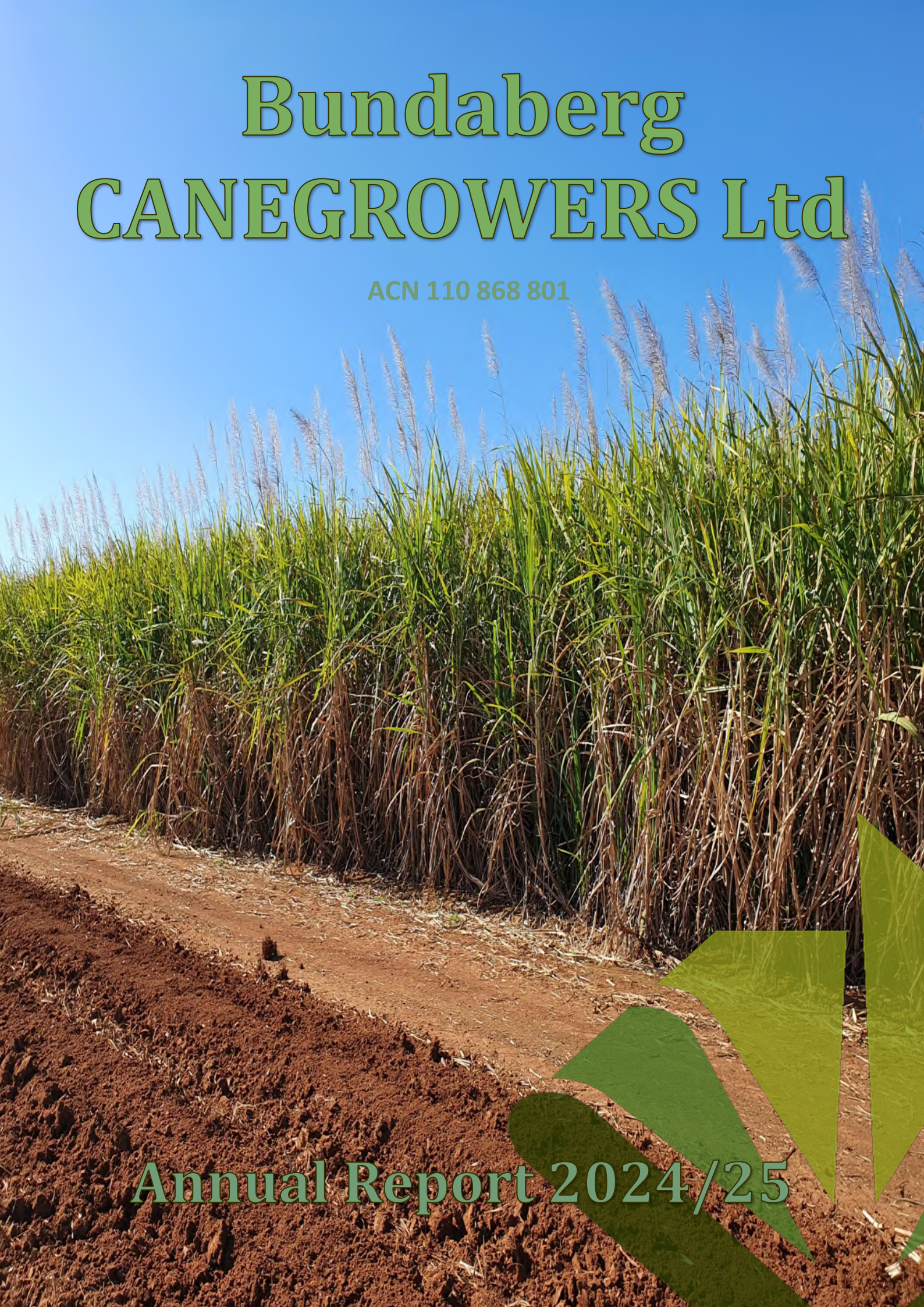


Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

ACN 110 868 801



Annual Report 2024/25



BUNDABERG CANEGROWERS LTD

Chairman

Mark Pressler

Directors

Dean Cayley
Michael Cavallaro

Anna Attard
Samuel (Sam) Ford

Auditor

DGZ Chartered Accountants

Solicitor

CJ Cooper & Associates

Staff

Manager / Company Secretary

Tanya Howard
[B.Acct, Commissioner for Declarations, Registered BAS Agent]

Project Officer

Dale Holliss
[MSc Env. Mgt, Grad Dip Ag Econ, BAppSC Hort Tech, Commissioner for Declarations, GAICD]

Membership Services Extension Officer

Matthew Leighton
[B.Agr.Sc.]

Project Officer/Cane Analysis Auditor

Courtney Moar

Cane Analysis Auditor

Katie Paulsen

Accounts / Administrative Assistant

Kate Odgaard
[Registered BAS Agent]

Receptionist /Administrative Assistant

Shanon Stacpoole

QUEENSLAND CANE GROWERS POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER

Mark Pressler

QUEENSLAND SUGAR LIMITED GROWER REPRESENTATIVE

Anna Attard



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024/25

The following report covers the financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, including the 2024 sugar cane season, and provides a snapshot of our efforts in providing representation, leadership and services while promoting unity in the interest of growers.

The 2024 season crop estimate was 1,228,436 tonnes and Millaquin Mill commenced the pre-crush of non-relative plantation cane on Monday, 21 May 2024 which saw 72,902.84 tonnes of cane processed, followed by the commencement of core season cane on Monday, 10 June 2024.

The weather made it a peculiar season with sporadic rain and storms received across the district and only a couple of wet weather stoppages. In week 29, No.1 Mill failed due to some extremely high loadings of mud and cane stool. Mill staff were able to bypass No. 1 Mill and recalibrate the NIR to No. 2 Mill to complete the season, this was a very good outcome.

A record throughput for Millaquin Mill was achieved with a total of 1,205,229.24 tonnes crushed for the 2024 Season and a season average CCS of 13.59. Millaquin Mill ceased crushing operations on Wednesday, 11 December 2024. The conclusion to crushing was well timed and as the crushing finished, the rain began to fall setting up a good growing season for the year ahead.

Bundaberg Sugar was able to achieve a very credible performance by Millaquin Mill this year and our assessment was that mill availability was around 95%. This put Millaquin Mill near or on top of the performance of all Queensland mills. A total of 15 days was lost due to wet weather.

We work closely with Bundaberg Sugar management in representing growers' needs and I would particularly like to acknowledge Guy Basile, Rob Zahn, Lincoln Williams and Micheal Green for their efforts during the year.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS resourced a strong advocacy campaign targeting sustainable electricity pricing, transport, biosecurity, cane-firing, reef regulations, right-to-farm and water sustainability issues. Our leadership ensured that federal, state and local government politicians were aware of the impacts of policy and red-tape on our members, and our growers concerns in relation to these issues and many more.

This advocacy led to tangible outcomes including the announcement of new electricity time-of-use tariffs, the extension of the Sunwater electricity cost pass through trial and transparency on issues related to water security and the Paradise Dam rebuild. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS provided assistance to individual growers to complete Energy Audits and implement recommendations, we continued to assist individual growers with N & P Budgets and we were available to assist growers through the Reef

Compliance Audit process to ensure their compliance with Reef Regulation requirements.

Bundaberg CANGROWERS continued the pursuit of reversing the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* that included the Burnett Mary region in the "Reef Regulation" process for the first time in 2019. The inclusion of the Burnett Mary catchment is scientifically unjustifiable primarily because we cannot impact the reef which is to the north east of our river systems and prevailing ocean currents predominantly flow south, not north.



Energy is paramount to irrigated agriculture and electricity remains one of our largest input costs. Our Electricity Bill Check service has ensured growers remain on the best tariff to suit their situation and that new tariffs are promoted and understood. It is in everyone's interest to keep input costs as low as possible.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has representation on the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee and continues to provide the secretarial requirements of that organisation. The committee provided feedback to the meter revalidation process and the potential charges of Area B license holders to Area B allocations.

Representatives also continue to participate in Sunwater Customer Advisory Committee meetings as well as the Paradise Dam Reference Group to ensure all irrigators are well represented and decisions that impact our growers are justified and necessary.

We welcomed the decision by the Crisafulli Government to reject Fox Recourses Mineral Development License (MDL) 3040 application after concerns were raised about the potential impacts of a future coal mine on the region's agricultural industry, water recourses, environmental values, livability, and tourism industry. We remain opposed to any mining activity on agricultural land.



Through SmartAg Queensland, growers can access training to support their agricultural enterprise to attract, train and retain a skilled and diverse workforce. The SmartAg funding has provided our members with access to subsidised training programs including 28 Forklift course participants, 24 Chemical Safety Training participants and 21 Pilot/Escort Course participants.

