

BUNDABERG SUGAR SERVICES LIMITED

ACN 109 261 092



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The underpinning philosophy behind the formation of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited was the acknowledgement by Bundaberg Sugar and CANEGROWERS of the joint responsibility for ensuring the Bundaberg sugar industry's sustainability and the need to work together and to work smarter.

The objectives of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited are:

- to enhance the productivity of the sugar industry by increasing the quantity and improving the quality of cane produced by crops grown in the Bundaberg district;
- to achieve regional sustainability in the Bundaberg area through full utilisation of sugar industry capital;
- to provide suitable advice and help to members about:
 - the prevention, control and eradication of pest infestation and disease of cane or any other matter or thing that adversely affects the quantity or quality of crops of cane; and/or
 - the production and harvesting of cane;
- to help, and cooperate with, other bodies involved in preventing, controlling and eradicating pests in cane;
- to help, and cooperate with, other bodies involved in researching the production, harvesting, transport and processing of cane;
- to provide advice and information to members for the preservation and enhancement of the capacity of land to sustain crops of cane;
- to help minimise any damage to the environment that may be caused by activities of the sugar industry within our area.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited is a Public Company Limited by Guarantee, and is a not-for-profit Organisation whose funding is provided by a levy on grower members. Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited is controlled by a board of directors, two (2) of which are appointed by growers and two (2) appointed by the mill.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited has previously managed funding projects for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Employment & Training, Qld Department of Primary Industries, The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of State Development, Burnett Mary Regional Group and Sugar Research and Development Corporation.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited has experience in managing community based projects and has the necessary personnel, systems and procedures to provide the essential level of corporate governance, management, supervision and administration to direct projects.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited also provides direct and extension services such as:

- Approved seed cane for planting;
- Excellent, readily accessible advice;
- Help to identify and control cane pests and diseases;



Top row from left: Michael Cavallaro, Matthew Curtis, Ian Dart, Anna Attard
Bottom row from left: Michael Turner, Tanya Howard, David Dowson

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

We present the report for the financial year 2024/25 and have the pleasure in highlighting some of our achievements in delivering a range of services to our members.

On behalf of our members, we would like to acknowledge the service, assistance and dedication that David Dowson provides to Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited.

David has focussed his attention on needs based and member focussed programs which consist of the approved plants scheme, plant source inspections, one-eye sett propagation and distribution, pest and disease management and general extension. Michael Turner supported David during his transition to retirement in July 2025. Casuals have been employed to assist when required.

The BSSL Board reaffirmed our policy with respect to how the BSSL/SRA relationship strategy operates. This was communicated to SRA to assist them target areas of mutual interest in programs and services that we cannot effectively deliver ourselves.

The breeding program, which we see as SRA core business, plus a review of the old varieties to ascertain attributes that might be of use in combatting YCS and soldier fly. Combatting Soldier fly remains one of our top priorities for pest management.

2024 was a good growing season with reasonable rainfall across the district and high solar radiation leading to a very healthy crop.

2024 season district yield average increased to 85.1 tonnes of cane per hectare, higher than the long term average of 83.6tc/ha. 137 district growers produced 1,205,229 tonnes of cane crushed at Millaquin mill. This was well up on 2023 season by 215,931 tonnes.

District average CCS for the 2024 season was 13.59 compared with 14.70 in 2023 and 13.15 in 2022.

Despite prices easing from record highs, they remained high with a Harvest Pool sugar price of \$700.20 per tonne of sugar.

The major varieties harvested for the 2024 season were Q240^A at 34.0%, KQ228^A at 21.8%, Q208^A at 13.3% and Q238^A at 6.7%. These four major varieties account for 75.8% of the cane harvested in the Bundaberg cane growing area. The top four best performing varieties for the 2024 season were, Q240^A, Q232^A, Q252^A, and KQ228^A.

