

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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October 2022



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## Chair's Update

Well, what a testing time we have been having this harvesting season. It's been quite ironic how the rain bands have kept following the same paths. This has seen most growers and harvesting contractors severely impacted.

With the current outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology, we need to take advantage of every opportunity that we get Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has been in close negotiations with the mill to help maximise mill throughput and it has been hitting the target for the past three (3) weeks. Wet weather has been a major stumbling block, with 447 hours lost year to date.

CCS has been lower than average since the season began with the base CCS only just being achieved during Week 17. We are keeping a close watch on it with a real possibility of having to lower it.

Issues with the NIR unit in Week 19 caused minor delays and SRA are working towards rectifying the situation.

With reef regulations coming into force on 1 December 2022, it is a timely reminder to gain advice on an N & P Budget for your farm. Matt Leighton has been busy conducting soil tests and interpreting their findings. Anyone who needs some help from Matt, please contact him sooner rather than later to help avoid a mad rush before fertilising. More information regarding Reef Regulations can be found on page 3.

QRIDA Flood Recovery Category C grant deadlines have been extended due to continued wet field conditions affecting the ability to complete earthworks and the constant struggle to find available contractors. Refer to page 7 for more details.

SunWater irrigation customers in the Bundaberg Distribution Scheme are currently participating in a three (3)

year electricity cost pass-through trial that allows scheme level electricity cost savings (if any) to be passed through to irrigation customers at the end of the financial year via a credit applied to eligible irrigation customer bills. In 2021-22, SunWater spent less on electricity than was recovered from customers in the Bundaberg Distribution Scheme which means eligible irrigation customers who used water in 2021-22 will have a credit of \$13.26/ML applied to their bill in October 2022.

With the extra urgency of getting this year's crop through the mill, please make every attempt to load clean cane into bins. There have been a few occasions where the mill has had to stop due to extraneous matter and whole stick cane clogging conveyors.

Here's hoping we get some kinder weather so we can get this valuable crop processed.

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman

## Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. Providing "alternative points of view" Scientific papers to the latest GBR Scientific Consensus Statement review.
2. Keeping up to date with Reef Regulation requirements, N & P Budgets and continue to push back against Reef Regulations.
3. Operating the Cane Analysis and Auditing Program on behalf of the Bundaberg Sugar Industry.
4. Investigating Sugar marketing and pricing opportunities and arrangements.
5. Preparing for the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Services AGMs that were held on 12 October 2022.

