

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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Chair's Update

Well, the 2024 harvest season started on time with 72,902 tonnes of Bundaberg Sugar cane being crushed in the preseason. The core season got away to a good start with some cold fine weather and a steady increase in CCS. Then the showers set in and with that a downward track in CCS and mud issues.

Millaquin had some issues with No.1 Mill, but had it rectified before the core season started.

As I write this the weather has not really cleared properly. BOM is forecasting some more cool fine weather in the next week or so, lets hope to see some increase in CCS. We set the base CCS at 13.00, the current season to date Relative CCS average sits at 12.64.

Bundaberg irrigation scheme irrigators saw their allocations for the 2024-25 irrigation released. High Priority has been set at 100% and Medium Priority also set to 100%. Sunwater have advised that Paradise Dam pre works has begun albeit we are waiting on environmental approvals and costings before the government will give contractors the green light to commence work on the construction of the new dam, this could take a considerable amount of time.

Both Allan Dingle and myself have been representing ground water irrigators and cane farmers on the Regional Reference Group for the proposed MDL3040 from Fox Resources. There should be a decision on this from government in the very near future.

There have been some delays with the Oreo payments, however, the overdue instalments for April, May and June have now been paid by Oreo and these monies have been transferred to growers. Oreo have been invoiced for interest in accordance with the agreement, however, payment has not

yet been received. Once these monies are received and transferred to growers, the monies should be allocated to "interest earned".



We have successfully negotiated a new Contract with Oreo for the 2024-2026 Seasons including a 10% price increase (\$55 + GST per tonne) and a slight change to timing of payments that will see payment received sooner. If you would like to supply cane trash in the 2024 Season and you do not yet have a contract, please contact the office on 4151 2555. To schedule baling, please contact Oreo's In-Field Baling Manager on 0487 788 770.

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) have released their final determination on 2024-25 regulated retail electricity prices for regional Queensland, electricity price increases will apply from 1 July 2024. If you require assistance with your electricity accounts or a review of your tariffs to ensure you are on the most cost-effective tariff for your situation, please contact Courtney. Further information is available on pages 4 and 5.

Mark Pressler
Chairman

Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. Ensuring that the Cane Analysis Program is being implemented and that issues are being resolved promptly and as per the program.
2. Assisting growers to switch electricity tariffs following the release of the QCA final determination for 2024-25.
3. Representing Growers on various issues including Groundwater metering, Sunwater pricing proposals and Oreo contract renewal
4. Coordinating 2024 soybean season arrangements and payments to Grain in Cane Cooperative members.
5. Reviewing Bundaberg Regional Council budget including impact on Category 9 rate payers.



Crushing Statistics – 2024 Season



2024 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 28 June 2024

Applicable From	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		QSL Standard Advance Rate
	Payment Date	To	
Initial	\$0	\$420	65.0%
15 Jun 24	-\$21	\$399	65.0%
13 Jul 24	\$0	\$399	65.0%
17 Aug 24	\$0	\$399	65.0%
14 Sep 24	\$0	\$399	65.0%
19 Oct 24	\$31	\$430	70.0%
16 Nov 24	\$15	\$445	72.5%
14 Dec 24	\$31	\$476	77.5%
18 Jan 25	\$15	\$491	80.0%
15 Feb 25	\$15	\$506	82.5%
15 Mar 25	\$31	\$537	87.5%
19 Apr 25	\$15	\$552	90.0%
17 May 25	\$16	\$568	92.5%
21 Jun 25	\$15	\$583	97.5%
By 31 July 25	\$31	\$614	100.0%

Notes:

Under QSL's Advances program, supplying growers and millers are paid a proportional amount of their current estimated final sugar pricing result. The program is indicative only and may change during the course of the season, and so should not be taken as a commitment by QSL with regard to either the Advance rate or date of increase. The QSL Board reviews the program periodically to determine whether scheduled increases should be approved or amended, weighing factors such as movements in the marketing and shipping plans, sugar price and currency movements and the timing of cash flows. Suppliers' positions in relation to any pricing elections may also impact the timing and size of Advance payments. Based on indicative pool values, with an estimated combined QSL Harvest and US Quota pool value of \$613.63/t IPS as of 28 June 2024.

Note: The 'Applicable From' payment dates listed below may differ from your own payment dates due to your local milling arrangements and bank processing times.