SRA34^A was approved for release by the Southern Regional Variety Committee (RVC) in 2022. Performance information was included in the Variety Guides showing agronomic performance and productivity were competitive with KQ228^A and the disease resistance profile was generally equivalent. The visual similarity of the two varieties was subject of significant discussion and following the release of SRA34^A to some Bundaberg growers it was found to be a genetic match to KQ228^A. As a result, all SRA34^A in trials, propagations, distribution plots and commercial production had its name changed to KQ228^A.

Regional Variety Committee members play a key role in the review and decision processes supporting the commercialisation of new varieties and online meetings were setup for RVC members to have an opportunity to learn more about the background to this situation and discuss the path forward for SRA. Improved testing procedures and release protocols are now in place.

We would like to thank a wide range of sugar industry organisations, particularly Bundaberg Sugar Ltd and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd for their assistance in helping Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited to meet our objectives.

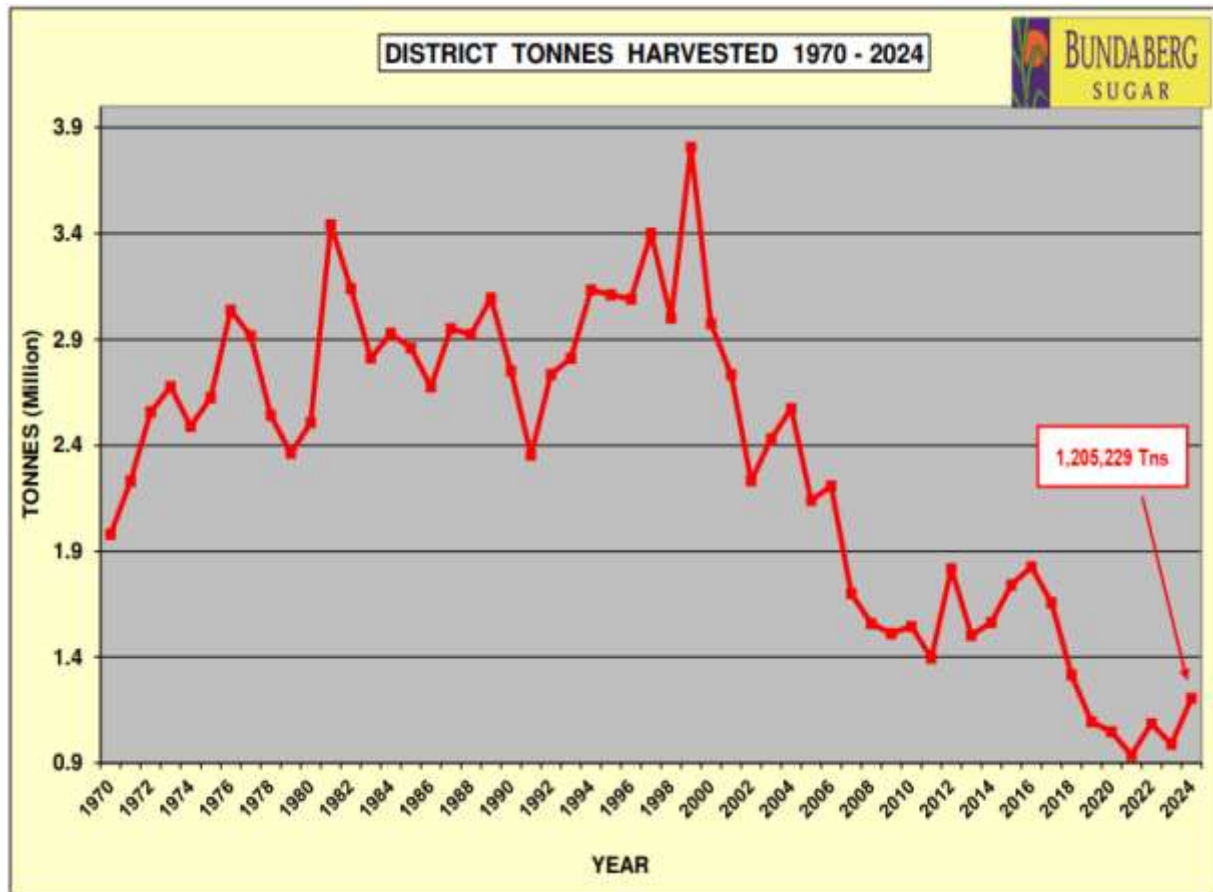
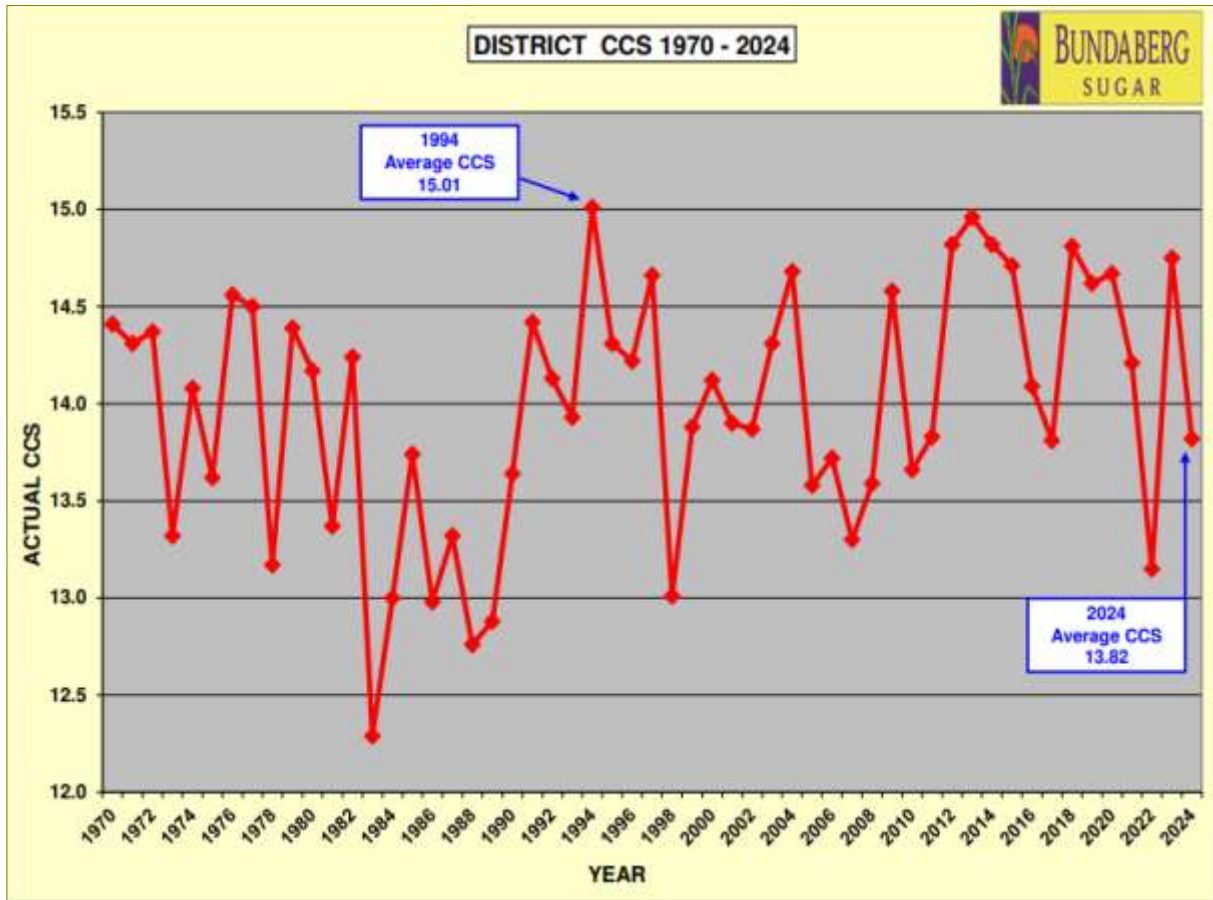
On behalf of the Board, we would also like to formally acknowledge our members who are the reason why Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited exists in the first place.

