

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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2 Dry, dry and drier! What an unusual harvesting season we have had with so little time lost to wet weather.

3 The finish date is looking like 7 November 2023 if all goes to plan, the earlier finish can be mostly contributed to the extended dry with estimates diminishing daily. On the positive side of this, how good has the CCS been, with the highest test being 19.3 for Q208^{ph} plant cane.

4 With the extreme dry and windy weather, local fire bans have been put in place and (at the time of writing, 31 October 2023) standing cane only can be burnt between the hours of 6:00am and 5:00pm the following day. For those operating under a permit to burn those growers will need to apply for a new permit from the chief fire warden under the conditions of the fire ban. With the sugar industry having an exemption around times, we need to be vigilant with this as the fire danger is so extreme.

7-10 The Bundaberg CANEGROWERS board met with the new Bundaberg Sugar Cane Supply Manager, Mr Michael Green, who will be taking over the role from Matthew Curtis. We wish Matt well in his new role with BWL and look forward to working with Michael into the future.

12-13 QSL Grower Representative, Glenn Harris is in the process of contacting growers that have been actively marketing to undertake some one-on-one QSL Direct training. If you would like to participate, please contact Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.

14 The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has been tasked with conducting a review of irrigation costs to inform the Sunwater prices for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2029, with Sunwater in the final stages of

preparing their proposal to submit to the QCA in November.

Sunwater will be hosting a round of open customer meetings to share their final proposal, if you are available on Thursday, 16 November 2023 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, I encourage you to attend the meeting at The Club Hotel, Bourbong Street, Bundaberg.

Finally, by the time you receive this newsletter, the crushing should be finished and hopefully, we'll see some rain in the near future to give next year's crop a kick start.

Mark Pressler
Chairman



Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. Reviewing local fire restrictions and ensuring compliance;
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. End of season preparations and ensuring equity between harvesting groups;
5. Keeping up to date with the fire permits and conditions to burn.



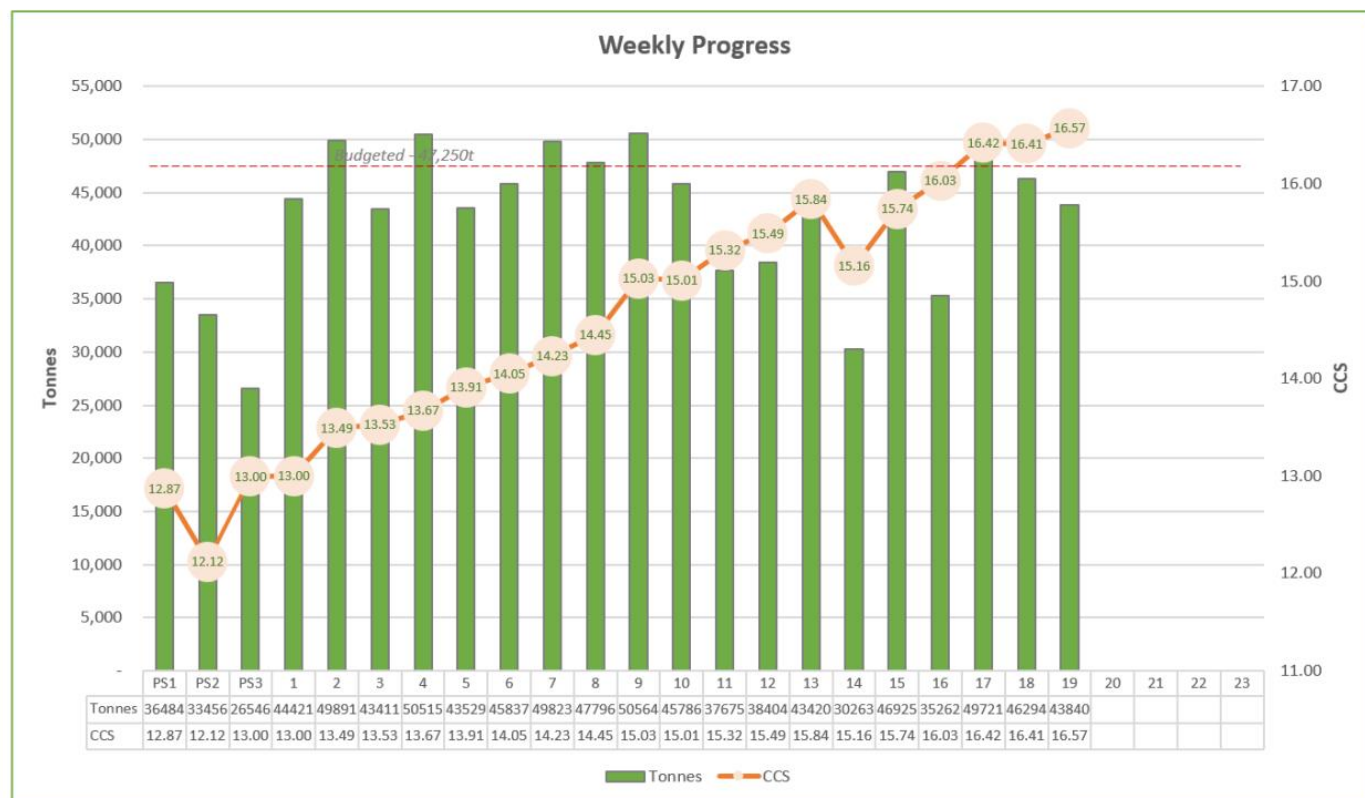
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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Crushing Statistics – 2023 Season



