

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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Chair's Update

2 Well, the harvest season has started albeit a stop/start affair with the weather being less than favourable for harvesting. The most recent rain event saw totals vary from 35-200+ mm. This with the high sub-soil moisture levels is making it quite difficult to find ground dry enough to harvest.

3 With such a large difference between north and south side rainfall affecting growers' ability to harvest, extra attention is going to be needed to keep transport manageable considering the road transport system being regulated.

4 Mill average CCS has been between 12 and 12.8 which all considered is quite good, albeit nowhere near the past three (3) seasons. Mill performance has been on the average side with weekly throughput targets not yet being achieved. The wet and muddy conditions have not helped at all. The estimate looks to be increasing with numbers increasing around 10-12%.

Fertiliser prices are still up there with urea still in short supply. Indicative prices for ratoon mixes are around \$1300-\$1500 per tonne.

On a brighter note, water allocations for Medium Priority scheme water are 100% with many of the Ground Water allocations also very close to 100%. As I write this Fred Haigh Dam is 0.77m above the spillway, Paradise Dam is 1.43m above the spillway. With Ned Churchward Weir 2.24m above the spillway, the water coming down the Burnett has placed a minor flood warning on the river.

The final pay for the 2021 season went into growers' accounts on 25 July and full details of the final price and pools are on page 3. As has been the case for all but one year since it was introduced

in 2012 the Bundaberg Domestic Pool has outperformed the export harvest pool again.

With the recent spike of covid cases in the region it's timely for growers to revisit Covid safe plans to ensure your families and workers are kept safe during the pandemic. Whilst many restrictions may no longer be in place, we encourage you to continue to implement covid safe practices to ensure you sustain a healthy and reliable workforce. If you need any assistance, please contact the office and we can assist with information and suggestions to protect your workplace.

Google Maps has quickly become a preferred navigational tool which has seen a rise in issues caused by the relaying of incorrect information. If you are having trouble with the accuracy of Google Maps and travellers are being directed through your farm, please call the office for assistance.

The soy harvest is complete with wet weather hampering harvesting throughout the season. A total of 342.32 tonnes was harvested by the Grain in Cane Co-operative for 2022 Season. If you are interested in growing soybeans in 2023 please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.

Welcome to Kaye Andersen who has recently started as Receptionist/Administration Assistant. When you see or talk to Kaye please make her feel welcome.

Let's hope the weather turns a corner and we can get on with the season proper. ■

Mark Pressler
Chairman

Top 5 issues we have been working on:

1. Ensuring that the Cane Analysis Program is being implemented and that issues are being resolved promptly and as per the program.
2. Assisting growers to switch electricity tariffs following the revocation of the drought declaration and ensuring tariff changes have been applied correctly.
3. Bundaberg Regional Council has released their 2022/23 Budget including a 2.5% increase on Category 9 rates. Mayor Jack Dempsey and his Councillors have, and still have, a choice around these rate rises on farmland.
4. Working with Energy Queensland regarding the development of a small business (irrigation) tariff.
5. Assisting with QRIDA Flood Recovery Grant applications and appeals.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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Member Benefits

If you belong to one of QFF's member organisations such as CANEGROWERS, you can gain access to special offerings from partners including a wide range of deals and discounts to help you in a variety of ways.

Bunnings

Bunnings is a major supplier for commercial businesses and a major supplier to project builders, commercial tradespeople and the housing industry. QFF members have the opportunity to

access extra savings with tailored pricing on a wide range of products and benefits by signing up for a free Bunnings PowerPass commercial account or by registering your existing PowerPass account on the QFF members portal.

AutoTender

AutoTender is the secret to getting the best deal on a new car of any make or model and receiving the most money when you trade in your old car. You will have access to competitive (fleet)



pricing and a platform that does the leg work for you – saving you an enormous amount of money, time, energy and effort.

For assistance accessing QFF member benefits please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■

Feral Pigs

With Foot and Mouth disease in Bali and a seemingly endless wet season the issue of feral pigs in the district has increased. While there are always pigs in the district this year has seen a significant increase in the number of pigs entering farms and causing damage. At this stage the most noticeable areas of damage are near

creeks and rivers and state government land that provide a refuge area for the pigs during the day. The area of damaged cane at this stage seems low however in the standing cane it may be hard to see if there is any damage until the harvester enters the paddocks.