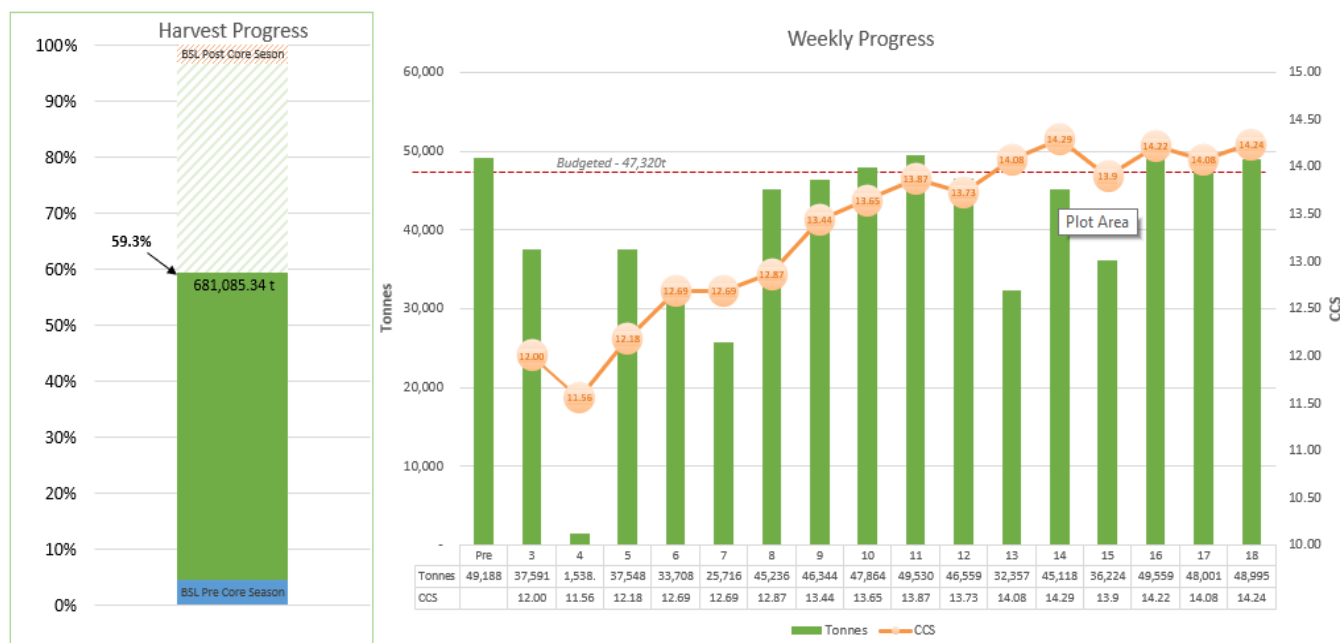


**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

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Crushing Statistics – Week 18, week ending 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## 2022 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 26 August 2022

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)	
Payment Date	Increase	To
Initial		<b>\$391.00</b>
Initial QSL Updated	<b>-\$22.00</b>	<b>\$369.00</b>
<b>21-Oct-22</b>	<b>\$37.00</b>	<b>\$406.00</b>
18-Nov-22	\$14.00	\$420.00
16-Dec-22	\$29.00	\$449.00
20-Jan-23	\$27.00	\$476.00
17-Feb-23	\$15.00	\$491.00
17-Mar-23	\$29.00	\$520.00
21-Apr-23	\$15.00	\$535.00
19-May-23	\$15.00	\$550.00
16-Jun-23	\$15.00	\$565.00
Final	\$30.00	\$595.00

## Notes:

- 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.**
- 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.
- The advance rates are GST exclusive.
- 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 **\$34.24**.

**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.

## Drones / Aerial Spraying – Are You Covered?

**C**GU and several other Insurers have recently confirmed that they will not cover liability for aerial spraying by drones.

Members are strongly urged to ensure they hold appropriate liability cover if aerial spraying is being undertaken on their farm and are reminded to request a Certificate of Currency from any trades or contractors undertaking services on your farm.

The Certificate of Currency will need to be able to verify their level of

liability cover plus extra notations for specific cover such as drone spraying.

This recommendation is as strong and relevant as ever - in the last couple of months a sugar cane grower has been sued in the Supreme Court (along with the spraying contractor and several other defendants) for more than \$500,000.

Fortunately, it looks as though the grower has liability cover and will be protected and the Insurer will look after the defence of the case and payment of

any liability.

If you are considering using drones to apply chemicals to your farm, be aware of the possible risks and potential liability involved if things don't go to plan.

**For further information or for assistance with your insurance needs, contact CANEGROWERS Wide Bay Insurance representative Ray Goodwin on 0418 891 783. ■**



## Reef Regulation Update

**T**his is provided as a general reminder that to comply with the Reef Regulations, growers need to keep the following records and as of 1 December 2022, there will be additional requirements to ensure that growers continue to comply with the law.

Continuing since 1 December 2019, growers must record all fertiliser and pesticide (herbicide, fungicide and insecticides) applied to their cane crops within three (3) days of the application of the products. There are template documents available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS reception if growers have not already collected a copy for their farm that show what records need to be kept.

From 1 December 2022, all cane farming will require a Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget based on a soil test taken within twelve (12) months prior to fertilising cane for the

first time, this is often at planting but can be as a first ratoon crop. This is for autumn plant crops and both spring plant and ratoons in 2023. Cane harvested in 2022 and fertilised in January 2023 does not require a Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget.

The nitrogen and phosphorus budget, created by a suitably authorised person, sets the upper limit of the amount of fertiliser the grower is able to apply to the farm based on the Six Easy Steps process and accounting for the plant, ratoon and fallow areas on the farm. At this stage, other crops are not required to have such a comprehensive nutrient budgeting process by that date, however all crops will most likely have increased government scrutiny and regulation on what fertilisers may be applied and how.

There are other requirements such as having a map with soil types, as well as block and property boundaries

and Lot and Plan details. Much of this is already covered in the existing templates and if updates are required growers will be notified.