2023 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 29 September 2023

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		Target Price Advance Rates
Payment Date	Increase	To	
Initial		\$495.00	\$495.00
Initial QSL Updated	-\$17.00	\$478.00	\$478.00
20-Oct-23	\$83.00	\$561.00	70% or \$561.00
17-Nov-23	\$21.00	\$582.00	72.5%
15-Dec-23	\$40.00	\$622.00	77.5%
19-Jan-24	\$20.00	\$642.00	80.0%
17-Feb-24	\$20.00	\$662.00	82.5%
22-Mar-24	\$40.00	\$702.00	87.5%
19-Apr-24	\$20.00	\$722.00	90.0%
17-May-24	\$20.00	\$742.00	92.5%
21-Jun-24	\$20.00	\$762.00	95.0%
Final	\$40.00	\$802.00	100.0%

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 **\$39.48**.

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.



Workplace Health and Safety Update

Recently Matt Leighton attended a member's property during a Workplace Health and Safety inspection. While the majority of the inspection went well, there were a few areas of concerns for the grower and most of these would also impact the majority of growers.

Chemical Safety Data Sheets and Hazardous Chemical Register – These are two (2) separate requirements and are not set and forget activities.

The Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals in the chemical storage area are a document that has an expiry date of five (5) years from when they were last reviewed. This means that every six (6) months or so there will be a number of SDS that will have expired and a new version printed from the website or received from the chemical reseller.

The Hazardous Chemical Register is a must have, as failure to provide this register results in an automatic \$3,600 fine. It is the document that assists with reviewing the expiry dates of the SDS

as well as the volume of chemicals likely to be stored.

Shower and Eye Wash Facilities need to be placed near the chemical mixing area so that a person who accidentally gets chemical on them can quickly access the facilities to remove the chemical from the affected area. It was interesting that a hose was not deemed good enough and a proper shower and eye wash facility is required.

Gas Bottles for Welding need to be stored and restrained so that they are not able to fall over. Most modern welders have chains attached to the frame to keep the bottles upright. It is the storage of spare bottles which generally causes the biggest issue and they must be stored in an upright manner and restrained so that they will not fall over.

Fire Extinguishers, not only are fire extinguishers required, they must also be checked according to the manufacturer's recommendations. That often means either every six (6) or

twelve (12) months the extinguishers need to be checked by a licensed inspector.

Chains and Slings should be inspected before every use for any damage to the sling or chain. If evidence of damage is found, they should be removed from use. They should also be formally tested and tagged in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements. The manufacturer's requirement also vary but are usually every six (6) to twelve (12) months.

Diesel Storage Tanks that have a capacity greater than 10,000L are required to have the approved Combustible Liquid sign placed on them. For all tanks that are elevated there needs to be restrictions (either remove ladder or place a restricted flap across the ladder) so that people are not able to climb to the top of the tank without approval. Also, elevated tanks need to have bollards around the tank and hoses so that machinery is not able to accidentally hit the tank and cause a spill. ■

Grower Beware!

As growers begin to think about weed control, especially in the plant cane, it is timely to remind everyone to check the active ingredients of the products, the label and the plant back periods for other crops.

With a large number of generic products on the market it is important that growers check the active ingredients to make sure they are applying the correct chemical. Growers should also check the concentration of the active ingredient as this helps determine the rate applied and therefore the cost per hectare for weed control.

The label is the legal document of the chemical and provides important information including the rate that should be applied, any other products or wetter that should be used, any weather or paddock conditions to avoid as well as the droplet size to target the pest as well as avoiding drift.

Also on the label is the plantback period. This is the period from when the chemical is applied to when a sensitive crop can be planted, however occasionally, such as for 2, 4-D, the period may start after 15mm of rain or irrigation. Many of the crops grown in

the fallow are sensitive to residues from cane herbicides and management of the products applied so that they are not applied late in the ratoons, is usually good practice.

If any grower has questions about the chemicals they are using or the information in this article, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035. ■

New Formulation of 2,4-D

There is a new formulation of 500 g/ai 2,4-D amine on the market called Dropzone.

This product states that it provides more of the chemical in the correct droplet size such that it minimizes drift as well as ensuring more of the droplets hit the target.

The benefit of this product is that this means the buffer zones are reduced for those near sensitive crops or waterways when compared to the 625 Amine products or Amicide Advance 700. It is also a low odour product which is good for those whose farms are close to town or neighbours.

To find out more information about Dropzone, growers should contact their chemical retailer or Matt Leighton at the office on 4151 2555 or on 0437 084 035. ■



CANEGROWERS

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19 October 2023

Hon Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources
PO Box 15216
CITY EAST QLD 4002
By email: resources@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I refer to the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn the Qld government decision to block coal mine application MDL3040 proposed for prime agricultural land in the Bundaberg region.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is opposed to any mining activity on farmland and is concerned that the proposed coal mine will threaten prime agricultural land and vital water supplies. The Bundaberg Region relies on agriculture for its economic strength and any threat to our irrigation supplies is not acceptable.

