

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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In this Issue:

2024 Season Membership Fees	2
2024 Season Indicative Advances Program	2
2024 Allowances	3
Cane Fire Notice for Burning Tops and Trash	4
High Interest Rates Squeezing Farm Finances	5
Reimbursement of Burnt Cane Deduction	5
Cane Price Ready Reckoner	6/7
Farm Safety During the Harvest	8
Loading of Cane Bins	9
Media Release	10
Mill production—Extraneous Matter	12

Chair's Update

As I write this I can feel the morning air cooling off, the crop has filled out well with the ongoing showers and rain events continuing across the last few weeks. We need some fine weather from now on to help the crop ripen.

The start of the pre season crush is set for 21 May for Bundaberg Sugar and the start of the core season is set for 10 June. In consultation with Bundaberg Sugar Ltd we have set the starting base CCS at 13.0 and will regularly review it once the season is underway.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS met with Bundaberg Sugar representatives on 7 May for a pre season meeting to finalise any issues before the crush starts.

Bundaberg Sugar invited harvesting contractors and group spokespersons to a meeting on 9 May to go through procedures, safety and answer any questions that may arise. If you have any concerns with the information presented at this meeting, please let us know.

By now you should have received your harvesting roster and the 2024 estimate is 1.22 million tonnes. I personally think we have a pretty good chance of achieving this.

Some growers have been contacted by the Reef Regulation Auditors for an audit of their compliance activities. If any growers have received a request, please call the office and talk to Matt Leighton. Matt or Tanya are available to assist before and during the audit review.

We have a full contingent of auditors and full audit coverage at Millaquin again this year. If you have any queries during the upcoming season please contact the office and they will lodge an enquiry with the auditor on your behalf.

Soybean harvest is underway although due to the forecast dry weather and high sugar prices there were not many hectares planted this season.

Bundaberg Regional Council is due to hand down their budget soon and representatives from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Bundaberg Ag-Food and Fibre Alliance, CANEGROWERS Isis and Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers will be meeting with the Bundaberg Mayor and Councillors to ensure the recent land valuation increases are not used as a cash cow to fund the forecast \$17m deficit.

Mark Pressler
Chairman



Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. Preseason planning and preparations for the upcoming harvest
2. Reviewing auditing arrangements and attending preseason training to receive updates on latest industry developments
3. Receiving updates on Reef Regulations, reef reporting and Paddock to Reef activities and representing growers at various workshops and forums
4. Reviewing land valuation increasing and providing representation to the Department and Council
5. Reviewing the announced electricity draft determination

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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Schedule 4 Approved Variety List 2024 Season

SRA38	Q240 [Ⓛ]
SRA34	Q238 [Ⓛ]
SRAW33	Q235 [Ⓛ]
SRA29	Q232 [Ⓛ]
SRA20	KQ228 [Ⓛ]
SRA19	Q208 [Ⓛ]
SRA11	Q200 [Ⓛ]
SRA4 [Ⓛ]	Q188 [Ⓛ]
SRA2 [Ⓛ]	Q183
Q252 [Ⓛ]	Q155
Q249 [Ⓛ]	Q151
Q247 [Ⓛ]	Q138
Q245 [Ⓛ]	Q124
Q242 [Ⓛ]	

QSL Board Meet and Greet



Growers in the Southern Queensland region are invited to join the QSL board and executive team for a meet and greet in June.

Come along to hear a business update from:

- Mark Hampson - General Manager of Marketing
- Adam Viertel - General Manager Operations
- Matt Page - Senior Manager of Marketing

**Thursday 6 June
6:00 pm**

**Burnett Riverside Hotel
7 Quay Street**

For catering purposes, RSVP by call/text to Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.

2024 Season Membership Fees

Membership fees have been set for the 2024 Season. In establishing these fees the directors have taken into account the level of services available and the need to set a reasonable fee. It was resolved that a CPI increase of 3.4% would be applied to 2023 fees and the level of crop insurance indemnity would remain at \$55/t after taking high sugar prices into consideration. ■

The 2024 season fees (excl GST) are as follows:

Administration:	60.96 cents/t
Crop Insurance:	1.84 cents/t
Cane Analysis:	4.50 cents/t
State Levy:	21.71 cents/t

2024 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 26 April 2024

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		Target Price Advance Rates
	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	-\$7.00	\$639.00	80.0%
17-Feb-24	\$45.00	\$684.00	82.5%
22-Mar-24	\$40.00	\$724.00	87.5%
19-Apr-24	\$24.00	\$748.00	90.0%
17-May-24	\$20.00	\$768.00	92.5%
21-Jun-24	\$20.00	\$788.00	95.0%
Final	\$42.00	\$830.00	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 **\$46.05**.

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.

2024 Allowances

The Mill will be running in continuous crushing mode this year.

As such the Continuous Crushing Allowance (18.3 (a) and (b)) will apply:

18.3 Allowances

(a) Continuous Crushing Allowance

The Mill Owner will pay a Continuous Crushing Allowance for cane harvested on a weekend for supply to each Mill operating in continuous mode based on the following principles:

- \$0.70/tonne
- the allowance will be shared equally (cents/tonne) across all cane delivered by all growers to Mills while they are operating in continuous mode
- the allowance will be included with the final pay
- the allowance increases or decreases in proportion to movements in the sugar price above and below \$330 per tonne

(b) Harvesting Allowance

When a Mill is operating in a continuous mode the Mill Owner will pay Growers supplying a Mill in continuous mode a Harvesting Allowance for cane harvested on a weekend based on the following principles:

- the allowance is \$0.80 per tonne for cane harvested on weekends
- the allowance will be included with the delivery pay, except where a Grower has given authorisation, the allowance will be paid to the particular harvesting contractor on a weekly basis
- the allowance will be adjusted on 1 April according to the movement in the minimum weekly wage rate for a cane harvesting employee (Level 1) under the Sugar Industry Award 2020 for the previous twelve (12) months

The adjusted Harvesting Allowance for the 2024 season will be \$1.29 per tonne for cane harvested on weekends.

