022, applications made after this date may not be approved.

Superannuation Changes

The superannuation guarantee percentage is due to increase to 10.5% from 1 July 2022 and the \$450 per month threshold for super guarantee eligibility will be removed. Refer to the full article on page 6. ■

2021 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 28 January 2022

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	\$42.00	\$436.00
19-Jan-22	\$12.00	\$448.00
16-Feb-22	\$16.00	\$464.00
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.**

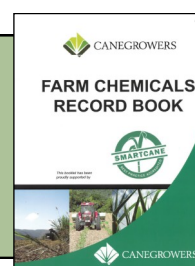
2. This program is indicative only and should not be taken as a commitment by Queensland Sugar (or Bundaberg Sugar) with regard to the estimated pool return, advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in a number of factors including the marketing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

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



Increase in fuel tax credit rates

Fuel tax credit rates increased on 1 February in line with fuel excise indexation.

If you claim less than \$10,000 in fuel tax credits per year, the easiest and safest way to get your claims right is to use the simplified methods. These include:

- the basic method for heavy vehicles - which works out your off-public road use for you, so you don't miss out on any credits.
- using the rate that applies at the end of your BAS period.

When working out your fuel tax credits, remember to use the tips to help get your fuel tax credits right:

- Check how your fuel is used.
- Check you're using the right rate - you may need to use different rates for fuel that was acquired before and after 1 February.
- Use the fuel tax credit calculator to help you calculate your claim.

Remember, registered tax agents and BAS agents can help you with your tax.

Fuel tax credit rates change regularly. They are indexed twice a year – in

February and August – based on the upward movement of the consumer price index (CPI). The CPI indexation factor for rates from 1 February 2022 is 1.021.

Fuel tax credit rates may also change in July for fuel used in a heavy vehicle for travelling on public roads. This is due to changes to the road user charge, which is reviewed annually. In July, rates will also change for biodiesel (B100) due to an annual increase in excise duty rates.

For an updated list of rates visit <https://bit.ly/35bNfgY> ■

Rotamarker Funding Round 2

Queensland farmers can now access Round 2 of rebates for the installation of overhead warning markers which indicate powerlines, making their rural workplaces safer.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has again partnered with Ergon Energy Network and Energex to offer farmers belonging to any of QFF's 21 industry members, including CANEGROWERS and BRIG, a 50 per cent co-contribution to install up to ten (10) Rotamarkers on growers properties.

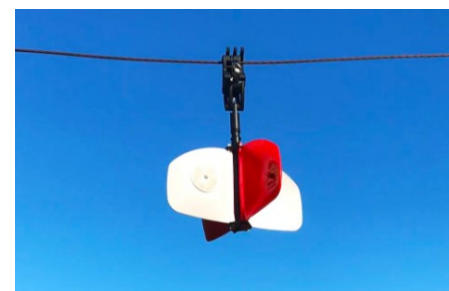
Overhead power lines on farm can pose a significant electrocution hazard. Any farming business with overhead powerlines on their property, especially within close proximity or directly overhead of farming activities, should have a powerline safety plan in place and install rotamarkers to increase

visibility and reduce the risk of contact.

In 2021 there were 54 agricultural incidents involving overhead powerline contact across Queensland with the sugar industry being a large contributor. Powerlines can be very difficult to see and the installation of rotamarkers is a practical and effective measure to reduce the risk of contact.

Eligibility criteria for the QFF rotamarker program includes that applicants have downloaded Ergon Energy's Look Up And Live mapping app which gives growers a simple overview of what lines are on or near the farm. It also helps decide which control measures are needed to protect themselves, their workers and any contractors that may operate near the powerlines.

Its important growers take the time to



identify potential risks on farms, including powerlines near sheds and irrigation pump sheds and communicate these risks clearly to all staff and contractors, no matter how long they have worked on the farm.

For more information about the rebate and eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.qff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/QFF-Look-up-and-Live-Flyer-Feb22.pdf> ■

Reef Myth Busters

AgForce has launched a weekly Reef Myth Buster Social Media Campaign across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

It is time to set the records straight in the world of social media. Major impacts on Reef health are mainly due to rising ocean temperatures and devastating cyclones, **not farming practices.**

Each week AgForce will trickle out a Reef Myth Buster fact.

Some of our information about the lack of nutrient and sediment runoff to the Reef from Burnett Mary Catchments will be used for future Myth Busters.

Producers, politicians and the wider community need a balance between true Reef facts and myths in social media, so they can make their own informed, evidence-based decisions about Reef health.

A selection of Reef Myth Busters can be found on page 7. ■

Fire Risks Affecting Growers

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS are part of the Bundaberg Area Fire Management Group that meets in March each year to decide on areas of the wider fire district that may require fire mitigation practices during winter to reduce the overall fire risk in spring and summer. The fire mitigation practices include cool burns, fire breaks and education. To achieve the

most benefit for the community there is a ranking system to indicate where the highest risk is to assist in guiding the group based on past fires and mitigation activities. Also taken into consideration are the concerns of local landowners.