Agriculture plays such a critical role in our economy and as a region we need to ensure its continued success. It's not just about what we have now, it's the future opportunities that could be lost to the region due to a lack of water security, water quality and the loss of prime agricultural land. Few regions in Australia have a competitive edge like we do to generate agricultural produce, we should not let this edge go by allowing mining in the region on prime agricultural land and within an area critical to our groundwater system.

The proposed mine also goes against the draft Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan as it falls within the draft Priority Agricultural Area, land that has been identified as prime agricultural land, required to ensure the Bundaberg ag sector remains viable and continues to feed the nation. This area encompasses one of Australia's largest strawberry farms, a vast amount of Macadamia orchards as well as sugar cane farms and various other crops. Exploration and mining activities in this area threaten the viability of these farms as well as have the potential to interfere with the underground aquifer system, it poses a threat to water security and water quality of a vital irrigation resource for local farmers.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd has a proud history of representing sugar cane growers for more than 100 years and Bundaberg region farmers are committed to our community, are a major provider of jobs and integral supporters of the economy as well as provide food security for all Australians. We will appreciate your support in this important matter.

Yours faithfully

Mark Pressler
Chairman

CC: Mr Stephen Bennet MP, Member for Burnett
Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
Mr Bryson Head MP, Member for Callide
Hon Keith Pitt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler
Mr Colin Boyce MP, Federal Member for Flynn

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, Barga 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 midday Friday 22 December 2023 to sunrise Tuesday 2 January 2024.

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 previous) 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. ■



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 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. ■

Announced Allocation Advice Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme – Burnett River Subscheme



Announced allocations have been reviewed under the rules defined by the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual and will be applicable until revised and communicated by Sunwater.

High priority 100 %,
Medium priority 98 % (previously 95 %)

Effective Date: 1 October 2023.

The current water storage levels can be viewed via: <http://bit.ly/swstoragelevels>.

To check your estimated available water balance login to Sunwater Online via: <https://bit.ly/SunwaterOnline>.

To register for online access, please contact Sunwater Customer Support on 13 15 89.

Should you have any enquiries regarding this advice please contact Sunwater Customer Support on 13 15 89 or live chat via www.sunwater.com.au, Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. ■

Electricity Bill Relief for Small Businesses

Around 205,000 Queensland small businesses that consume less than 100,000 kilowatt hours per annum will receive a \$650 rebate on their electricity bill in 2023–24, to be funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments under the Energy Bill Relief Fund.

For most small businesses, the bill

relief will be credited to electricity bills on a quarterly basis (\$162.50 per quarter) commencing from 1 July 2023. Exact timing will depend on retailers' system requirements and individual billing cycles.

The rebate will be applied on a per customer basis. Small business customers that have multiple sites will

receive one \$650 rebate (rather than on a site by site basis), provided total consumption across all sites is less than 100MWh per annum.

If you do not receive the rebate on your next electricity bill and would like Bundaberg CANEGROWERS to follow it up on your behalf, please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■

50% Small Business Rebate to Encourage Energy Efficiency

The Business Energy Saving and Transformation Rebate Scheme will support small to medium businesses to reduce their energy consumption and lower their energy bill by providing financial assistance for the purchase and installation of energy efficient equipment and/or energy efficient appliances such as increased efficiency pump motors and variable speed drives.

A 50% rebate is available for eligible businesses to claim up to \$12,500 cash back and must spend a minimum of \$8000 (GST exclusive) to receive the minimum rebate of \$4000.

Applications will be processed in order of lodgment date, with each round closing once allocated funding has been exhausted with further rounds expected in February and August 2024.

Applications must be made via QRIDA's online application portal (<https://applyonline.qrida.qld.gov.au/login>)

For more information please visit <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/energy-business/energy-efficiency-rebate> or contact the office for assistance on 4151 2555. ■

New Electricity & Appliance Savings are on the Table

The Queensland Government is currently offering eligible Queensland householders, savings and rebates to help manage their energy use and bills, and reduce their carbon emissions.

- **\$700 Cost of Living Rebate** on electricity bills for eligible vulnerable households, plus a further \$372 for those receiving the Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total rebates for Queenslanders doing it toughest to \$1,072;

- **\$550 Cost of Living Rebate** on electricity bills for all other Queensland households is automatically being credited to your electricity bill on a quarterly basis and will appear as a \$137.50 credit on your electricity bill.

Also available is the **Climate Smart Energy Savers Program** which provides rebates of up to \$1,000 to Queensland householders who purchase eligible 4-star or higher energy efficient appliances. Applications are open now

and are on a first-in, first-served basis and available until funding runs out.

To find out more information on what rebates and concessions are available, or to check your eligibility, contact Queensland Savers on 13 74 68 or visit www.queenslandsavers.qld.gov.au, or alternatively visit the Ergon Energy website www.ergon.com.au or call 13 10 46 to speak to an agent. ■

How to Read your Electricity Smart Meter

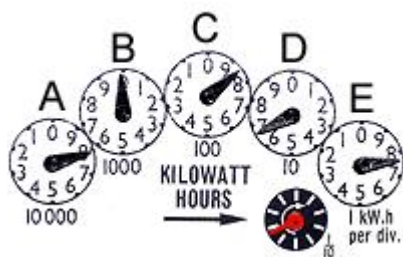
There are several different types of electricity meters. The following information shows you how to read them.

If you are unable to find your meter, please contact your electricity retailer for assistance.