Michael Cavallaro
Chairman

Matthew Curtis
Deputy Chairman

Anna Attard
Director

Ian Dart
Director



CORE PROGRAMS

APPROVED SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The approved Seed Production and Distribution program ensures that all Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited plots are sampled for RSD, planted with the selected varieties and routinely inspected. As a service to members inspection of plant sources on individual farms is carried out upon request. The approved seed production is our core business and it is critical that we maintain and where possible, modernise how this service is delivered.

Approved Plants Scheme

The usual preparations for plants distribution including organising, mailing out grower forms, confirmation of orders, casual labour requirements, plot inspections and RSD testing of the plots were conducted. DNA samples were also taken on the varieties planted in the mother plot.

Three (3) general disease inspections were conducted at regular intervals during the year. No disease issues were detected during these inspections.

The Mother plot was chipped on a regular basis for weeds.

Plant Source Inspections

Twenty (20) growers including Bundaberg Sugar requested plant source inspections and RSD tests on thirty-five (35) blocks of plant sources. All growers were sent notification letters outlining the RSD results.

Plot Planting

Mother Plot

Spring 2024

The spring 2024 plot was planted on the 28 August. Varieties planted consist of Q138, Q151, Q183^A, Q188^A, Q208^A, Q232^A, Q238^A, Q240^A, Q242^A, Q245^A, Q247^A, Q252^A, KQ228^A, SRA2^A, SRA4^A, SRA11^A, SRA19^A, SRA20^A, SRA29^A, SRA32^A, SRAW33^A, SRA38^A and SRA44^A.

Autumn 2025

The autumn 2025 plot was planted on 9 April. Varieties planted consist of Q138, Q124, Q151, Q183^A, Q188^A, Q208^A, Q232^A, Q238^A, Q240^A, Q242^A, Q245^A, Q247^A, Q252^A, KQ228^A, SRA2^A, SRA4^A, SRA11^A, SRA19^A, SRA20^A, SRA29^A, SRAW33^A, SRA38^A and SRA44^A.

All planting sources for the mother plot are derived from tissue culture to maintain integrity of the variety.

Approved Seed Distribution

One-eye setts

Bundaberg Sugar Services one-eye setts propagation program is the main source of purchasing approved seed cane by growers.

Since the inception of one-eye setts (2019) there has been a marked increase in the number of seedlings purchased by growers each year to the point where we outgrew the previous facility and we continue to propagate at our new shade house facility.

Some growers are ordering enough seedlings to plant up to one hectare of approved seed cane.

Breakdown of seedlings distributed to growers.

Variety	Spring 2024	Autumn 2025
Q138	0	416
Q151	0	0
Q183 ^A	704	704
Q188 ^A	1408	0
Q208 ^A	384	1440
Q232 ^A	0	0
Q238 ^A	0	0
Q240 ^A	3140	5568
Q242 ^A	192	192
Q245 ^A	0	0
Q247 ^A	0	0
Q252 ^A	0	2080
KQ228 ^A	192	2016
SRA2 ^A	0	0
SRA4 ^A	0	1280
SRA11 ^A	0	1280
SRA19 ^A	1760	1600
SRA20 ^A	192	640
SRA29 ^A	2208	5728
SRA32 ^A	0	0
SRAW33 ^A	384	4096
SRA38 ^A	192	3040

Spring 2024

The distribution of spring 2024 seedlings commenced on 28 August. Seven growers (7) collected 10,756 seedlings. There were no orders from Bundaberg Sugar company farms.

Autumn 2025

Autumn 2025 distribution of seedlings commenced on 9 April. Sixteen (16) growers including Bundaberg Sugar company farms collected 30,080 seedlings.



David Dowson delivering seedlings.

One-eye Sett seedlings sales (Jan-Dec) 2019-2025

Year	Autumn	Spring	Total
2019	0	9,440	9,440
2020	11,296	34,016	45,312
2021	18,976	27,573	46,549
2022	23,680	62,160	85,840
2023	40,448	55,391	95,839
2024	37,536	41,056	78,592
2025	30,080	10,756	40,800

*Note: The spring sale number includes sales to Maryborough.



