



# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 18, Issue 8  
December 2023

## Chair's Update

What a terrific way to end the 2023 harvest season with the highest average CCS since 2018, an early November finish and then the rain and storms that followed soon after. The follow up rain in November really turned the crop and growers moral around. As I write this, we dodged a bullet in missing Cyclone Jasper but we need some more rain now.

7 December saw the district cut-out party held with a good attendance of growers with smiles on their faces and who could blame them, finished harvesting early, extraordinary CCS, no standover and a fantastic sugar price with some welcome rain. The sugar price has come back quite a bit however this has predominantly been caused by speculators and not actual sugar supply so hopefully we will see some positive correction soon. The drop in price has resulted in a shortfall in the December advance, if you have any questions please call Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.

Representatives of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd attended the MDL3040 Community Forum held at the Moore Park Beach Community Hall on Sunday 3 December to receive updates from Minister for Resources, Hon. Scott Stewart, Member for Bundaberg, Tom Smith MP and Member for Burnett, Stephen Bennett MP on the progress of Fox Resources' Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 3040. 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.

I have been informed that Bundaberg Sugar has not been sold and has been taken off the market, this gives us and Bundaberg Sugar staff some positive direction for the future.

Groundwater users in Area A were required to have groundwater meters re-validated by 30 November 2023 to be compliant with the relevant legislation. This work needs to be conducted by Certified Meter Installers (CMI). If you haven't already done so, please contact the department on [QMDBMetering@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:QMDBMetering@rdmw.qld.gov.au) to let them know that you have engaged a CMI and advise why your works were unable to be completed by the deadline.

Groundwater users in Area B have until 1 December 2024 to have their meters re-validated by a CMI. To ensure your meter is validated by the deadline please contact your preferred irrigation company once you have received details in a letter from the department and ask to be placed on the waiting list, with priority given to those in Area A. By being placed on the waiting list, the meters should be re-validated before the due date in 2024.

On behalf of the Board and staff at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited for all the good work they have done for growers in the past 12 months.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS will be closed from 2:30pm on Friday, 22 December and re-open at 8:30am on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

If you have any further questions or require assistance over the Christmas break, please call any of the numbers listed below:

Mark Pressler	0414 593 105
Dean Cayley	0408 062 830
Anna Attard	0409 594 541
Sam Ford	0413 214 037
Michael Cavallaro	0434 381 998
Tanya Howard	0409 485 154

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman



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

1. End of season review and final Cane Analysis Audit checks, summaries and reports.
2. Undertaking soil tests, analysis and assisting with N & P Budgets.
3. Representation against Fox Resources MDL3040 application
4. Assisting with soybean variety selection and planting timeframes
5. Preparations for 2023 Season Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards on Friday, 8 March 2024.



**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

Phone (07) 4151 2555 | Fax: (07) 4153 1986

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

Website: [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au)

## 2023 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 24 November 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	\$97.00	\$658.00	72.5%
15-Dec-23	-\$12.00	\$646.00	77.5%
19-Jan-24	\$21.00	\$667.00	80.0%
17-Feb-24	\$20.00	\$687.00	82.5%
22-Mar-24	\$42.00	\$729.00	87.5%
19-Apr-24	\$21.00	\$750.00	90.0%
17-May-24	\$21.00	\$771.00	92.5%
21-Jun-24	\$21.00	\$792.00	95.0%
Final	\$41.00	\$833.00	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 \$39.42.

**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.

## December QSL Advance Payment

After hitting record highs earlier in the year, the ICE 11 sugar market has experienced a significant price drop in recent weeks.

As a result, the value of any unpriced tonnage remaining within the QSL Harvest Pool and the grower-managed pricing options has also fallen.

While the scheduled increase of 5% will be applied to your December QSL Advance payment, it is important to note that your weighted average price will reflect price valuations as at 8 December 2023.

For more information regarding how your weighted average price and

Advances are calculated, please see your QSL Direct account or contact your local QSL Grower Relationship Officer, Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.



## Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Wages Scheme

Wages due for processing on 26 December 2023 or 1 January 2024 will need to be rescheduled due to the office closure.

