# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 20, Issue 1
February 2025


## Chair's Update

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year break. The weather has certainly been near perfect for growing cane with good moisture, humidity and plenty of solar radiation. In saying this the temperature has been quite oppressive at times. The crop is powering ahead with growth that I haven't seen at this time of the year for a very long time, and the best thing is it isn't costing an arm and a leg. Grass and vine control needs to be paramount as they too are loving this weather.

Our thoughts are with growers in the North who have not been so fortunate with weather conditions. We hope conditions dry out soon and they find the support required to recover from such a widespread natural disaster.

In late December we provided a submission to the Bundaberg Integrated Transport Strategy addressing potential problems and solutions for the local transport network for the next 20 years. The full submission is available on our website.

We are currently in negotiations with Bundaberg Sugar to ensure our next crop is harvested in a timely manner and we remain focused on achieving an outcome that is fair for all growers. 2025 will be a bumper crop for Millaquin Mill and timeliness of harvest, transport efficiency and crush rate will all be of utmost importance.

The Board met with Colin Boyce in late January to discuss our local issues and to gain some insight as to the upcoming Federal Election.

Sugar prices continue to look strong for the next couple of seasons and with access to QSL Direct you have the ability to take advantage of many different pricing options. If you have not yet received training from Glenn Harris, I encourage you to be in contact to make an appointment.

QSL are holding Grower Update meetings across the region on 21 February, further details can be found on page 2.

There continues to be delays with Oreco payments and we hope to receive the late instalments sooner rather than later. We have engaged Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS Solicitor to follow up outstanding payments on our behalf.

Tickets are now on sale for the Bundaberg Sugar Industry Dinner and 2024 Season Awards being held on Friday 21 March. This is a great night to celebrate the achievements of the past season and I encourage you all to attend. Please call the office to book your tickets.

### Harvesting Group Arrangements

The Collective Contract stipulates the following arrangements for grouping:

***8 Grouping***

*8.1 Formation.- The Mill Owner shall provide an indication of the likely modes of crush for the coming Season in writing to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd by the 14 April. Applications by a Grower to join a harvesting group must be received by the Mill Owner by the 21 April of each year and the Mill Owner must advise the grower by the 5 May of that year of the Grower's new Delivery Point to ensure the efficient and economic operation of the Mill transport system.*

*Growers who have been advised of a new Delivery Point shall notify the Mill Owner by the 15 May if they will accept the new Delivery Point. In the absence of any Application to the Mill Owner from a Grower prior to 21 April, and any notification of acceptance of a Delivery Point by a Grower to the Mill Owner prior to 15 May for those growers advised of a new Delivery Point, the Grower's membership of their harvesting group shall be deemed to be the same as the previous season.*

We are aware of growers who were impacted in 2024 by joining a harvesting group after the due date. If a grower joins a harvesting group late, especially during the season, the flow on impact of this affects other growers in the group, the contractors and the mill. If growers do not have a harvesting contractor they should contact either their GSO or the office so that suggestions about available harvesting contractors can be made.

***Mark Pressler***
Chairman

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

1. Reviewing arrangements for 2025 Season harvesting, transport and analysis;
2. Undertaking soil tests, analysis and assisting with N & P Budgets;
3. Reviewing campaign for pending Federal Government Elections;
4. Preparations for 2024 Season Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards on Friday, 21 March;
5. Preparations for 2025 Soybean Season.

# 2024 Season Indicative Advances Program

## Based on QSL reports 31 January 2025

| Applicable From | Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS) | | QSL Standard Advance Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Payment Date | Payment Change | To | |
| **Initial** | **$0** | **$420** | **65.0%** |
| **15 Jun 24** | **$-21** | $399 | 65.0% |
| **11 Jul 24** | $0 | $399 | 65.0% |
| **17 Aug 24** | $0 | $399 | 65.0% |
| **14 Sep 24** | $17 | $416 | 65.0% |
| **16 Oct 24** | $32 | $448 | 70.0% |
| **20 Nov 24** | $77 | $525 | 72.5% |
| **18 Dec 24** | $29 | $554 | 77.5% |
| **15 Jan 25** | $16 | $570 | 80.0% |
| **19 Feb 25** | $28 | $598 | 85.0% |
| **19 Mar 25** | $18 | $616 | 87.5% |
| **16 Apr 25** | $17 | $633 | 90.0% |
| **21 May 25** | $18 | $651 | 92.5% |
| **18 Jun 25** | $17 | $668 | 95% |
| **By 31 July 25** | $36 | $704 | 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 a estimated combined QSL Harvest and US Quota pool value of $724/t IPS as of 31 January 2025.