Planting one-eye setts (BSSL planter)

Growers can borrow the Bundaberg Sugar Services Seedling water wheel planter to plant their seedlings, the planter is delivered to farm and collected once they are finished using it by Sugar Services staff. Growers are taking up this offer of the seedling planter when purchasing seedlings.

There have no major issues with the planter.



BSSL seedling planter in trailer



Potted One-eye Setts

PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Pest and disease management remains a vital function of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited who carry out farm inspection and interpretation of specific pest or disease incidence at the request of grower members.

One of our objectives is to provide suitable advice and help to the members about the prevention, control and eradication of pest infection and disease of cane or any other matter or thing that adversely affects the quantity and quality of crops of cane and/or the production and harvesting of cane.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS)

The 2024/25 season observations identified that there was some YCS present throughout the Bundaberg district, but not to the same extent as previous years. Some of these blocks identified were in previous year observations.

Ratoon Stunting Disease

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) remains a major disease facing the Bundaberg district. With this in mind Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd conducts annual surveys and promotes the regular use of recommended hygiene measures to manage this disease.

Bundaberg Sugar Services, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd are working on a project with SRA to detect RSD using NIR at the mill. If the project is successful this will return real-time results and increase detection rates in the region. It will also assist Sugar Services to develop a trend analysis to identify infection hot spots and in turn assist to reduce infection rates in the region.

RSD testing of the mother plot at Clayton Road was conducted with forty (40) samples collected using the new method of bulking stalks from a block or individual variety and sending the sample to SRA

Sampling results below.

	Number samples collected	Doubtful samples	Positive blocks
Approved seed plots	40	0	0
Grower plant source / RSD survey	120	0	2
Total samples	160	0	2

Brisbane for analysis. Samples are collected every ten (10) metres in the mother plot. All samples returned a negative result.

Machinery Inspections

There were no requests for machinery inspections in the last twelve (12) months. Any inspections requested are directed to the relevant authorised person at the Biosecurity office (DAFF) Bundaberg.

Planting, Pest and Disease data collection

Due to other work commitments a small number of grower members were surveyed including Bundaberg Sugar farms across the Bundaberg mill area.

Information collected includes where approved seed cane was planted, row spacing's, GPS planted or block just marked out by GPS, break crop rotation (soybean, peanut, small crops), pest or disease problems (e.g. cane grubs area affected, tonnes loss) irrigation type, fertiliser/insecticide use.

This information gives us an idea of what is going on around the district and where we need to tackle a pest, disease or nutrient situation.

IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE

Drain Cleaner

Two (2) growers requested to use the cleaner to clean underground soakage lines. General maintenance was carried out on equipment.



EXTENSION

EXTENSION SUPPORT

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited provides support to members in an effort to reduce the impact of rising costs on farm productivity and to enhance the future economic viability of the Bundaberg sugarcane industry.

General Extension

During the past twelve (12) months a range of grower requests were investigated and depending on the problem identified appropriate control measures were recommended. There was a range of requests involved:

Pest

- Pink Earthpearl
- Rhyardi beetle
- Moth borer
- Soldier fly

Disease

- Yellow Canopy Syndrome
- Smut in SRA20^A and Q208^A

Tissue culture seedlings

- The only tissue culture seedlings ordered were by Sugar Services for the mother plot

One-eye sett seedlings

- Information on seedlings
- Posted confirmation letters
- Availability of seedlings to purchase from other mill areas
- Planting distance/tray

- Spare seedlings available Late order for seedling availability
- Planter availability

Soil testing

- Nutrient
- Pachymetra

Other general requests

- Plant source inspections
- RSD test plant sources
- Water logging damage
- Herbicide damage
- Variety identification/information
- Drain cleaner
- Slow ratooning

Grower requested nutrient requests

During the financial year 2024/25 there were one hundred (100) soil tests from thirty-seven (37) growers taken by BSSL. This represents approximately 25 percent of all members who are utilizing the BSSL soil testing service as part of their reef compliance.