This figure is an estimate only for the default QSL pricing position of 98% Harvest Pool + 2% US Quota Pool based on pool values as at the date specified. Please note that the pool values used to calculate the default payment will change as the season progresses. The default payment figure incorporates a weighted average Shared Pool allocation, with the Shared Pool allocation applied to grower payments varying in each region due to regional costs (regional Shared Pool details are available at www.qsl.com.au). The estimated payment figure quoted also does not include any applicable Loyalty Bonus, GST, allowances, deductions or any other adjustments incurred by the grower or passed on by their miller.

Accelerated Advances
Accelerated Advances Program participants receive 90% of their eligible products' indicative value by December each year. Under this scheme, Advance rates paid for tonnages in these products remain at 90% from each season, reverting to the QSL Standard Advance Rate from the subsequent May payment.

Summary of Wage Rates from 1 July 2024

This information is a summary only- for full details including weekend penalty rates, overtime and public holiday rates, refer to Fair Work Ombudsman website – Award Viewer - MA000087 (Sugar Industry Award 2020) - Part 4 – Field Sector – Wages and Allowances Clause 17 Minimum Rates & Schedule D Summary of Hourly Rates of Pay.

Type of Employment	Full/Part-Time Hourly Rate (Ordinary Hours)	Full/Part-Time Single Contract Hourly Rate	Casual Hourly Rate (Ordinary Hours exc Weekends)	Casual Single Contract Hourly Rate
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Classification

Cultivation/Cane Production

Youths under 18 years	\$14.67	\$16.87	\$18.34	\$20.54
Youths 18-19 years	\$18.34	\$21.09	\$22.93	\$25.68
Inductee/Trainee	\$23.68	\$27.23	\$29.60	\$33.15
Grade 1	\$25.36	\$29.16	\$31.70	\$35.50
Grade 2	\$26.20	\$30.13	\$32.75	\$36.68

Classification

Cane Haulage

Inductee/Trainee	\$24.79	\$28.51	\$30.99	\$34.71
Grade 1	\$25.36	\$29.16	\$31.70	\$35.50
Grade 2	\$26.20	\$30.13	\$32.75	\$36.68

Classification

Cane Harvesting

Inductee/Trainee	\$25.36	\$29.16	\$31.70	\$35.50
Grade 1	\$26.20	\$30.13	\$32.75	\$36.68
Grade 2	\$27.17	\$31.25	\$33.96	\$38.04

Superannuation Guarantee (SG) rate of 11.5% applies from 1 July 2024. You'll need to use the new rate to calculate super on payments you make to employees on or after 1 July, even if some or all of the pay period is for work done before 1 July. The SG rate is legislated to increase to 12% by 2025. Workers under 18 are eligible for SG when they work more than 30 hours in a week. ■

Reef Compliance Audit Update

Recently a number of growers were subjected to Reef regulation compliance audits from the Department of Environment and Science regulation compliance team. These growers are selected at random and must provide a range of documents to prove compliance with the regulations. While in the early stages it appears that Bundaberg growers are doing their best to comply with the regulations with the non-compliant matters being minor and generally accounted for with changes in the 2024 fertiliser season.

The growers selected have provided the compliance officers copies of the people and property details including lot on plan details, records of previous yields, previous soil tests, soil and farm maps, Nitrogen and phosphorus budget and

fertiliser records.

The issues of non-compliance have been not taking soil tests in the 12 months prior to planting, not having the N & P budget completed prior to planting and fertiliser application for the year. It is expected that as the audits progress some growers will be non-compliant for the over application of nutrients applied as fertiliser compared to the budget. Much of this will occur due to the lack of rate flexibility from sprocket-based drive mechanisms on the fertiliser box. It may occur at planting or in the ratoons.

If you have any further questions please contact Matthew Leighton on 4151 2555. ■



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 **Riaan: 0499 234 136**
 **Glen: 0439 833 800**

2024-25 Regulated Retail Electricity Prices for Regional QLD

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has issued the retail electricity price determination for regional Queensland for 2024-25, with the new prices to take effect from 1 July 2024.

QCA Tariffs for 2024-25 What's new?