Clock Face (Pointer) Meters

This meter has up to six (6) clock faces. There is one hand on each clock face. The clock faces have numbers 0 to 9 and alternate between rotating clockwise and anti-clockwise. Start reading from the left hand dial (A) and read each dial in succession to the right. When a dial hand points between two numbers, write down the lower of the two numbers. If it points between 0 and 1 write down 0 and if it points between 9 and 0 write down 9.

When a dial hand appears to be exactly on a number, as with dial (A), look at the next dial to the right to see if it has passed zero. If the next dial has not passed zero, as with dial (B), then the reading for the first dial is the lower number. In this example the reading for dial (A) is 7.

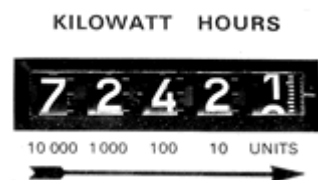


In this example the reading is 7 - 9 - 8 - 6 - 7.

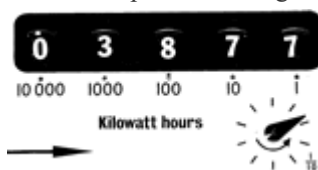
Digits (Cyclometer) Display Meters - Single Rate

This meter gives a direct readout of the total amount of electricity used. Read the numbers in the same sequence as shown on the meter.

In this example the reading is 7 - 2 - 4 - 2 - 1



In this example the reading is: 0 - 3 - 8 - 7 - 7



Digits (Cyclometer) Display Meters - Dual Rate

These meters are similar to the Single Rate Digits (Cyclometer) Display Meters but with a dual display. Firstly, record the reading for the top display, followed by the reading for the bottom display.

In this example, the meter shows two displays - H (High/Peak) and L (Low/Off Peak). Note some meters may have the H and L displays reversed.



The reading for this example is:

H - 0 - 0 - 3 - 1 - 2

L - 0 - 0 - 2 - 9 - 5

Electronic Digital Display Meters

This meter automatically cycles through the various meter readings. It is not necessary to press any buttons to read this meter, simply wait and watch as the various meter readings appear.

If a reading is missed simply wait and it will be displayed again. Enter all readings in the boxes provided.

This meter will also display readings for 'test', 'date', 'time' and 'program ID'. Enter all of these readings in the boxes provided as well.

If 'error codes E and F' appear then there is a problem with the meter. Please report these codes on the meter reading sheet.

In this example the reading is 0 - 0 - 4 - 7 - 6 - 3



Solar meters (inverter energy system meters)

If you have a solar meter, the meter model type is displayed on the front panel label on the front of the meter. The digital display has two sections, the Display ID (or code) and the Display Data (or the actual reading).

There's no need to push any buttons on the meter to obtain the reading. A test screen will initially display as a series of 8s. This will ensure the digital display is working correctly.

The data displayed on your meter depends on your electricity supply. For example, do you have separate hot water metering, or is your supply single or multiphase?

Generated solar energy will be used by appliances and any excess generation will be recorded on the display ID.

There are a number of different solar meter types. The following information shows you how to read them.

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(Continued from page 7)

EM1000 and EM1000E Meter – Meter used for Single Tariff Installations (Tariff 11 or 20)

Display data	Display ID	Explanation of reading
Display Test Screen	A B C D	The test displays first as a series of 8s
Total Import kWh (from electricity distributor)	(Blank)	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network
Total Export kWh (excess to electricity distributor)	-	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to the electricity network (occurs when appliance usage is less than energy generated by the solar panels)

EM1210 Meter – Meter used for Two Tariff Installations (Tariff 11, 33 or 31)

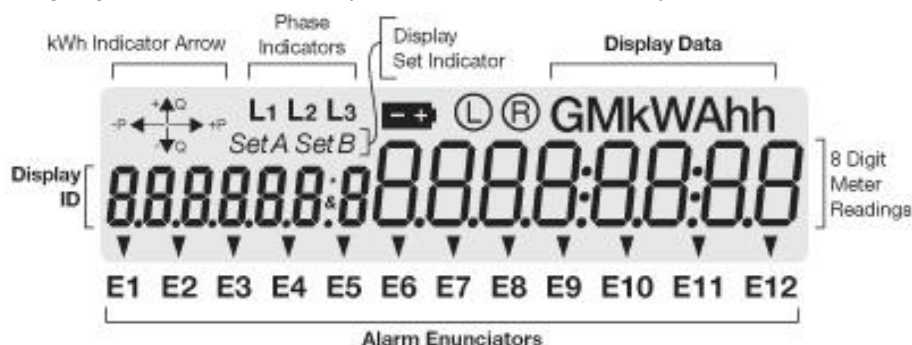
Display data	Display ID	Explanation of reading
Display Test Screen	88	This test displays first as a series of 8s
Date	02	Current date
Time	03	Current time
Rate A kWh Element 1 (Peak) <i>*Only applicable if primary tariff is time of use, eg T62 or T22</i>	04 *	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 7am- 9pm Monday-Friday - High Rate
Rate C kWh Element 1 (Off Peak) <i>*Only applicable if primary tariff is time of use, eg T62 or T22</i>	05 *	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 9pm- 7am Monday-Friday and all weekend - Low Rate
Total Import kWh Element 1 (from electricity distributor)	06	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network on primary tariff (eg Tariff 11)Sum of 04 & 05 if applicable
Total Export kWh Element 1 & Element 2 (excess to electricity distributor)	07	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to the electricity network (occurs when appliance usage is less than energy generated by the solar panels)
Total Import kWh Element 2 (from electricity distributor)	09	Energy (kWh) used on secondary tariff (ie Tariff 31 or 33)
Program ID	10	Meter program number - electricity distributor use only