**If you have questions about any of the current reef regulations, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■**

**Sugar Services can assist growers with completing the Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget or accessing soil maps for their farm.**

There are some issues with farms north of the Kolan River in which Sugar Services is trying to resolve in conjunction with Bundaberg Sugar to get the soils maps onto the farm map system. ■

## Compliance with Reef Regulations

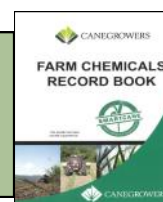
**A**fter a recent meeting with the Department of Environment and Science (DES), Bundaberg CANEGROWERS was informed that Compliance/Audit Checks from DES staff will begin from mid-2023.

This will be to check records from previous years as well as check to see where growers are up to with the Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget for their farm.

If any member receives notification about an upcoming audit they can contact Matt Leighton for assistance in preparation for the audit as well as being on farm while the audit check takes place. ■

**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)**



## Privately Owned Electricity Line Defects

In the interest of safety, customer property poles and electrical connections including POA (*Point of Attachment*), mains box, meter box etc. are being inspected by Ergon Energy.

Many defects have been identified and a Customer Engagement Team has been set up within Ergon to specifically support this initiative.

The team are following up by issuing customers with notices in the form of a letter with a set timeframe to rectify the defect. Timeframes are strict and based on risk – 60, 180 or 270 days.

If identified defects aren't rectified by the customer in the requested timeframe, the property will be disconnected on electrical safety grounds.

For further information please contact Ergon Energy's Customer Engagement Team on 1300 743 268 or email [privatepoles@energyq.com.au](mailto:privatepoles@energyq.com.au).

If you require any additional assistance, please contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555. ■

## Increase in Theft from Farms

Theft from farms in the Bundaberg Region is becoming all too common and it is timely to consider the following.

Some of the most common items stolen are fuel, especially where large quantities are stored, tools and field equipment. A fundamental element of rural crime is opportunity and thieves are seeking opportunities to steal without being seen, without taking much time and without making much noise. Farms are ideal targets for theft due to the relative isolation of each operation.

Consider these ideas to help avoid the loss and inconvenience associated with theft from farms:

- Go around the farm and look at it through the eyes of a thief and remove or lock up any items you identify as being at risk.
- Be seen around your farm often and vary your routines where possible so people can't easily anticipate when you will be home or in the shed.
- Construct sturdy, secure sheds with high-quality locks. Tools, equipment, chemicals and other valuables should be stored inside. Use strong chains and locks on all gates, access points and loading ramps.
- Mark, engrave or stamp tools and equipment with a permanent identification number and keep a record of all tools and equipment.
- Observe and record suspicious behaviour and note down

descriptions of strangers and vehicles including number plates, location, date and time. This can be helpful to police if crimes occur in your area.

- Install security lighting around sheds, storage facilities and equipment with lights operating on time switches or sensors.
- Lock fuel storage tanks and make sure they can easily be seen from the house. Have lockable fuel caps on all tractors and vehicles. Park machinery close to home if possible or if necessary, park it where it can be seen from a neighbour's house. Remove keys and lock the cab on machinery when not in use. Consider disabling machinery and don't leave valuable tools in vehicle trays.
- Consider using animals as deterrents. A good watch dog with proper signage such as "Beware of Dog" is effective.
- Keep photographs or video records of your property and equipment in case of theft.
- Always notify the police of crime. No theft is too small to report.

In recent years, farm security cameras have become very popular and most cameras that run on battery or solar power are capable of capturing still images or video with a range of 10-20 metres, depending on the size of the object. Some models are equipped with infra-red, enabling images to be captured in

complete darkness. Cameras can be triggered by motion (humans, cars, wildlife) or set up to record still images over time. Most models are wireless and weather proof, making installation and relocation quick and easy.

Another way to protect your farm and equipment is by taking out the appropriate insurance. Most insurance is usually cost effective when compared to the replacement value of stolen goods, if you already have farm insurance, check that the sum insured is adequate for the replacement value of the goods.

If you are unfortunate enough to be a victim of crime, regardless of size, you should report it immediately to police and provide accurate and detailed information.

Actions undertaken directly after a theft will impact on the solving of the crime and possibly help solve others.