We have had contact from several pig

shooters looking to assist growers and there are options of baiting and traps, depending on where exactly the farm is situated.

If growers are finding damage to their farms please contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555. ■

2022 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 29 July 2022

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance	
	(AUD/tonne IPS)	
Payment Date	Increase	To
Initial		\$391.00
21-Oct-22	\$6.00	\$397.00
18-Nov-22	\$15.00	\$412.00
16-Dec-22	\$28.00	\$440.00
20-Jan-23	\$23.00	\$463.00
17-Feb-23	\$15.00	\$478.00
17-Mar-23	\$29.00	\$507.00
21-Apr-23	\$14.00	\$521.00
19-May-23	\$15.00	\$536.00
16-Jun-23	\$14.00	\$550.00
Final	\$29.00	\$579.00

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.

4. The net adjustment, for the estimated US Quota and QSL premiums & costs, to be added / (subtracted) to / (from) ICE No.11 and Foreign Exchange pricing results for the Committed Pools (e.g. Target Price Contract) is **\$33.44**.

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.

2021 Season Final Pool Prices

The final 'Net IPS Price' for the 2021 Season US Quota Pool under the Export RSSA was set at \$799.35 per tonne IPS after deducting the value of the Shared Pool Element attributed to the US Quota Pool (\$143.41 per tonne IPS). Based on the quantity of Raw Sugar Bundaberg Sugar Limited supplied to Queensland Sugar Limited and the quantity of Bundaberg Sugar Limited's domestic production for the 2021 Season, the value of the US Quota premium has been calculated at \$7.34 per Tonne IPS. The IPS Conversion Factor for the 2021 Season Harvest Pool under the Export RSSA is 1.0325.

The individual components attributable to the various pools to be set by Bundaberg Sugar Limited are set out in the following table:

	Harvest Pool Export RSSA	Bundaberg Domestic Pool RSSA
	\$ per IPS tonne	\$ per IPS tonne
Final Gross IPS price	\$524.87	\$519.36
US Quota premium	\$7.34	\$7.34
Shared Pool allocation	\$38.46	\$45.91
Total Net Price	\$570.67	\$572.61

The Net Price per Tonne IPS Raw Sugar as announced by Queensland Sugar Limited (for non-committed Raw Sugar) is \$572.61. ■

Electricity Reminders

Revocation of Drought Declaration

A reminder for growers to check your next electricity bills and that the drought relief subsidy has been applied to both the service fee and meter services charge up to 31 May 2022.

Anyone who would like assistance to check your bills, please contact Courtney with a copy of your bills.

Switching off Mains with Digital/Electronic Meters

At the end of the irrigation season, we understand that some growers will take out pumps or turn off mains when not using their equipment. For those with electronic or digital meters, having no power to the meter can prevent the

usage information held in the meter from being able to transmit to Ergon for your bill to be compiled, potentially resulting in an estimated bill.

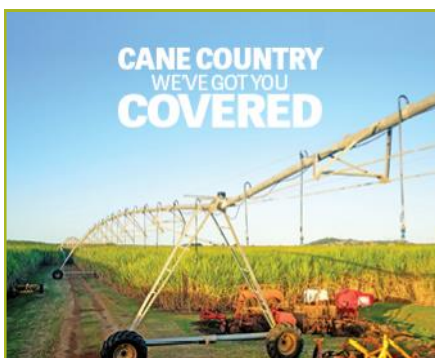
Ways to avoid this are:

- 1) Ensure main switch is wired after the meter to enable power to remain connected to the meter while the pump is disconnected (this will require an electrician)
- 2) Find another safe solution. This might be a matter of having the safety switch and circuit breakers turned off but have the main left on. (Growers should consult their own private contractor for advice here).

To ensure any data held by the meter is able to be read by Ergon whilst the mains are switched off, the customer needs to either have their main wired after the meter or turn the power back on to the meter so it can transmit/communicate the actual date back to Ergon. This would need to be left on for a day or so.