NOTE: New EM1200 meters manufactured from 2012 will not have the Test Display or the Date and Time displays.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

MK 10 Meter – Multipurpose Installations (Tariff 11, 20, 22 or 62)



Display data	Display ID	Explanation of reading
Display Test Screen	888	The test display first as a series of 8s
Date	001	Current date
Time	002	Current time
Total kWh (from electricity distributor)	003	Total energy (kWh) used from the electricity network. Equals sum of 004, 005 and 006
Rate A kWh (from electricity distributor)	004	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 7am- 9pm Monday-Friday
Rate B kWh (from electricity distributor)	005	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 9pm- 11pm Monday-Friday
Rate C kWh (from electricity distributor)	006	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network at all other times
Previous Maximum kW	011	Previous demand - electricity distributor use only
Current Cumulative kW	012	Current demand - billing use for demand trials
Current Maximum kW	013	Highest maximum demand recorded since last reset - electricity distributor use only
Demand Reset Count	040	Number of times demand reset- electricity distributor use only
Program ID	042	Meter program number - electricity distributor use only
Alarm	057	Displays alarm code - electricity distributor use only
Total kWh Export (excess to electricity distributor)	114	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to electricity network (occurs when appliance usage is less than energy generated by the solar panels)

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Q4 Meter – Multipurpose Installations (Tariff 11, 20, 22 or 62)



Display data	Display ID	Explanation for reading
Display Test Screen	888	The test displays first as a series of 8s
Date	001	Current date
Time	002	Current time
Total kWh (from electricity distributor)	003	Total energy (kWh) used from the electricity network. Equals sum of 004, 005 and 006
Rate A kWh (from electricity distributor)	004	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 7am- 9pm Monday-Friday
Rate B kWh (from electricity distributor)	005	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network between 9pm- 11pm Monday-Friday
Rate C kWh (from electricity distributor)	006	Energy (kWh) used from the electricity network at all other times
Previous Cumulative kW	011	Previous demand - electricity distributor use only
Current Cumulative kW	012	Current demand - billing use for demand trials
Current Maximum kW	013	Highest maximum demand recorded since last reset - electricity distributor use only
Demand Reset Count	040	Number of times demand reset- electricity distributor use only
Program ID	042	Meter program number - electricity distributor use only
Total kWh Export (excess to electricity distributor)	114	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to electricity network. Equals sum of 115, 116 and 117
Rate A kWh Export (excess to electricity distributor)	115*	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to the electricity network between 7am- 9pm Monday-Friday
Rate B kWh Export (excess to electricity distributor)	116*	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to the electricity network between 9pm- 11pm Monday-Friday
Rate C kWh Export (excess to electricity distributor)	117*	Excess energy (kWh) sent back to the electricity network at all other times

*Displays 115 - 117 have been discontinued in IES meters manufactured from September 2009.

END

Heat Stress

With the recent warmer weather, growers need to be aware of heat stress for themselves, any workers and family members who work on the farm.

Heat stress occurs when heat is absorbed by the body faster than it can remove it. Several factors can contribute to heat stress, such as the type of work, the surrounding air temperature / humidity level and the physical condition of the individual.

Factors that may contribute to heat stress are:

- Personal factors such as inadequate rest periods, insufficient water consumption, inappropriate clothing, medical conditions, climatic conditions, age and fitness.
- Environmental factors such as high air temperatures, radiant heat from hot objects including the ground, higher relative humidity levels and low air movement.

Ways of preventing heat stress in the work place include:

- wearing appropriate clothing;
- drinking at least one (1) litre of water per hour;
- taking breaks in the shade;
- ensuring food consumption; and
- avoiding alcohol and caffeine.

These when combined with engineering controls like the creation of shaded area, using machinery where appropriate and reducing radiant heat by insulation can all help to reduce heat stress.

Several types of heat related illnesses include:

Heat Cramps - are painful muscle cramps that may also be part of other heat related illnesses.

Prickly Heat - is a blockage of the sweat ducts from prolonged wetting of the skin;

Heat Fainting - occurs when blood vessels dilate to increase heat transfer away from the body and reduces the flow to the brain;

Heat Exhaustion - is a serious condition with affected person's complaining of weakness, nausea and or giddiness and usually looks pale and be breathless;

Heat Stroke - is a medical emergency due to raised core body temperature. They are usually confused and may stagger or collapse.

Steps to Maintain Hydration

During prolonged work in the heat, our body can sweat up to one (1) litre an hour. Unless this fluid is replaced by drinking, progressive dehydration will result.

Thirst may not trigger drinking until fluid that is equal to one (1) or two (2) percent of body weight has been lost - at which level, workers are at an increased risk of developing heat related illness. Food must be consumed at meal breaks in order to replace electrolytes and maintain energy.

Ways to maintain adequate hydration are:

- Start work in a well hydrated state and maintain this with regular drinking to keep pace with sweat losses. To improve hydration a

conscious effort needs to be made to drink fluids at a faster rate than they are being lost through sweating and other means.

