

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 18, Issue 5  
August 2023

## Chair's Update

What a different year to last year. The dry weather continues and looks like it will for a while yet with some reports a possible change in the weather pattern won't come about until October, lets hope we get some rainfall before then. With the dry weather the harvest has progressed quite well with only minimal time lost.

CCS has continued to rise with some extraordinary high tests for this time of the year. We currently have the Base CCS set at 13.8 with the YTD Relative Average CCS sitting at 13.91 for week ending 14 August 2023 and we are approximately 44% through the total season (including pre season). With the drying of the crop comes reductions in estimates, Grower Services Officers have been kept busy adjusting these figures where required.

With the dry conditions comes a heightened fire risk, currently there is no fire ban in place and as such we can still light fires for standing cane and trash blankets provided they are lit after 4pm and are fully extinguished by 9am the following day. By following this request we can delay further restrictions on allowed times to burn until later in the harvest if dry conditions persist as expected.

Planting season is here and with it comes the requirement for N & P Budgets to be calculated, please feel free to contact Matthew Leighton to find out what you need to do.

Michael Turner has been kept very busy with the demand for One-eye Setts and it is still not too late to place an order. Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited are looking to fill the vacant position of Field Officer. Further details can be found on the back page.

Oreco have been quite active in baling trash and seem to be on top of the demand although are still looking for extra trash. If you do not have a current Cane Trash Supply Contract they can be arranged through the office. The new machines allow a lesser take therefore you may be able to supply 50% of your trash and retain the remainder for your own use. If you have any spare trash please call Marc on 0487 788 770.

Fertiliser prices seem to be increasing once again due to the shortage of urea availability, this forces prices up on all fertiliser products due to people looking for alternatives, please contact your preferred reseller to guarantee some supply and keep in mind that delivery times may increase due to the closure of the Incitec Pivot facility in Brisbane.

Growers are also reminded that they need to be following their N & P Budget fertiliser blend and rates when ordering fertiliser. Given these are individualised for every farm taking what is available from the fertiliser resellers is not the right option and could lead to penalties including fines from the Government.

With the current high sugar prices growers are reminded that any Forward Pricing locked in below the estimated final price will have an impact on your future advance payments. The advance rate and final price paid to you is an average of the sugar you have forward priced and the sugar you have remaining in the harvest pool. Once advances reach a percentage of your overall average price (eg January currently scheduled as an 80% advance payment) your advances will be adjusted to your individual final price. This may result in a downward adjustment and in some cases, no payment will be received at the scheduled dates.

If you are unsure of your personal situation please seek advice from Glenn Harris, QSL on 0409 601 349 or Dorothy Green, Bundaberg Sugar Cane Pays Supervisor on 4150 8941. If you have any further questions please contact Tanya Howard on 4151 2555.

The final pay for the 2022 season went into growers' accounts on 22 July and full details of the final price and pools are on page 3.

Lets hope the harvesting continues well so we can achieve an early November finish.

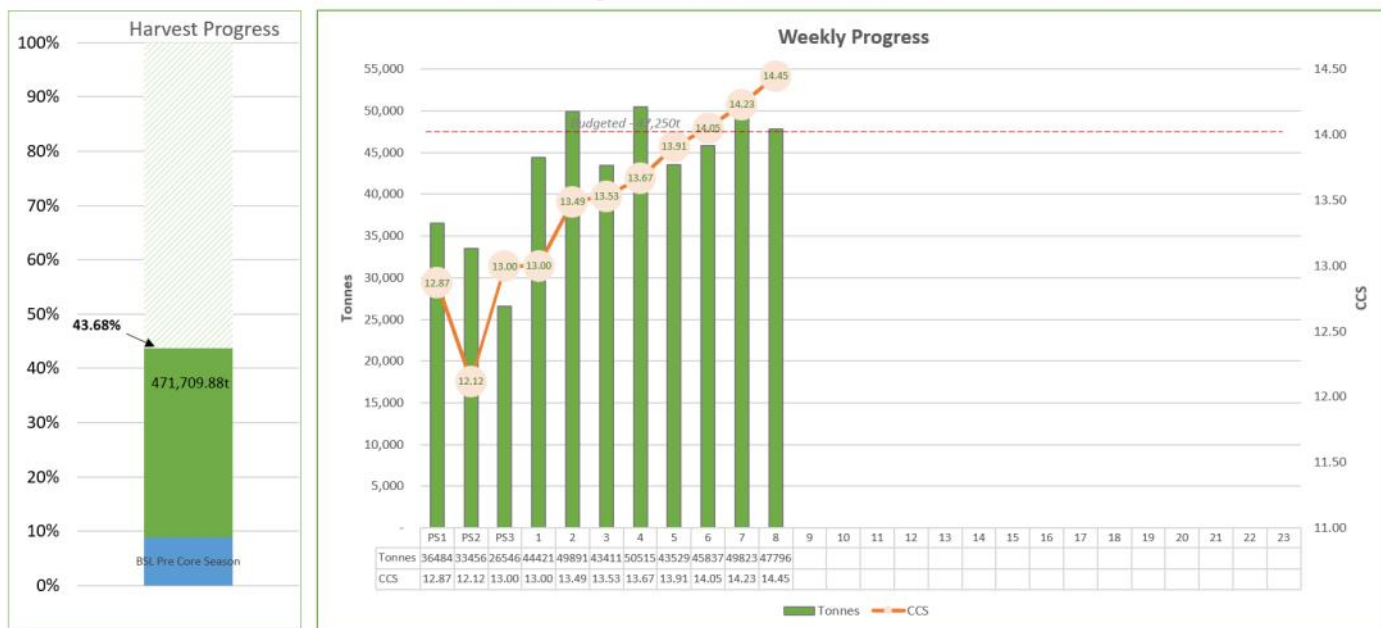
**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman



### Top Five (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. Reviewing latest Unesco report findings and assessing potential impacts to the industry
3. Taking soil tests and assisting growers with N & P Budgets
4. Assisting growers to determine their most suitable electricity tariffs and switch when there are savings identified.
5. End of financial year reporting and preparations for AGM on 12 October 2023

Crushing Statistics – 2023 Season



2023 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 28 July 2023

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		Target Price Advance Rates
	Payment Date	Increase	
Initial		\$495.00	\$495.00
Initial QSL Updated		<b>-\$17.00</b>	<b>\$478.00</b>
20-Oct-23	\$47.00	\$525.00	\$525.00
17-Nov-23	\$18.00	\$543.00	\$543.00
15-Dec-23	\$38.00	\$581.00	\$581.00
19-Jan-24	\$19.00	\$600.00	80.0%
17-Feb-24	\$18.00	\$618.00	82.5%
22-Mar-24	\$38.00	\$656.00	87.5%
19-Apr-24	\$19.00	\$675.00	90.0%
19-May-24	\$18.00	\$693.00	92.5%
21-Jun-24	\$19.00	\$712.00	95.0%
Final	\$38.00	\$750.00	100.0%

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 **\$33.05**.

**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.



**OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES, AND PROMOTE UNITY IN THE INTEREST OF GROWERS**



## 2022 Season Final Pool Prices

The final 'Net IPS Price' for the 2022 Season US Quota Pool under the Export RSSA was set at \$983.96 per tonne IPS after deducting the value of the Shared Pool Element attributed to the US Quota Pool (\$107.46 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 2022 Season, the value of the US Quota premium has been calculated at \$10.53 per Tonne IPS. The IPS Conversion Factor for the 2022 Season Harvest Pool under the Export RSSA is 1.0387.

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	\$614.96	\$608.87
US Quota premium	\$10.53	\$10.53
Shared Pool allocation	\$38.28	\$43.60
<b>Total Net Price</b>	<b>\$663.77</b>	<b>\$663.00</b>

The **Net Price per Tonne IPS Raw Sugar as announced by Queensland Sugar Limited** (for non-committed Raw Sugar) is **\$663.00** The 2022 Season Final Price includes a Loyalty Bonus of \$2.82/t actual (of \$2.72/t IPS). ■

## Cane Fire Conditions Reminder

Growers are reminded that when they are burning cane, trash blankets or other vegetation that they need to follow the conditions of either the permit or the Cane Firing Notice to ensure the safety of themselves and others while reducing the potential for the fire to escape. Some of the conditions that may be found on the permit or in the Notice are the number of people and type of vehicles at the site, smoke hazard signs if smoke is likely to blow across the road and reduce visibility for vehicles on the road and the timing of when the fire can be lit and when it is extinguished.

Recently there has been examples of where cane fires have been lit outside

the permitted burning times which potentially leaves that grower exposed to litigation for any damages that occurs from those fires, especially if they escape. As per any permit there is no burning between 10am and 2pm each day. The Cane Firing Notice and many of the permits to burn for cane fires also have an additional clause that states no burning during the times as stated in the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement (CSPA).

In the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Collective CSPA it states there is to be no burning between 9am and 4pm each day. The reason for this is to minimize the impact of cane fires and smoke on

children in schools and also provides an opportunity for houses to be shut up to minimize the impact of the smoke on the elderly and those with breathing conditions such as asthma.

