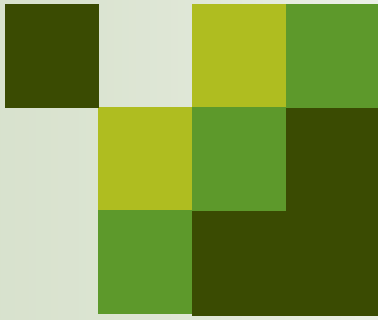




The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 20, Issue 7
November 2025

Chair's Update

The beginning of November saw the weather change with some intense storms and rain, the harvest had been running fairly smoothly up to this point with only minimal rain in early September, then a dry October. With the rain events to date the CCS has topped the annual curve and is on a downhill slide with the weekly CCS now 13.73. The season average CCS is still sitting at 14.03 which is not a bad outcome for the year so far.

Mill reliability has been quite reasonable except for the failure of No. 5 mill whilst No. 2 mill was also offline. The decision to keep going with No. 2 and No. 5 mill bypassed was greatly appreciated albeit at a reduced throughput. I can't say the same thing about the transport system though, with prolonged bin deliveries resulting in bins not being filled, and cut to crush times blowing out, somewhat caused by difficulty in finding truck drivers, which I guess is a sign of the times that we live in.

With the rain and the temperature ramping up we are seeing next years crop starting to power away and hopefully we will be able to get the last of the crop off in not too long. The sugar price has taken a serious fall in the past couple of months with the price dipping below the cost of production for most growers. In saying that, as I write this there is a small rally in the price.

I urge growers to follow the pricing and speak with Glenn Harris about available pricing options to help soften the blow of the reduced world sugar price. It is disappointing that we are yet again seeing little to no Advance payments coming in due to the rapidly reducing price and it is hoped that in future seasons, QSL's FlexPay product

can be used to manage your cashflow to suit your needs.

With the longer season and low sugar prices the decision has been made to increase Base CCS to 13.80. You should see this adjustment in late November.

Soybeans have been a backstop in the past when the sugar price has been low and once again could make an excellent option to help with cashflow, not to mention how good they are for the soil. Matt is available to assist with a wealth of knowledge around the selection of varieties and the growing husbandry of soybeans. There is an article on page 6 providing some basic information.

The Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme is now open for applications to receive a 15% rebate to eligible businesses on bills issued by Sunwater, including Burnett Water. Tanya and Matt are available to assist with applications and further information can be found on page 3.

Cane planting wrapped up with an extremely good uptake of the Sugar Services' one-eye sett program. This is a great tool to help keep up to date with your clean seed program and new varieties. We farewelled David in October and are now seeking a full-time replacement. If you know someone who may be interested in the position, the vacancy advert is included on the last page and I ask you to encourage them to contact Tanya for further information.

While we are looking for a new person Matt Leighton will be helping with soil samples, and other BSSL roles to ensure growers are not impacted greatly.

Southern CANEGROWERS and Productivity Board representatives recently met to discuss the SRA Plant Breeding program and presented a proposal to Garry Rosewarne at SRA on the future of the Southern program and Regional Variety Selection Committee.

Lastly, we extend a huge congratulations to Shanon who recently received the East Coast Apprenticeships Trainee of the Year award. Many of you will recognise Shanon as the friendly, professional face at reception who greets you whilst also ensuring our office runs seamlessly.

Let's hope the weather holds out and we can get this harvest season done and dusted in the very near future.