If there is a live wire or safety concern or risk, it is recommended to have an electrician attend.

If you are having any issue with your electricity accounts please call Courtney for assistance. ■



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CANEGROWERS Insurance is a Corporate Authorised Representative (CAR No 429264) for Community Broker Network Pty Ltd | ABN 60 096 916 184 | AFSL 233750.

Wage rates from 1 July 2022

For full details including weekend penalty rates, overtime and public holiday rates, refer to Fair Work Ombudsman website – Pay Guides – Sugar Industry Award 2020 MA000087.

Type of Employment	Full/Part-Time Hourly Rate	Full/Part-Time Single Contract Hourly Rate	Casual Hourly Rate (Ordinary Hours exc Weekends)	Casual Single Contract Hourly Rate
Basis of Pay	(Ordinary Hours)			

Classification

Cultivation/Cane Production Employee

Youths under 18 years	\$13.37	\$15.38	\$16.71	\$18.72
Youths 18-19 years	\$16.72	\$19.23	\$20.90	\$23.41
Inductee/Trainee	\$21.58	\$24.82	\$26.98	\$30.21
Grade 1	\$23.12	\$26.59	\$28.90	\$32.37
Grade 2	\$23.88	\$27.46	\$29.85	\$33.43

Classification

Cane Haulage

Inductee/Trainee	\$22.60	\$25.99	\$28.25	\$31.64
Grade 1	\$23.12	\$26.59	\$28.90	\$32.37
Grade 2	\$23.88	\$27.46	\$29.85	\$33.43

Classification

Cane Harvesting Employee

Inductee/Trainee	\$23.12	\$26.59	\$28.90	\$32.37
Grade 1	\$23.88	\$27.46	\$29.85	\$33.43
Grade 2	\$24.76	\$28.47	\$30.95	\$34.66

From 1 July 2022, employees can be eligible for super guarantee (SG), regardless of how much they earn. The \$450 per month eligibility threshold for when SG is paid has been removed. You only need to pay super for workers under 18 when they work more than 30 hours in a week.

The SG rate has increased to 10.5% on 1 July 2022. You'll need to use the new rate to calculate super on payments you make to employees on or after 1 July, even if some or all of the pay period is for work done before 1 July. The SG rate is legislated to increase to 12% by 2025. ■

Regulations proposed for quad bikes and SSV

The Queensland Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) is investigating the introduction of work health and safety (WHS) regulations to improve the safety of workers and others when operating quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles (SSV) at a workplace. This includes mandating:

- helmet use
- no kids on adult quad bikes and SSVs
- certain passenger restrictions for some vehicles
- seat belts for some SSVs (where they have been installed)

Written submissions close at COB Wednesday, 31 August 2022.

Email submissions to whspolicy@oir.qld.gov.au. ■

Waste and recycling

Remember: It's rubbish if you don't recycle

Ag Plastic and Trickle Tape

A guide to the disposal and recycling of Agricultural Plastics at your local Waste Facility

Bundaberg Regional Council's Landfill sites accepts agricultural plastic and trickle tape from across the region each year. At present this trickle tape is sent on for recycling however a significant portion

cannot be recycled and is buried in landfill as it is contaminated. As part of the conditions for recycling, trickle tape must NOT have silicon inserts or wire metal ties. When agricultural plastic such as trickle tape is too heavily contaminated with excess soil, vegetation or if it has not been adequately separated from other agricultural plastics and waste items, it becomes unusable and can no longer be sent for recycling and will need to be disposed of to landfill with a disposal fee payable.