Queensland Police can be contacted on the following numbers:

**IN AN EMERGENCY  
DIAL 000**

- **Police Link**  
Phone 131 444  
[www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au)
- **Police Stations:**  
Bundaberg 4153 9111  
South Kolan 4157 7872  
Bargara 4159 1444  
Gin Gin 4157 2211. ■



## Transport Regulations Regarding Christmas Period

While most growers have heard of the Christmas and Easter Restrictions about moving wide loads between Christmas and New Year, they may not have thought how this impacts them directly.

When reading the new National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination

Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice Operator's Guide, there are some specific directions about movement of **vehicles over 2.5m wide during the Christmas and New Year period.**

During the Christmas and New Year period, agricultural vehicles or combinations must be accompanied by

at least one (1) pilot (ag pilot) vehicle extra to the normal travel requirements.

The holiday periods are listed in the table below:

Holiday	Period of Restricted Travel
Christmas and New Year's (*) : - If no pilot or escort is required or if no more than one (1) pilot or escort is required	Midnight 23 / 24 December (though practically sunset 23 December for excess dimension vehicles that are not able to travel on roads at night due to width) to midnight 2 / 3 January.
Christmas and New Year's (*) - If more than one (1) pilot or escort is required	Midnight 18 / 19 December to midnight 3 / 4 January.
<p>* When Christmas day falls on a Sunday or a Monday the Christmas and New Year's holiday period will commence earlier from midday on the Friday prior to Christmas day.</p> <p>* When 1 January falls on a Friday, the Christmas and New year's holiday will finish later and is extended to 11.59pm on 3 January that year (effectively can start moving on 4 January).</p>	

The travel restrictions during the Christmas and New Year period basically means there is no movement through:

- **Critical Areas:** Bundaberg City;
- **Critical Roads:** Port Road, Bargara Road, Elliott Heads Road, Innes Park Road, Goodwood Road, Isis Highway, Bundaberg Gin Gin Road and Moore Park Road;
- **Major Roads:** Rosedale Road and Cedar Crossing connecting roads;

from sunset Friday 23 December 2022 to sunrise Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Though this is extended based upon the number of pilot (ag pilot) or escort vehicles required to move the machinery normally as listed in the above table.

Movement around the council road network (roads other than listed above) during this time is permitted provided the oversize agricultural vehicle or combination is being accompanied by at least one (1) agricultural pilot above the minimum requirements of this Guideline.

If growers need to move tractors, machinery or equipment wider than 2.5m on critical and major roads

during these periods, permits from NHVR are required. As part of that application for a permit, a traffic management plan is required.

**If you need assistance with completing your traffic management plan or have any questions, contact Matt Leighton on 0437 084 035. ■**



## Development of Prototype Harvester Sterilisation Unit to Manage RSD

Sugar Research Australia

Sugar Research Australia and Fire Suppression Services Qld Pty Ltd have commenced development for the installation of a prototype harvester sterilisation unit.

This technology will aim to help reduce the transmission of RSD through a cabin -operated decontamination system.

The system includes connecting a storage tank for the steriliser with pumps and the latest in nozzle technology at critical areas on the harvester identified for sterilisation.

It is widely known that RSD can be spread between blocks and farms via harvesters.

This technology will save contractor time in decontaminating their machines while improving productivity with the reduced transmission of RSD.

The prototype will be developed and tested in Mackay during the 2022 season. ■

## Industry Responds after Reports Focus on 'Side Hustle' Policy Issues

Insurers have responded to media reports of home and contents policies being cancelled or claims denied on grounds that clients were running income-generating side businesses or hobbies from their properties.

In some of the cases mentioned in the ABC News articles, consumers say they were informed by their insurers that their policies would be cancelled because of the risk involved.

Major personal lines insurers Suncorp and Allianz have explained their approach for underwriting home and contents risks.

*"It is important our customers have the correct cover for their property – and we encourage anyone who is unsure to contact us so we can clarify their situation and how the policy would apply,"* a spokesman for Suncorp brand AAMI told insuranceNEWS.com.au.

*"As with all personal insurers, our home insurance policies are underwritten and priced for the risk of a domestic private home."*

The spokesman says when a business is being run out of the home, it could represent a "significantly" different risk.

*"For example, a manufacturing or repair business run from home might be a very different risk for fire, equally if valuable stock for a business is being stored at home it could represent an increased risk of theft,"* the spokesman said.