Growers are provided with a nutrient management plan and N & P budget when receiving the results.



During the 2024/25 year there were 100 soil tests for 37 growers.

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS

Sugar Industry Dinner 2024 Season Awards

Mark and Brad Piper of MGBJP Pty Ltd were announced as the District Champion at the annual Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards held at The Waves on Friday, 21 March 2025.

Director of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Mr Michael Cavallaro congratulated the Piper's whose Bundaberg farm took out the top award for the night—Formatt Machinery's District Champion with a three year average of 15.55 tonnes of sugar per hectare.

Representatives from all sectors of the industry and their business associates gathered to hear the awards announced and to celebrate some great productivity outcomes from the 2024 crushing season.

Director of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Mr Dean Cayley, took the opportunity to acknowledge the continued support of local sponsors of the awards and encouraged growers to continue to do business with these local service providers.



Dean Cayley presents award for Inspiring Female Leader to Leone Aslett

Ryan Dingle was recognised as a Young Industry Achiever. Ryan worked in the day-to-day operations of the family farm before starting his own agricultural contracting business and finally purchasing the family cane farm, taking over management of the farm and changing the farm layout to increase tonnes produced. This was proven successful in the 2024 season with the farm averaging 130 tonnes of cane per hectare.

Graham McCracken has been a stalwart of the local agricultural industry and next year sees Graham contributing 60 years as a second generation businessman of irrigation expertise in service, design



Michael Cavallaro presents District Champion award to Mark Piper

and manufacturing. His knowledge of local properties and their irrigation challenges, and the support he has provided to local growers saw Graham awarded the Contribution to Productivity Award.

Maurice and Barbara Chapman were acknowledged for their extraordinary partnership whose dedication to growing sugarcane led them to receiving an award for 60 Years of Excellence in Sugarcane Farming after having supplied Millaquin Mill for 60 seasons.



Mr & Mrs Chapman accept 60 Years of Excellence in Sugarcane Farming award from Michael Cavallaro

A total of 20 Award winners were announced in 16 categories.

ANNUAL BUNDABERG SUGAR INDUSTRY AWARDS

J & R McCracken Highest Actual CC Sample
RJ & Mrs JE Zunker

**Cheshire Machinery Harvesting Contractor Award
for Best Harvesting Efficiency and Most Reliable Performance**
STH Contracting Pty Ltd

Wilson's Industrial Sales Best Farm Presentation For Harvesting
Mr SA Algeo

Gro-Sure Award for Contribution to Productivity
Graham McCracken

Nufarm Award for Service to Industry
Ron Crouch

Sunwater Young Industry Achiever Award
Ryan Dingle

Ergon Energy Inspiring Female Leader Award
Leone Aslett

**Incitec Pivot Cane Growing Excellence –
Farms Up to and including 60 ha**
Racmac Pty Ltd

**Incitec Pivot Cane Growing Excellence -
Farms larger than 60 ha**
RM Dingle

**RDO Equipment
Closest Percentage Estimate to Actual Tonnage**
CM & Mrs LF Townson

**Wide Bay Drones Award
for Highest Tonnes Sugar Per Harvested Hectare**
Redtrail Pty Ltd (No.1) 17.58 ts/ha

**Waterfind Award
for Most Sustainable Yield for the Past 3 Seasons**
Milworth Pty Ltd 105.5 tc/ha

**Bundaberg Distilling Co
High Sugar Producer Awards**

<i>WR & AJ Baldry (No1)</i>	<i>17.55 ts/ha</i>
<i>RL & Mrs MR Lines</i>	<i>17.29 ts/ha</i>
<i>Mr SA Algeo</i>	<i>16.65 ts/ha</i>
<i>RM Dingle (No1)</i>	<i>16.44 ts/ha</i>
<i>Mrs EM & Mr SR Taske</i>	<i>16.01 ts/ha</i>

Formatt Machinery District Champion
MGBJP Pty Ltd-15.55 ts/ha

50+ Years
Evelyn Taske

60+ Years of excellence in Sugarcane Farming
M & BJ Chapman



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