Mark Pressler
Chairman



From left: Mark Vincent, East Coast Apprenticeships Shanon Stacpoole and Paul Murphy, East Coast Apprenticeships.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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

Email: bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au

Website: www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au

2025 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 31 October 2025

Applicable From	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		QSL Standard Advance Rate
Payment Date	Payment Change	To	
Initial	\$0	\$403	65.0%
16 Jul 25	-\$38	\$365	65.00%
20 Aug 25	\$0	\$365	65.00%
17 Sep 25	\$0	\$365	65.00%
15 Oct 25	\$14	\$380	70.00%
19 Nov 25	-\$31	\$349	72.50%
17 Dec 25	\$24	\$373	77.50%
21 Jan 26	\$12	\$385	80.00%
18 Feb 26	\$12	\$397	82.50%
18 Mar 26	\$24	\$421	87.50%
15 Apr 26	\$12	\$433	90.00%
20 May 26	\$12	\$445	92.50%
17 Jun 26	\$24	\$469	97.50%
By 31 July 26	\$12	\$482	100.00%

Notes:

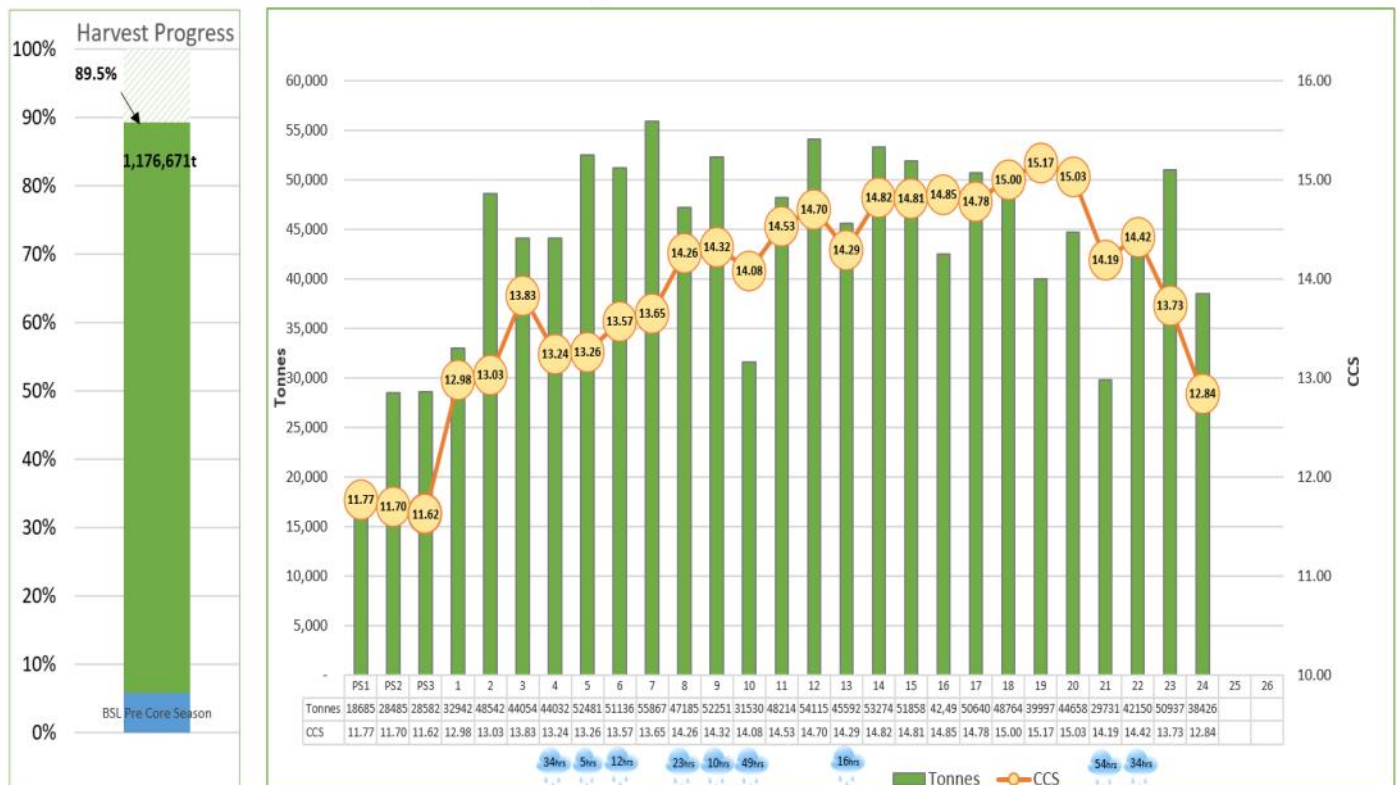
Under QSL's Advances program, supplying growers and millers are paid a proportional amount of their current estimated final sugar pricing result. The program is indicative only and may change during the course of the season, and so should not be taken as a commitment by QSL with regard to either the 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 \$482/t IPS as of 31 October 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.