Base CCS

Base CCS is set to start at 13.0 and will be adjusted as necessary, when necessary.

Haulage Allowance

The Haulage Allowance is increased by CPI each year. The All Groups CPI Index weighted average of eight (8) capital cities is 3.62% for the year. The 3.62% increase on last year's allowances is shown in the following table. ■

CPI adjustment		3.62%	
Distance (metres)		\$/tonne 2024	Variation to last season
From - To			
0	1,000	0.00	0.00
1,000	2,000	0.67	0.02
2,000	3,000	1.01	0.04
3,000	4,000	1.34	0.05
4,000	5,000	1.68	0.06
5,000	6,000	2.01	0.07
6,000	7,000	2.35	0.08
7,000	8,000	2.68	0.09
8,000	9,000	3.02	0.11
9,000	10,000	3.35	0.12
10,000	Plus	3.70	0.13

Cane Fire Notice for Burning Tops and Trash

Before growers burn cane or trash this season they need to ensure they are following the conditions of the Cane Burning Notice or the conditions on their permit. Failure to do this leaves growers exposed to legal action.

To burn cane or trash under the Notice, **all** conditions of the Notice need to be met. This includes number of people in attendance and the types of equipment in attendance. Also, to use the Notice with the property neighbouring a road, the road must be a local road according to the QFES Fire Warden Finder mapping service. If a fire is to occur on a farm that borders a main road, according to the Fire Warden Finder mapping service, any fire on that farm requires a permit not just those blocks against the road.

If growers are unsure if they can comply with the Notice and to avoid any confusion growers should apply for a permit from their fire warden for any cane or trash fires. Information about the Notice and all the relevant links about burning cane including a fact sheet can be found at www.qfes.qld.gov.au/safety-education/using-fire-outdoors.

Whether using the Notice or a permit, the following should also be followed: checking the weather conditions including temperature, wind direction and wind speed. If there is the possibility of smoke affecting visibility for road users, smoke hazard signs are most likely required. A smoke hazard sign is to be erected if the area to be burnt adjoins or is within 100m of a road of any description. Smoke Hazard signs are available from some of the wardens as well as the QFES Rural Fire Bundaberg office. Please contact by phone on (07) 4154 6120 to make arrangements to collect the signs.

Growers need to contact Firecom on 1800 354 621 before each and every fire is lit, whether it is under the Notice or a permit to assist QFES with calls from the public and identifying uncontrolled fires.

Neighbours are to be notified of growers' intention to burn at the beginning of the season and again prior to the burn so they can make preparations to minimise the impact of smoke and ash. It is a requirement of a permit that the neighbours are aware of the intention to apply for a permit. Bundaberg Area

Director Bruce Thompson has offered the resources of QFES Rural Fire Division to assist with keeping the community informed, especially for those who have an urban or peri-urban group of neighbours.

Contact with the QFES Rural Fire Bundaberg office can be made via (07) 4154 6120 and a request for a community message can be posted indicating an approximate time for burning and any potential issues such as smoke across a road. In situations where farms neighbour a large number of residences, provided there is enough notice, the Bundaberg Rural Fire Brigade may be able to use its' community resource to notify the neighbours. Sample letters of an intention to apply for a fire permit and intention to burn are available at reception of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

If growers are unable to comply with the Notice they are still able to get a permit to burn from their local warden and follow the conditions of the permit to burn cane, trash and tops. ■

Member Only Crop Insurance

All Bundaberg CANEGROWERS members have crop insurance cover as part of their membership fee.

This year the cover is set at \$55 per tonne with a nil excess and covers growers for:

- total crop loss from unharvested cane after a fire,
- partial crop loss from reduced yield of a harvested crop after a fire and
- the loss of a trash blanket and the costs of re-establishing the crop after the fire in the trash blanket.

Growers are able to apply to "Top Up" their insurance beyond \$55 per tonne with the payment of additional premium.

This option may be used if growers have some significantly higher priced forward pricing locked in for this year.

Before applying for the Top Up insurance growers also need to be aware that the underwriters liability under the Fire Perils Crop Insurance policy is the maximum value of indemnity selected or 90% of the value of the cane at the mill, whichever is the lesser amount.

Top Up Insurance can be applied for by contacting Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on (07) 4151 2555, completing the Top Up Insurance document and paying the additional premium.

Pages 6 and 7 contain the Ready Reckoner with a range of CCS and sugar prices. This will help determine the value of the cane if a grower has some Forward Pricing and may assist in the decision whether to "Top Up" the crop insurance cover. ■

Reef Compliance Officers Checking local farms

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has become aware that there are Reef Regulation Compliance Officers visiting Bundaberg to audit the grower on last year's record keeping, N & P Budget and other required documents. Impacted growers have received a letter saying that their farm has been selected for an audit, though it is Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' understanding that dates are yet to be set.

To get ready for an audit growers will require the following

- Primary documents such as soil test results, fertiliser invoices
- N & P Budget including farm and soil maps
- Records of applied fertiliser and mill mud, date applied, N & P analysis, rate applied
- Property and person details which includes names of the growers,

name and address of the farming business, lot on plan details, who makes the records

For the full list of what is required growers can look at the Department of Science and Innovation website https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0030/238638/reef-prot-regs-gbr-regions-compliance-records-checklist.pdf or contact the office for a copy. ■



High interest rates squeezing farm finances

Compared with two years ago, interest rates are 2.4 times higher for Southern Queensland's primary producers. For every \$1 million borrowed, that's about \$3,000 a month extra in interest payments, or \$36,000 a year hit to your bottom line.

How is your farm business managing the higher interest costs? Explore your financial options with the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Southern Queensland. Get free and confidential planning support to help you stay in control of your farm business finances.