While the fire risk, based on QFES model, on a cane farm is lower

compared to a forestry area, a fire at the wrong time can be extremely damaging to both. **If you have large amounts of vegetation on your own or neighbouring farm that creates concern or other areas such as National Park or council road reserves, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035 before 23 March.** ■

Bundaberg Agritourism development workshop

The Queensland Government is encouraging people with small to medium-sized farming businesses interested in agritourism to attend an agritourism development workshop in Bundaberg on 17 March 2022.

Agritourism is growing in Queensland - providing farmers with alternate income streams and farm visitors with great moments, memories, and experiences.

To participate in these workshops, DAF is looking for people serious about an agritourism venture to support them in developing the idea, and their business plan.

In the facilitated one-day workshop:

- You'll share and explore ideas, identify opportunities and barriers, and gain an understanding of your regulatory obligations.
- The right people will be in the room to answer your questions and other successful agritourism farmers to share their experiences.
- You'll leave the workshop with an understanding of what's required.
- Your own 100-day plan with your next steps mapped out.
- New connections for shared experiences.

You may be an early starter in agritourism but need a hand to connect with the right people and services, to fully establish or grow the business.

DAF Agricultural Coordination Officers will be on hand at the workshop to answer questions and network with, and they will follow up with participants post workshop to see what further support is required.

To find out more, visit the [workshop website](#), where you can take a two-minute self-assessment survey to make sure you're workshop ready. ■



Taste farm life

Bundaberg agritourism workshop

Thursday 17 March 2022
8:30am – 3:30pm

Venue: Rowers on the River, Crn of
Toonburra and Quay Street,
Bundaberg



Queensland
Government

Draft 2022-23 Regulated Retail Prices for Regional Qld



The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has released their draft assessment and recommendations to the Queensland Government on the electricity charges for the upcoming financial year.

The following table lists the **DRAFT** proposed increases from 1st July 2022 for the most common tariffs used by our members. If your tariff isn't here call the office and we will provide it to you.

QCA will be holding Stakeholder Information Sessions during March and final Stakeholder submissions are due by 7 April 2022. **Please contact Dale Holliss for further information.**

		2021-2022	2022-2023 DRAFT	Units	% Increase
SMALL BUSINESS TARIFFS	Tariff 11 (Residential)				
	All usage	\$ 0.19782	\$ 0.20745	\$/kWh	4.9%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 0.88392	\$ 0.90445	\$/day	2.3%
	Tariff 20				
	All usage	\$ 0.22551	\$ 0.23752	\$/kWh	5.3%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 1.21032	\$ 1.22950	\$/day	1.6%
	Tariff 22B				
	Peak = 4pm - 9pm Weekdays	\$ 0.30778	\$ 0.33032	\$/kWh	7.3%
	Shoulder = 9pm-9am Weekdays/ 4pm-9am Weekends	\$ 0.21657	\$ 0.22818	\$/kWh	5.4%
	Off Peak = 9am-4pm daily	\$ 0.18677	\$ 0.17296	\$/kWh	-7.4%
	Band 1 - 0-20 MWh	\$ 1.21032	\$ 1.22224	\$/day	1.0%
	Band 2 - 20-40 MWh	\$ 1.50351	\$ 1.51882		1.0%
	Band 3 - 40-60 MWh	\$ 1.79773	\$ 1.81436		0.9%
	Band 4 - 60-80 MWh	\$ 2.09196	\$ 2.11095		0.9%
	Band 5 - 80 & above MWh	\$ 2.38618	\$ 2.40649		0.9%
	Tariff 33 - Secondary tariff, interruptible supply				
	All usage - Supply available for minimum of 18 hours per day	\$ 0.14313	\$ 0.15243	\$/kWh	6.5%
	Tariff 34 - Primary tariff, interruptible supply				
	All usage - Supply available for minimum of 18 hours per day	\$ 0.16682	\$ 0.17295	\$/kWh	3.7%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 1.10983	\$ 1.11957	\$ per day	0.9%
Limited Access Obsolete Tariffs					
IRRIGATION TARIFFS	Tariff 62A				
	Peak 7am to 9pm weekdays-First 10,000 kWh/month	\$ 0.52963	\$ 0.58396	\$/kWh	10.3%
	Peak 7am to 9pm weekdays -remainder	\$ 0.44313	\$ 0.48883	\$/kWh	10.3%
	Off-peak - all other times including week ends	\$ 0.16744	\$ 0.18556	\$/kWh	10.8%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 1.03470	\$ 1.06706	\$/day	3.1%
	Tariff 65A				
	Peak - 12-hour period every day Mon to Sun (7am to 8pm)	\$ 0.41488	\$ 0.45775	\$/kWh	10.3%
	Off-peak - all other times	\$ 0.21473	\$ 0.23757	\$/kWh	10.6%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 1.03270	\$ 1.06406	\$/day	3.0%
	Tariff 66A				
	Fixed charge:- First 7.5 kW	\$ 3.74400	\$ 4.11800	\$/kW/mth	10.0%
	Fixed charge:- Remaining kW	\$ 11.303	\$ 12.433	\$/kW/mth	10.0%
	kWh Usage - all times	\$ 0.20240	\$ 0.22402	\$/kWh	10.7%
	Daily supply charge	\$ 2.10670	\$ 2.24506	\$/day	6.6%