Bundaberg waste facility – 46 University Drive, Branyan Queensland 4670

Product	Details	Waste fee
Trickle tape – roll	Clean – rolled into tight coil Free from excessive dirt, vegetation, wire and silicon inserts	FREE
Trickle tape – loose	Clean – loose/not rolled tight Free from excessive dirt, vegetation, wire and silicon inserts	\$150/t

Qunaba waste facility – 132 Potters Road, Bargara Queensland 4670

Product	Details	Waste fee
Trickle tape – contaminated	Unclean/unsuitable for recycling Trickle tape has excessive dirt, vegetation, wire and silicon inserts	\$250/t
Agricultural mulch plastic film	Agricultural plastic which is used in farming	\$250/t



Trickle tape – clean roll



Trickle tape – clean loose



Ag plastic mulch film

Customers should be aware that **loads delivered to Waste Management Facilities will be inspected** and fees will be charged for loads found to be contaminated and not declared to Council Gatehouse staff at time of entry.

Please refer to our **Waste Disposal Fees and Waste Facility Information** on Council website. If you have any further enquiries or are unsure of disposal conditions, please contact our Waste & Recycling Services Section.

Other Agricultural Products that can be recycled through the local recycling centre (MRF) are:

- DrumMUSTER Drums
- Bulk Fertilizer Bags
- Other Ag Plastics

Please contact the friendly staff at the MRF on 4155 3411 for more information or direct disposal options.

1300 883 699
bundaberg.qld.gov.au



Over \$1.5 million reported lost in agriculture scams

Australians lost over \$2 billion to scams in 2021, including over \$1.5 million lost by farmers and agriculture businesses, according to the ACCC's latest Targeting scams report.

The most common agriculture scam was fake online sales of agricultural machinery such as tractors, backhoes, bobcats and excavators, accounting for reported losses of over \$1.4 million.

Scammers created fake websites to sell new tractors, and operated second hand tractor scams on platforms such as Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace.

The ACCC will continue to raise awareness later this year to help prevent farmers and agriculture businesses from being scammed.

If you are a business or industry body interested in raising awareness about agriculture scams with your members or clients later this year, please contact the Agriculture Unit at Agricultureunit@accc.gov.au.

To learn more about common scams, how to protect yourself and how to report a scam, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au. ■

Announced Allocation Advice - Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme

The initial announced allocation for Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme has been calculated for the 2022-2023 water year under the rules defined by the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual and will be applicable until revised and communicated by SunWater.

Kolan subscheme

High priority 100%
Medium priority 100%
Effective Date: 1 July 2022

As Fred Haigh Dam was spilling on 01 July 2022 carryover will not be available from the 2022-2023 water year.

Burnett subscheme

High priority 100%
Medium priority 100%
Effective Date: 1 July 2022

As per the carryover guidelines and conditions, Paradise Dam has commenced spilling and carryover was cancelled effective Wednesday, 6 July 2022.

The current water storage levels can be viewed here:

<http://bit.ly/swstoragelevels>

The Operational Report is available on our website here:

<https://bit.ly/BDOP722>

To check your estimated available water balance log in to Sunwater Online here:

<https://bit.ly/SunwaterOnline> ■

Steel Tracked harvesters travelling on the road

Steel tracked harvesters with conditional registration (LO6) which need to cross public roads or travel on the road reserve (the road) now require a NHVR permit.

For those without a permit, there could well be an issue with 3rd party insurance cover. Access was previously provided by TMR with an Approval for Tracked Cane Harvesting Equipment to cross State Controlled Roads which is no longer the case. The cost for this annual NHVR permit is \$75.

Permits are required to cross both State controlled roads as well as council controlled roads with permission sought from the relevant road authority. The permission is requested by NHVR on behalf of the applicant.

If required, you can apply for a permit with NHVR. If you do not have an account growers will need to set one up on the NHVR portal.

If you require assistance in applying for a permit after setting up the portal please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■



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Jim Mullett

Sale - Rural Specialist

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jim.mullett@raywhite.com

Ray White Bundaberg

raywhitebundaberg.com.au

Comparison: Solids fertilisers versus Dunder Mixtures



**38 Alexandra Street
Bundaberg East QLD 4670**
Telephone: 07 4152 2355
Email: info@degunst.com.au

Product	Nutrients			Estimated Cost Bundaberg	Applied	Dunder Mix	Applied
	N	P	K				
CK140	150	16	114	\$857	No	\$770	Yes
50/50	144		144	\$836	No	\$660	Yes
High K Ratooner	166		120	\$827	No	\$730	Yes