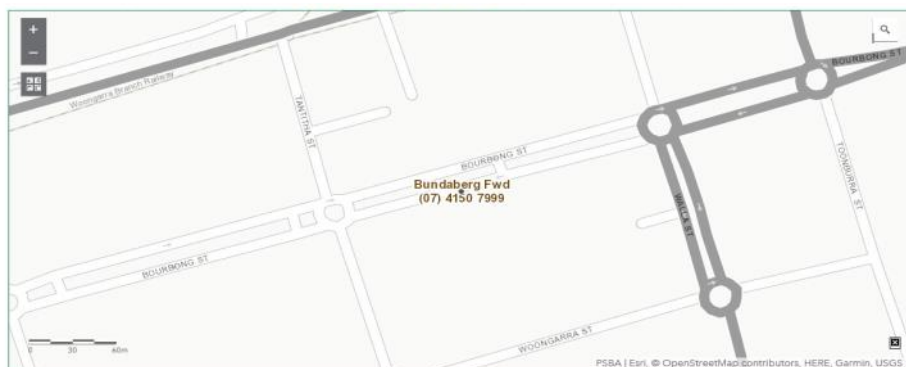
For more information visit the RFCS Southern Queensland website www.rfcssq.org.au/options ■

Fire Warden Finder

Visit www.qfes.qld.gov.au/safety-education/using-fire-outdoors/fire-wardens to find the Fire Warden in your area.

Search for your address, then click the map to display the Fire Warden details.

Example address - 32
Bourbong Street, Bundaberg. ■



Reimbursement of Burnt Cane Deduction

The Collective Agreement has a clause which enables reimbursement of the burnt cane penalty, i.e.

10.5 Where the Grower makes a written application to the Mill Owner for reimbursement of the burnt cane deduction and it is the Mill Owner's opinion that the cane was burnt in order to improve cane quality or increase productivity, the

Mill Owner shall reimburse the burnt cane deduction of 9.8 cents to the grower for cane delivered on or before the second day after burning.

If you wish to claim reimbursement you need to apply to Bundaberg Sugar in writing.

You may wish to use the pro forma shown or collect one from reception.

If you have applied for reimbursement in previous seasons, you are not required to do so again.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members can contact Matt Leighton or Tanya Howard on (07) 4151 2555 for assistance. ■

Cane Supply Superintendent
Bundaberg Sugar
PO Box 500
Bundaberg
Fax: 450 8572
Email: mjgreen@bundysugar.com.au

Dear Sir,

I / We wish to be reimbursed burnt cane deductions for blocks on farm number /s because (insert reason eg. trash causes water logging and rots the stool)

Signed

.....

CANE PRICE READY RECKONER

CANE PRICE = SUGAR PRICE x 0.009 x (CCS - 4) + 0.6455

(BURNT CANE PENALTY - DEDUCT 10 CENTS)