CANEGROWERS Brisbane staff were welcomed to the district for an industry familiarisation tour including an on-farm talk by Mark Pressler, a visit to the Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited One-Eye Sett shade house facility as well as a tour of Millaquin Mill, including the cane analysis lab, and a tour through the Bundaberg Port Sugar terminal.



Charles Burke was appointed the position of Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner to assist producers and provide a point of contact for all matters affecting farmers. Mr Burke joined Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner and Member for Bundaberg Tom Smith in his first regional visit as Commissioner, speaking with Mark Pressler.



2024/25 saw both State and Federal elections taking place and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS representatives met with both State and Federal election candidates prior to election day to push for positive outcomes for the local sugar industry. Following both elections, we met with our local members to reaffirm our position on the many policies and regulations that can have a large impact on our growers.

I acknowledge and thank Colin Boyce and David Batt who are our federal members, Stephen Bennett and Tom Smith who are our members at the state level and Mayor Blackburn and Councillors who are our local representatives, for their support in 2024/25.

We work hard to keep all levels of government informed on a range of issues including reef regulations, electricity, water pricing and local rates with a goal to ensure that policies and decisions don't create unnecessary burdens and make our jobs as cane growers harder than it has to be.

I also recognise our fellow industry service providers, Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, QSL, STL, Sugar Research Australia and Women in Sugar for their valued services and products. We have strong mutually beneficial and professional relationships with all our industry service providers including Bundaberg Sugar. We collaborate where we can but, when necessary, recognise that our members come first in every instance.

We also continue to provide support to the Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association which was formed to represent and support local residents and ratepayers.

At the end of the 2024 crush we farewelled Heather Best when Heather stepped back from her role as a Cane Analyst Auditor at Millaquin Mill. Heather has a remarkable story and career spanning several decades in the sugar industry.

CANEGROWERS Triennial Elections took place in April 2025 which saw all Directors re-nominate for their position on the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Board. With no new nominations received Mark Pressler, Dean Cayley, Michael Cavallaro, Sam Ford and Anna Attard returned for another term. Mark Pressler was nominated to continue as Chairman for the new term.

I thank our members, staff and my fellow Directors for their valued input in achieving a number of milestones over the 2024/25 financial year.

To those who have lost family and loved ones in the past year, I offer the Board's and staff's sincere and heartfelt condolences.

Mark Pressler
Chairman



2024 BUNDABERG SEASON OVERVIEW

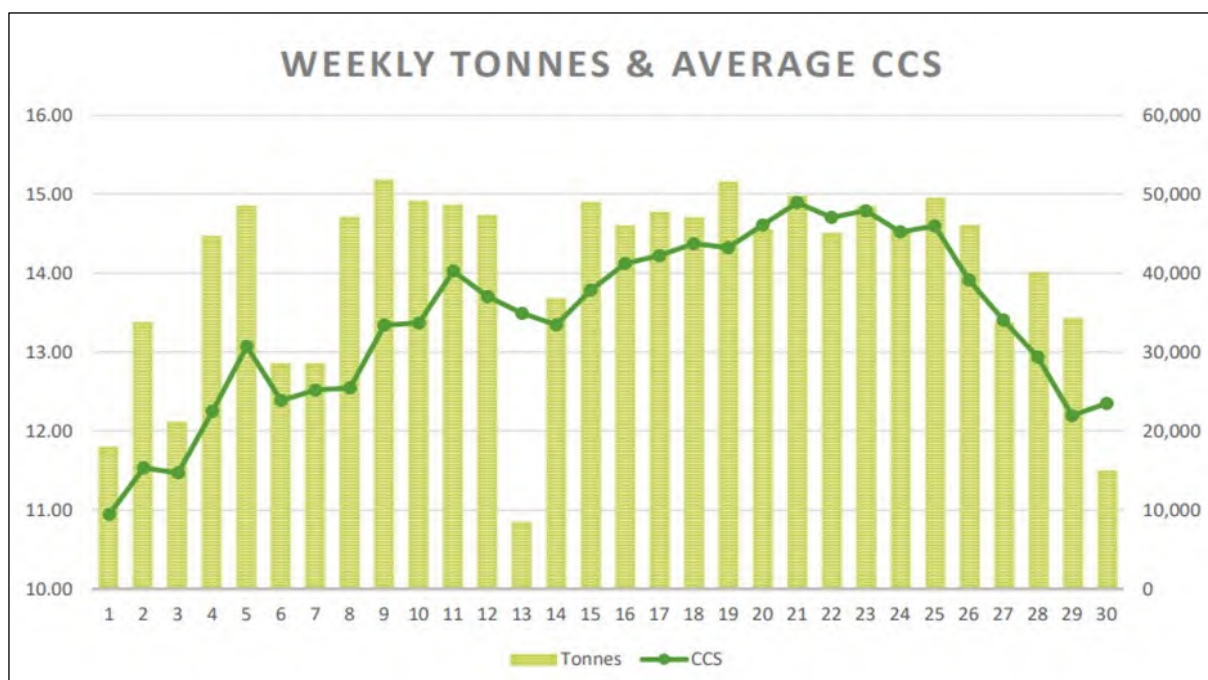
Millaquin Mill commenced the pre-crush of non-relative plantation cane on Monday, 21 May 2024, followed by the commencement of core season cane on Monday, 10 June 2024.

Millaquin crushed in continuous crushing mode ceasing operations on Wednesday, 11 December 2024.

The table below shows the total tonnes of cane crushed and seasonal average CCS:

Mill	Tonnes through Rollers	Mill Average CCS	Tonnes Assigned Area
Relative	641,041.72	13.82	641,041.72
Non-Relative	564,187.52	13.33	564,187.52
TOTAL	1,205,229.24	13.59	1,205,229.24

There was no condemned cane crushed this season, however there was approximately 85t of cane rejected prior to crushing due to high levels of dirt and stool.



2024 Season Final Harvest Pool Price

The final QSL Harvest Pool price for the 2024 Season was set at \$700.20 per tonne IPS after including the value of the Shared Pool Element and the Loyalty Bonus.

Individual forward pricing arrangements may vary the final price received.

The Net Pool Price is the price payable for a pool in accordance with the QSL Common Pool Terms to a Participant under a OSA Grower Agreement, SMA Grower Agreement or an SMA inclusive of the Shared Services Rebate. The actual net prices payable to a Participant become final at the end of the relevant season.

The individual pricing components are set out in the following table:

	Harvest Pool
	AUD/Tonne
Final Gross - Actual	\$690.98
Share Pool – Actual	\$32.36
Net – Actual	\$723.34
Net QSL IPS	\$700.20



Cane Price 2024 Season

At the average individual mill CCS growers received the following average cane price:

	Average CCS (Relative)	Average Price / Tonne Cane
Millaquin	13.82	\$62.53

Weekend Harvesting Allowance

Our Collective Agreement has capacity for an allowance to be paid for cane harvested on weekends. The allowance is adjusted every year on 1 April according to the movement in the minimum weekly wage rate for a cane harvesting employee (Level 1).

For the 2024 season the allowance was \$1.29 per tonne for cane harvested on the weekend.

Burnt Cane Deduction

Our Collective Agreement has a clause which enables reimbursement of the burnt cane penalty where cane is burnt in order to improve cane quality or increase productivity. This was 9.8 cents per tonne delivered.

Forward Pricing

QSL Direct

Bundaberg growers have a range of individual and long term target pricing options available to them through QSL Direct.

The online grower portal that has been designed to enable growers who have a Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) in place with QSL to:

- Monitor their QSL GEI Sugar tonnage and allocations.
- Nominate GEI Sugar tonnes to QSL-Managed Pools and Grower-Managed Pricing Products.
- Place, cancel, edit and monitor orders for Grower-Managed Pricing Products.
- Receive QSL payment statements.
- Access GPA information.
- Access sugar market information and the latest QSL news.