Advance wages can be submitted for payment on Thursday, 21 December 2023 or alternatively, can be processed upon the office re-opening on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 if employees are agreeable. ■

## Public Holidays for 2024

Monday	-	1 January	New Year's Day	Monday	-	6 May	Labour Day
Friday	-	26 January	Australia Day	Thursday	-	30 May	Bundaberg Show Holiday (Postcode 4660 & 4670 Only)
Friday	-	29 March	Good Friday	Monday	-	7 October	King's Birthday
Saturday	-	30 March	Easter Saturday	Tuesday	-	24 December	Christmas Eve (From 6pm to Midnight)
Sunday	-	31 March	Easter Sunday	Wednesday	-	25 December	Christmas Day
Monday	-	1 April	Easter Monday	Thursday	-	26 December	Boxing Day
Thursday	-	25 April	Anzac Day				



## Chemical No Use Periods

Growers are reminded that there are several products that have no use windows at various times from October through to May which need to be followed. These no use windows need to be followed because of issues with crop safety, the cane is impacted by the herbicide, or environmental safety, where rainfall intensity is likely to lead to runoff that can cause harm in the waterways.

- **Amitron** – This product has a no use window of October, November and December for the Burnett Mary Region. This product can provide a risk to the crop as well as the environment.
- **Amicide Advance** – There are no

restrictions of use when using less than 1.1L/ha. If using rates between 1.1L/ha and 1.6L/ha there are restrictions based on whether there is a trash blanket or not in October and November. There are additional restricted times as the rates increase.

- **Apparent Amicide 625** - There is no spraying of Apparent Amicide 625 during October and November each year for rates below 1.7L/ha. There are additional restricted times as the rates increase.
- **DropZone** – is the latest low odour formulation of 2,4-D from Nufarm and it has no restrictions for use in the Burnett Mary when used at rates up to 1.56L/ha. When used at rates

between 1.56L/ha and 2.1 L/ha its only restriction is no use in October.

- **Diuron WG** – when used as a 60% band as a directed spray at rates from 500g/ha to 1.9kg/ha has a no use period from 1 November until 29 February in the Burnett Mary. Rates up to 500 g/ha can be applied as a broadcast spray at any time of the year.

These are a few examples of some of the chemicals that growers use that have restricted times of use. These restrictions can be found on various parts of the labels from critical comments to the additional information above and below the section that provides the chemical rates. ■

## Dumping of Tyres on Farm is Illegal

Many growers are not aware that tyres cannot be disposed of in on-farm dumps as they are considered a 'regulated waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, whilst on-farm pits are limited to 'general waste'.

Landowners incur clearing costs resulting from tyres unlawfully dumped on their land, while poorly managed

stockpiles can pose catastrophic fire risks, pest, and vermin problems (including mosquitos) and waterway contamination. Growers have an obligation to ensure their actions do not harm communities or environment.

Tyres can be kept on-farm when able to be stored safely (i.e. in a shed) but they must be taken to a suitable facility (i.e. waste transfer station,

certain tyre shops) to be disposed of.

Depending on the size of the tyre there are different costs for disposing of the tyres at a Bundaberg Regional Council Waste Transfer Station. Car tyres cost \$13 per tyre to dispose of while small tractor tyre (<1m diameter) are \$75 and tyres between 1-2m in diameter costing \$275 each. ■

## Fertiliser Bag Disposal

There is once again a way of disposing of the 1T bulk fertiliser bags. There is a scheme called the Big Bag Recovery program where only approved brands of bags can be dumped for free while the other brands have a \$5 per bag disposal fee. Currently the only place where both types of fertiliser bags will be accepted is at the Qunaba Waste Disposal Site on Potters Road. Bags delivered at other sites are deemed general waste and a higher fee is charged.

The approved fertiliser bags include those from Incitec Pivot Limited, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Impact fertilisers, Tarra, GrowForce and Summit

Fertilisers. The full list of approved bags can be found at [www.bigbagrecovery.com.au/#brands](http://www.bigbagrecovery.com.au/#brands).