Crushing Statistics – 2025 Season



Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme

sunwater

The Queensland Government has allocated \$25.3 million to the Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme to provide rebates of 15% to eligible businesses on water bills issued by Sunwater (including Burnett Water) in relation to the 2025–26 and 2026–27 financial years.

The 15% rebate will support owner-operated businesses that use water for irrigation and earn primary production income.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for a 15% rebate on your quarterly water bills under the Scheme, your business must:

- have at least one owner who provides labour for the business
- not be wholly or partly operated or owned by one of these excluded entities:
 - a public company
 - a foreign company
 - an entity operating a managed investment scheme; or
 - a superannuation entity other than a self-managed superannuation fund

- have at least one owner who declares primary production income for tax purposes
- grow crops requiring irrigation from time to time; and
- have paid a bill issued by Seqwater or Sunwater (including Burnett Water) related to your water allocations and usage for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.

For more information on the eligibility criteria for the Scheme, please see the Scheme guidelines.

Submitting an application

Applications can be completed online through the QRIDA application portal, or via the paper application form.

Your initial application with QRIDA must include:

- information on your owner-operated business
- evidence of primary production income
- evidence of irrigation activities
- your Sunwater or Burnett Water bill (s)
- evidence of your payment of bill(s)

- where the bill is not issued to your business, information about your relationship with the entity which owns the water allocation consent for the name and customer reference number on the bill to be shared with your water supplier (Sunwater)

You may choose to submit a statutory declaration in place of evidence for irrigation activities and primary production income. Tanya Howard is a Commissioner for Declarations and is available to sign statutory declarations.

Once you have been approved for assistance under the Scheme, subsequent applications will only require invoices and proof of payment.

Applications close 31 December 2027, or when available funds are exhausted.

Contact the office for a paper application form or apply online through the QRIDA portal: <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/irrigation-pricing-rebate-scheme> ■

Workplace Health and Safety reminders

There have been a recent run of incidents and accidents on farms which have resulted in Work Place Health and Safety being involved. While this is never a pleasant experience, there are several things that growers can do to help themselves in case there is an issue.

1. Call 000 if required and provide support or medical assistance until help arrives
2. Secure the site and do not disturb the area surrounding the incident
3. Call WHS QLD on 1300 362 128. You must notify them of "notifiable incidents" which include a death, a serious injury or illness, or a dangerous incident.
4. Report the injury to WorkCover Queensland. This is a separate process from notifying WHSQ.

Once the incident site has settled the grower will need to conduct a review of the incident to ensure all policies and procedures were followed. From this review the policies and procedures may need to be updated or actions taken to ensure the incident doesn't

occur again.

When WHS officers visit the site they will look to see what policies and procedures are in place as well as conducting an inspection of any machinery involved and at the workplace. From this there may be a list of enforceable actions that are required to be completed and once notified to WHS.

Some common items that are regularly part of the enforceable action are:

1. Repairing/replacing any seat that has a tear in the cover
2. Ensuring keys are removed from vehicles at the end of the day. To ensure workers who are not authorised to use one type of vehicles such as a forklift or a light truck because they don't have the appropriate licence, consider placing keys in a lockbox with a pin code.
3. Safety data sheets for the agricultural chemicals as well as degreasers/lubricants, especially aerosol products that are used in

and around machinery and the workshop.