*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.

# QSL Grower Update

Growers in the Bundaberg Region are invited to join QSL for an information and sugar market update to be held at a number of venues around the district. Come along to talk about the latest factors driving the sugar and currency markets, the sugar pricing outlook and global sugar production forecasts for major sugar producers.

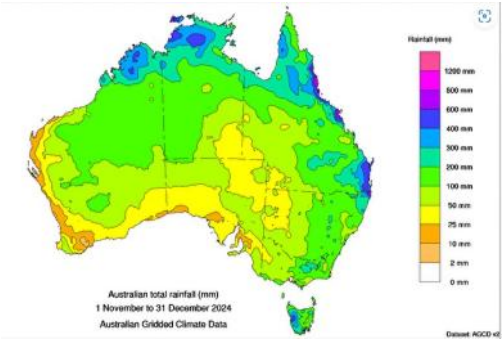
| Bundaberg East | Moore Park | South Kolan |
|---|---|---|
| Friday 21 February | Friday 21 February | Friday 21 February |
| 8:30am - 9:30am | 10:30am - 11:30am | 12:30pm - 1:30pm |
| East End Hotel,<br>58 Princess Street, Bundaberg East | Moore Park Beach Tavern,<br>16 Murdochs Road, Moore Park | South Kolan Hotel,<br>2368 Gin Gin Road, South Kolan |

**Refreshments will be provided, please RSVP to Glenn Harris on 0409 601 349.**

# New monthly climate newsletter

Interested in keeping up to date with information about climate conditions? Climate Note is a new monthly information service for primary producers produced by the Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

View this months' edition Climate Note - January 2025 at https://bit.ly/4ahQQHX or subscribe at https://bit.ly/3DZtY41.



# Waste Acceptance and Waste Facility Open Hours changes

Council has recently reviewed their Waste Facility operations and from this review there has been some waste acceptance and operating hours changes which will commence as of Monday, 3 February 2025.

## Waste Acceptance Changes

**Qunaba Waste Facility**

Landfilling at Qunaba waste facility is being reduced. Waste disposal limit of loads no greater than $3m^3$ or vehicles over 8t GVM will apply to the following products:

- General Waste (Commercial & Industrial waste)
- Constructions and Demolition waste

And the below will no longer be accepted for disposal:

- Agricultural plastic and contaminated trickle tape
- Concrete loads
- Clean course – earthen fill
- Dirty – earthen fill
- Dead animals

N.B. These items will only be accepted at the Bundaberg Waste Facility – 46 University Dr.

## Waste Facilities Operating Hours Change

| WASTE FACILITY | OPENING DAYS | TIMES |
|---|---|---|
| Bundaberg | *No change* | |
| Qunaba | Open 6 days (Closed Wednesdays) | 8:30am to 3:00pm |
| Meadowvale | Wednesday and Saturdays | 9:00am to 2:00pm |
| Avondale | Saturdays | 1:00pm to 5:00pm |
| South Kolan | Saturdays | 8:00am to 11:30am |
| Tirroan | *No change* | |
| Booyal | Sunday (1st Sunday of the month) | 8:00am to 11:00am |
| Buxton | Sunday (1st Sunday of the month) | 1:00 to 4:00pm |
| Childers | Monday to Friday<br>Saturday and Sunday | 7:30am to 12:15pm<br>9:00am to 12:15pm |
| Woodgate | Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday | 2:00pm to 5:00pm |

**If you require any further information or have any enquiries, please contact Council's Waste and Recycling Services on 1300 883 699.** ■

# National Heavy Vehicle Law (NHVL) fatigue changes

There have been some recent changes to the National heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) law relating to fatigue management. These changes are based around providing more flexibility to driving and rest for both the employee and employer to ensure the work can be completed safely and without fatigue. While these rules are specifically for those that drive fatigue-regulated heavy vehicles, fatigue is an issue for anyone operating machinery or working on a farm.

Farm and agricultural vehicles are generally not fatigue related vehicles however loading a fatigue regulated heavy vehicle can count towards the regulated work hours. Fatigue regulated heavy vehicles include those with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of over 12t, a combination when the total of the GVM is over 12t or a truck, or a combination including a truck, with a GVM of over 12t with a machine or implement attached.