Non approved brands such as Koch will incur the \$5 per bag disposal fee.

To prepare for disposal the online disposal booking form needs to be completed with a date and time, preferably with 24 hours notice, the bags need to be stacked and folded with the fertiliser brand facing out, stack the bags onto the vehicle separating the approved and non approved bags. Once at the disposal site a declaration form needs to be

completed with up to 300 bags accepted at one time.

If growers have more than 300 approved scheme bags they are able to organise for an on-farm collection by Gary Gillis of Beneficial Recycling who can be contacted by email [gary.gillis@beneficialrecycling.com.au](mailto:gary.gillis@beneficialrecycling.com.au) or phone on 0403 431 705.

Further information can be found on the Bundaberg Regional Council website [www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/waste-recycling/waste-recycling-programs/8](http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/waste-recycling/waste-recycling-programs/8). ■

**Sugar Industry Dinner 2023 Season Awards**  
Friday, 8 March 2024  
The Sails Function Room ~ The Waves Sports Club



## Business Essentials Workshops 2024

This workshop series will be held at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Anyone can attend any of the following half-day sessions on offer (Attendance will be FREE of charge!):



### Business Bookkeeping

*How can we streamline our admin and ensure that we are our accountants best friend?*



### Farm Record-keeping

*What tools can be helpful as part of our operation? (Including a hands-on demonstration from the local RDO Equipment team).*



### Farm Business Planning and Support

*Why should we plan, and how should we do it? Drought support - What is available?*



### Sugar Marketing Update

*What is happening and what are future risks for the market?*



Each of these sessions will be during a morning or an afternoon. Use our form (under Business Essentials at the CANEGROWERS website), speak to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' staff to express your interest in any of the topics and we will be in touch with you to provide further details and confirm whether you'll be able to attend.

We hope to see you at any one of the sessions being held in your area!

## Electrical Safety

There has been a recent run of incidents involving powerlines or electrical lines resulting in electric shock or worse across the state. One of these involved agricultural machinery, while the others often involved elevating platforms or cranes. The incident involving agricultural equipment was with a spray unit that had its spray booms pointing up as it passed under powerlines.

This can quite easily occur in Bundaberg as growers often have a range of spray equipment for the various crops they grow and are often adjusting their length (height) to ensure

good spray coverage. Whether it be an extension to existing equipment or the purchase of new equipment, growers need to be aware of the height of the powerlines near their property and also be aware that during hot weather or periods of prolonged use powerlines can sag significantly and be low enough for either direct contact with the lines or close enough that a spark will jump from the lines to the equipment.

The exclusion zones for powerlines is a minimum of three (3) meters which can only be decreased by suitably trained authorized persons acting as observers.

Last summer there was a pineapple picker that made contact with powerlines and lead to the death of a worker and the injury of others. This turned out to have occurred because the powerlines had sagged. While this reduced the responsibility of the farmer they still have to deal with the death of an employee. If you suspect that a line has sagged significantly and could cause a risk to your business, contact Ergon Energy to measure the line and discuss options of raising the line if new equipment may result in ongoing issues. ■

## Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) Act Review - Online survey

As part of consultation to inform the Review of the operation of the *Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018*, Dr Wendy Craik, the independent reviewer, is seeking feedback from farm businesses and farm-related small businesses on concessional loans through an online survey.

The review is considering the scope of the RIC's activities after 30 June 2026 (when its current loan funding

is scheduled to conclude) and the appropriate governance arrangements for the RIC after that date.

Dr Craik is keen to hear directly from farm businesses and farm-related small businesses to inform the review – even those who haven't previously engaged with the RIC. While the statutory review is about the RIC and its future, it is also considering related matters, such as the role of publicly funded concessional loans in the

agriculture sector.

If you are a farm business or a farm-related small business, you are invited to complete a survey here <https://bit.ly/4agHN9E>.

The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is open to 5pm (AEDT) Friday, 12 January 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact [RIC.Act.Review@aff.gov.au](mailto:RIC.Act.Review@aff.gov.au). ■

## On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP) is a \$30 million initiative over two (2) years to support primary producers in agriculture, forestry and fisheries adopt connected machinery and sensor technology.