Other areas that can be identified include bunding for on farm fuel tanks, bunding and locked chemical storage area, machinery maintenance records, guarding for PTO drives on tractors and PTO shafts on machinery, slings and lifting gear checked and tagged every 12 months, portable RCD units in use for machinery run of a generator.

A form that can be useful if there is an incident is an emergency contact list for employees or regular helpers. This lists the name of the employee, their next of kin or preferred emergency contact and contact number and a blank sheet has been included for your convenience.

Growers requiring assistance can contact Matt Leighton on 0437 084 035 who can provide some suggestions to assist in becoming compliant. ■



Staff Member	Known Allergies/Health issues



First (1st) Emergency Contact <i>Name and Phone number</i>	Second (2nd) Emergency Contact <i>Name and Phone number</i>

What is the best price and what product to use

As the forecast sugar price for 2025 crop continues to move further away from the \$700 per tonne IPS received in 2024, growers need to be aware of the best way to reduce input prices as well as maximising productivity.

To reduce input prices, The best way is to get good advice and focus on the price per hectare and not the price per drum or per tonne of fertiliser. In maximising productivity, the biggest restriction in Bundaberg is water and generally the more water used at the correct time equals a bigger crop.

When it comes to chemicals, it is not how much per drum that is the focus but how much per hectare when applied at the label rate.

As a replacement for Lorsban to control wireworm at planting, Talstar can be used and it is significantly cheaper per hectare despite the drum being more expensive.

Product	Drum size	Price per drum	Price per litre	Rate per hectare	Price per hectare
Lorsban	20L	\$165	\$8.25	1.5 L	\$12.37
Talstar	20L	\$260	\$13.00	150 ml	\$1.95

Another example is comparing some common fertiliser blends. Two of the more common fertiliser blends for ratoons are CK 140(S) and High KS Ratooner. When applied at 150 kg nitrogen per hectare there are some savings to be made.

	Price per tonne	Rate Applied per hectare	Price per hectare
CK 140(S)	\$1075	645 kg	\$693.37
High KS Ratooner	\$990	590 kg	\$584.10
Nitra K S	\$980	560 kg	\$548.80

There is a slight difference between CK 140(S) and High KS Ratooner as these are not like for like products especially with reef regulations, as when High KS Ratooner is recommended, CK 140(S) cannot be used as it has phosphorus whereas the High KS Ratooner does not.

For CK 140(S) to be cheaper than High KS Ratooner at the rates in the table above the CK 140(S) would need to be discounted to \$900 per tonne.

The next part of the equation is to grow the best crop possible. Given the longer term weather forecasts range from a dry summer to a wet summer it would be best to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Water is the key driver of productivity and yield and the best result occurs when the right amount is applied at the right time.

Unless growers have more than 6ML/ha, growers should try and apply as much water as possible given the irrigation application constraints each farm has.

Part of this is because for those on the Sunwater scheme, there's a fixed charge of \$72.23/ML for Part A whether they use the water or not. The 15% rebate has been announced with forms available for eligible growers at reception.

By claiming this rebate eligible growers will be saving approximately \$10/ML. ■

Fertiliser bag disposal

The Big Bag recovery program which recycles 1T bulk fertiliser bags has moved from Qunaba to the waste facility on University Drive. The site accepts approved (no cost to the grower) and non approved (costs growers \$7/bag) types of fertiliser bags at the Bundaberg Waste Disposal Site on University Road. As the site is not staffed all the time pre booking with at least 24 hours notice should be given.

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

approved bags can be found at <https://www.bigbagrecovery.com.au/#brands>.

Non approved brands such as Koch will incur a \$7 per bag disposal fee.

To prepare for disposal an online disposal booking form needs to be completed with a date and time, preferably with 24 hours notice, the bags need to be stacked and folded with the fertiliser brand facing out, and stack the bags onto the vehicle separating the approved and non approved bags. Once at the disposal site a declaration form needs to be completed with up to 300 bags

accepted at one time.

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

Further information can be found on the Bundaberg Regional Council website <https://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/waste-recycling/waste-recycling-programs/8>.