SUGAR PRICE A\$/Tonne

	600	610	620	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740
CCS	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
10.5	35.75	36.33	36.92	37.50	38.09	38.67	39.26	39.84	40.43	41.01	41.60	42.18	42.77	43.35	43.94
10.6	36.29	36.88	37.47	38.07	38.66	39.26	39.85	40.44	41.04	41.63	42.23	42.82	43.41	44.01	44.60
10.7	36.83	37.43	38.03	38.63	39.24	39.84	40.44	41.05	41.65	42.25	42.86	43.46	44.06	44.66	45.27
10.8	37.37	37.98	38.59	39.20	39.81	40.43	41.04	41.65	42.26	42.87	43.49	44.10	44.71	45.32	45.93
10.9	37.91	38.53	39.15	39.77	40.39	41.01	41.63	42.25	42.87	43.49	44.12	44.74	45.36	45.98	46.60
11.0	38.45	39.08	39.71	40.34	40.97	41.60	42.23	42.86	43.49	44.12	44.75	45.38	46.01	46.64	47.27
11.1	38.99	39.62	40.26	40.90	41.54	42.18	42.82	43.46	44.10	44.74	45.38	46.01	46.65	47.29	47.93
11.2	39.53	40.17	40.82	41.47	42.12	42.77	43.41	44.06	44.71	45.36	46.01	46.65	47.30	47.95	48.60
11.3	40.07	40.72	41.38	42.04	42.69	43.35	44.01	44.66	45.32	45.98	46.64	47.29	47.95	48.61	49.26
11.4	40.61	41.27	41.94	42.60	43.27	43.94	44.60	45.27	45.93	46.60	47.27	47.93	48.60	49.26	49.93
11.5	41.15	41.82	42.50	43.17	43.85	44.52	45.20	45.87	46.55	47.22	47.90	48.57	49.25	49.92	50.60
11.6	41.69	42.37	43.05	43.74	44.42	45.11	45.79	46.47	47.16	47.84	48.53	49.21	49.89	50.58	51.26
11.7	42.23	42.92	43.61	44.30	45.00	45.69	46.38	47.08	47.77	48.46	49.16	49.85	50.54	51.23	51.93
11.8	42.77	43.47	44.17	44.87	45.57	46.28	46.98	47.68	48.38	49.08	49.79	50.49	51.19	51.89	52.59
11.9	43.31	44.02	44.73	45.44	46.15	46.86	47.57	48.28	48.99	49.70	50.42	51.13	51.84	52.55	53.26
12.0	43.85	44.57	45.29	46.01	46.73	47.45	48.17	48.89	49.61	50.33	51.05	51.77	52.49	53.21	53.93
12.1	44.39	45.11	45.84	46.57	47.30	48.03	48.76	49.49	50.22	50.95	51.68	52.40	53.13	53.86	54.59
12.2	44.93	45.66	46.40	47.14	47.88	48.62	49.35	50.09	50.83	51.57	52.31	53.04	53.78	54.52	55.26
12.3	45.47	46.21	46.96	47.71	48.45	49.20	49.95	50.69	51.44	52.19	52.94	53.68	54.43	55.18	55.92
12.4	46.01	46.76	47.52	48.27	49.03	49.79	50.54	51.30	52.05	52.81	53.57	54.32	55.08	55.83	56.59
12.5	46.55	47.31	48.08	48.84	49.61	50.37	51.14	51.90	52.67	53.43	54.20	54.96	55.73	56.49	57.26
12.6	47.09	47.86	48.63	49.41	50.18	50.96	51.73	52.50	53.28	54.05	54.83	55.60	56.37	57.15	57.92
12.7	47.63	48.41	49.19	49.97	50.76	51.54	52.32	53.11	53.89	54.67	55.46	56.24	57.02	57.80	58.59
12.8	48.17	48.96	49.75	50.54	51.33	52.13	52.92	53.71	54.50	55.29	56.09	56.88	57.67	58.46	59.25
12.9	48.71	49.51	50.31	51.11	51.91	52.71	53.51	54.31	55.11	55.91	56.72	57.52	58.32	59.12	59.92
13.0	49.25	50.06	50.87	51.68	52.49	53.30	54.11	54.92	55.73	56.54	57.35	58.16	58.97	59.78	60.59
13.1	49.79	50.60	51.42	52.24	53.06	53.88	54.70	55.52	56.34	57.16	57.98	58.79	59.61	60.43	61.25
13.2	50.33	51.15	51.98	52.81	53.64	54.47	55.29	56.12	56.95	57.78	58.61	59.43	60.26	61.09	61.92
13.3	50.87	51.70	52.54	53.38	54.21	55.05	55.89	56.72	57.56	58.40	59.24	60.07	60.91	61.75	62.58
13.4	51.41	52.25	53.10	53.94	54.79	55.64	56.48	57.33	58.17	59.02	59.87	60.71	61.56	62.40	63.25
13.5	51.95	52.80	53.66	54.51	55.37	56.22	57.08	57.93	58.79	59.64	60.50	61.35	62.21	63.06	63.92
13.6	52.49	53.35	54.21	55.08	55.94	56.81	57.67	58.53	59.40	60.26	61.13	61.99	62.85	63.72	64.58
13.7	53.03	53.90	54.77	55.64	56.52	57.39	58.26	59.14	60.01	60.88	61.76	62.63	63.50	64.37	65.25
13.8	53.57	54.45	55.33	56.21	57.09	57.98	58.86	59.74	60.62	61.50	62.39	63.27	64.15	65.03	65.91
13.9	54.11	55.00	55.89	56.78	57.67	58.56	59.45	60.34	61.23	62.12	63.02	63.91	64.80	65.69	66.58
14.0	54.65	55.55	56.45	57.35	58.25	59.15	60.05	60.95	61.85	62.75	63.65	64.55	65.45	66.35	67.25
14.1	55.19	56.09	57.00	57.91	58.82	59.73	60.64	61.55	62.46	63.37	64.28	65.18	66.09	67.00	67.91
14.2	55.73	56.64	57.56	58.48	59.40	60.32	61.23	62.15	63.07	63.99	64.91	65.82	66.74	67.66	68.58
14.3	56.27	57.19	58.12	59.05	59.97	60.90	61.83	62.75	63.68	64.61	65.54	66.46	67.39	68.32	69.24
14.4	56.81	57.74	58.68	59.61	60.55	61.49	62.42	63.36	64.29	65.23	66.17	67.10	68.04	68.97	69.91
14.5	57.35	58.29	59.24	60.18	61.13	62.07	63.02	63.96	64.91	65.85	66.80	67.74	68.69	69.63	70.58
14.6	57.89	58.84	59.79	60.75	61.70	62.66	63.61	64.56	65.52	66.47	67.43	68.38	69.33	70.29	71.24
14.7	58.43	59.39	60.35	61.31	62.28	63.24	64.20	65.17	66.13	67.09	68.06	69.02	69.98	70.94	71.91
14.8	58.97	59.94	60.91	61.88	62.85	63.83	64.80	65.77	66.74	67.71	68.69	69.66	70.63	71.60	72.57
14.9	59.51	60.49	61.47	62.45	63.43	64.41	65.39	66.37	67.35	68.33	69.32	70.30	71.28	72.26	73.24
15.0	60.05	61.04	62.03	63.02	64.01	65.00	65.99	66.98	67.97	68.96	69.95	70.94	71.93	72.92	73.91
15.1	60.59	61.58	62.58	63.58	64.58	65.58	66.58	67.58	68.58	69.58	70.58	71.57	72.57	73.57	74.57
15.2	61.13	62.13	63.14	64.15	65.16	66.17	67.17	68.18	69.19	70.20	71.21	72.21	73.22	74.23	75.24
15.3	61.67	62.68	63.70	64.72	65.73	66.75	67.77	68.78	69.80	70.82	71.84	72.85	73.87	74.89	75.90
15.4	62.21	63.23	64.26	65.28	66.31	67.34	68.36	69.39	70.41	71.44	72.47	73.49	74.52	75.54	76.57
15.5	62.75	63.78	64.82	65.85	66.89	67.92	68.96	69.99	71.03	72.06	73.10	74.13	75.17	76.20	77.24
15.6	63.29	64.33	65.37	66.42	67.46	68.51	69.55	70.59	71.64	72.68	73.73	74.77	75.81	76.86	77.90
15.7	63.83	64.88	65.93	66.98	68.04	69.09	70.14	71.20	72.25	73.30	74.36	75.41	76.46	77.51	78.57
15.8	64.37	65.43	66.49	67.55	68.61	69.68	70.74	71.80	72.86	73.92	74.99	76.05	77.11	78.17	79.23
15.9	64.91	65.98	67.05	68.12	69.19	70.26	71.33	72.40	73.47	74.54	75.62	76.69	77.76	78.83	79.90
16.0	65.45	66.53	67.61	68.69	69.77	70.85	71.93	73.01	74.09	75.17	76.25	77.33	78.41	79.49	80.57