The key points of the changes are:

**Focus on safety management systems:**
The NHVR prioritizes operators implementing robust systems to proactively manage driver fatigue, rather than solely relying on strict work and rest hour regulations.

**Exemptions and accreditation:**
Operators can apply for exemptions to standard work and rest hours based on their specific operations, often requiring additional fatigue management accreditation like Basic Fatigue Management (BFM).

**Work diary requirements:**
Drivers of fatigue-regulated heavy vehicles are required to maintain a work diary to record their work and rest periods, ensuring compliance with fatigue laws.

**Technology integration:**
The NHVR encourages the adoption of new technologies to monitor and detect fatigue, such as driver fatigue detection systems.

**Increased enforcement:**
The NHVR has enhanced its ability to monitor and enforce fatigue regulations, including issuing formal warnings and penalties for non-compliance.

While this may not directly impact growers or their harvesting contractors as many of the sugar industry vehicles are exempt, fatigue is an issue for all workers whether they be driving a harvester, driving a tractor cultivating a paddock or welding in a shed. Managing fatigue of employees is just one of the many responsibilities under Workplace Health and Safety legislation and regulations for an employer. ■

# Gramoxone 360 PRO Safety Recall

There has been a voluntary safety recall for Gramoxone 360 PRO Herbicide (a paraquat product) that relates to potential flaws in containers sold by agricultural retailers during Oct-Dec 2024. It relates to the 20L drums supplied for batches 389865, 389866 that were not made to the required specification and may not be sufficiently durable during handling and use.

No other batches are affected.

Please direct all calls and any queries concerning this voluntary recall to Syngenta Customer Service on 1800 022 035. To learn more https://bit.ly/4gHp3Dk. ■

**GRAMOXONE® 360 PRO Herbicide**

APVMA registration number: 68577

APVMA approved label number: 68577/137924

Batch number(s): 389865, 389866

# Reef Compliance Inspections

We have been made aware that there will be Reef Compliance visits by the Office of Great Barrier Reef compliance officers in early March this year. These visits are a mixture of nutrient, via N & P budgets, and sediment depending on the request in the letter, however if the inspectors think there is a sediment risk while conducting the N & P budget inspection, they are entitled to carry out further inspections.

Regardless of which compliance visit growers are receiving, they need to have the person and property record which identifies the people involved in the business, the address, lot on plan details and the people making the records.

For the N & P budget inspections growers require copies of fertiliser invoices; records of fertiliser applications which includes the date, the rate, the fertiliser name and the nitrogen and phosphorus percentage from the fertiliser tag; a fertiliser tag/analysis for every fertiliser used; soil tests, farm maps; soil maps and the N & P Budget.

For a sediment inspection growers are required to show a range of practices that stop or slow sediment loss that may include trash blanket cover, ground cover in the fallow, grassed headlands, contour banks and tail water dams.

To ensure growers are compliant Bundaberg CANEGROWERS have a range of templates available that growers can use for the person and property records, fertiliser record keeping as well as for pesticides.

**If any grower has received a letter from the Office of Great Barrier Reef regarding compliance visits, or they just wish to check to see if they have all the correct records, they should contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.**

SUGAR SERVICES

# SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

## Autumn Plant Source Inspections

The autumn planting season is fast approaching and BSSL staff have commenced inspections of these plant sources.

Growers intending to plant should contact **David Dowson** on **0429 334 553** to inspect and test these sources.

BSSL staff are available to inspect plant sources as the last thing that we want, is for growers to plant out smut or diseased cane because their plants were not inspected.

## Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budgets

Under the Reef Regulations every grower that plants cane needs to have a soil test in a representative soil type each year. The test results then become the basis for the nitrogen and phosphorus budget which is created/ updated each year.

This means that before planting, a soil test should be arranged so that the nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be determined for the farm including the results of the soil tests from 2023, 2024 and 2025.

If growers did not complete a soil test or N & P budget for 2024, they are encouraged to contact their fertiliser reseller to see what services they offer.