*"Also, any business that has employees or customers coming to the home would attract a risk for liability claims arising from slips and trips – that wouldn't otherwise occur in the same way on a normal home policy."*

GT Insurance Brokers Director Glenn Thomas says he is concerned over the industry's approach as he has some clients whose home and contents insurance applications have been rejected because they make a small income from hobbies.

He says one of his customers, an 80-year-old-pensioner who sells the extra eggs he gets from his chickens to his carer, decided to stop doing so after his insurer said his policy would be cancelled if he continued with the activity.

The pensioner makes \$5 from selling the five eggs to his carer and used the proceeds to buy chicken feed, he said.

*"I genuinely believe that insurers are wanting to protect their customers,"* Mr Thomas said. *"But it begs the question 'what happens if a consumer sells their kids' clothes on Facebook Marketplace or eBay on a regular basis?'"*

He says the issue *"further emphasises the complexity of insurance even for what is deemed to be a simple home and contents policy and that clients should contact a professional insurance broker to assist them through what may be a tricky process"*.

An Allianz spokesman says the insurer relies on the "accuracy and honesty" of policyholder responses to ensure correct insurance cover for their circumstances.

*"Regardless of the type of cover, policyholders are required to meet disclosure obligations when obtaining, changing or renewing insurance cover,"* the spokesman said.

*"To do this, Allianz encourages policyholders to answer all questions as accurately as possible. If unsure about*

*questions or any details, Allianz encourages customers to call us to confirm they are covered and that the most appropriate insurance cover is obtained."*

Consumer Action Law Centre Managing Lawyer Philippa Heir says side hustles are becoming more common and with cost of living pressure going up, people will try to increase their income through these activities.

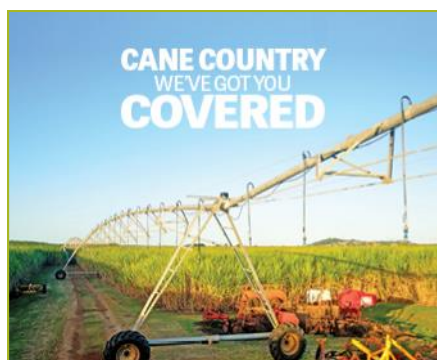
*"If someone inadvertently fails to let an insurer know about something apparently inconsequential, this might not constitute a breach of this duty,"* she said, referring to the revised statutory duty on consumers that they exercise reasonable care not to misrepresent.

*"In fact, this is the very basis of the revised duty. Insurers also need clear evidence that they wouldn't have taken the consumer on at all, if they want to avoid the policy."*

[Source: insuranceNEWS.com.au 21 July 2022 - Industry responds after reports focus on 'side hustle' policy issues - Daily - Insurance News]

The above article is very relevant to Growers, particularly when their homes are situated on the same land title as the farm. As a farm is an income producing property, a personal lines Insurer does not necessarily like insuring the domestic dwelling on that farm. If this situation applies to you, you should disclose this matter to your personal lines insurer as soon as possible. This is imperative to ensure your current insurance cover is adequate.

The two (2) major personal lines insurers in the Wide Bay area includes the likes of Suncorp and RACQ. If you have any concerns or enquiries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ray Goodwin on 0418 891 783. ■



### ACCESS THE BEST CANE-SPECIFIC COVER ON THE MARKET

Queensland is a beautiful place to live, but it can also be volatile and unpredictable. Making sure you have the right insurance cover is so important.

Call CANEGROWERS Insurance today **0418 891 783** to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

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

## Another La Nina? Working Safely in the Wet

With higher than average rainfall so far this year and another La Nina summer on the way, it is no surprise there's also been higher than average infection rates for wet-loving germs.

Working in muddy or wet conditions can expose workers to germs that cause diseases like legionella, leptospirosis and melioidosis. Sadly, cases of these diseases are being reported at rates up to three times that of the last few years.

**Legionella** – can cause a severe pneumonia requiring intensive care. There are two main types - one that lives in air-conditioning cooling towers, and the other in soils, compost and potting mix.

**Leptospirosis** – is found in animal urine which can contaminate water and plants that humans are in contact with. It can cause serious illness needing intensive care.

**Melioidosis** - lives in soil and is mainly found in more tropical areas, but has caused illness in other regions this

season. It can cause infection ranging from ulcers to pneumonia and sepsis.

People may be exposed to these diseases through breaks or wounds in the skin and sometimes by inhaling or swallowing contaminated water.