CANE PRICE READY RECKONER

CANE PRICE = SUGAR PRICE x 0.009 x (CCS - 4) + 0.6455
(BURNT CANE PENALTY - DEDUCT 10 CENTS)



SUGAR PRICE A\$/Tonne

	750	760	770	780	790	800	810	820	830	840	850	860	870	880	890
CCS	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
10.5	44.52	45.11	45.69	46.28	46.86	47.45	48.03	48.62	49.20	49.79	50.37	50.96	51.54	52.13	52.71
10.6	45.20	45.79	46.38	46.98	47.57	48.17	48.76	49.35	49.95	50.54	51.14	51.73	52.32	52.92	53.51
10.7	45.87	46.47	47.08	47.68	48.28	48.89	49.49	50.09	50.69	51.30	51.90	52.50	53.11	53.71	54.31
10.8	46.55	47.16	47.77	48.38	48.99	49.61	50.22	50.83	51.44	52.05	52.67	53.28	53.89	54.50	55.11
10.9	47.22	47.84	48.46	49.08	49.70	50.33	50.95	51.57	52.19	52.81	53.43	54.05	54.67	55.29	55.91
11.0	47.90	48.53	49.16	49.79	50.42	51.05	51.68	52.31	52.94	53.57	54.20	54.83	55.46	56.09	56.72
11.1	48.57	49.21	49.85	50.49	51.13	51.77	52.40	53.04	53.68	54.32	54.96	55.60	56.24	56.88	57.52
11.2	49.25	49.89	50.54	51.19	51.84	52.49	53.13	53.78	54.43	55.08	55.73	56.37	57.02	57.67	58.32
11.3	49.92	50.58	51.23	51.89	52.55	53.21	53.86	54.52	55.18	55.83	56.49	57.15	57.80	58.46	59.12
11.4	50.60	51.26	51.93	52.59	53.26	53.93	54.59	55.26	55.92	56.59	57.26	57.92	58.59	59.25	59.92
11.5	51.27	51.95	52.62	53.30	53.97	54.65	55.32	56.00	56.67	57.35	58.02	58.70	59.37	60.05	60.72
11.6	51.95	52.63	53.31	54.00	54.68	55.37	56.05	56.73	57.42	58.10	58.79	59.47	60.15	60.84	61.52
11.7	52.62	53.31	54.01	54.70	55.39	56.09	56.78	57.47	58.16	58.86	59.55	60.24	60.94	61.63	62.32
11.8	53.30	54.00	54.70	55.40	56.10	56.81	57.51	58.21	58.91	59.61	60.32	61.02	61.72	62.42	63.12
11.9	53.97	54.68	55.39	56.10	56.81	57.53	58.24	58.95	59.66	60.37	61.08	61.79	62.50	63.21	63.92
12.0	54.65	55.37	56.09	56.81	57.53	58.25	58.97	59.69	60.41	61.13	61.85	62.57	63.29	64.01	64.73
12.1	55.32	56.05	56.78	57.51	58.24	58.97	59.69	60.42	61.15	61.88	62.61	63.34	64.07	64.80	65.53
12.2	56.00	56.73	57.47	58.21	58.95	59.69	60.42	61.16	61.90	62.64	63.38	64.11	64.85	65.59	66.33
12.3	56.67	57.42	58.16	58.91	59.66	60.41	61.15	61.90	62.65	63.39	64.14	64.89	65.63	66.38	67.13
12.4	57.35	58.10	58.86	59.61	60.37	61.13	61.88	62.64	63.39	64.15	64.91	65.66	66.42	67.17	67.93
12.5	58.02	58.79	59.55	60.32	61.08	61.85	62.61	63.38	64.14	64.91	65.67	66.44	67.20	67.97	68.73
12.6	58.70	59.47	60.24	61.02	61.79	62.57	63.34	64.11	64.89	65.66	66.44	67.21	67.98	68.76	69.53
12.7	59.37	60.15	60.94	61.72	62.50	63.29	64.07	64.85	65.63	66.42	67.20	67.98	68.77	69.55	70.33
12.8	60.05	60.84	61.63	62.42	63.21	64.01	64.80	65.59	66.38	67.17	67.97	68.76	69.55	70.34	71.13
12.9	60.72	61.52	62.32	63.12	63.92	64.73	65.53	66.33	67.13	67.93	68.73	69.53	70.33	71.13	71.93
13.0	61.40	62.21	63.02	63.83	64.64	65.45	66.26	67.07	67.88	68.69	69.50	70.31	71.12	71.93	72.74
13.1	62.07	62.89	63.71	64.53	65.35	66.17	66.98	67.80	68.62	69.44	70.26	71.08	71.90	72.72	73.54
13.2	62.75	63.57	64.40	65.23	66.06	66.89	67.71	68.54	69.37	70.20	71.03	71.85	72.68	73.51	74.34
13.3	63.42	64.26	65.09	65.93	66.77	67.61	68.44	69.28	70.12	70.95	71.79	72.63	73.46	74.30	75.14
13.4	64.10	64.94	65.79	66.63	67.48	68.33	69.17	70.02	70.86	71.71	72.56	73.40	74.25	75.09	75.94
13.5	64.77	65.63	66.48	67.34	68.19	69.05	69.90	70.76	71.61	72.47	73.32	74.18	75.03	75.89	76.74
13.6	65.45	66.31	67.17	68.04	68.90	69.77	70.63	71.49	72.36	73.22	74.09	74.95	75.81	76.68	77.54
13.7	66.12	66.99	67.87	68.74	69.61	70.49	71.36	72.23	73.10	73.98	74.85	75.72	76.60	77.47	78.34
13.8	66.80	67.68	68.56	69.44	70.32	71.21	72.09	72.97	73.85	74.73	75.62	76.50	77.38	78.26	79.14
13.9	67.47	68.36	69.25	70.14	71.03	71.93	72.82	73.71	74.60	75.49	76.38	77.27	78.16	79.05	79.94
14.0	68.15	69.05	69.95	70.85	71.75	72.65	73.55	74.45	75.35	76.25	77.15	78.05	78.95	79.85	80.75
14.1	68.82	69.73	70.64	71.55	72.46	73.37	74.27	75.18	76.09	77.00	77.91	78.82	79.73	80.64	81.55
14.2	69.50	70.41	71.33	72.25	73.17	74.09	75.00	75.92	76.84	77.76	78.68	79.59	80.51	81.43	82.35
14.3	70.17	71.10	72.02	72.95	73.88	74.81	75.73	76.66	77.59	78.51	79.44	80.37	81.29	82.22	83.15
14.4	70.85	71.78	72.72	73.65	74.59	75.53	76.46	77.40	78.33	79.27	80.21	81.14	82.08	83.01	83.95
14.5	71.52	72.47	73.41	74.36	75.30	76.25	77.19	78.14	79.08	80.03	80.97	81.92	82.86	83.81	84.75
14.6	72.20	73.15	74.10	75.06	76.01	76.97	77.92	78.87	79.83	80.78	81.74	82.69	83.64	84.60	85.55
14.7	72.87	73.83	74.80	75.76	76.72	77.69	78.65	79.61	80.57	81.54	82.50	83.46	84.43	85.39	86.35
14.8	73.55	74.52	75.49	76.46	77.43	78.41	79.38	80.35	81.32	82.29	83.27	84.24	85.21	86.18	87.15
14.9	74.22	75.20	76.18	77.16	78.14	79.13	80.11	81.09	82.07	83.05	84.03	85.01	85.99	86.97	87.95
15.0	74.90	75.89	76.88	77.87	78.86	79.85	80.84	81.83	82.82	83.81	84.80	85.79	86.78	87.77	88.76
15.1	75.57	76.57	77.57	78.57	79.57	80.57	81.56	82.56	83.56	84.56	85.56	86.56	87.56	88.56	89.56
15.2	76.25	77.25	78.26	79.27	80.28	81.29	82.29	83.30	84.31	85.32	86.33	87.33	88.34	89.35	90.36
15.3	76.92	77.94	78.95	79.97	80.99	82.01	83.02	84.04	85.06	86.07	87.09	88.11	89.12	90.14	91.16
15.4	77.60	78.62	79.65	80.67	81.70	82.73	83.75	84.78	85.80	86.83	87.86	88.88	89.91	90.93	91.96
15.5	78.27	79.31	80.34	81.38	82.41	83.45	84.48	85.52	86.55	87.59	88.62	89.66	90.69	91.73	92.76
15.6	78.95	79.99	81.03	82.08	83.12	84.17	85.21	86.25	87.30	88.34	89.39	90.43	91.47	92.52	93.56
15.7	79.62	80.67	81.73	82.78	83.83	84.89	85.94	86.99	88.04	89.10	90.15	91.20	92.26	93.31	94.36
15.8	80.30	81.36	82.42	83.48	84.54	85.61	86.67	87.73	88.79	89.85	90.92	91.98	93.04	94.10	95.16
15.9	80.97	82.04	83.11	84.18	85.25	86.33	87.40	88.47	89.54	90.61	91.68	92.75	93.82	94.89	95.96
16.0	81.65	82.73	83.81	84.89	85.97	87.05	88.13	89.21	90.29	91.37	92.45	93.53	94.61	95.69	96.77