While growers are looking for low wind scenarios to enable easier control of the fire, growers need to be aware of inversion layers and wind speeds. It is these inversion events that can keep smoke close to the ground and if the wind drops off completely can cause the smoke to descend over residential areas resulting in complaints. **If growers have any questions about burning cane, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.** ■

## Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited Annual General Meeting

The Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited Annual General Meeting will be held on 12 October 2023.

Under the BSSL constitution one (1) Grower Elected Director must retire at each Annual General Meeting.

To be a Grower Elected Director you must be a member of the company or a

representative of a corporate member, at least 18 years old, a grower, and a supplier to the Millaquin Mill.

To be eligible for election as a Grower Elected Director the person or some member intending to nominate the person must give notice in writing signed by the nominee giving consent to the nomination.

To be valid the notice must be received at our registered office by close of business Tuesday, 3 October 2023.

**Anyone interested in nominating is requested to contact Company Secretary Dale Holliss on 4151 2555 for further information and a nomination kit.** ■

## Bin Weights affecting Milling Productivity

There are several harvesting groups supplying low weight bins again this year and there are less reasons in 2023 for this to occur than in 2022. Low bin weights cause several issues across the harvesting and milling process which leads to extra cost to all of the industry. Growers should be talking to their harvesting contractors about their bin weights to ensure they are maximizing the use of their daily allotment.

To provide a simple example on the cost to the industry growers only need to think back to 2022. The average bin weight for the season was 5.7 tonnes per bin which was a good outcome considering how wet it was, yet if those same bins had been filled to an average of 6 tonnes per bin from the northside alone, it would have resulted in an extra 24,000 tonnes of cane harvested for the same effort. If the numbers were similar for the southside it would have resulted

in another 24,000 tonnes or a total of 48,000 tonnes across the total mill area over the season. This was a missed opportunity in a year where there was 75,000 tonnes of standover.

The sums on the northside are easier to work out as there are only so many trips the roll on roll off trucks can make in a day; however it also affects the southside as there are only a limited number of bins available each day. This means there are only so many bins that are available to be shared among harvesting contractors each day and if the bins are short filled, that is tonnes of cane left in the field. If the contractors who short-fill bins regularly get extra bins to bring their daily tonnage up to finish at the same time as other contractors, it means that the contractors who fill their bins get penalized and it leads to a longer season and potentially lower average CCS.

The impact of short-filled bins also affects the crushing rate. If a bin takes 75 seconds to tip at the mill this means that there are 50 bins tipped per hour assuming no multi-lift bins. If the bins are filled to five (5) tonnes, that is 250 tonnes per hour and if they are filled to six (6) tonnes, that is 300 tonnes per hour. To achieve an average of 282 tonnes per hour across the week the mill needs to crush over 320 tonnes per hour to make up for lost time from transport, scheduled stops and maintenance.

Bins still need to be filled to a safe level, especially those that go on the road such as multi-lift or the northside bins, so that cane is not spilt on the road. This can be achieved by providing the harvesting contractor with good high yielding standing cane so the harvester can clean trash off the cane so that a full bin weighs heavy while still providing some freeboard in case the load shifts a little in transport. ■

## Paid family and domestic violence leave for small business

Employees of small business employers (employers with fewer than 15 employees) can now access ten (10) days of paid family and domestic violence leave in a 12-month period.

Employees of all other employers could access this leave from 1 February 2023.

### What you need to know about the leave

- 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave is now available to employees of small business

employers.

- Full-time, part-time and casual employees can take ten (10) days of paid family and domestic violence leave in a 12-month period (it isn't pro-rated for part-time or casual employees).
- All ten (10) days are available upfront – an employee doesn't accrue it.
- It's a separate paid leave entitlement, like paid annual leave or paid sick and carer's leave.

Employers must not include certain information on an employee's pay slip about taking paid family and domestic violence leave.

From there you can access our updated website information and education resources, including an updated small business employer guide and case studies to help small businesses understand the new entitlement in practice.

Learn more at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au). ■

## Tracking Vehicles and Assets

... written by QFF Corporate Partner Telstra

QFF Member Partner Telstra offer a range of GPS tracking and management solutions for vehicles and assets.

### Vehicle Tracking

Telstra have a range of devices that help you track vehicles. These include a Satellite Asset Tracker and a Heavy Asset Tracker using accelerometer and GPS data to intelligently tell if the vehicle is moving and send frequent updates on location status and movement alerts. Telstra also offer a Rugged Heavy Asset Tracker that uses both cellular and GPS

capabilities with a lithium battery that provides motion detection and conserves battery power when the asset is stationary.