Providing a rebate of 50 per cent of the cost of eligible equipment, including installation and training, with grants of between \$3,000 and \$30,000 (excluding GST), the OFCP covers digital technologies such as soil moisture probes, water flow and pressure monitors, livestock monitoring systems and pump controllers as well as associated connectivity equipment.

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is providing support for the Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP) to help farmers navigate the connectivity investment landscape and make informed decisions for their business.

The On Farm Connectivity Information Service is provided by the NFF's Regional Tech Hub to provide free and independent advice on producers' connectivity options.

The Regional Tech Hub works directly with producers to help them make informed decisions around the connectivity technologies best suited to their business. The service complements the On Farm Connectivity Program by allowing producers to research their connectivity needs before applying for the grant.

Whether it be determining how to extend connectivity from the house to the machinery shed or yards, or how to support some of the highly sophisticated production networks and systems they wish to adopt, the Information Service provides practical, tailored solutions.

Producers are urged to make use of this free, independent advisory service, so they can confidently participate in the On Farm Connectivity Program and access rebated support for the cost of eligible equipment, including installation and training, to boost the productivity of their business.

### Want to get in touch with the Regional Tech Hub?

To contact the Regional Tech Hub visit [www.regionaltechhub.org.au/home/on-farm-connectivity-program/](http://www.regionaltechhub.org.au/home/on-farm-connectivity-program/) to book an appointment or fill in a contact request form or call 1300 081 029 to speak to the friendly team.

For a list of eligible equipment and eligible suppliers, please visit [www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/better-connectivity-plan-regional-and-rural-australia/farm-connectivity-program](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/better-connectivity-plan-regional-and-rural-australia/farm-connectivity-program). ■

## Flood Resilience Program

Growers in the Bundaberg region are eligible for funding to assist them with a range of business plans which enables access to some government funding and grants. For nearly two (2) years there has been the Farm Business Resilience Planning program which provided access to the Drought Preparedness Grants and the Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loans. The latest business plan is the Primary Producer Flood Management Grant scheme.

This scheme offers a rebate of up to \$7500 to offset all or part of the cost of eligible professional advice to improve the resilience of farms to flooding and high rainfall and develop a flood management plan. This plan

will be useful if there is funding similar to the drought preparedness grants in the future. Make sure you include items that will help not only with flood recovery but flood resilience so that next time it floods an item will most likely not need to be replaced under any disaster assistance package.

BMRG has engaged Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers who are able to help eligible primary producers to access a range of government support measures including the Primary Producer Flood Management Grant Scheme. The Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers are available to make on-farm visits, provide advice and help producers to complete a flood

management plan and give advice on the farm business resilience program. They will also provide recommendations for approved technical services to mitigate flood risk and increase resilience to severe weather events.

For more information, contact BMRG on 4181 2999 or via email at [admin@bmrq.org.au](mailto:admin@bmrq.org.au).

For information regarding the Drought Preparedness Grants growers can visit the QRIDA website on [www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-preparedness-grants](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-preparedness-grants) or contact Mark Barrett on 0417 775 547. ■

## Young Grower Trip Expressions of Interest



**Are you interested in visiting another cane growing district and speaking to local growers?**



**Perhaps you would like to learn more from SRA and visit one of their facilities?**

**If this interests you and you are aged between 18 and 50, please contact the office on 4151 2555.**

## CGU have joined the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool

...by Ray Goodwin, CANEGROWERS Insurance



The Cyclone Reinsurance Pool (Pool) is a reinsurance arrangement between insurers and the Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation (ARPC).

The Pool operates Australia wide and covers cyclones and cyclone-related flood damage.

The Pool is intended to make insurance more affordable for eligible home and contents, residential strata, landlord policies and commercial property

with maximum sum insured less than or equal to \$5 million. CGU will pass on savings from the Pool to new customer policies and policy renewals. The savings on a customer's premium will depend on customer circumstances.