Farm Safety During the Harvest

With the crushing beginning shortly, growers are reminded of the need to provide a safe place to work for themselves, employees, family members and the harvesting crews who operate on their farm.

It is easy to get complacent, especially as growers live and work on the farm each day and may have had the same harvesting crew for 20 years or more. Each year growers need to take stock of what is on the farm, what has changed and does this impact the harvesting crews who will be working on the farm.

For example, a new lateral move irrigator may mean new hydrant locations as well as the parking of the irrigator in a paddock or on a headland where a harvester or haulout may encounter it in the early morning.

As part of providing a safe place to work, it is recommended that growers complete an induction for the harvesting crew and any regular visitors such as chemical and fertiliser delivery drivers.

For the harvesting crew, items such as hydrants, power poles, powerlines, tram lines, and parked equipment are vitally important to be identified as part of the induction process. Delivery drivers need to be inducted to the hazards around the sheds or delivery points such as access points/doorways to buildings, powerlines, and contact details if no one is at the shed. The important thing is that these are updated if there are any changes (e.g. if the lateral move irrigator has been moved so that the remainder of the farm can be harvested).

The Managing Sugarcane Farm Safety manual is available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS reception. The workbook has a checklist that enables growers to identify hazards and provide a risk assessment that enables plans to be made that provide a safe place to live and work on the farm. Completing the relevant sections is the first step to demonstrating a commitment to workplace safety, which is especially important if there is a workplace incident on the farm. ■



Quad Bike Helmet Rules Change

Members are advised, that on the 22nd of March 2024, 9 Work Place Health and Safety (Quad Bikes) Amendment Regulation was authorized by the Queensland Parliamentary Council and Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon. Grace.

The regulation amendment now requires helmets to be worn while operating quad bikes at a workplace.

The latest changes are to quad bikes at places of work only, and do not affect

recreational use.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS encourages safe use of quad bikes, supporting licensing and training which is consistently linked to improved safety outcomes in both workplace and recreational settings.

While there may be operational implications and other safety concerns that come from wearing helmets, such as heat stress, lack of peripheral vision and restrictive hearing; it is recommended

that growers follow the new regulations.

The biggest concern is the blurring of what is a workplace and a recreational place on a farm where the same piece of machinery can be used for multiple operations.

A reminder that children under the age of 16 are not permitted to ride an adult sized quad bike due to the risk of injury. ■

Safety Near Powerlines

Growers are reminded that powerlines have a general three (3) metre exclusion zone around the wires and the safest way to operate around the wires is to have a trained safety observer watching the operation of the machinery and the wires. The exclusion zone can be reduced if a trained observer (completed Safe Working Near Exposed Live Parts course or similar) is used at the site where equipment may encroach the three (3) metre exclusion zone.