There are a few simple things you can do to protect yourself and reduce your risk of exposure when working in dirty, wet conditions.

Importantly, if you don't have to go into murky water – don't! But if you do have to work in potentially hazardous soil environments, take these precautions:

- Remove debris using machinery where you can.
- Wear protective clothing (long clothing to cover arms and legs to prevent scrapes and wounds to the skin, as well as boots and gloves - remembering to wash work clothes regularly).

- Wash your hands after removing PPE and before eating, smoking or touching your face.
- Clean and cover cuts, abrasions or other non-intact skin with a waterproof dressing.
- Where possible, avoid letting water lay around work areas near sheds and other buildings.

It is also important workers are up to date with their tetanus shots.

For more information, visit the WorkSafe website [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au). ■



## Be Prepared for Natural Disasters

Being prepared for natural disasters is critical to your business' long-term resilience. By taking steps early, growers can reduce the risk of disaster damage and financial loss.

There are many ways to get ready and now is a good time to check your natural disaster preparedness:

- ensure you have the right insurance;

- prepare a business continuity plan;
- have enough resources in your supply chain;
- speak to the Rural Financial Counselling Service on telephone no. 1800 900 090.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has a natural disaster guide to

help growers protect their property and business.

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



## Category C Disaster Grants Key Dates Updated

Immediately after the last newsletter went to print, the State Government changed the closing dates in response to continued wet field conditions affecting the ability to complete earthworks and the constant struggle to find available contractors.

Despite the extension, there is still not a lot of time to get the work completed especially during the busy planting and harvesting season and if the Bureau of Meteorology forecast

for the next three (3) months comes to fruition.

The new closing dates for the scheme are as follows:

- Special Disaster Assistance Grants 10 November to 3 December 2021 close 5 December 2022;
- Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants, Ex tropical

cyclone Seth 7-10 January 2022 closes 3 February 2023;

- Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery grants, Southeast Qld Flooding 22 February to 5 April 2022 closes 5 December 2023.

If you require assistance in submitting the forms, contact Matt Leighton on 0437 084 035. ■



Variety Development Manager Southern and NSW, Roy Parfitt, looks forward to welcoming you to the Field Day.



## SRA BUNDABERG STATION FIELD DAY 2022

You are invited to the SRA Bundaberg Station Field Day 2022.

Please take the opportunity to join us for a range of activities, demonstrations, and presentations showcasing our researchers across a range of disciplines who will discuss the latest advances in agronomy, irrigation, entomology, weed management, quality and chemistry, and harvesting machinery.

This year marks the welcome return of field days to the Bundaberg research station, and is an opportunity for growers to get to know better what happens at the station.

The 56 ha station built in 2019 is home to the research and adoption staff for the Southern Region. The field day will be a chance to hear more about how SRA is delivering outcomes for the Southern sugarcane industry and growers across the Bundaberg, Childers and Maryborough growing areas.

Catch up with SRA staff in the field to see the scope of the Southern Sugarcane Variety Development Plant Breeding Program and the new varieties in development to benefit your business.

A BBQ lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

**When:** 24 November 2022, 8:30am - 3:00pm

**Where:** SRA Bundaberg Field Station 314 Pashleys Road, Bundaberg

**RSVP:** By 11 November 2022  
[trybooking.com/CCXEF](https://trybooking.com/CCXEF)  
or scan the QR code at right.



For more information contact: Lisa Devereaux,  
Southern District Manager, M 0456 590 497



## Important Changes to Fuel Tax Credits

If you claim fuel tax credits, multiple rates may apply to your business activity statement (BAS) that is due in October, depending on when you acquired the fuel.

Changes to fuel tax credits occurred on 30 March, 1 July (biodiesel only), 1 August, and 29 September 2022. Fuel tax credit rates change regularly.

The easiest way to ensure you are using the correct rate is to use the ATO's Fuel tax credit calculator.

The fuel tax credit calculator helps you work out:

- the fuel tax credit amount to report on your business activity statement (BAS);
- adjustments for fuel tax credits from a previous BAS.

The temporary reduction of fuel excise duty ended on 28 September 2022. From 29 September 2022:

- increased fuel tax credit rates apply. You must only apply this increased rate to fuel acquired from this date;
- if you're an eligible business that uses fuel in heavy vehicles for travelling on public roads, you can claim fuel tax credits. You cannot claim between 30 March to 28 September 2022 because the road user charge exceeds the excise duty paid and this reduces the fuel tax credit rate to nil.