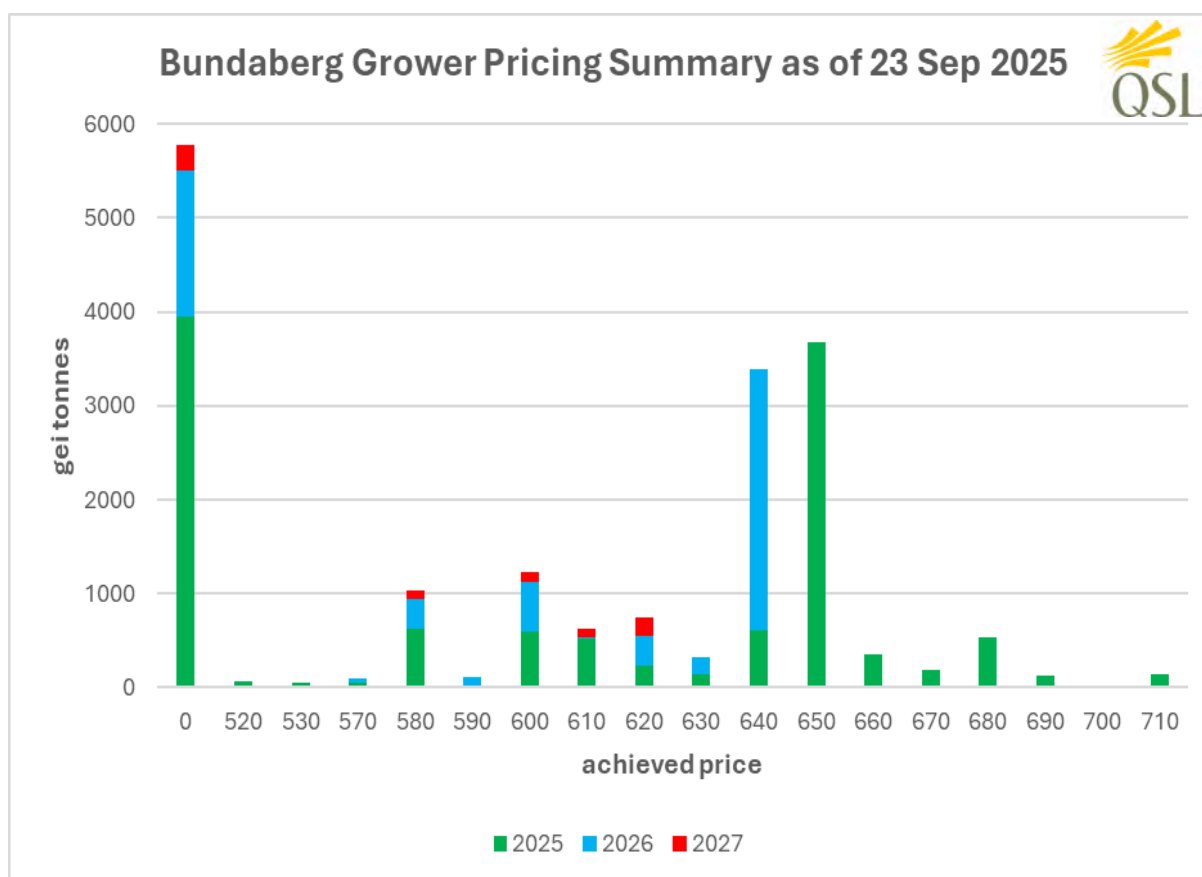
QSL Mobile App

The QSL app gives growers all the tools needed to easily monitor the global sugar market and quickly act on pricing opportunities. It's also personalised and provides an easy way to stay connected to the QSL Direct account.

The QSL Mobile App allows growers to:

- Submit, edit and cancel pricing orders
- View QSL pool values, daily sugar prices and trends
- Access handy tools and calculators
- Manage your QSL Direct account
- See payment information
- Set price alerts to help monitor the market

Below is a summary of the forward pricing achieved as of 23 September 2025.





REPRESENTATION



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Representation on Your Behalf

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

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

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS elected members and staff provide leadership and represent our members on a wide range of environmental, agri-political and economic bodies.

Some of these are listed below:



Mark Pressler
(Chairman)

Policy Council Member Queensland
CANEGROWERS Organisation
Member Fox Resources Regional Reference Group
Member Paradise Dam Reference Group
Member Industry Management Committee
Member Bundaberg Irrigation Area Advisory Group
Member Cane Quality Management Committee
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Member Community Reference Group for the Burnett
River Floodplain Action Plan



Tanya Howard
(Manager / Company Secretary)

Company Secretary Bundaberg Ag-Food
and Fibre Alliance Ltd
Member Cane Quality Committee
Member Industry Management Committee
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member QCGO Farm Inputs and Research Committee
Member Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association
Director Regional Business HQ
Cooperative Secretary Grain in Cane Cooperative
Secretary EH & FC Churchward Sugar Industry Trust
Member Paradise Dam Reference Group
Company Secretary Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited
Company Secretary Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group Ltd



Dale Holliss
(Project Officer)

Executive Director Bundaberg Ag-Food and Fibre Alliance Ltd
Director Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group Ltd
Member Energy Charter End Users Group
Member Energy Qld Consumer Consultation Group
Chair Ag Energy Taskforce



***Michael Cavallaro
(Director)***

Chairman Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Member Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management
Area Advisory Committee



***Dean Cayley
(Director)***

Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
Director Grain in Cane Cooperative



***Samuel 'Sam' Ford
(Director)***

Member Bundaberg Industry Management Committee
Member Bundaberg Local Negotiations Team
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee



***Anna Attard
(Director)***

Director Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited
Director Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group
Member Harvesting and Transport Committee
Member Bundaberg Water Committee
President Bundaberg Women in Sugar
Elected QSL Grower Representative
Director Bundaberg Regional Irrigations Group





DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	
8/07/2024	Monthly District Manager Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
15/07/2024	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
16/07/2024 17/07/2024	Qld CANEGROWERS Policy Council	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard Anna Attard
18/07/2024	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
29/07/2024	District Director Briefing	To Receive Update	Tanya Howard Mark Pressler
1/08/2024	Cane Analysis/ Audit information session	To Provide Update	Tanya Howard Courtney Moar
6/08/2024 - 7/08/2024	SRA Soils Workshop	To Increase Knowledge	Matthew Leighton
7/08/2024	Reef Integrated Science Forum	To Represent Members	Matthew Leighton
8/08/2024	Soy Program Review	To Represent Members	Matthew Leighton
13/08/2024	Paradise Dam Reference Group Meeting	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard
13/08/2024 - 16/08/2024	Walking the Landscape Burrum + Kolan Catchments	To Represent Members	Matthew Leighton
20/08/2024	QCA Irrigation Pricing Review	To Represent Members	Tanya Howard Dean Cayley Anna Attard
22/08/2024	BSL Bonsucro Meeting	To Review Arrangements	Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
27/08/2024	QSL Meeting	To Discuss Season Progress & Arrangements	Tanya Howard Mark Pressler
28/08/2024	Bundaberg Area Fire Management Group Meeting	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
29/08/2024	Southern Region Haulout Course Meeting	To progress training arrangements	Tanya Howard
02/09/2024	Bundaberg Sugar Ltd Transport Meeting	To discuss cane transport matters	Tanya Howard
03/09/2024 04/09/2024	Bundaberg Bioeconomy Conference	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
05/09/2024	Southern Region Haulout Course Discussion	To progress training arrangements	Tanya Howard
12/09/2024	QAWN Southern Region Haulout Course Discussion	To progress training arrangements	Tanya Howard
12/09/2024	Monthly Southern Region SRA catchup	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17/09/2024	Overview of LMS Biogas Project	To represent members	Dale Holliss
17/09/2024	Groundwater meeting	To represent irrigations	Matthew Leighton
18/09/2024	WQIP workshop	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
03/10/2024	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
08/10/2024	Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum	To represent members	Tanya Howard
10/10/2024	Predeterminations Conference: Ergon Energy & Energyex 2025-30 Revenue Proposal	To represent members	Dale Holliss
10/10/2024	Ag Energy Taskforce	To represent members	Tanya Howard
10/10/2024	Ag Energy Social License Roundtable	To represent members	Dale Holliss
10/10/2024	QAWN Southern Region Haulout Course Discussion	To progress training arrangements	Tanya Howard
11/10/2024	QCGO Farm Inputs Research Committee Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
14/10/2024	NPWG Meeting	To represent members	Dale Holliss