■

Soybean Update

Prices

Soybean prices are similar to or slightly down compared to last year depending on when last year's contract was signed.

The full fat market is depressed as there is a large crop being harvested in the USA and a large plant forecast in Brazil and Argentina who are both planting at the moment. This is putting downwards pressure on the soybean meal and full fat market.

Varieties

There are no changes to the main

varieties suitable for this region and given the likelihood of the crush finishing in mid December, variety A-6785 may not suit the available planting window.

The other main varieties are Hayman[®] more suited to a January plant date while Kuranda[®] can be planted into mid February with limited yield penalty. If growing for a green manure crop with an autumn cane plant A-6785 is likely the best option.

Preparation

Soybeans can be direct drilled into

existing cane rows, though generally cultivation occurs to ensure an even paddock for harvesting. The reason for this is that the lowest pods are generally 10cm above ground level.

Lime is often required as soybeans, like most legumes, prefer a pH close to neutral. This also assists nodulation as the Rhizobium bacteria which is applied at planting works best in a neutral soil.

If any grower is considering growing soybeans they can contact Matt Leighton on 0437 084 035. ■



Tune In: Cane Matters - The Sugarcane Podcast for Growers

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has launched a new podcast series, *Cane Matters*, created especially for sugarcane growers and industry professionals. Each short episode dives into real issues that impact productivity, profitability, and sustainability across the industry.

Recent episodes explore topics such as:

- Breeding new sugarcane varieties – how traits like yield and disease resistance are developed.
- Estimating CCS with drone technology – SRA's remote sensing specialist discusses a new research project using drones equipped with hyperspectral sensors to predict sugar content (CCS) in real time.

It's an easy way to stay informed while you're on the move – whether you're in the ute, tractor or shed.

You can listen and subscribe to *Cane Matters* on your favourite podcast app or visit sugarresearch.com.au/podcast to stream the latest episodes. ■



New Online Training: Weed Management in Sugarcane

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has launched a new Weed Management online training program to help growers make better weed control decisions and boost productivity.

The program is delivered in two parts, Pre-emergent Weed Management and Post-emergent Weed Management, and provides practical, easy-to-follow modules for growers and farm staff.

By completing the course, participants will:

- Understand how weeds impact cane productivity.
- Learn tools and techniques to identify weeds accurately.
- Apply integrated weed management principles.
- Understand how pre- and post-emergence herbicides work.

Make more informed weed management decisions for specific weed and crop scenarios.

The Pre-emergent Weed Management course is available now, with the Post-emergent module coming soon.

It's free to create an account and log in to access the training at sugarresearch.com.au/growers/online-training. ■



Bundaberg's Sweetest Schools

Kicking off in 2026, Bundaberg's Sweetest School is an exciting new competition which aims to encourage hands-on learning by bringing agriculture into the classroom.

Under the guidance of industry professionals, primary schools across

Bundaberg, Childers and Gin Gin will plant, nurture and harvest their very own plot of sugarcane with the crops being judged and winners announced at the 2027 Gin Gin Show.

For more information please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■



Do you know a cane legend?

We all know them - the ones who've kept things ticking when times were tough, pitched in for their mates, or had a crack at doing things better. The kind of people everyone knows by name – but for the right reasons.

As CANEGROWERS prepares to celebrate 100 years, we're shining a spotlight on the legends who've shaped our industry — past, present, and future.

Nominate your champions to be honoured at the Centenary Gala Dinner in Mackay on 12 March 2026:

- Past Champion – a pioneer who helped build the foundations
- Present Champion – a grower or leader driving change today
- Emerging Champion – a young grower under 40 shaping tomorrow



Nominations close 7 February 2026.

Nominate **at**
www.canegrowers.com.au/legend or
by calling the office on 4151 2555. ■

Bundaberg's evokeAG delegation - EOI's now open

Expressions of Interest are now open to join Regional Business HQ's delegation attending the Asia Pacific's premier agtech event in Melbourne from 17-18 February 2026.