### Asset Tracking

Have you got non-powered assets sitting in the yard unsupervised? You can remotely monitor your valuable assets and their operational status from your mobile device using Asset Tracking and receive alerts when the asset leaves its designated use area.



Telstra has certified partners nationwide to ensure that you get the personalised help you need and the optimal solution for your business. Contact your local Telstra Business and Technology Centre or Business and Enterprise Dealer for the best local service or contact Telstra using the webform here <https://bit.ly/456ee7p>.

For more information on vehicle and asset tracking solutions visit <https://bit.ly/3O7neCs>. ■



## Bulk Fertiliser Bag Disposal

Recent enquiries from a member have led to the discovery that the tonne fertiliser bags are no longer being accepted by Impact Recycling Services. The issue appears to be that no-one is purchasing the processed bags and so

the bags that were processed are being stored for future disposal or recycling.

The removal of this service will lead to a poor outcome for growers as it leads to issues with disposing of the bags either

on farm or at council dump. If growers use the dump services provided by council, there will be disposal fees in line with fees for other waste of this type. ■

## ChemClear®

ChemClear® is drumMUSTER's sister program that provides free collection and disposal services for eligible unwanted and/or obsolete agvet chemicals. Queensland collection dates are yet to be finalised, however you will

need to pre-register your unwanted chemical by Thursday, 31 August 2023 at [www.chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical/](http://www.chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical/).

Collections are scheduled based on the

volume of chemical registrations received by region and state across Australia. On average ChemClear undertakes 2-3 state collections and several local regional collections annually. ■

## Feral Pigs

We are hearing reports that damage caused by feral pigs in the district has continued to increase.

Following a couple of wet years there has been a significant increase in the population of feral pigs and therefore 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 your farm is situated.

If you require assistance with feral pigs causing damage to your farms, please contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555. ■

## Changes to Primary Producer Concession Scheme

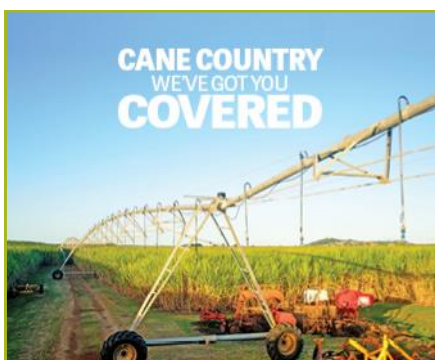
As a result of a recent review of the Primary Producer Concession Scheme (PPCS), Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has made changes to the PPCS to better support primary producers in their businesses and to ensure the sustainability of the scheme into the future. This scheme is focused on prime movers with a GVM of 6t or more and trailers with an Aggregate Trailer Mass over 4.5t and not cane haulage vehicles which also have conditional and concessional

registration.

The changes, starting on **7 July 2023**, will create an improved PPCS by strengthening the application requirements, allowing limited sharing of vehicles between recognised primary producers, and putting in place stronger penalties to ensure only those who are entitled to the concession are accessing the benefits. The reason for this was that some primary producers were using their truck registered under the PPCS as

a commercial entity contract hauling grain to market at reduced rates compared to those commercial operators with full priced registration.

TMR engaged a range of stakeholders over the course of the review from both the agricultural industry and the transport sector more broadly and the result of this engagement is a balanced package of changes. ■



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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
06.07.23	Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme   Irrigation Price Path - Stage 2 Engagement	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss
10.07.23	District Manager's meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
13.07.23	SRA Activity meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
14.07.23	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Dean Cayley Dale Holliss Matthew Leighton
17.07.23	Dilip Nellikat, Bundaberg Regional Council	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
20.07.23	SRA Field Day	To receive update	Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
26 -27.07.23	QCGO Policy Council	To represent members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
02.08.23	District Manager's meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
03.08.23	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Dean Cayley Tanya Howard
10.08.23	SRA Activity meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard

## Bundaberg Project - On budget and on track



Construction of the Common User Infrastructure (CUI) at the Port of Bundaberg is nearing completion with commissioning of the conveyors scheduled to commence in mid August 2023. This project has been undertaken and led by STL in partnership with Gladstone Port Corporation and facilitated through significant investments by both the Federal and State Governments and STL.

Despite significant inflationary pressures, the project remains on budget due to STL's active project management.

This infrastructure when complete will enable STL to handle a variety of bulk mineral and agricultural products at this Terminal, without compromising priority to servicing the sugar industry. STL is currently looking at commissioning the project with a shipment of silica sand in late September / early October 2023.