- Workers exposed to heat stress need to drink between 600 millilitres and one litre of water per hour in summer.
- Manual task workers: approximately one litre per hour of plain cool water (supplemented by frequent meal breaks) and machinery operators 600 millilitres per hour of water.
- Drink 150 – 250 millilitres of cool fluids every 15 minutes, rather than consume a single one litre drink every now and again.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks.
- Increase intake of fluids if urine is dark (the normal colour should be pale yellow).
- If dehydrated, do not recommence work until fully rehydrated.

To determine how hot it is and what should be done to manage heat, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland have created a basic questionnaire that can help determine what is required based on weather conditions, where the work is occurring and the knowledge level of the worker. The questionnaire, *Heat Stress (Basic) Calculator* can be found on the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland website and takes less than two (2) minutes to complete.

For more information regarding heat stress, or to complete the above-mentioned questionnaire, visit the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call 1300 369 915. ■





SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

2023 One-eye Sett Distribution Update

The 2023 one-eye sett approved seed cane program ran smoothly with the number of seedlings ordered up on past years.

During 2023 season we propagated and delivered a total of **95,840 seedlings** or **2,995 trays**. This equates to approximately **9.6 ha** (@10,000 seedlings/ha) depending on row spacing of approved seed cane planted across the district. The newer varieties SRA11^Φ, SRA19^Φ, SRA20^Φ, SRA29^Φ, SRA34^Φ, SRA38^Φ, SRA39^Φ, SRAW33^Φ made up around 50% of the seedlings ordered by growers. Of those newer varieties ordered SRA29^Φ and SRA34^Φ were the most sort after varieties.

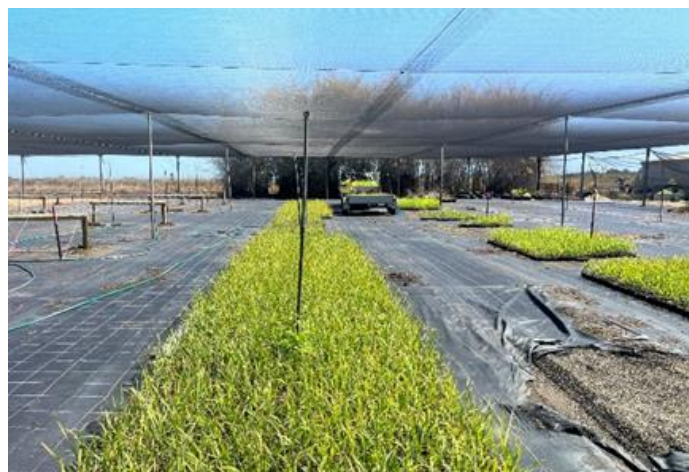
In the older varieties, Q240^Φ was the most popular variety ordered followed by Q208^Φ, KQ228^Φ.



New Greenhouse Facility

Due to the increase in one-eye sett orders over the past seasons, the current nursery facility leased at Stitts Road did not have the area/capacity required to produce the high number of seedlings being ordered.

With this in mind, during the 2023 season Bundaberg Sugar Services looked for suitable premises to lease and were able to identify a greenhouse/hothouse capable of meeting the growing demand and secure it on a long term lease basis that will enable the current growth in one-eye sett orders.



This new facility has the capacity to hold approximately 120,000 seedlings when fully setup.

BSSL Seedling Planter

Several growers are taking advantage of using the BSSL seedling planter to plant their seedlings. The planter will be delivered to your farm and picked up when you are finished planting seedlings. The only requirement is that you wash it down after use. The planter is also available to growers to copy if they intend building one of their own.

Management Strategies

- Soil should be prepared to a fine tilth to ensure good root/soil contact;
- Irrigate immediately after planting (flood, winch, trickle, spray line) and monitor to not dry out;
- Mechanical cultivation (eg. Cotton king or chip by hand);

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

- Chemical (apply a pre-emergent) after first irrigation to moist soil before next irrigation
 - Dual Gold @ 1.1 - 1.45L/ha plus Atradox @ 2.5kg/ha for grasses and broadleaf weeds. **Read label.**
 - Semptra @100g/ha plus Activator @ 120mL/100L nutgrass control. **Read label**
- Both can be sprayed over the top of seedlings.

Do Not's

- Do not plant seedlings into a plough out/replant block ;
- Do not use diuron, young plants are sensitive to it;
- Do not use paraquat unless there is no other option and only on established plants as a directed spray;
- Do not use any 2, 4- D formulations as they can have an effect on quality of the planting material.

Order Form for Autumn 2024 One-eye Setts

This order form will be mailed out to growers in early December 2023. Closing date for orders is 20 January 2024.

Slow/Poor Ratooning Blocks

Some harvested ratoons this season have been slow ratooning away which could be attributed to the dry weather and needing irrigation or a possible pest problem (eg. Soldier fly, cane grubs, Pink ground pearls etc.) attacking the root system.

Recent inspections of some weak/poor ratooning in some blocks have identified pink earthpearl as the pest causing damage.

In the background of the photo is a patch showing poor ratooning from pink earthpearl and foreground part of block taken out from severe pink earthpearl damage.