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	
14/10/2024	QCGO Membership Reference Group Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
15/10/2024	Chamber of Commerce AGM Breakfast	To represent members	Anna Attard
16/10/2024	Dr Seona Casonato, SRA	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
24/10/2024	Soy Australia Annual General Meeting	To represent members	Matthew Leighton
29/10/2024	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
04/11/2024	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
05/11/2024	Energy Qld Customer Council	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss
11/11/2024	District Manager's meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
13/11/2024	Strategix Training	To arrange forklift training	Tanya Howard
13/11/2024	Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg	To represent members	Mark Pressler Dean Cayley Anna Attard Sam Ford Michael Cavallaro Tanya Howard
14/11/2024	SRA Southern Region monthly update	To represent members	Tanya Howard
18/11/2024	District Director briefing	To receive update	Mark Pressler
19/11/2024	Regional Business HQ	To represent members	Tanya Howard
19/11/2024	Jamie Gorry, DPI	To represent members	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
21/11/2024	Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett	To represent members	Mark Pressler Dean Cayley Anna Attard Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
26/11/2024	Paradise Dam Reference Group	To represent irrigators	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
27/11/2024	Bundaberg Sugar Industry Dinner & Awards Committee	To begin arrangements	Anna Attard Tanya Howard
09/12/2024	District Manager's meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
17/12/2024	Bundaberg District Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Tanya Howard
08/01/25	Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Board	To represent growers	Dean Cayley Tanya Howard 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 Tanya Howard 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 Matthew Leighton
22/01/25	Colin Boyce, Federal Member for Flynn	To represent growers	All Directors 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 Tanya Howard Dale Holliss Matthew Leighton
06/02/25	SRA Southern Region Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
12/02/25	Farm Inputs Research Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	
20/02/25	CANEGROWERS Load Restraint Webinar	To receive updates	Matthew Leighton
24/02/25	Regional Business HQ Board	To represent members	Tanya Howard
28/02/25	SRA Southern District Plan Activities review 2025	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
03/03/25	Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards committee	To progress arrangements for awards evening	Tanya Howard
05/03/25	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
06/03/25	Monthly SRA Update	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17/03/25	Monthly District Manager Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
18/03/25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Dean Cayley Matthew Leighton Michael Cavallaro Tanya Howard
21/03/25	Licella SAF Project Briefing	To receive updates	Dale Holliss
03/03/25	Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards committee	To progress arrangements for awards evening	Tanya Howard
05/03/25	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
06/03/25	Monthly SRA Update	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17/03/25	Monthly District Manager Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
18/03/25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Area Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Dean Cayley Matthew Leighton Michael Cavallaro Tanya Howard
21/03/25	Licella SAF Project Briefing	To receive updates	Dale Holliss
02/04/25	Paddock to Reef Annual Integrated Science forum	To receive updates	Matthew Leighton
03/04/25	Paradise Dam Reference Group	To represent irrigators	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
08/04/25	Monthly SRA catchup	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
15/04/25	QCA Electricity Information session	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
02/05/25	Cane Analysis Auditor meeting	To progress arrangements for 2025 Season	Tanya Howard
06/05/25	Transport and WHS Compliance Workshop	To receive updates	Matthew Leighton
08/05/25	BSL Harvest Contractors	To represent members	Anna Attard Tanya Howard
19/05/25	Monthly District Manager Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
27/05/25	Queensland Primary Industries Blueprint	To receive update	Tanya Howard
30/05/25	2025 Bundaberg NIR Mill Juice Sampling - SRA	To review logistics	Tanya Howard Courtney Moar
04/06/25	Southern Region SRA Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard
04/06/25	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To receive update	Tanya Howard
05/06/25	Mark Hampson, CEO, QSL	To provide update	Directors Tanya Howard
09/06/25	QCGO Monthly District Manager Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
10/06/25	Tyre Stewardship Australia	To discuss pilot program	Mark Pressler Dean Cayley Anna Attard Tanya Howard
16/06/25	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
18/06/25	QCGO Farm Performance & Productivity Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
19/06/25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
20/06/25	QCGO Industry Performance & Evolution Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard

LEADERSHIP

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS resourced a number of strong advocacy campaigns targeting sustainable electricity and water pricing, water security and availability, transport, cane-firing and water quality issues including Reef Regulations during the 2024/25 financial year.

Our continued leadership ensured that federal, state and local government politicians were in no doubt about the impacts of policy and red tape on members as well as the community, and our growers concerns in relation to these issues.

We work diligently with all policy makers at all levels to ensure our growers receive the best outcomes possible.

This advocacy led to tangible outcomes including the announcement of new electricity tariffs and transparency on issues related to water prices, water security and Paradise Dam.



Minister for Primary Industries, Tony Perrett discussing industry issues with Tanya Howard.

Electricity

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) released its final determination for regulated electricity prices in regional Queensland for the 2024/25 financial year on 7 June 2024. This final determination sets the prices that apply from 1 July 2024.

For the 2024/25 financial year QCA determined regulated retail electricity prices in regional Queensland would increase due to higher network costs, offset by decreased energy costs. The regulated solar feed in tariff for regional Queensland was lower than the previous year's tariff due to the decreased energy costs.

Our focus on achieving affordable electricity pricing for growers continued by working alongside

Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) and Energy Qld. Growers with remotely read interval meters have a number of tariff options available, and analysis shows that irrigators who use less than 100MWh annually could potentially make significant electricity cost savings by changing tariffs, depending on usage patterns.

Ag Energy Taskforce

The Ag Energy Taskforce was established in September 2014 to enable representatives of the Australian agriculture sector to collaborate, build capacity and provide advocacy to alleviate the impact of high energy costs on agricultural industries. The remit of the Taskforce has expanded against the backdrop of Australia's energy transition, with a strong focus on land use and relationships with farmers and rural communities, with the rollout of infrastructure across rural landscapes.

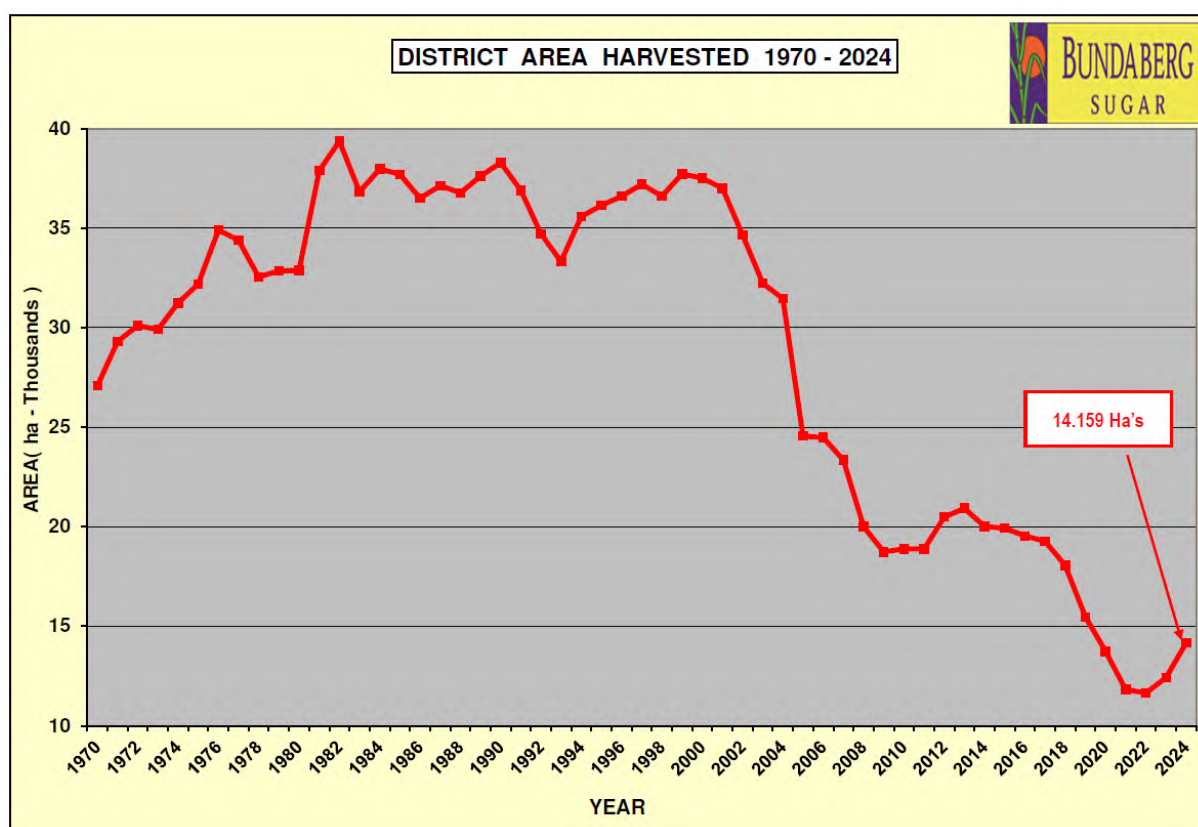
The Taskforce is a group of representative bodies including National Irrigator's Council, National Farmers' Federation, Queensland Farmers' Federation, NSW Farmers, Victorian Farmers' Federation, Cotton Australia, Bundaberg Regional Irrigator's Group, Dairy Australia, Australia Grape & Wine, Canegrowers, Pioneer Valley Water (Mackay, QLD), Central Irrigation Trust (SA), Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc, AgForce Qld, Tas Farmers, Farmers for Climate Action, Primary Producers South Australia (PPSA), Australian Dairy Farmers and Australian Dairy Products federation.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is represented on the Taskforce and has participated in a number of reviews and inquiries.