Remember to always keep accurate records to support your claims. Your fuel tax credit records need to show the type, date, and quantity of

fuel acquired for business activities.

Your registered tax or BAS agent can help correctly calculate your fuel tax credit and lodge your BAS. ■



### 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)

## Energy Concessions & Rebates

The Queensland Government offers eligible Queenslanders concessions and rebates to help towards the cost of living such as energy concessions to help towards electricity and gas.

Listed below are just a few of the energy-related concessions and rebates available:

- concessions available for people who require air conditioning to safeguard their health;
- emergency assistance for home energy costs for low-income families;

- electricity rebates for seniors and pensioners;
- support for eligible renters.

To find out more information on what concessions and rebates are available or to check your eligibility, visit the Queensland Government website: [www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions). ■



### CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

Contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office on telephone no. 4151 2555 or fax no. 4153 1986 or email [bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au).

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### FOR SALE

1974 Massey Ferguson 188. Good condition. \$10,000  
1966 Massey Ferguson 135. As is. \$5000.  
Ph 0418 776 507



AUSTRALIAN  
COMPETITION  
& CONSUMER  
COMMISSION



SCAMWATCH

[www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

## ACCC Warning of Suspicious Messages as “Hi Mum” Scams Spike

Scamwatch is urging the public to be wary of phone messages from a family member or friend claiming they need help, following a significant rise in “Hi Mum” scams in recent months.

More than 1,150 Australians fell victim to the so-called “Hi Mum” scam in the first seven months of this year, with total reported losses of \$2.6 million. The vast majority of these scams were reported in June and July 2022.

Known as “Hi Mum” or “family impersonation” scams, victims are contacted - most often through WhatsApp - by a scammer posing as a family member or friend.

The scammer will claim they have lost or damaged their phone and are making contact from a new number. Then, once they have developed a rapport with their target, the scammer will ask for personal information such as photos for their social media profile or money to help urgently pay a bill, contractor or replace the phone.

These requests continue the ruse of a lost or broken phone with the

justification that the funds are needed because they can't access their online banking temporarily.

Some messages will simply say “it's me,” while in other cases the scammers appear to have contact information and use the name of the person they are impersonating.

Scammers will stop at nothing to get your personal details or money and this particular scam is designed to pull your heartstrings. It's important to stop and think if you get a message, especially on WhatsApp, because chances are it's not your family member or friend - it's a scammer.

The ACCC is urging people who receive suspicious messages from a number they don't recognise, to independently verify the contact. If you're contacted by someone claiming to be your son, daughter, relative or friend, start by calling them on the number already stored in your phone to confirm if it's no longer in use.

If they pick up - you know it's a scam. If you're unable to make contact, you should try a secondary contact method to verify who you're

speaking to. If you still can't contact your family member or friend, consider asking a personal question a scammer couldn't know the answer to, so you know the person you are speaking to is who they say they are.

Above all, never send money without being absolutely sure who you are sending it to.

Over two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of family impersonation scams have been reported by women over 55 years of age, accounting for more than \$1.4 million in losses.

If you have reason to believe you have been scammed, contact your bank as soon as possible as they may be able to find where the money went, block scam accounts and help others to avoid sending money to scammers. People who detect a scam, regardless of whether they have lost money, can report scams and learn more about how to get help by visiting the scamwatch website [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au). ■

## Farm Machinery Scam

We are aware that scammers are not only targeting the sale of machinery, they are now targeting equipment finance and once you have paid your first instalment they move on and you may find yourself unable to make further contact.

Please consider any special rates, deals, cold calls or offers carefully and thoroughly research new companies if you have not previously dealt with them.