Comparison is based on:

1 tonne bulk bag delivered Bundaberg

Application rate of 600 kgs per hectare

Ex-works price Brisbane 1st July 2022, plus bulk bag fee & freight

GST not included

NOTE:

1. Above prices will vary as the price of fertiliser and fuel vary.
2. Rates charged will be calculated based on fertiliser and fuel prices on the day of application.
3. Dependent on continued availability of Dunder

Contact De Gunst Transport on phone number or email listed above to book application of your fertiliser requirements for 2022



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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
13.06.22	QCGO District Managers meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
16.06.22	Michael Grebert, BMRG	To discuss local sugar industry issues	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
22.06.22	BAFFA Board meeting	To represent members	Dean Cayley Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
23.06.22	Bundaberg District Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent members	Dale Holliss
23.06.22	BRWAA SAG meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
01.07.22	Accounting for Nature	To represent members	Dale Holliss Courtney Moar
06.07.22	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
07.07.22	Paradise Dam Working Group	To represent members	Dale Holliss
08.07.22	Sharon McIntosh, QFF	To discuss local sugar industry issues	Dale Holliss
19-20.07.22	QCGO Policy Council	To represent members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard

Soybean News

Grain in Cane Co-operative

The soybean harvest has finally been completed and the last of the grain sent to market in what was a very disrupted harvest. A total of three hundred and forty-two (342) tonnes was marketed by the growers with another twenty-four (24) tonnes utilizing the silos due to the unavailability of grain driers at that grower's marketers. Unfortunately, due to weather and paddock conditions grain was left unharvested for the first time since 2011.

Due to the wet weather during the crop maturity and dry down phase before harvest, much of the grain suffered from some degree of weather damage resulting in lower quality grain. As a rule this year A-6785 suffered less weathering and was higher quality than Hayman[®], which was a reverse of last year. The majority of the A-6785 was sold as Edible 2 quality while the Hayman[®] was sold as full fat. This is a result of the A-6785 being harvested before the May wet weather.

The contracted prices that Grain in Cane Co-op initially signed were lower than 2021 at \$700 per tonne for Edible 1 quality soybeans but due to the significant weather events across northern NSW and other growing areas, the guaranteed minimum price contracts increased to \$750 per tonne for Edible 1

soybeans. The prices for other quality of soybeans also increased by varying amounts.

Soybeans 2023

Currently there are no prices for soybeans in 2023 though prices are expected to be similar to those in 2022. In terms of variety selection Hayman[®] is preferred by all soybean buyers, especially in the Edible 1 market, though locally it needs to be well managed to get the higher yields. A-6785 which has been the local standard still performs well though has more limited markets. To achieve the higher quality markets there are some restrictions based on seed purchases. Kuranda[®] which has the highest yield potential does have a very narrow market base and tends to be at a \$50 per tonne discount to Hayman[®] and A-6785 for the same quality. There are other varieties that have specific planting windows and generally the best variety to choose is the one that matches the intended planting time best.

Nitrogen from Soybeans and what this means come 2023

With fertiliser prices remaining high the nitrogen from soybeans and other legume crops will be important in reducing costs. Soybeans are one of the highest nitrogen producing crops

grown in the sugarcane fallow. A well grown soybean crop grown to hip height will produce about four hundred (400) kg nitrogen per hectare for the next crop. Once incorporated into the ground the amount of nitrogen begins to reduce so incorporation needs to occur close to the planting of the cane.

A grain crop of soybeans will leave approximately forty (40) kg nitrogen per hectare per tonne of grain harvested in the soil for the next crop. That means an average crop will leave approximately one hundred (100) kg nitrogen per hectare for the cane crop. Once the soybean stubble is cultivated into the soil the nitrogen begins to be lost quickly, especially in the current wet soil conditions.

Come 2023 when the nitrogen and phosphorus budgets are required by reef regulations, the nitrogen coming from legume crops or residual nitrogen from small crops does not need to be accounted for in the farm N & P Budget. This allows some flexibility when it comes to applying fertiliser to the cane across the farm. ■



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

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



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