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:
08.02.2022	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To progress group formation	Dean Cayley
09.02.2022	Grain in Cane AGM	To review 2021 season performance	Dale Holliss
14.02.2022	District Managers Meeting	To discuss state-wide issues	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
15.02.2022	Chamber of Commerce Committee	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
16-18.02.22	National Irrigators Council	To represent growers	Dale Holliss
19.02.2022	Chamber of Commerce Strategic Planning	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
21.02.2022	Hon. Keith Pitt	To discuss current issues	Mark Pressler Dale Holliss
22-23.02.22	Go Resources	To discuss Safflower opportunity	Dale Holliss Matthew Leighton
24.02.2022	BAFFA Strategic Planning	To develop strategic plan and budget	Dean Cayley Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
24.02.2022	Our Power Webinar	To represent growers	Dale Holliss
24.02.2022	Jessy Logan, DAF	To discuss Agritourism insurance	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
28.02.2022	Jo Shepherd, QFF	To represent growers	Dale Holliss
02.03.2023	Energy Users Charter	To represent members	Dale Holliss

Employment Matters

Superannuation changes with effect from 1 July 2022

The superannuation guarantee percentage is due to increase from 10% to 10.5%.

The \$450 per month threshold for super guarantee eligibility will be removed. Employers will be required by law to make super guarantee contributions to their eligible employee's super fund regardless of how much the employee is paid.

Public Holidays remaining for 2022

15 April - Good Friday
 16 April - The day after Good Friday
 17 April - Easter Sunday
 18 April - Easter Monday
 25 April - ANZAC Day (Monday)
 2 May - Labour Day (Monday)
 26 May - Bundaberg Show Holiday (Thursday)
 8 August - Gin Gin Show Holiday Substitute (Postcode 4671 only - Monday)
 3 October - Queen's Birthday (Monday)
 24 December (6pm to midnight only) – Christmas Eve (Saturday)
 25 December - Christmas Day (Sunday)
 26 December - Boxing Day (Monday)
 27 December - Additional public holiday for Christmas Day (Tuesday)

For further assistance please contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555. ■



Brian Gordon
07 4151 5870
0415 457 497

71 Gavin Street
North Bundaberg



QUESTION

1m ago

Is it true that farmers are responsible for Reef water quality?

False!

Farmers are continually the scape goat for Reef water quality when the impact of land run off only affects three per cent of the Reef's area.

#norunoff



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



QUESTION

1m ago

I heard that pesticide runoff is a risk to Reef health?

This is false!

Any detected pesticides in coastal waters are at negligible levels - below water quality trigger values needed to ensure 99 per cent of aquatic organisms are safe. No coral has ever been killed by pesticides.

#Nopesticides #Norunoff



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jim.mullett@raywhite.com

Ray White Bundaberg
raywhitebundaberg.com.au

Planning to fertilise crops with continued high fertiliser prices

With fertiliser prices continuing to stay high and future prices uncertain due to the conflict in Ukraine potentially impacting urea and potash availability and prices, now is the time to consider this year's fertiliser program.

The first step in this plan is to have a soil test taken in the fallow blocks that cover the major soil types for the farm. This enables the grower to identify any nutrients **not** required as well as those required for maximum growth of cane.

The first thing that can be identified from the soil test is that if lime, gypsum or silicon is required by the crop. Given the recent wet weather, issues such as increased soil pH, increased salinity and increased sodicity may become apparent as well as deficiencies in calcium and silicon.

The next part of the program is to see if there are sufficient nutrients available such that no fertiliser is required for a specific nutrient. The most common nutrient that is not required is phosphorus and is often associated with historical mill mud application. Sulphur can also be found in high amounts on some soil types.

Depending on the production expectation of the farm or individual blocks growers may be able to reduce the application rate, for one (1) year only, by up to 20%. This scenario works best for older ratoons intending to be fallowed the following year or other situations where yields are likely to be reduced. This cannot be done year on year as there is the potential to impact productivity in the long term although can be used to reduce the overall amount of fertiliser used on the farm for a year.

The final part of this whole process is to work out the cost per hectare to fertilise the block, not the cost per tonne of fertiliser. For example CK140S may be \$1,290 per tonne while Nitra K may be \$1,350 per tonne, which one should be applied if phosphorus is not required?

As seen in the table below, despite being \$60 per tonne more expensive, the Nitra K S works out to be \$96 per hectare cheaper. A full analysis of required nutrients and costs need to be done when working out the best fertiliser for a grower's needs.

Any member who requires assistance with a fertiliser program looking at the options mentioned, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■

	Cost per tonne of fertiliser	Fertiliser Analysis N P K S	Fertiliser rate to apply 150 kg N/ha	Cost per hectare
CK 140 S	\$1,290	23.2-2.0-17.5-3.8	650 kg/ha	\$838.50
Nitra K S	\$1,350	26.6-0.0-16.0- 4.3	550 kg/ha	\$742.50

SAVE THE DATE

Cane-Trends at AgroTrend - Friday 8th April 2022

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



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