**Bundaberg Sugar Services also offer a soil testing service as well as providing a N & P budget.**

## SUGAR INDUSTRY DINNER
### 2024 SEASON AWARDS

Friday, 21 March 2025

The Sails Function Room, The Waves Sports Club

commencing with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles at 6:00pm
followed by a 2 course dinner and entertainment from 7:00pm

Subscription: $50 / person
(incl. 2 complimentary glasses of beer, wine or soft drink)

*Tickets available from Reception at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS & must be purchased prior to the night.*

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08.01.25 | Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Board | To represent growers | Dean Cayley<br>Tanya Howard<br>Dale Holliss |
| 14.01.25 | District Manager's Meeting | To receive updates | Tanya Howard |
| 16.01.25 | Mt Rawdon Pumped Hydro Update | To represent growers | All Directors<br>Tanya Howard<br>Dale Holliss |
| 20.01.25 | Regional Business HQ Board | To represent growers | Tanya Howard |
| 22.01.25 | Peter Thorning, Director Reef Compliance, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation | To represent growers | Tanya Howard<br>Matthew Leighton |
| 22.01.25 | Colin Boyce, Federal Member for Flynn | To represent growers | All Directors<br>Tanya Howard |
| 24.01.25 | Southern Region Haulout Essentials | To progress workshop arrangements | Tanya Howard |
| 29.01.25 | District Manager's Meeting | To receive updates | Tanya Howard |
| 03.02.25 | Bundaberg Ag Forum | To represent growers | All Directors<br>Tanya Howard<br>Dale Holliss<br>Matthew Leighton |
| 06.02.25 | SRA Southern Region Update | To receive updates | Tanya Howard |

# Stop. Check. Protect. to keep us safe

Australian Government | ScamWatch Stop. Better safe than scammed.

Scams are getting harder to spot as scammers increasingly take advantage of new technology, new products or services and major events to create believable but deceptive stories.

That's why Scamwatch are tackling the threat of scams with the launch of the Stop. Check. Protect. campaign. The campaign will spread awareness of sophisticated scam tactics, remind people that anyone can lose money, financial or personal details to a scam, and encourage everyone to report scams to Scamwatch.

The ads feature everyday people speaking to mini versions of themselves, which represent their inner voices and remind them to Stop. Check. Protect. These three (3) simple steps can help keep you safe from scams. When we all take these steps together, we build community resilience to scams.

## To avoid being scammed:

**STOP** – Don't give money or personal information to anyone if unsure.

**CHECK** – Consider who you're dealing with and ask yourself: could the message or call be fake?

**PROTECT** – Act quickly if something feels wrong and report scams to Scamwatch. Your report will help protect others.

## If you've been affected

Don't be embarrassed about being scammed.

If you have shared financial information or transferred money, contact your bank immediately. If you have given away your personal information, you can call IDCARE for help on 1800 595 160.

When you report the scam, the people who read your report understand how you are feeling. You are not alone. Contacting support services can help you understand what happened but also tells authorities about scam activities so they can work on making it harder for scams to succeed.

Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch.

# "Fangs on the Farm"

## Empowering children in rural, regional and remote areas with first aid skills

"Fangs on the Farm" is a new aminated children's series designed to equip children, especially those in rural, remote, and regional areas, with essential first aid knowledge and skills.

"Fangs on the Farm" was inspired by Kate Mitchell's (founder of The Darcy Effect) personal experience when she had to perform CPR on her 16-month-old son, Darcy, following a Tonic-Clonic Seizure at their farm, five hours away from Perth.

The show follows the adventures of three (3) main characters - Darcy Dingo, Gracie Gecko, and Harry Hopperoo - as they encounter challenges in their rural environment and learn to handle tricky situations with confidence and resilience. Through humour, mateship, and engaging storytelling, "Fangs on the Farm" teaches children best-practice first aid responses in a way that resonates with young viewers.

**You can watch it for free on YouTube.**

# Training Opportunities

The SmartAg Queensland project continues to go from strength to strength having delivered training to more than 920 farmers across Queensland since June 2024. QFF, alongside peak body members and delivery partners Cotton Australia, CANEGROWERS and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, have delivered priority training to the cotton, cane and horticulture sectors across Queensland.

| Course | Date | Price (after SmartAg subsidy applied, all prices subject to change) |
|---|---|---|
| **Forklift Training (*Strategix)*** | 4 - 6 March<br>11 - 13 March<br>18 - 20 March<br>25 - 27 March | $375.00 |
| **Forklift Training *(ASTA-Formal Course Work)*** | 19 March<br>17 April<br>19 May<br>17 June | $325.00 |
| **Pilot/Escort Training** | TBA | $325.00 |
| **Chemical Safety Training** | 31 March | $217.50 |
| **Haulout Essentials - Southern Region** | 7 - 11 April | TBA |

## Chemical Safety Training

SmartAg QLD have agreed to subsidise training costs by 50%. Country Co Training provide a full-day course (with some pre-course work) at an ordinary cost of $435 or $217.50 after the SmartAg subsidy is applied for eligible participants.