■ Small Business tariff (annual usage <100MWh)

The small business tariff (T20) usage charge is set to fall slightly however daily service fee has risen. In the determination charges for tariff 20 are listed as:

Usage: 33.264c/kWh, **down 3.1%.**
Fixed charge: \$1.50/day, **up 5.4%.**

■ Load Control tariff (interruptible supply)

Irrigators who are willing to work with the possibility of their power being interrupted, by up to 6 hours per day, may be able to save money by switching to the new primary control load tariff (T34).

Remember that with Ergon's dynamic load control system, electricity supply is not interrupted every day. For example, supply was interrupted on fewer than ten occasions each year during the three-year trial period of this tariff. QCA's draft determination lists charges as:

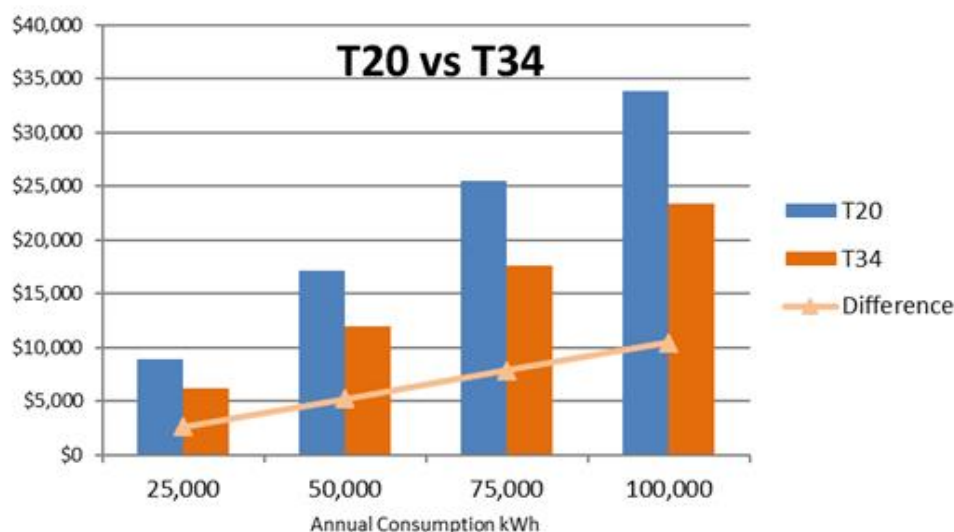
Usage: to 22.83c/kWh, **down 2.9%.**
Fixed charge: \$1.39/day, **up by 6.2%.**

- Load control tariff rates are around 30% lower than standard tariff rates (compared to Tariff 20). For an irrigator using 25,000kWh per year, this is around \$2,650/year saving; for an irrigator using 50,000 kWh per year, it's around \$5,260/

	T20	Consumption kWh	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
\$/kWh	0.33	Usage \$	\$8,316	\$16,632	\$24,948	\$33,264
daily	1.50	Fixed \$	\$548	\$548	\$548	\$548
		Total Cost \$	\$8,864	\$17,180	\$25,496	\$33,812

	T34	Consumption kWh	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
\$/kWh	0.23	Usage \$	\$5,709	\$11,417	\$17,126	\$22,834
daily	1.39	Fixed \$	\$508	\$508	\$508	\$508
		Total Cost \$	\$6,216	\$11,925	\$17,633	\$23,342

Difference	\$2,647	\$5,255	\$7,862	\$10,470
% Saving	30%	31%	31%	31%



2024-25 Regulated Retail Electricity Prices for Regional QLD

SOLAR SOAK Tariff 22C (time of use tariff)

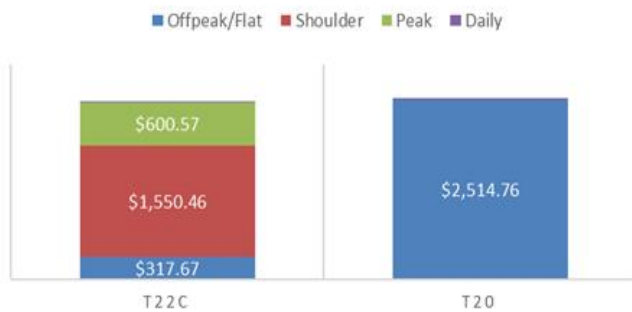
Tariff 22C is intended to encourage daytime electricity usage to assist in the management of excess solar generation being fed into the grid.