Reef

The inclusion of our region into the reef regulations requirements in late 2019 has resulted in a lot of effort by Bundaberg CANEGROWERS aimed at having this region returned to its previous status. It is unjustifiable to include an area that is outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that can have no impact on it. Our rivers do not run into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and ocean currents take river plumes southwards away from the park.

Unfortunately, OGBR do not consider any of the new emerging reef science and instead continue to use practice change as their measure of water quality improvement. Considering the Burnett Mary region has lost approximately 10,000ha of cane land in the past five (5) years, which is not identified in the models, and that there have been no new Reef Trust projects means there is very little data available for the models to record practice change despite our growers on farm efforts.



Scientific basis for excluding the Burnett/Mary catchments from 'Reef Regulations'.

Executive Summary

The *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019*, was designed to apply to Great Barrier Reef river catchments. However, the legislation does not stipulate a geographical, or scientific property of a catchment that defines it as being a "Reef river catchment." Instead, Reef catchments are "prescribed by regulation". The government in 2019 prescribed the Burnett and Mary Catchments as Reef catchments without presenting any scientific reasoning despite the following objections.

- The Burnett and Mary rivers do not discharge into, or anywhere near, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The closest coral reef (in the Capricorn-Bunker sector) is 75 km north of the Burnett mouth, and 120 km from the Mary mouth.
- The East Australia Current (EAC), runs predominately southwards, taking river discharge predominantly away from the Great Barrier Reef.
- The Capricorn Bunker Sector of the Great Barrier Reef, which is nearest to the Burnett/Mary mouths, is flushed by the huge quantities of water in the East Australia Current (EAC) – quantities that completely dwarf the Burnett/Mary flows.
- The water flow of the Burnett River for an entire year is equivalent to just two minutes flow of the EAC. The EAC direction is largely taking river discharge southwards.
- Sediment: The nearest reefs to the Burnett/Mary are bathed, continuously, in sparkling blue waters of the Pacific Ocean. There is effectively zero sediment on these reefs indicating zero impact from rivers.
- Nutrients: The Capricorn eddy, which is often embedded in the EAC, upwells vast amounts of deep, nutrient-rich, water to the Capricorn Bunker Reefs. This eddy delivers up to ten times as much nutrients as the Burnett River, and very close to the reefs, rather than over 75 km distance for the Burnett. In addition, recycling of nutrients on the sea bed is around 100 times the discharge of the Burnett.
- Pesticides: Pesticides are in unmeasurably small concentrations on the entire main reef matrix of the GBR where 99% of the corals exist.

The worst facet of this issue is that no evidence has ever been advanced for why the Burnett/Mary catchments were defined as reef catchments in 2019. A useful step forward would be to invite the relevant science and management institutions to produce evidence for why the inclusion might be continued. This would provide a useful basis for a genuine scientific debate that would be valuable for the government to consider possible changes to the catchments prescribed, by regulation, as reef catchments.



Water

Groundwater

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has representation on the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee and continues to provide the secretarial requirements of that organisation.

Committee nominations were open in early 2025 with Allan Dingle returned as Chair of the Committee.

The Committee provided feedback on the meter revalidation process noting the frustration around conflicting information, the lack of validators in the region and the higher than estimated costs. The cost of this process far exceeds the benefit. The Committee also met to discuss the transition of Area B licenses to Area B allocations, with the final rules and arrangements still being discussed.

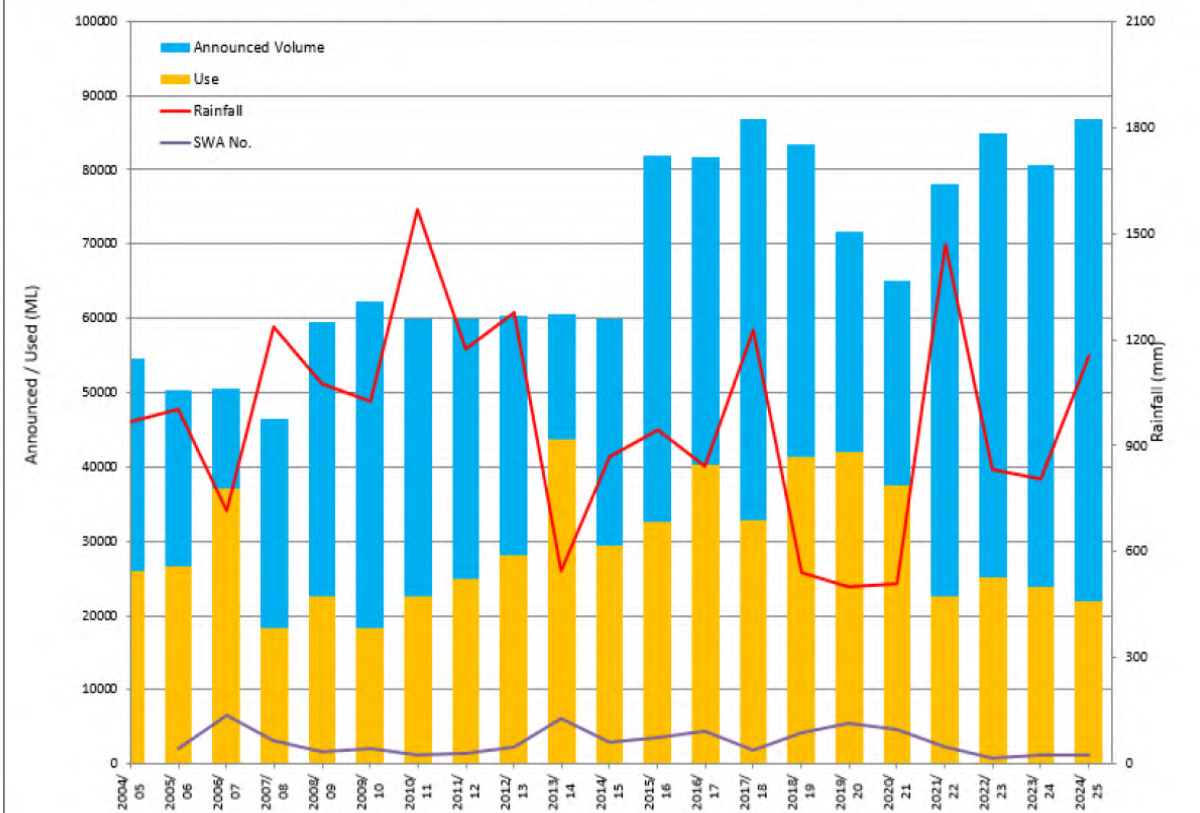
Groundwater is an important source of irrigation and the sustainable extraction of this resource is key to the objectives of the committee.



Purpose

- Provide advice to the Department in relation to management of groundwater resources within the CBGMA, based on the best available departmental data available and local knowledge.
- Provide a forum for representatives of the Department and groundwater users within the CBGMA to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- Provide advice to the Department in relation to the monitoring of groundwater resources within the CBGMA including water use, groundwater levels, seawater intrusion and water quality parameters.
- Discuss and make recommendations on the provisions of relevant water legislation and associated documents.
- Report to and gather issues or suggestions from representatives of grower groups/associations, sugar milling companies, local government bodies and groundwater system representatives within the CBGMA.
- Recommend, through resolution, courses of action to be taken by the Department when dealing with specific issues relating to groundwater resources within the CBGMA.
- Strive to ensure all water users within the CBGMA are provided with a fair and equitable access to service from the Department and other service providers.

Groundwater Usage Totals: Water Years 2004/05 – 2024/25



**Surface Water**

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd participates in the Bundaberg Customer Advisory Committee. The Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) provides customers and stakeholders with a diverse forum for collaboration and consultation with Sunwater on a range of strategic matters relating to innovation, management and maintenance of assets to ensure the reliable and efficient delivery of service.

The primary purpose of the CAC is to:

- Engage with customers to identify current and future water needs.
- Provide a transparent view of our operating environment and assets, and how these influence our services to customers.
- Build an understanding of our customer's businesses to ensure future plans are considered in our strategic and operations planning.

The membership and functioning of Customer Advisory Committees are governed by the Terms of Reference (ToR) document.

The initial announced allocations for the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme were calculated at 100% for the Kolan subscheme and Burnett subscheme High Priority at 100% and Medium Priority also at 100% for the 2024/25 year. The total metered use for Irrigation for the Sunwater Scheme for 2024/25 was 81,091ML or 48.71% of Irrigation Water Entitlements of 166,480ML.