Growers are urged to contact their Sugar Services field officer for an inspection of any blocks showing poor/weak ratooning on their farms to determine the cause and control measures available to rectify the problem. ■



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.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE
28/09/2023	Sean Warren, Waterfind	To represent members and irrigators	Tanya Howard
03/10/2023	Bundaberg Burnett Agrifood & Fibre Sustainability Summit	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
05/10/2023	Soybean Masterclass	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
06/10/2023	QCGO Farm Input & Research Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
10/10/2023	District Manager Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
10/10/2023	Soy Australia AGM	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
11/10/2023	Energy Queensland Ltd Customer & Community Council	To represent members and irrigators	Dale Holliss
11/10/2023	PowerLink	To represent members and irrigators	Dale Holliss
16/10/2023	Regional Business HQ Board	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17/10/2023	QCGO Environment Committee	To represent members	Mark Pressler
19/10/2023	Sugar Terminals Ltd Update	To represent members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard Dean Cayley
19/10/2023	SRA Southern District Activity Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
24-25/10/2023	Bundaberg Bioeconomy Conference	To receive update	Tanya Howard
26-27/10/2023	QSL Grower Rep Meeting	To represent members	Anna Attard
30/10/2023	Sugar Industry Award Training	To receive updates	Tanya Howard Kate Odgaard

QSL Update – Bundaberg

Current as of 1 November 2023

Harvest Pool Opt Out

With the crush drawing to a close and sugar prices continuing to climb higher, growers keen to maximise the amount of sugar they can price themselves may wish to consider using QSL's Harvest Pool Opt Out.

This option is now available to Bundaberg growers from 1 May each season until 20 April the following year, or until their Harvest Pool tonnage has been fully priced.

It effectively transfers any of your Harvest Pool allocation that has not already been priced by QSL to the Self-Managed Harvest Contract so that you can price it yourself.

To get an idea of how much you have available to price yourself, just click the Harvest Pool Opt Out button in your

QSL Direct account. This will then show the current value of your priced Harvest Pool tonnage, how much remains unpriced, and the ICE 11 contracts you'll need to price it against if you decide to opt out and start pricing it yourself.

It is important to note that you cannot price any of your Harvest Pool tonnage that has already been priced by QSL and should you choose to opt out, any unpriced tonnes will then become your responsibility to price.

If you're interested in this option, please contact QSL Grower Relationship Officer Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.

Make your vote count

The owner of Bundaberg's bulk sugar terminal – Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) – will hold its 2023 Annual

General Meeting (AGM) in Brisbane at 2pm on Wednesday 22 November.

Since its last AGM, STL has started down a course of significant change, announcing in January this year that it will insource operations at its terminals across the state and become an unregulated monopoly asset owner/operator.

QSL strongly urges our fellow STL G-Class shareholders in Bundaberg to ensure that you have received your green STL AGM documentation and make your vote count this year, either by voting in person or assigning your AGM proxy to a representative who will be a strong voice on your behalf.

To assign your proxy to QSL for this meeting, please contact Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349. ■



Dear grower,

I recently nominated for the available G-Class Director role to be decided at STL's AGM on 22 November 2023.

I was driven to do so based on my concerns regarding the growing divide between STL's plans for our industry's bulk sugar terminal assets, and what's best for the industry itself.

For those I haven't met, I'm a qualified chartered accountant who founded Australian Cane Farms (ACF) nearly 20 years ago and am currently its CEO and Managing Director. ACF owns and operates roughly 4,500 hectares of sugar cane farms in the Burdekin.

Prior to starting ACF, I worked for the multi-billion-dollar private investment bank NM Rothschild, where I was a director for many years, including head of the structured finance and agribusiness units. Along with my role as Managing Director of ACF, I am currently one of two Independent Directors of Benedict Industries – one of the largest integrated recycling businesses in Australia. I've also previously served on the board of QSL and have advised a number of ASX-listed boards in my role at Rothschild.

But the sugar industry is my passion. Unlike many of my fellow growers, I was not born into the cane industry – it was something that I actively sought out, based on my very strong belief that the Queensland sugar industry has a fantastic future. Like many others, I was a vocal opponent of some millers' efforts to derail that future through their fight against Marketing Choice. And now today, I am among those who have concerns regarding the changes to industry dynamics underway due to STL's plans to insource terminal operations.

Queensland's sugar terminals have been the showpiece of our industry for decades and are absolutely integral to its continued success. They were bought and paid for by growers and millers, and entrusted to STL on the basis that growers and millers would continue to have a say in them via a shareholding that reflected that investment, and industry oversight of their operation.

STL's recent behaviour has not been that of an organisation focused on listening to and working for the sugar industry. The STL Board's decision, made with neither industry consultation nor transparency, to fundamentally change the existing arrangements is fraught with risks and does not meet the duty I consider that STL's directors owe to their stakeholders.

While I don't necessarily think change is negative, I believe that cane growers need to understand exactly why the change is needed, what benefits it brings, and that the detailed business case for that change should be a public document. As an unregulated monopoly, STL has no

competition concerns and so there can be no need to treat this with secrecy.

However, and perhaps more importantly, I believe the intended change to terminal operations is symptomatic of a deeper misalignment within our industry and it is clear that there are a number of issues that need addressing inside STL alongside the decision on the terminal operations. Over the last few months, it has become apparent to me that these concerns are shared by many, many, cane growers and STL G-Class shareholders.