The low daytime and shoulder rates make this an attractive tariff to irrigators with the 24hr aggregated rate being fractionally higher than Tariff 20. Savings can be made in comparison to Tariff 20 providing that consumption during the peak window of 4pm - 9pm weekdays is minimized and the lower cost daytime hours are fully utilised.

Energy consumed exclusively outside of the peak period will cost less than if connected to Tariff 34.

For assistance with your tariff selection, please contact Courtney at the office, 4151 2555. ■

45KW MOTOR PUMPING 24 HOURS FOR 7 DAYS



45KW MOTOR PUMPING 18 HOURS A DAY FOR 7 DAYS



	Offpeak/Flat	Shoulder	Peak	Daily	Total
T22C	\$318	\$1,550	\$601	\$18	\$2,487
T20	\$2,515			\$10	\$2,525

	Offpeak/Flat	Shoulder	Peak	Daily	Total
T22C	\$318	\$1,270	Nil	\$16	\$1,604
T20	\$1,886			\$10	\$1,896

	45kW 24hr/day for 7 days	45kW 18hr/day for 7 days
Difference to Tariff 20	\$38	\$292
% Saving compared to Tariff 20	2%	15%

Electricity Bill Check Service



If you are an irrigating farmer, chances are you receive a pretty big electrical bill each month or quarter. It's part of the cost of doing business and it's a big cost. Electricity bills hurt, yet finding a way to reduce them never seems to be at the top of our to-do lists. Checking that you are on the best tariff for your usage needs is one way to make sure that you are not paying any more than you need to be.

confusing and time consuming. This is why we've created an Electricity Bill Checking Service for our members, where you just send us your bills and we'll tell you if you could potentially save by changing tariffs.

Save time trying to compare tariffs yourself. Contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on 4151 2555 for more information on how to get started. ■

Comparing tariffs yourself can be

JOBS BOARD

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Gary White, former dairy farmer for 45 years, tractor experience.
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Announced Allocation Advice - Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme

The initial announced allocation for Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme has been calculated for the 2024-2025 water year under the rules defined by the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual and will be applicable until revised and communicated by Sunwater.

Kolan subscheme

High priority 100%
Medium priority 100%
Effective Date: 1 July 2024

Burnett subscheme

High priority 100%
Medium priority 100%
Effective Date: 1 July 2024

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

To check your estimated available water balance log in to Sunwater Online here:
<https://bit.ly/SunwaterOnline>

Sunwater Online is available to customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This system puts you in control of your water and business via secure online facilities. To register for online access, please contact customer support on 13 15 89.

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

Groundwater Meter Revalidation

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water has provided an update on the progress of meter revalidation for both Area A and Area B. As part of the revalidation process growers need to notify the Department that they are on a waiting list with their preferred irrigation company provided they have an approved meter certifier. Both of the major irrigation businesses in town have approved meter certifiers.

What has been shown is that while the

majority of people in Area A have had their meters revalidated or are on a waiting list to get their meters revalidated, there are several groundwater users who have not started this process. For those that have not started the process, the Department has the ability to enforce penalties including fines, the removal of water entitlement and ultimately, prosecution in court.

For those growers who are in Area B the Department is aware of some growers who have had their meters revalidated.

There is a reasonable waiting list and there have been some delays in revalidating the meters. To ensure that the Department knows that growers are on a waiting list for their meters to be revalidated, growers need to contact the Department on 3330 5441 and let them know the details of the company doing the revalidation and if possible, a likely completion date.

The completion date for meter revalidation for Area B water users is 30 November 2024. ■

Opportunity for training

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has secured some partially subsidised training opportunities for growers through the SmartAg training program from QFF. This training program is designed to train and retain staff on the farm. It has some broad themes of technology, production, safety and business.

The first of these courses being run in Bundaberg is a pilot/escort training course on 7 August. Growers who complete this course will be able to apply to become a Level 1 pilot which enables the licensed pilot to assist in the movement of oversize/overmass vehicles around the road network.

Other courses that may be available, if there is enough interest, include haulout training, forklift training to apply for a high risk work license and rural first aid.

If growers wish to be added to the expression of interest list for the pilot course or others listed here please contact reception on 4151 2555. ■

STL audit of Share Register

Sugar Terminals Limited have sent correspondence to their shareholders asking them to complete a member status declaration to confirm they are active growers. Please complete and return this form to confirm you are an active grower. There has been some confusion with question 2 which asks "contracting party name" this refers to your farm name on your cane supply agreement.