The Electricity Cost Pass-Through (ECPT) trial was a time bound Sunwater initiative aimed at testing the

pass-through concept. The trial commenced on 1 July 2020 and concluded on 30 June 2023 and following our requests, Sunwater has chosen to extend the electricity cost pass-through trial until 30 June 2025.

The trial included the eligible irrigation tariff groups in each of the six (6) high electricity use schemes including Bundaberg.

In 2023/24 Sunwater spent less on electricity than was recovered from customers in the Bundaberg Distribution Scheme which means eligible irrigation customers who used water in 2023/24 had a credit of \$15.46 applied to their bill in October 2024. This resulted in \$1,310,925 returned by credits across the scheme.

Paradise Dam

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has representation on the Paradise Dam Reference Group (PDRG) that was established to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between key stakeholders and Sunwater while the Paradise Dam Improvement Project (PDIP) is implemented.

The preliminary design for the new dam wall is progressing and Sunwater is working to secure environmental approvals that will provide more confidence around the project's timeline. While work on the detailed business case continues, Sunwater is progressing with a range of activities enabling works, including road upgrades, geotechnical investigations and concept design to quickly proceed to major dam construction once all approvals are received.

PUMPING FIGURES BUNDABERG 2024-2025		 VOLUME DELIVERED/METERED ML					Distribution Efficiency %	Nominal Allocation Available ML	Nominal Allocation Delivered
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL			
PUMP STATION	Pumped Volume ML 2024-25	1-Jul-24	1-Oct-24	1-Jan-25	1-Apr-25	1-Jul-24			
		30-Sep-24	31-Dec-24	31-Mar-25	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-25			
Gooburrum	19,113	1,822	5,979	4,937	2,817	15,556	81.39%	27,699	56.16%
Monduran	20,529	2,597	5,472	7,663	4,037	19,769	96.30%	38,546	51.29%
Abbotsford	267	25	114	42	20	200	75.12%	671	29.84%
ISIS	28,304	5,020	8,957	10,056	3,388	27,420	96.88%	62,127	44.14%
Woongarra	23,820	2,599	6,862	6,175	2,509	18,145	76.18%	37,437	48.47%
Total	92,032	12,063	27,384	28,873	12,770	81,091	88.11%	166,480	48.71%

Note: Allocation volumes exclude all Sunwater accounts.



Mining

We welcomed the decision by the Crisafulli Government to reject Fox Resources Mineral Development License (MDL) 3040 application after concerns were raised about the potential impacts of a future coal mine on the region's agricultural industry, water resources, environmental values, liveability, and tourism industry.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS remains opposed to any mining application which could jeopardise agricultural land, groundwater and the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme. The Bundaberg Region relies heavily on agriculture for its economic strength and any threat to our irrigation supplies is not acceptable.

Council

Bundaberg Regional Council and key agricultural industry bodies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging the vital importance of farming and agriculture to the Bundaberg Region's economy.

The MOU formalises a commitment by Council to consult with Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Alliance Ltd (BAFFA) and Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Limited (BFVG) on Council issues likely to impact the production of food, fibre and agricultural produce in the region. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS remains a member of BAFFA.

Bundaberg - Gin Gin Rail Trail

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has attempted to contact the new Bundaberg to Gin Gin Rail Trail Committee to ensure the Rail Trail results in minimal impact to everyday farming operations and ensure there is minimal to no interference from the public and domestic animals. Biosecurity risks will also be addressed. In creating a rail trail that locals and visitors want to use, they need to be sure that they listen to the needs of the neighbours of the rail trail.

Recycling

Tyres

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, CANEGROWERS and National Farmers Federation (NFF) are working with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) on a project to identify the current challenges and potential solutions to recycle agricultural off-the-road tyres in key production areas across Queensland. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS representatives met with Tyre Stewardship Australia to discuss the opportunity for a pilot project in the Bundaberg region and a survey was distributed to growers in early 2025. Our discussions continue.

Drum Muster

The drumMUSTER program provides growers with a local collection and recycling service for eligible, empty agricultural and veterinary chemical containers. This national initiative offers a safe environmentally responsible solution for disposal, ensuring containers are processed into new products like road signs and bins, and supports the responsible management of agricultural chemicals in the region.



Big Bag Recovery Scheme

The Big Bag Recovery Scheme is a partnership between Big Bag Recovery and the Bundaberg Regional Council, making the Bundaberg Waste Facility a designated return location for large, recyclable plastic bags from agricultural and other businesses. The scheme aims to reduce landfill waste by recovering these bags and then processing into recycled resin pellets to create new products like community seating and reducing pollution in the region.

Women in Sugar

Bundaberg CAENGROWERS auspice the Women in Sugar group and provide a meeting venue when required, administration and public liability insurance coverage.



For the 2024/25 financial year, office bearers were:

President:	Anna Attard
Vice President:	Krystal Golchert
Secretary:	Hayley Loeskow
Treasurer:	Teegan Attard



Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is a member of the Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association, established in 2022 to be a voice for ratepayers and residents, support decision making that incorporates integrity, equity and equality, build capacity within our community, support competent, relevant and transparent operations and decision making and to keep ratepayers and residents informed around key areas of decision making impacting individuals, families and business across the Bundaberg Local Government Area (LGA).



SERVICES

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has a long tradition of service to growers in this district and remains committed to working hard to represent the interests of local grower members in every area that can have an impact on their business. Our staff remain needs based, outcomes focused and intentionally member biased.

Membership Services Extension Officer

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Membership Extension Officer Matt Leighton is available to assist growers with general enquiries on a range of issues. Matt is a fully qualified agronomist with experience in cane as well as pulse crops.



Matt is associated with a wide range of activities and enquiries including:

- Updating the board of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS on issues affecting growers.
- Assisting growers with information about leasing cane farms as either the lessor or lessee, and standard payment terms.
- Providing information to government and natural resource groups, demonstrating that Bundaberg cane growers are not applying excess fertiliser and have very little runoff from the farms reaching creeks, without passing through farm dams or tail water recycling pits.
- Assisting growers to comply with Reef Regulations including assisting with soil tests, preparation of N&P budgets and providing assistance during the audit process.
- Providing advice on soybean agronomy, soybean costs and returns as well as general information on other break crops.
- Soy Australia board member to maximise the recognition of the district as a key soybean producer.
- Providing information on water trading including a likely trading range for both permanent and seasonal (temporary) trades and carryover water.
- Providing secretarial requirements of the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee as well as attending groundwater meetings.
- Providing information and updates on issues affecting the movement of agricultural vehicles around the district.

Grain in Cane Agronomy Service

The Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Grain in Cane Agronomy Service is available to CANEGROWERS members for legume break crops (excluding peanuts) and includes paddock inspections, reports from inspections, district updates and invitations to grower meetings, field days and tours on a fee for service basis. There were no growers who participated in the Grain in Cane Agronomy service in the last twelve (12) months.

Wage Service

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS continues to provide a wage service for growers and harvesting contractors. Employers must adhere to a list of Australian Taxation Office (ATO) rules and regulations as well as compliance with the Fair Work Act, National Employment Standards and the Sugar Industry Award. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd, Tanya Howard and Kate Odgaard are Registered BAS Agents to comply with the requirements for providing this service.



With respect to legal compliance, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' payroll services keep pace with the complicated, changing legislation and tax obligations associated with payroll, and our team pass this information on to our valued clients.

Over \$2.06 million in wages were recorded during the 2024/25 financial year on behalf of eleven (11) active employers with sixty-seven (67) employees.

This compared with over \$2.08 million in wages recorded for the 2023/24 year for eleven (11) active employers and seventy-six (76) employees.

The office processed superannuation contributions totaling over \$259,000 including additional contributions.

Oreco

During the 2024 season, there were twenty-two (22) contracted Bundaberg growers supplying 3,576 bales of trash weighing 1,758.5 tonnes to the Oreco factory, with a total value of \$96,718.71.

Energy Check

Electricity is a major expense for irrigating farmers. As a service to our members, we offer an Electricity Bill Checking Service where electricity bills are reviewed, checking for billing errors and the most effectiveness of current tariffs. The aim is to ensure that a grower's electricity usage is aligned with the most cost-effective tariff to minimise c/kWh cost.



If a connection point is identified as having a high c/kWh cost, investigations can then be made as to why and what action may be required to bring the c/kWh down. This may include looking at what alternative tariff options are available or looking closely at usage patterns and time of use to minimize peak costs.

The Electricity Bill Check Service is delivered by our Projects Officer, Courtney Moar, and is available to all members of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.



Legal Representation

Chris is principal of the law firm, CJ Cooper & Associates, and since 1983 has been legal consultant to CANEGROWERS. As well as providing legal services to members, Chris is retained by CANEGROWERS to provide legal services to the Australian, Queensland and District Cane Growers Organisation companies including Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.