Additional information on safety near powerlines, specifically for the sugar

industry, can be found on the Look Up & Live app which also has a map function that identifies the location, type and exclusion zone for powerlines on your farm.

What to do if contact occurs with powerlines

If equipment touches a powerline growers are to stay inside the cab of the vehicle. The only reason to leave is if the vehicle is on fire. If forced to leave the cab, the best thing to do is to jump as far away from the vehicle as possible, landing with your two (2) feet

close together to prevent creating a circuit with your legs. Then continue to hop away keeping your feet together. Another option is to shuffle away keeping your feet together, constant contact with the ground, and get at least 8-10 metres away from the vehicle.

By having your feet apart you've got one foot on the 9,000 volt line and the other foot on the 8,000 volt line, the electricity will flow through your body causing electric shock and possible injury or death. ■

Loading of Cane Bins

Growers are reminded to ensure that harvesting contractors fulfil their obligations relating to the securing of their load during the harvesting and upcoming planting season. With significantly more cane travelling along the road network this year growers and harvester contractors will need to be vigilant to ensure the cane bins are not overloaded.

By law, the person in control of the vehicle must ensure that the load is not placed in a way that makes the vehicle unstable or unsafe; it must be secured so it is unlikely to fall or be dislodged from the vehicle and an appropriate method must be used to restrain the load. Fines do apply for breaches.

The practicalities of the sugar cane harvest mean that sensible solutions need to occur so that billets are not spilt on the road. These practicalities lead to the adoption of specific guidelines for operation on or near the road network, based on the premise of minimising the spilling of billets onto the road.

Under the Chain of Responsibility legislation, it is not only the driver of the haulout / multilift vehicle that spills the billets who is liable if spillage occurs and there is a risk to another motorist, it may also include the harvester driver, the owner of the bin used to haul cane as well as anyone else who has influence over the work that lead to the billets being spilt.

NHVR current policy is that no billets or trash should leave the vehicle.

CANEGROWERS are trying to find a workable solution to this issue that enables the harvest to progress in a timely and affordable manner while providing motorists safe use of the roads.

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines, please phone Matt Leighton on 4151 2555. ■

Flashing Lights Required When Driving Tractor On Road

Transport and Main Roads have recently been pulling growers over for not having a flashing light on their tractor whilst driving on the road.

Even though some tractors are not oversized, Transport and Main Roads advised they require a flashing light and that hazards lights are not sufficient.

This and other conditions of driving on the road are listed on the registration certificate. ■



Check your Employee's Drivers Licence

Did you know that you can check if a Queensland driver licence is current by using the Queensland Transport online service found at www.service.transport.qld.gov.au/checkdriverlicencestatus

- Licence number;
- Licence holder's first and last name;
- Licence holder's date of birth.

The service is intended for use by the drivers licence holder, or persons who have been provided the driver licence as evidence of the drivers licence holder's

authority to drive.

The service only checks the status of a driver licence. It will not check the driver licence class or type, or any special conditions imposed on the licence. ■

To check the status of a drivers licence you will need the:

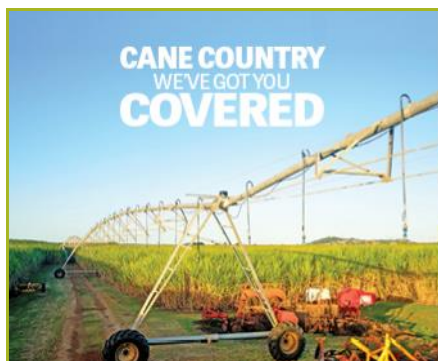
Chain of Responsibility

Growers are reminded that under the Chain of Responsibility Laws for Heavy Vehicles, that any person who has influence along the supply chain may be responsible for any laws that are breached.

The best way to discharge or lower the level of responsibility is for easy-to-understand contracts to be in place which state who is responsible for what roles in the operation. These include but are not

limited to fatigue management, overloading and vehicle dimension.

Template copies are available upon request at reception or by calling the office on 4151 2555. ■



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Media Release

At the invitation of Tom Smith MP, State Member for Bundaberg, Bundaberg Ag Food and Fibre Alliance (BAFFA) representatives Peter McLennan and Dale Holliss travelled to Parliament house to meet with Minister Glenn Butcher, Assistant Minister Shane King and other representatives on a wide range of issues impacting our agribusiness and farming operations.

BAFFA is extremely concerned that the urgency to rebuild Paradise Dam by the State and Federal Governments is waning and that the Olympic infrastructure and Clean Energy infrastructure requirements will be to the detriment of the timely rebuilding of Paradise Dam.

We requested that an indicative timeline on actual build commencement and finish date be released before the end of the 2024 water year.

We reiterated the Water Resource Plan operating rules that were agreed with SunWater when the Paradise situation

was first publicly raised and are appreciative that SunWater has recently recommitted to these undertakings. Not the least of which is quarantining the unsold Paradise water from the announced allocation process.

The Bundaberg scheme has significant lift and relift segments and is a high electricity requirement scheme with significant electricity costs incurred to deliver water to irrigators.

The 'no-one is worse off' electricity cost pass-through trial for irrigation customers in the regulated Bundaberg distribution scheme commenced in 2020 and because the current price path has been extended by 12 months, we requested that the cost pass through trial also be extended for a further 12 months to match the end of the current price path.

With respect to mining in the Bundaberg Regional Council footprint BAFFA suggested that sustainable food and fibre production take precedence over resource

-based activities in our region, and we strongly recommend that this region's future land use be classified as being only available for food, fibre, and foliage production.

BAFFA remain strongly opposed to any mining activity that threatens agricultural land, water security and the livelihood of our farmers in the Bundaberg region.

A copy of the Briefing paper presented is available on the BAFFA website.