Pricing for some products has begun to incorporate the CRP impacts already, and as we move towards 31 December, all eligible products will incorporate CRP pricing.

As clients renew, or purchase new business, their premiums will reflect all pricing influences including the CRP impacts.

There is no change for our clients when they need to lodge a claim and we will continue to assist with this process.

**If you have any further questions, please contact Ray Goodwin on 0418 891 783. ■**

## Preparing for a Storm

...by Ray Goodwin, CANEGROWERS Insurance

Storms cause significant damage to Australian communities each year. Here's what to do before, during and after a storm to reduce the impact on your home or business.

1. Create your safety plan;
2. Prepare your property;
3. Know your insurance cover.

### For your Safety

- Clear leaves and debris from gutters, roofs and downpipes at your home or business;
- Check the roof for leaks and seal them to prevent water from flowing in;
- Move vehicles under cover when possible, and secure items outside that could be blown about by the wind or carried away in surging water;
- Keep yourself and your family or colleagues safe by ensuring that everyone is familiar with your evacuation plan and knows where first-aid and emergency kits are;

- Make sure that operational and other data is backed up, and that stock and other key items can be moved if needed;
- Speak to your broker or insurance provider to review your insurance. Make sure you know what your insurance covers, and that the sum you are insured for covers the replacement value of the items you wish to insure.

### During a Storm

- Contact **000** or your local SES on 132 500 in any emergency;
- Use a battery-powered radio to monitor your local radio station for updates on the weather, power supply, emergency warnings and evacuation alerts;
- Unplug electrical items, especially computers. Stay indoors and away from windows;
- Monitor and follow the advice of emergency officials.

### After a Storm

- If there is any danger, contact **000** or your local SES;
- Do not use damaged electrical outlets;
- Stay away from fallen power lines and anything that they may be touching;
- Do not walk through or drive through flowing water or enter still water of unknown depth;
- Once the danger has passed, take photos of damaged or destroyed items before disposing of them to assist in any insurance claims;
- Speak to your broker or insurance provider to lodge your claim.

**Severe weather events can take an emotional toll on us. If you need help, or for more information, contact Ray Goodwin on 0418 891 783. ■**

## Queensland Digital Licence App

The Queensland Digital Licence app is now available if you have an eligible Queensland driver licence, recreational marine licence, or photo identification card and is a handy app that can store your identification easily on your mobile devices.

The Digital Licence is optional - you do not have to get the Digital Licence if you do not wish to. All Queenslanders will continue to be sent physical cards, as they are now.

### Who can use the Digital Licence?

To be eligible to use the Digital Licence

app, you must have one or more of the following:

- Driver licence (learner, provisional or open) that is either:
  - Current
  - expired, suspended or cancelled less than 2 years ago;
- Marine licence;
- Photo identification card / Adult Proof-of-Age card.

You also need to have a mobile device running the latest version of the iOS or Android operating system—or one of

the two (2) previous versions (to the latest).

You will also need to have at least a first name and surname registered with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. If you only have one name, you will not be able to use the Digital Licence app.

For further information visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/projects/digital-licence> or log in to your app store. ■



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 INFORMATION CONTACT
02/11/2023	SRA Southern District Activity Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
09 - 10/11/2023	Policy Council	To represent members	Mark Pressler
13/11/2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dean Cayley
16/11/2023	Matt Taylor, Burnett Mary Regional Group	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss Courtney Moar
16/11/2023	SunWater QCA Irrigation Pricing	To represent members and irrigators	Dale Holliss
21/11/2023	Regional Business HQ Board AGM	To represent members	Tanya Howard
22/11/2023	Japanese Research Delegation	To represent members	BCL Board Tanya Howard
28/11/2023	Bundaberg to Gin Gin Rail Trail Update	To represent members	Tanya Howard
30/11/2023	SRA Southern District Activity Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
01/12/2023	Lisa Devereaux & Dr Dr Seona Casonato	To represent update	Matthew Leighton
03/12/2023	MDL3040 Community Forum	To represent members	Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
04/12/2023	Ag Energy Taskforce	To represent members	Dale Holliss
04/12/2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dean Cayley
05/12/2023	Mt Rawdon Briefing	To represent members	Dale Holliss
10/10/2023	District Manager Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
14/12/2023	SRA Southern District Activity Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
19/12/2023	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent members and irrigators	Matthew Leighton

## Tougher Regulation is on the way for Queensland Business

Quad bikes are synonymous with the Queensland way of life for many farmers and primary producers. Their adaptability, ease of use, and low running costs make them a valuable asset for many workplaces, but they also pose significant risks if they're not used correctly.