## Pilot/Escort Course

SmartAg QLD have agreed to subsidise 50% of the cost of a pilot/escort course where you will receive a Statement of Attainment in TLIC3010: Pilot or Escort Oversized and/or Over-Massed Loads, Level 1 Pilot. This will allow you to apply to TMR to start the process to obtain your level 1 authorisation. By completing this course growers will be able to move over size over mass agricultural vehicles without the requirement for roadside signs and create better flexibility for the business.

## Forklift Training

SmartAg QLD have agreed to subsidise eligible forklift training by 50%.

Strategix provide a three-day course in Bundaberg at an ordinary cost of $750 or $375.00 after the SmartAg subsidy is applied for eligible participants. At the completion of this course the successful applicant will receive an unrestricted class LF High Risk Work Licence and will be able to operate high reach and counterbalance forklifts but not order pickers or other high risk vehicles. As this is deemed a High Risk Work Licence participants must be at least 18 years old and will require 100 points of I.D including Photo I.D. Previous driving experience is preferred but not required.

ASTA provide a 2-part course in Bundaberg at an ordinary cost of $650 or $325 after the SmartAg subsidy is applied for eligible participants. During the first day of Formal Course Work (classroom) participants have access to support materials and each participant will be required to successfully complete an in-class self assessment. Once the logbook hours and/or evidence are verified by the trainer/assessor, participants will undertake Day 2 of their training. During the second day of training, participants are to undertake a short refresher session of the previous Day 1 materials, and complete theory & practical assessments.

*Note: It is illegal to operate a forklift in Qld without a licence. Forklift and tractors with vertical lift forks on either the front or rear of the machine require operators with suitable High Risk Work Licences. Anyone who is using a tractor with vertical lift forks needs to have a High Risk Work licence even if the machine has an implement on the back and the rear implement is being used.*

**If you or your employees are interested in undertaking any of the training listed above, please contact the office on 4151 2555 or by email to bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au with participant details including full name, address, date of birth, phone number, email address and invoicing details. These details will be passed on to the relevant training organisation to ensure you receive the subsidy upon enrolment.**

**Further dates will be made available as training organisations announce future course dates.**

# Successful Ag Forum Sets Path for Future

The 2025 Bundaberg Ag Forum has successfully concluded, delivering key insights and opportunities for the region's farmers while tackling critical issues shaping the industry's future.

Held on February 3, the forum featured Australia's largest landfill biogas company, LMS Energy, which explored ways for Bundaberg farmers to transform organic waste and energy crops into renewable fuels. Additionally, world-renowned Great Barrier Reef expert Dr. Peter Ridd provided a compelling scientific perspective on the Queensland Government's Reef Regulations.

The proposed $4.4 billion Paradise Dam rebuild was a focal point of discussions, with Sunwater Executive General Manager, Cameron Milliner fielding questions from the audience. The forum also hosted a robust expert panel discussion on the future of town planning and the Right to Farm, featuring Bundaberg Mayor Helen Blackburn.

This forum served as a crucial platform for our region's producers, who are guardians of the land we all rely on for food and water security.

MP Stephen Bennett, Member for Burnett and Chair of the Queensland Parliament's Primary Industries and Resources Committee, hosted the event. The forum brought together key decision-makers, industry leaders, and experts to explore pathways for future-proofing Bundaberg's agricultural sector.

Dr. Peter Ridd's presentation challenged the basis of the Reef Regulations, arguing that scientific principles demonstrate Bundaberg should be exempt from these restrictions. "There is ample justification for a science audit of the evidence used to include the Burnett catchment in the Reef Regulations," Dr. Ridd stated. "Compelling new information on the region's oceanography makes it clear that Bundaberg farmers have no impact on the Great Barrier Reef."

The event concluded with an engaging two-hour workshop by LMS Energy, where participants gained practical knowledge on renewable energy solutions. Q&A sessions throughout the forum enabled direct engagement between farmers and industry experts.

Bundaberg's producers contribute $2 billion to the region's $8.2 billion economy, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and our community's way of life.

The success of this forum reaffirms the importance of collaboration between farmers, decision-makers, and industry leaders to ensure the best outcomes for agriculture and the communities that depend on it.

*From left: Peter McLennan, Chris Cooper, Cameron Milliner, Mayor Helen Blackburn, Dr Peter Ridd, Clare Hamilton-Bate, Kate Mirskaya, Stephen Bennett MP.*

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

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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