As the organisation's legal adviser he covers corporate governance matters, company constitutional issues, membership issues, company corporate compliance issues, property management and related issues and not-for-profit issues.

General legal advice and consultation over the phone is a free service to members and Chris provides a wide range of services to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members.

Some of the topics growers require assistance with include property transactions, disputes over dividing fences, straying cattle and machinery repairs, flooding, chemical spraying liability, native title and disputes with mills.

Commissioner for Declarations

Tanya Howard and Dale Holliss are both qualified as Commissioners for Declarations and are available to witness any document copies or Statutory Declarations grower may need certified.

Members Crop Insurance

One of the benefits of membership of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is access to the state-wide crop insurance policy. The scheme operates on simple procedures with premiums deducted by levy, assistance with claims and ease of administration. The policy is also flexible, offering growers the ability to top-up their cover above the district level by paying a small additional premium.

All Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members have crop insurance cover as part of their membership fee. For the 2024 season, the cover was set at \$55 per tonne with a nil excess and covers growers for:

- Total crop loss from unharvested cane after fire;
- Partial crop loss from reduced yield of a harvested crop after a fire; and
- The loss of a trash blanket and the cost of re-establishing the crop after the fire in a trash blanket.

Members are also able to take out top-up insurance cover, to "Top-Up" their insurance beyond \$55 per tonne with the payment of additional premium.

CANEGROWERS General insurance Scheme

CANEGROWERS Insurance Scheme is owned by growers and commenced in 2012 to look after growers' insurance needs. Wide Bay Authorised Representative Ray Goodwin (AR #1266334) has extensive experience in looking after the insurance needs of the rural sector and has assisted many of our growers to



ensure that their insurance cover is tailored to their requirements.

Ray provides a personalised on-farm service to growers servicing a full range of insurance products including rural, commercial and personal insurance policies. Ray has access to a broad range of insurance products and alternative underwriters so that appropriate insurance cover can be obtained for all aspects of a grower's business at the best price.

CANEGROWERS Insurance aims to help in three (3) ways:

1. Expert advice - our advice doesn't stop once we've arranged your insurance policy;
2. Smooth claims process - Ray can assist with the claims process from lodgment through to finalisation allowing you time to focus on what really matters;
3. Better outcomes - support of a large organisation that can help if any issues arise, we leverage the support of our network to ensure that you've got the added benefit.

Ray can assist members with a review of their current insurance cover to ensure that they have all aspects of their business adequately insured. This service provides all members with the opportunity for a review of their insurance cover and provides advice and recommendations as required.

Communication

Newsletter

The Bundaberg District Canegrower Newsletter is produced in-house and aims to provide our growers with the information that they need in a timely manner. In addition to our grower members, we circulate the newsletter to a wide range of industry stakeholders, community leaders and politicians so that they can be better informed on issues facing the industry. Our newsletter is also available on our website. Classifieds and Jobs Board notices are free to members and are included in every edition of our newsletter.

Website

Our website was launched in 2012 and we review the content regularly to ensure that all information is current and accurate. The website is desktop and smart device friendly.

X (Twitter)

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS holds an X account under the handle @BundyCANEGROWER for the purpose of keeping up to date with media and political interests and we use this profile to share information and media releases to a wider, industry-based audience. The account has been active since February 2015.

Facebook

Our Facebook page was started in 2020 to promote the organisation and the sugar industry to a wider audience including the general public. The page is used to promote the positive aspects of the industry as well as share important information.

Feedback to our page is positive and has a wide range of positive community engagement.



Bundaberg Cane Audit Service

The auditing service was carried out by a team of two (2) part time Auditors: Courtney Moar and Katie Paulsen

There were 740 manual data entries for various reasons over the 2024 core season. Manual corrections made by Cane Auditors to data for first expressed juice samples are presented in the table below.

The percentage values for manual corrections and missed samples are calculated from 'potential samples', being the sum of the actual samples analysed and the missed samples. The percentage of dry samples is calculated from total deliveries of cane.

Mill	CCS Samples	Missed	Dry	Manual Corrections
Millaquin	27,318	392 (1.41%)	745 (2.62%)	740 (2.60%)

A manual CCS calculation was done each week to verify the computer-generated result for both Lab and NIR analyses.

Weighbridges

Taring of multilift bins was done pre-season. The Millaquin road weighbridge was checked against the dispatch weighbridge on a weekly basis by the Auditors, with $\pm 0.02t$ being the limit of tolerance. On numerous occasions the bridge fluctuated $\pm 0.02t$, this occurs most often during windy and rainy days. All multilift weight tests outside of tolerance were investigated for the cause and tests reperformed under correct conditions to give an accurate result.

The weight test for Week 21 had to be reperformed as the gross weight was out of tolerance, reading 0.04 greater than the road weighbridge. The test was reperformed and found to be within tolerance. The Auditor noticed a higher gross weight may happen if the multilift enters the weighbridge soon after another truck has left the scales.

Taring of all rail bins was also carried out pre-season and each time after repairs were made. Truck shop scales were checked with the standard weight on Tuesdays. At the start of the season the Auditor contacted the Cane Supply Manager regarding the records of these checks and asked the records to be accessible to the auditors.

The rail weighbridge was checked with the standard weights on 10 June, prior to the commencement of the 2024 core crushing season; and performed weekly during scheduled maintenance stops. However, during Week 28 the rail weighbridge was not checked with the standard weights despite being brought to the attention of the Shift Supervisor by both the Weighbridge Operator and Auditor. There were occasional blackouts throughout the season, each time the power returned Weighbridge Operators zeroed the rail weighbridge scales.

The rail weighbridge roll-on weight was weighed each eight-hour shift and was within tolerance limits of $6.31t \pm 0.01$, except on a few occasions. On Monday of Week 4 the roll-on weight recorded was 5.93t, no repeat check was performed for that shift. This was the only instance of the test failing to be reperformed when outside of tolerance. Roll-on weights were found to be outside of tolerance for a single shift during Weeks 5, 12 and 19, however, when reperformed the tests passed.

In Week 20 the Auditor investigated the average roll-on weight as eight (8) failed tests weighed 6.29t. 303 bin test weight checks had been performed for the core season to date, with an average weight of 6.302t, and no checks recorded as 6.32t, indicating a new tolerance limit of $6.30t \pm 0.01$. The following week, on Tuesday 1 October, the Mill and Auditors agreed to this new weight range after the roll-on test weight recorded as 6.30t when checked on the despatch weighbridge.

A new rail weighbridge encoder was installed after the encoder failed on Tuesday 15 October during a mill stop, and was checked with the standard weights in supervision of the Mill Superintendent and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS. The first and third weight read 0.01t higher than certified, resulting in a total weight of 6.32t, weighing in Grower's favour. The test was repeated the following day during a twelve (12) hour maintenance stop and gave the same results. The roll-on test weight was also checked on the scales and weighed 6.32t, which was expected given the standard weight increase of 0.02t.

The following week on Wednesday, the new encoder was calibrated to 10 tonne by Mettler Toledo. The roll-on weight after calibration weighed 6.29t and retested as 6.30t, both being within tolerance. Roll-on test weight checks for the remainder of the week weighed $6.30t \pm 0.01$, except for Sunday 12-8 shift where it weighed 6.02t but retested as 6.30t.

Occasionally over the season, derailment of bins caused crush delay, and at times were unable to be crushed until the following week. The result was average bin weights being used for payment, and CCS adjustments made in the subsequent week where required. Derailed bins were investigated by the Auditors and resolved in consultation with the Cane Supply Manager. In one case, nine (9) samples were created for multilift bins that had been held out of the week due to suspected metal in a bin; samples were given average bin weight and CCS of sibling rakes.

There were 1,273 'camera view' bins checks done by the Auditors throughout the crush. Bin numbers were found to be incorrect on four (4) instances. On each occasion the Auditor notified the Weighbridge Operator and the issue was rectified. Twice the bin numbers were on the ticket but out of order. At times the 4-digit bin number had one number entered incorrectly, each time the Auditor called to inform the Weighbridge Operator, they were already aware and had made note on their correction sheet. On all occasions where the bin number observed via camera



did not match the sample tracker, the relating sample and any samples proceeding the last correct bin check, were checked by the Auditors for contamination.

No. 1 Mill

Over the season 29% of No. 1 mill inspections resulted in reports of unsatisfactory hygiene, this was mainly due to juice and froth flowing out of the mill covering the floor. Nevertheless, no noticeable build-up of *Leuconostoc* was present on the floor around No. 1 mill indicating good hygiene maintenance by the Rovers. This was observed via cameras as Rovers were seen hosing the floor throughout the day and often used sanitiser on the floor during steamout regardless of shift.