Changes to the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (WHS Regulation) are now being progressed in line with the feedback received from industry, community, legal and medical professionals following a recent coronial inquest into nine (9) quad-bike related deaths.

The amendments are specific to quad bikes used for work and relate to

three (3) areas: age restriction, passenger restriction, and helmet use.

The new legislation will mandate quad bikes in workplaces only to be used by someone 16 years or above (or in accordance with age advice by the manufacturer). This will mean that children will not be allowed on adult-sized quad bikes and will only be able to ride on age-appropriate quad bikes in workplaces.

Passenger restrictions will mean a quad bike operator cannot carry another passenger unless the bike is designed to, and the passenger must meet manufacturer age specifications, or be over 16. All riders of quad bikes must wear a fitted and fastened helmet.

Changes to this legislation do not relate to side-by-side vehicles (SSVs).

This reflects feedback received through consultation, that quad bikes were identified as having a significantly higher risk profile than SSVs.

The legislation affects quad bike use in a workplace setting and is not relevant to recreational use (i.e., in a private residential setting for leisure or fun). Transport legislation also prescribes requirements for quad bikes being used on roads or road-related areas.

It is expected the amended legislation will commence in 2024. ■



## Soybean Update

There are a few soybeans being planted at the moment which is the middle of the A-6785 planting window. If growers are looking at planting Hayman<sup>®</sup> they should be waiting until the end of the month or ideally early January. The reason for the planting windows is to maximise yield and biomass without having to irrigate the crop extra times for biomass that has no impact on yield.

If growers are considering growing soybeans for green manure crops it is recommended that a variety such as A-6785 be used rather than a pure green manure variety like Leichardt. The reason for this is that if it is too wet at cane planting time, the soybeans can be switched to a grain crop to help cover the lost cane production. This was successfully done last season where due to kind weather conditions, the initially green manure soybeans yielded 3t/ha. It is

unlikely given the El Nino conditions expected to be experienced this summer that the yield would be that high.

Soybean prices are holding as many of the sugar regions are not planting large areas of soybeans and depending on what is planted in northern NSW and around Toowoomba will determine the final price growers will receive.

### Herbicide Resistance

There has been some recent work looking at herbicide resistance in key weeds that affect soybeans in the high rainfall cropping areas of northern NSW. What was found is that across a range of grass and broadleaf weeds there are various levels of herbicide resistance, generally low for small weeds though this increases as the weeds get larger, to a range of common herbicides used in soybeans and the fallow including glyphosate,



2,4-D, Verdict and Spinnaker. A few suggestions to decrease the chance of resistance occurring with the weeds was to look at using pre-emergent herbicides, using the double knock spray program where paraquat or Sprayseed follows the knockdown herbicide, targeting small weeds that are lush. While not all of these options are available every year there are some options that suit most years.

The mixing of some herbicides while compatible and on the label, does reduce the effectiveness of one or both the herbicides. For example, Verdict and Blazer can be mixed to control grasses and broadleaf weeds however this mix is not as strong on grasses as straight Verdict with the appropriate wetter's. This is a problem when the weeds are getting larger and starting to tiller and can lead to spray failures and possibly herbicide resistance. ■

**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Directors & Staff would like to wish all our members, a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.**

**The Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Office will be closed from 2:30pm Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 & re-open again 8:30am Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.**

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

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

PO Box 953  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd  
32 Bourbong Street (PO Box 953)  
Bundaberg Qld 4670  
Phone: (07) 4151 2555 Fax: (07) 4153 1986  
Email: bdb\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au  
Website: www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au  
ABN: 66 110 868 801

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