If you wish to purchase/sell shares or know of an inactive grower who wants to sell their shares, contact the office on 4151 2555 for further information. ■



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Representation on Your Behalf

The Chairman, Elected Members and Staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS represented cane growers on a number of occasions. Executive members also attended many Branch meetings and other engagements in their own time.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
20.05.2024	Regional Business HQ Board	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
22.05.2024	QSL Growers Meeting: Brisbane	To Represent Members	Anna Attard
22.05.2024	Deputation to Bundaberg Regional Council	To Represent Members	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard Mark Pressler
22.05.2024	Bundaberg Regional Reference Group Fox Resources	To Represent Members	Allan Dingle Mark Pressler
23.05.2024	Sugar Research Australia, Dr Barry Salter	To Represent Members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard Michael Cavallaro
05.06.2024	Energy Queensland	To Represent Members	Dale Holliss
06.06.2024	QSL Update	To Receive Update	BCL Directors
06.06.2024	QSL Grower Meeting	To Receive Update	BCL Directors
11.06.2024	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
12.06.2024	SRA RVC Meeting	To Receive Update	Matthew Leighton
13.06.2024	Fortnightly SRA Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
14.06.2024	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
19.06.2024	Bundaberg Regional Council	To Represent Members	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard Mark Pressler Dean Cayley
25.06.2024	Bundaberg Haulout Course Development, Smart Ag	To Progress Training	Tanya Howard
25.06.2024 26.07.2024	Environment & Sustainability Committee Meeting	To Represent Members	Mark Pressler
27.06.2024	Farm Inputs Research Committee	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
27.06.2024	Regional Business HQ Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
08.07.2024	Monthly District Manager Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
11.07.2024	Fortnightly SRA Southern District Activity Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
15.07.2024	Regional Business HQ Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
16.07.2024 17.07.2024	QCGO Policy Council	To Represent Members	Anna Attard Tanya Howard
05.07.2024	Paul Woosley, M Myers, Oreco	To Progress 2024 Contract	Tanya Howard Anna Attard

2024 Payment Arrangements



From the 2024 Season, Bundaberg Sugar growers will move to the full QSL Direct model, with the following arrangements coming into place:

- Your sugar payments will now come directly from QSL, rather than Bundaberg Sugar.
- In addition to your usual mill paperwork, QSL will also provide you with a statement detailing your sugar pricing results and the weighted average price used to calculate your Advance payment. This statement is for information purposes only, and can be found in the 'Statements'

section of both your QSL Direct account and App.

- There are no changes to the way you do your bookwork. Bundaberg Sugar will still supply you with the usual Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) and you'll use this for your BAS and other bookwork.

QSL is also taking over third-party payments, such as leases and liens. You can find remittance advices for these in your QSL Direct account. If you need to make changes to existing third-party

payments, or create new ones, please let QSL know.

Now that Bundaberg growers are on the QSL Direct system, it is also important to let QSL know if you have any changes to your farming arrangements, including lease and ABN changes and farm sales.

For further information please contact Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349 or QSL Direct on 1800 870 756. ■

Groundwater Announced Allocations

Growers who utilise groundwater for irrigation and are in either Area A or Area B should have received their Announced Allocations for 2024/25 water year.

Due to the large number of Zones within these Areas it is hard to comment specifically however on average the majority of growers would have received a similar starting allocation in

2024 as they did in 2023. Obviously for the allocations to increase we need a wet season that provides runoff and opportunities to recharge the aquifer. ■

2024/25 Start of Water Year Announced Entitlements

AE	Unit 1 Elliott Formation		Unit 2 Fairymead Beds	
	Area A – Water allocations	Area B – Water licences	Area A – Water allocations	Area B – Water licences
50%				
55%				
60%	025, 026			
65%	015, 016	074		
70%	037			
75%		021		
80%	004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036	071		
85%	001, 002, 003, 027, 028, 029, 063, 064, 065	023, 070	080, 081, 082	
90%	009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 017, 018, 019, 020	024, 078		
95%	038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052	022, 061, 075	084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 094, 095	100
100%	053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 066, 067, 068	062, 069, 073, 076, 077	092	097, 099

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