There were several issues with hygiene practices at the start of the season. This appeared to be due to three (3) of the four (4) Rovers being new to the position, creating training difficulties.

Auditor observations in the Week 7 hygiene audit were that only two (2) guards were removed, no guards hosed, no sanitiser used, and the juice cone was cleaned but not steamed then re-attached. Because of the hygiene standards witnessed, Auditors reviewed all steamouts for the week via camera records. It was evident steamout procedures were not followed in most cases. There were also safety concerns as steam was venting freely where the cone should have been connected whilst Rovers worked in the area. The Mill was informed and details provided both in person and the weekly report; a recommendation was made for additional training for the Rovers.

The subsequent week, cleaning of No. 1 mill was as previously mentioned. To address this, the Auditor provided the shift supervisors with printed copies of the steamout procedure to give to the Rovers to assist them, and a printed copy given to Laboratory Technical Support Analyst to place at No.1 mill. This appeared to greatly improve the standard of cleaning, although, during Week 9 the Auditor noticed the procedure was not followed. The Production Chemist was contacted, who then informed the Auditor that the Rover was a substitute and that he would notify the Rover of the correct procedure. In the following week a laminated copy of the cleaning procedure was placed at No.1 mill.

Later, in Week 11, it was observed over two (2) days that procedures were not followed as only right-hand side guards were removed during steamout. The Shift Supervisor spoke to the Rover who stated he was unsure about removing the guards due to the volume of juice flooding onto the floor. For the remainder of the season hygiene procedures were followed, and at least two (2) Rovers approached the Auditors for feedback on their hygiene practices at No 1. mill.

At times the Auditor was unable to observe guards being cleaned as they were taken to the side of the mill, however, this was addressed, and sanitation of the mill was inspected by Auditors daily. After these

inspections, on occasion, the Auditor requested top guards be removed and cleaned due to the presence of *Leuconostoc*. On occasion during these inspections, Auditors noticed the spray bar at the top of No. 1 mill was connected to the water supply and called the Shift Supervisor to rectify.

Hosing at the top of No. 1 mill was rarely noted by the Auditors. A couple of times towards the start of the season, Rovers were seen hosing inside and above No. 1 mill shortly after steamout without having notified the Analysts; still, as it is required to let two (2) samples drop before commencing juice sampling, hosing had stopped prior to collecting samples and therefore did not affect any validation samples. Rovers were made aware of this issue, and it was not observed for the remainder of the season.

The addition of chlorine to prevent *Leuconostoc* growth began late July/early August, with a half bucket being poured between samples on the main belt every second afternoon. This was increased to one (1) bucket every afternoon in late September as the weather became warmer.

Overflow of the sample tray only happened once, during the first week of the core season, and was already being addressed by mill staff when seen by the Auditor. Rovers and Shift Supervisors were regularly viewed via camera clearing the sides of the juice trough, as such, the Auditors did not have to request any blockages be cleared.

No. 2 Mill

No.1 mill was bypassed on Monday 2 December at 9:13pm after a catastrophic failure occurred due to the build-up of mud caused by a load of cane contaminated with dirt. The NIR was moved from No.1 mill to the chute at No.2 mill. The juice sampling pump and cone were relocated to allow sampling from No.2 mill upon recommencement of crushing Tuesday morning. The last sample analysed via NIR prior to mill failure was #30380. A half calibration of 100 samples was performed in consultation and agreement between Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Bundaberg Sugar and SRA.

Calibration period commenced 3 December, sample #30381, through to 5 December, sample #30673 for a total of 270 samples, with 164 collected for laboratory analysis. 32 fibre samples were also collected, analysed, and sent to SRA for assessment.

The NIR was returned to payment mode with SRA's recommended bias on sample #30676, at 4pm on 5 December.

There were:

- 63 samples not collected and analysed, most of which were plantation.
- 16 samples were made invalid due to steamout
- 42 due to flow rate <20L/m
- 21 due to QP reading outside of tolerance
- 5 due to Analysis >1h 20m

In total 138 samples were amended to missed during calibration.



Dye tests were performed upon recommencement of crushing to confirm accurate tracking from No. 2 mill, with the sample tracker timing adjusted to include additional pulses for the added elevator. The dye was received within the intersample gap showing no sample contamination.

A monetary adjustment to account for the presence of additional crush in CCS samples for cane paid on CCS derived from No.2 mill was agreed upon by the Mill and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS to be paid at the end of season. This was applied to all Grower samples between #30381 and #31469.

Interaction with Growers

There was a total of twelve (12) queries from Growers, Grower Services Officers, and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS over the season. These were investigated by the Auditors and resolved by the procedure in Appendix G of the Cane Analysis Program.

Auditors contacted Grower Services Officers for 348 queries regarding sample details resulting in 35 changes being made. These changes involved CCS, variety, class, block and green/burnt.

A total of 317,102 tonnes (26.3%) of the total cane supply was crushed more than 24 hours after harvest. Of this delayed cane, 187,155 tonnes (59.0%) were Grower supplied, all of which was investigated by the Auditors. 14 CCS changes were made in collaboration with the Cane Supply Manager due to crush delay.

Conclusion

The seasonal crop estimate at the start of crushing was 1,228,436 tonnes with the final tonnage being 1,205,229.20 tonnes.

Laboratory Analysts who are well trained, diligent and are prepared to adhere to the specific requirements of the Cane Analysis Program with regards to juice and fibre analysis remain a critical component in ensuring the continued effective operation of the cane analysis system.

Pre and post season meetings were held with Senior Mill Management, Program Supervisor/NIR Coordinator, Auditors and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' Representatives to discuss operational issues and findings from the seasonal audit activities.



Auditors: Katie Paulsen & Courtney Moar



OUR VISION

**TO ENSURE A SECURE AND PROFITABLE FUTURE
FOR BUNDABERG CANE GROWERS**



BUNDABERG MILLS PRODUCTION STATISTICS 2020 to 2024 Seasons

CRUSHING STATISTICS - BUNDABERG DISTRICT

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Crushing Commenced [#]	21 May	29 May	27 June	21 June	6 July
Crushing Finished	11 December	7 November	30 December	17 December	24 October
Average Season Length (Weeks) [#]	29	23.3	26.5	25.4	15.6
Average Wet Weather Lost Time (Days) [#]	16.25	1.3	28.5	30.46	5.76
Tonnes Cane Harvested from Mill Area *	1,205,229	989,298	1,085,255	936,828	1,047,595
Hectares Harvested in Mill Area *	14,371	13,123	11,647	11,892	13,752
Hectares Unharvested in Mill Area	233.8	126.8	942	863	267
Yield (Tonnes/Hectare) *	83.8	75.39	93.18	78.77	76.2
Average CCS	13.59	15.06	13.16	14.18	14.67

PRODUCTION AND VALUE

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Manufactured Sugar (Tonnes IPS)	149,406	144,360	135,505	129,725	153,032
Value of Sugar Production \$M	104.61 ¹	118.37	89.84	74.28	65.991
Estimated Value of Queensland Sugar Production \$M	2,543.39 ¹	3,255.36	2,274.68	2,238.15	1,853.23
Estimated Value of Bundaberg Production as Percentage % of State	4.11% ¹	3.64%	3.95%	3.32%	3.56%

Includes

[#] Excludes early season cane

^{*} Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing

⁺ Determined by using Harvest Pool Price announced by Queensland Sugar Ltd of \$700.20



BUNDABERG PRODUCTION STATISTICS 2019 to 2024 Seasons

NUMBER OF GROWERS AND CPA

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of Growers	131	138	150	151	168
Number of CPAs	131	138	150	151	168
Total CPA (Hectares)	19,293	19,444	23,536	31,834	32,447

GREEN CANE HARVESTING

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Cane Crushed² (Tonnes)	1,205,229	989,298	1,085,485	936,828	1,047,595
Cane Cut Green (Tonnes)	1,162,498	929,731	1,014,301	880,987	984,186
Percentage % Green	96.3	93.9	93.4	94.0	93.9

MECHANICAL HARVESTING

	Tonnes Cane ²	Percentage % of Total	Number of Machines
Total Cut by Cane Growers Not Contracting Outside their Own Farm	47,383	3.9	12
Total Cut by Co-operative Groups	86,816	7.2	4
Total Cut by Cane Grower / Contractors on Own Property and for Other Farms	387,760	32.2	25
Total Cut by Independent Contractors	683,270	56.7	12
TOTAL	1,205,229	100%	53

¹ The CPA count has changed from individual growers to combined business units which may include multiple farms, CPA's and ABN's, as long as they are managed by the same entity.

² Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing.



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