As always, please seek advice if you are unsure. ■

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## 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
07.09.2022	Bundaberg Area Fire Management Meeting	To represent members	Matt Leighton
09.09.2022	Energy Q Tariff Structure Working Group	To represent members	Dale Holliss
09.09.2022	BBRWA SAG Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
12.09.2022	District Manager Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
20.09.2022	District Director Briefing	To receive update	Tanya Howard
27.09.2022	Bundaberg District Groundwater Area Advisory Committee Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss
10.10.2022	District Manager Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
12.10.2022	Wide Bay Burnett Plant Extractives Feedstock Project	To represent members	Dale Holliss
13.10.2022	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Dale Holliss
14.10.2022	Chamber of Commerce Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17.10.2022	QCGO Farm Inputs Research Committee Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
18 – 19.10.2022	QCGO Environment Committee Meeting	To represent members	Mark Pressler
20.10.2022	QSL Grower Representatives	To represent members	Mark Pressler
21.10.2022	Chamber of Commerce AGM	To represent members	Tanya Howard

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\*Triton GLX Cab Chassis Double Cab shown with optional accessories.

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## Mitsubishi Offer

Did you know your membership of CANEGROWERS gives you access to a range of products and services through QFF?

The latest QFF membership offer is by Mitsubishi Motors.

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See your local Mitsubishi Dealer or visit [www.qff.org.au/our-partners](http://www.qff.org.au/our-partners) for further information. ■



## Benefits of Soybeans

### Nitrogen

With fertiliser prices remaining high and likely to do so until at least early next year, the use of a legume crop to fix some additional nitrogen for the following crop is of significant benefit. There is also the advantage that the nitrogen from the legumes does not need to be counted in the Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget that every grower is required to have prior to applying fertiliser to a cane crop in 2023, including planting an autumn crop.

There have been reports that Europe's urea plants are considering shutting over winter due to the price of natural gas. There is also the possibility that due to the gas shortage the plants may be closed so that lights and heating can be maintained for the public. If the urea plants do close, there will be less urea available for export increasing the price. There is the possibility that the recent price rise of \$200 was due to this news.

In the Reef Regulations that come into effect on 1 December 2022 there is a requirement for a nitrogen and phosphorus budget to be created. In this all nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser applied to the farm needs to be counted as does the nitrogen and phosphorus from mill mud applied at rates greater than 100 wet tonnes per hectare. Nitrogen and phosphorus from legumes and residual fertiliser from small crops does not need to be counted due to the uncertainty of exactly how much nitrogen is in the soil based on the size of the crop,

whether it was harvested for grain, how the plant residues were treated (incorporated or left on top) and how much rain occurred from grain harvest until the cane is planted.

As a rule of thumb, a green manure crop of soybeans above waist height will have approximately 400 kg N/ha available for the following crop. If the grain has been harvested the rule of thumb is 40 kg N/ha per tonne of grain harvested such that an average 2.5 tonne per hectare crop will provide approximately 100 kg N/ha to the following crop.

### Nematode Control

Some varieties of soybeans have useful root knot nematode tolerance and reduce the amount that survive to impact the cane crop. Variety A-6785 is very good at control while Hayman<sup>®</sup> is similar to or slightly little worse, while the green manure variety Leichardt has no tolerance and is such a good host of root knot nematodes that cane yields can be reduced.

### Weed Control

Soybeans are different to cane and give growers an opportunity to target grasses due to some recently released chemistry and the ability to target some broadleaf weeds, such as vines, while maintaining the flexibility to rotate to other crops as required. Grasses and cane in soybeans can be controlled with grass selective post emergent herbicides such as Verdict and they can be applied any time up until the beginning of flowering.



Grasses can also be controlled by applying Stomp Xtra or Dual Gold as a pre emergent herbicide. Broadleaf control options are more difficult however Spinnaker can be used as either a pre or post emergent herbicide though it does have a long plant back period of up to two (2) years for some crops. Blazer and Basagran are post emergent herbicides with limited weed spectrums of generally very small weeds, but can be useful. Valor is a pre emergent herbicide that has relatively short plant back periods for the rate used in soybeans and is good across a range of vines and small seeded legumes. As always check with an agronomist for the best products and rates for the specific situation on the growers' farms.

### Economic Returns

While there is an economic benefit from the reduced nitrogen fertiliser required in the following crops, there is also the potential to harvest the grain of soybeans to provide some additional income benefit. The latest soybean quote has edible 1 prices higher than offered last season at \$800 per tonne, edible 2 at \$715 per tonne and full fat quality soybeans at \$650 per tonne. Yields vary depending on individual farm circumstances although vary from 2 to 5 tonnes per hectare with the long term average around 2.5 tonnes per hectare.

**To find out suitable varieties and other information about soybeans including marketing and harvesting, contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■**

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

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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