AgriFutures evokeAG is Asia Pacific's annual showcase of bold ideas, groundbreaking innovations and disruptive science driving agriculture

towards a better future. Entering its sixth year, evokeAG. continues to facilitate investment, nurture innovation and create impact, which is reflected in its new evergreen tagline: Invest. Innovate. Impact.

If you are a Bundaberg-based primary producer, agtech developer, agronomist, or your business has some

connection to agriculture, attending EvokeAG could be a game-changer.

To check your eligibility and submit your EOI, please visit <https://bit.ly/4qlcm09>. Applications close Monday 8 December 2025. ■



SAVE *the* DATE

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS
CENTENARY PICNIC CELEBRATION
SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026

In the back garden of Fairymead House & Sugar History Museum, Thornhill Street, Bundaberg North

100 YEARS

CANEGROWERS

1926 - 2026



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
09.10.25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory	To receive updates	Matt Leighton
09.10.25	QSL Grower meeting	To receive updates	Directors Tanya Howard Matt Leighton
10.10.2025	GCGO Sustainability and Extension Committee	To represent members	Mark Pressler
13.10.25	District Manager's meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
14.10.25	Sweeter Schools Competition	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard
15.10.25	QCGO Farm Performance and Productivity Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
16.10.25	CANEGROWERS Insurance Strategy	To plan and receive updates	Tanya Howard
20.10.25	QFF Water and Energy Policy Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
23.10.25	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
24.10.25	QSL workshop	To receive update on FlexPay	Directors Tanya Howard
27.10.25	Regional Business HQ	To represent members	Tanya Howard
28.10.25	Sugar Research Australia Product Profile meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard Matt Leighton
31.10.25	Reefwise Precision Irrigation project	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard Matthew Leighton
03.11.25	Groundwater Area B meeting	To represent irrigators	Matt Leighton
05.11.25	District Manager's meeting with QSL	To receive update on negative pays	Tanya Howard
05.11.25 & 06.11.25	Groundwater Area B Shed meetings	To represent irrigators	Matt Leighton
11.11.25	Grain in Cane	To make arrangements for 2026	Dean Cayley Tanya Howard Matt Leighton
11.11.25 - 12.11.25	QCGO Policy Council & Annual General Meeting	To receive update	Mark Pressler
13.11.25	Sunwater Customer Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss

CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified & employment advertisements of up to thirty (30) words only will be printed.

Advertisements will be accepted from non-members, charged at \$11 per seven (7) word line or part thereof.

Contact

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office on telephone no. 4151 2555 or email bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

Properties to recreational pig hunt. Member of APDHA and fully insured.

Contact Dan Baillie on 0439 077 199.

Position Vacant - Field Officer



Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd (BSSL) is a sugar industry company tasked with enhancing the productivity of sugar cane produced in the Bundaberg District.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

Activities associated with the production and distribution of One-eye Setts from BSSL Mother Plot and shade house.

Pest and disease management programs aimed at limiting impact of pest and/or disease on sugarcane production in the Bundaberg district.

Irrigation related activities associated with improving the productivity, economic viability, and environmental sustainability of BSSL members farming operations.

BSSL extension activities and special programs as determined by the BSSL Board from time to time.

The position is ideally suited for a practical hands-on person with an understanding of sugarcane production systems.

A current manual driver's licence is essential and a current first aid certificate is desirable. Experience with Microsoft Office is preferred.

Tertiary qualifications are not required.

This position is based in Bundaberg and you will report to the Company Secretary.

If you are interested, please contact the Company Secretary Tanya Howard via reception@bdbcanegrowers.com.au for more information.

To apply please send a current CV detailing experience and attributes to reception@bdbcanegrowers.com.au, or PO Box 953

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



The Bundaberg District Canegrower

If undeliverable return to:



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

PO Box 953
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

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

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AUSTRALIA

PRIORITY

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