For further information contact Dale Holliss on 0417 009 236 ■



Employment Matters

Superannuation Guarantee Payments

Be aware that the rate will increase with effect from 1/7/24 from 11% to **11.5%**.

Work completed on a public holiday will attract penalty rates (2.5 times the ordinary rate of pay).

Employee Engagement

Employees are engaged as either:

- Full Time with average ordinary hours up to 38 hours per week.
- Part Time involving a regular pattern of hours which average less than 38 hours per week (agreement in writing between the parties will be entered into regarding the numbers of hours

worked each day, which days of the week the employee will work and the actual starting and finishing times each day). Employee will be entitled to pro-rata pay and conditions to those of full time employees.

- Casual employment with entitlement to a minimum of 3 hours' work and a loading of 25% of the minimum hourly rate instead of entitlements to paid leave.

New employment contract forms are available from our office ("Seasonal Employment Contract – 2024 Season" and "Casual Terms and Conditions of Engagement"). These can be emailed to you for inclusion of your business entity's details and requirements before printing and provision to your new employee/s. A

Fair Work Information Statement plus whichever is relevant (Fixed Term Contract Information Statement or Casual Employment Information Statement), must be provided to every new employee before, or as soon as possible after, they start their new job. Contact our office to obtain any necessary employment templates or forms.

New rates of pay for the first full pay period commencing after 1 July 2024 will be made available as soon as the rates have been published. If growers do not automatically receive these by email and would like them, please advise Kate at our office and growers will receive them in due course. ■

Public Holidays to 31/12/2024

Thursday	-	30 May	Bundaberg Show Holiday (Postcode 4660 & 4670 Only)
Monday	-	12 August	Royal Brisbane Show Holiday (Postcode 4671 Only)
Monday	-	7 October	King's Birthday
Tuesday	-	24 December	Christmas Eve (From 6pm to Midnight)
Wednesday	-	25 December	Christmas Day
Thursday	-	26 December	Boxing Day



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

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
15.04.2024	Regional Business HQ	To represent members	Tanya Howard
18.04.2024	Bureau of Meteorology Sugarcane Weather and Climate workshops, southern region	To discuss weather this upcoming season	Matt Leighton
18.04.2024	SRA Southern District Activity update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
29.04.2024	SRA Dinner	To represent members	Mark Pressler Michael Cavallaro
01.05.2024	Pumped Hydro Update	To receive update	Matt Leighton
02.05.2024	SRA Southern District Activity update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
07.05.2024	Pre Season meeting	To represent members	Anna Attard Tanya Howard Courtney Moar
08.05.2023	Preseason contractors meeting	To represent members	Sam Ford
15.05.2024	Community cabinet	To represent members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
16.05.2024	SRA Southern District Activity update	To receive update	Tanya Howard



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Invitation to Demonstration and Information Session

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





Mill Production - Extraneous Matter

Extraneous Matter is- Trash, mud, dirt and rubbish/contamination and the effects on milling are

Trash

- Reduced bin weights, more bin movements required. Tippler can only tip a bin per minute or 60 bins per hour. At 6tonnes per bin that's 360t/hr. at 5 tonnes per bin that's a maximum rate of 300t/hr. At 4.5 tonnes per bin that's 270t/hr, resulting in low milling rate and excess bin movements.
- Reduced rate through the milling process due to issues with cane feeding at the front of the factory. Causes chokes on the transfer stations, chokes in conveyors and elevators. Results in lost time to milling. Flow on effect is a cut back in bin supply to groups the next day.
- NHVR- Trash will be the issue and could cause the loads to be covered. Current message is that if there's no spillage of cane there's no problem. If there's spillage there will be enforcement of the law.
- CCS reduction. It is well documented that high trash loads will reduce the CCS result due to the Pol reduction in the sample. High trash also reduces the miller's ability to extract all the sugar from the cane as the trash attaches to the sugar and takes it out with the bagasse.

Mud

Normal mud loadings in the mill during dry periods like last year were between 1.5 and 3%, this means that for 3% mud in cane there is 3 tonnes of mud/dirt in every 100 tonnes of cane. On average 10 tonnes of dirt comes into the mill every hour. When the levels increase to 6% or higher during wet periods, it means in excess of 20 tonnes of mud per hour. The effects of mud/dirt loads are-

- Reduced rate due to the clarification process, high mud levels means that the milling rate must be reduced to eliminate dirt carry over into the juice stream that will eventually end up in the sugar.
- Reduced rate due to handling issues in the feeding process with belts and elevators not conveying the product. This causes chokes and lost milling time, effects are reduced bin allocations the next day.
- Increased wear on milling components, shredder tips, scraper plates on the mills, boiler tubes wear faster due to dirt carry over in the bagasse. Results in boiler down time and lost milling time or rate reduction. Sometimes the lost time can be days.
- Filters- high mud loads increases the loads on the mud filters. Reduced crush rate.

Rubbish/Contamination

Rubbish/Contamination in the bins over the years has included pigs, gas bottles,

refrigerators, topper knives and base cutter blades, oil filters, air filters, irrigation hoses, 20L plastic drums, cane bin wheels sets, lots of steel parts from farm machinery and harvesters.

Effects-

- Shredder- Tip and grid bar breakages and wear, out of balance issues requiring the shredder to be stopped and tips changed prematurely leading to maintenance days.
- Belts- Rags etc get hung up on idlers causing them to stop. Mill stops to remove.
- Steel- issues with elevators ripping plates out and getting caught up in the mills causing feeding issues. All steel parts end up in the juice pumps causing stoppages or in the boilers sluice system causing chokes. Also jams bagasse feeders causing low steam events which result in reduced or stopped milling.

If you realise that something might have gone into a bin of cane, notify your GSO so he can inform the mill as to what rake or bin it's in and they can check it when it comes into the mill. It's better to do this than cause some of the issues. The end result is it will affect all harvesting groups with allocation reductions the following day. ■

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



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