The photos below show the internal fitout of one of the new Conveyor Galleries (with Richard Hughes, STL's Asset and Engineering Manager undertaking an inspection), and some of

the external structures housing the conveyor system, both of which are now close to complete.

### STL Newsletter

STL has begun issuing a fortnightly newsletter to keep the sugar industry updated about STL's activities while reinforcing their commitment to your assets and the sugar industry.

If you would like to receive the newsletter direct to your inbox you can subscribe by visiting <https://sugarterminals.com.au/subscribe/>.



## 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 email [bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

MF165 H/C 212 Engine 8 Speed original 4225 HRS Remotes ROPs Canopy \$12,500 inc GST.  
2x Two Row 3PL Faun potato planters set up to lay trickle tape while planting \$3,000 + GST each.  
30 RJ Hydrant sealing caps, good condition \$80.00 each  
Two row potato harvester - Grimme D.L 1500 - sorting table - canopy \$40,000 + GST  
Ph: 0427 597 363 or 0408 062 830

### GIVEAWAY

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has 2 desks available for giveaway. If you are interested please contact the office to arrange collection. Desks will be given to the first interested party.



## Warning about Spam/Hoax Messages

Recently there has been an increase in the number and type of spam messages being received and spammers are becoming better at fooling people into believing the messages are legitimate.

Some of the recent hoax/virus messages to be aware of include:

- **Bank SMS Hoax** – the hackers have found a way to use the banks own details for the attacks. This means you will receive a message (normally text message) from the same contact details that you would normally receive messages from the bank. Generally the message will say your account is at risk and provide a contact number to call to secure your accounts. When you call this number (the hacker) they will say they are from the bank and get you to transfer your money into a “safe” account. The calls are very professional and they can provide the details of your accounts to make it all the more realistic.
- **Fake Invoice Hoax** – you will receive an email with an invoice attached. When you open the invoice, it will prompt you to enter your details for your email account

(normally looking like the Microsoft Office365 login) to be able to view the invoice. Once you have entered your details, you have given the hacker your username and password and they will take control of your email account. They will send the same message out to all your contacts and even answer emails (especially if people ask if the invoice is legit). Once they have this control, they will look for other information, accounts and passwords.

As part of the fake invoice attack, they can also hijack your invoices, changing bank details and resending to customers so when the invoices are paid, they are paid to the hacker’s bank account, not your account.

- **“Hi Mum” Family Impersonation Hoax** – you receive a message from a number claiming to be your son or daughter and they have lost their phone or credit card and ask you to transfer them some money. They have found a way to show a name rather than a phone number on the text message, so when you receive the text, it will show as “son” or “daughter” rather than an unknown

number. This is a very common hoax on WhatsApp as well as text messages.

- **Investment Opportunities Hoax** - especially in Crypto currency is another common scam. They are targeting people based on information from the Optus / Medibank hack or using targeted ads on web sites. Many have fake celebrity endorsements to try and enhance their legitimacy.

This is only a small sample of what is happening. If you would like more information on scams, the government has setup a website ScamWatch ([www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)) to report, highlight and educate you about scams. When you visit the website, click on “Types of Scams” in the top menu for a full list of the types of scams, with the latest scams always listed on the home page. The “Get Help” section has information on protecting yourself from scams.

Remember – if you have any doubts, don’t open any attachments or click on any links until you have confirmed over the phone or in person with the sender.



## Position Vacant

Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd (BSSL) is a sugar industry company tasked with enhancing the productivity of sugar cane produced in the Bundaberg District.

We are seeking to fill a vacant position of **Field Officer**.

### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

Assist Cane Protection Officer with:

- Activities associated with the production and distribution of cane plant material from BSSL Mother Plot
- Pest and disease management programs aimed at limiting impact of pest and/or disease on sugarcane production in the Bundaberg district.
- Irrigation related activities associated with improving the productivity, economic viability, and environmental sustainability of BSSL members farming operations.
- Support for the maintenance of ongoing BSSL extension activities and for special programs as determined by the BSSL Board from time to time.

The position is ideally suited for a practical hands-on person with an understanding of sugarcane production systems. A current driver's license is essential and a current first aid certificate is desirable.

Tertiary qualifications are not required and there is opportunity for advancement.

Based in Bundaberg, you will report to the Company Secretary.

If you are interested, please contact the Company Secretary via [sugar\\_services@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:sugar_services@bdbcanegrowers.com.au) for more information.

To apply please send a current CV detailing experience and attributes to [sugar\\_services@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:sugar_services@bdbcanegrowers.com.au), or PO Box 953 Bundaberg by close of business 25 August 2023.

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



If undeliverable return to:



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