In the most basic sense, the listed shareholding structure of STL has created a landscape that the founders did not imagine. Today, the mills own about 20% of the G-Class shares and nearly 50% of all STL shares. Plus, by some estimates, 20% of G-Class shares are prohibited from voting (and yet are not being forced to sell to a grower who can vote, as required by the constitution). Combined, this means that active cane growers now hold less than 40% of STL votes compared to approximately 64% at inception.

These factors, in my view, show STL has begun to stray from its foundational purpose and we need to recognise this and work together collaboratively as an industry to reform the current structure before significant change is imposed upon us.

Queensland's sugar cane farmers – who have the economic interest in two-thirds of the sugar passing through the terminals but who have become minority shareholders in STL – deserve robust representation on the STL Board.

I believe this representation requires treating shareholders with respect and dignity, explaining the merits of the case, and being prepared to listen and adapt. If I am elected as a G-Class Director, I'll be focused on seeking this information and transparency, so that cane growers can make up their own minds and be confident that decisions made in their name are in their best interests.

While I know that this election and a single G-class director is not in itself the solution to growers' concerns, I do believe it is a stepping stone to where many in the industry believe that STL needs to get to. I would be honoured if you would consider giving me your vote so that we can start to make that change.

Sincerely,


Steve Kirby



Who can better represent YOU at the STL Board Table ?

3RD GENERATION CANE FARMER FROM NORTH QLD

OR Corporate Executive from Pitt St, Sydney ?



STEPHEN CALCAGNO

Occupation: Cane Farmer
Background: 3rd Generation Cane Farmer
Lives: Babinda, Far North Queensland
Office: 400 hectares at the foothills of Mt Bellenden Ker, Qld + farms
 another 165 hectares with son Luke, also a Grower

Other Relevant Information:

- G Class Director of STL (Current) – 3 years
- Board Director of Qld Canegrowers Organisation (Current) – 4 years
- Chairman of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region (Current) – 7 years
- QCGO Policy Council member (Current) – 4 years
- 20+ years of Industry Representation for ALL GROWERS on various industry boards
- Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors



STEPHEN's OFFICE IN FNQ



STEVE KIRBY ??

Managing Director & CEO of Australian Cane Farms (ACF) Ltd
Formerly: 16 year Investment Banker with NM Rothschild Australia
Lives: Sydney NSW
Office: Level 23 / 56 Pitt St Sydney

- Former Director of QSL
- QSL invested \$20M in ACF in December 2021
- GREG BEASHEL is an ACF Director



Steve's Office 56 Pitt St Sydney

GAVE YOUR PROXY TO QSL? IT CAN BE EASILY RESCINDED

TO SUPPORT S CALCAGNO – COMPLETE GREEN AGM VOTING FORM

Approved & Funded by Stephen Calcagno

SRA Researcher in Residence Program

Growers are invited to participate in the SRA Researcher in Residence Program featuring Dr Seona Casonato, Lead Field Pathologist at Sugar Research Australia.

The Program, which will run from Thursday, 30 November to Friday morning, 1 December 2023, is an opportunity for growers to tap into the wealth of knowledge that Dr Casonato brings to the field of plant pathology and to gather insights into enhancing crop management practices.

Dr Casonato is a highly esteemed applied plant pathologist with over two (2) decades of expertise. Her extensive experience covers a wide spectrum of crops, and specializes in diagnostics,

utilizing both traditional and molecular methods with her primary goal being to enhance production outcomes by effectively managing plant pathogens.

During this unique program, you will have the opportunity to:

- Book one-hour, one on one private consultations with Dr Casonato;
- Discuss specific challenges related to your crops;
- Gain tailored guidance and insights from an expert - Insights beyond sugarcane, relevant for all crop types;
- Collaborate on diagnostics, disease management, and more;



- Assurance of confidentiality for sensitive discussions.

Whether you grow alternate horticulture or broadacre crops, Dr Casonato's extensive knowledge can provide insights into a wide range of biofumigation methods.

For further information or to book your session, contact SRA District Manager - Southern, Lisa Devereaux, on 0456 590 497 or via email ldevereaux@sugarresearch.com.au by Monday, 13 November 2023. ■

Soybean Update

As the end of the cane harvest draws near some growers are looking at planting soybeans in the fallow to reduce many of the cane pest and diseases.

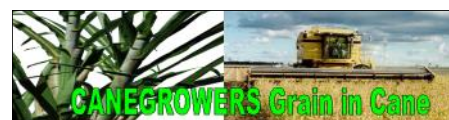
With record cane prices it is tempting to ploughout replant cane however long term studies show that subject to adequate water availability and the ability to apply it in a timely manner, soybeans grown in the fallow and the reduced pest and disease pressure means as much cane can be grown in the

remaining parts of the farm. This means the income from the soybeans is in addition to the cane income.

Soybean prices are the same to higher than last year depending on the quality of the grain. There are quotes out in the market for Hayman[®] soybeans at \$900 per tonne for edible 1 quality soybeans. Given the dry weather here and all across the east coast of Australia, there may still be an upside to those prices depending on the timing of summer rain. Currently it is only the

irrigated areas that are looking to plant with any confidence which may further increase prices as we get closer to harvest.

If you are looking for advice on varieties, planting windows or herbicide options please contact Matt Leighton on 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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