

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 21, Issue 2  
April 2026

## Chair's Update

What a month we have had! From floods to wars, one would have trouble imagining what might happen next. Early March saw the remnants of a slow moving tropical low-pressure system deliver a huge amount of rain in the catchment of the Burnett, causing a flood of a magnitude similar to the 2010 flood level with flows of approximately 907,000ML/day overtopping Paradise Dam by 7 meters, at this stage Paradise was 4 times it's capacity.

Briefings with Sunwater have conveyed some minor damage at the Paradise Dam site with roads, railings and culverts being eroded. Some major siltation occurred at Don Beattie and Woongarra Pump Stations, and I must commend Sunwater on the speedy rehabilitation of these areas to get water deliveries reinstated as soon as possible. The rainfall event was desperately needed but the rain intensity caused some serious damage and erosion across the district. QRIDA announced Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants following the floods with grants of up to \$75,000 available to eligible primary producers. More information can be found on page 4 or please contact the office on 4151 2555 for assistance.

Harvesting groups should be all but sorted with a 21 April deadline for group changes. Estimate letters have been sent to growers and are due now.

I don't need to say too much about the Iran conflict or the price of fuel but oh my, has it had an impact on people's planning for the coming harvest and growing season. I think the general consensus is business as usual and see

what evolves. There are going to be major disruptions for both fuel and fertiliser even if the maritime traffic frees up. Let's hope we see some extraordinary leadership from government to help us ride this out.

The last couple of weeks has seen the sugar price rally somewhat which creates another dilemma, how much sugar are we going to be able to make if the coming harvest season is disrupted too much ... pricer beware!

Autumn planting is coming to a close with only a few more deliveries of one-eye setts to be made, the large rain event in the middle of the planting window created some serious delays and hopefully not too many forced replantings.

Glenn Harris is no longer working for QSL and has taken up the role of Cane Supply Manager for Bundaberg Sugar. I don't envy his job at all although I think he is quite capable of this position and we wish him well.

Menn Mutton is going to be the new point of contact for QSL Southern Region growers. He comes from within QSL Brisbane office and is very well across pricing and contractual arrangements. Menn can be contacted on 0437 498 148 or via email at [mennard.mutton@qsl.com.au](mailto:mennard.mutton@qsl.com.au).

18 young growers from Herbert River and the Burdekin recently visited the region supported by CANEGROWERS Herbert River, CANEGROWERS Burdekin and QCGO grower Directors and their respective district managers. The young growers participated in a local farm tour to view a multi-

cropping enterprise followed by a Q&A session with local staff and Directors.



The awards night was held on Friday 27 March at The Waves with another great turn out and I would like to congratulate all our award winners on their achievements for the 2025 Season. A big thank you also to the many businesses who sponsor the event. Further details can be found on page 6.

Sugar Services will be holding a Harvest Breakfast on 30 April at The Waves, members of Sugar Services will receive an invite in the mail shortly and I encourage you all to attend. ■

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman



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

1. Pre season planning and receiving industry updates.
2. Reviewing QCA Draft electricity tariff pricing for 2026-27.
3. Providing representation on groundwater and surface water matters.
4. Providing support for the launch of BAFFA's 'Check the Science' campaign
5. Preparations for 2026 soybean harvest and pricing contract arrangements.



**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

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# 2025 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 27 March 2026

Applicable From	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		QSL Standard Advance Rate
	Payment Date	Payment Change	
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	\$32	\$381	77.50%
21 Jan 26	\$6	\$386	80.00%
18 Feb 26	\$8	\$395	82.50%
18 Mar 26	\$25	\$420	87.50%
15 Apr 26	\$11	\$431	90.00%
20 May 26	\$12	\$443	92.50%
17 Jun 26	\$24	\$467	97.50%
By 31 July 26	\$12	\$479	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 \$479/t IPS as of 27 March 2026.

*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](http://www.qsl.com.au)). The estimated payment figure quoted also does not include any applicable Loyalty Bonus, GST, allowances, deductions or any other adjustments incurred by the grower or passed on by their miller.

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

## QSL Update

### 2026 Advances

Following local consultation, QSL's 2026-Season Advance rate for Bundaberg growers will start at 50%, with growers able to adjust payments to better suit their individual preferences using QSL's new FlexPay tool.

The initial 2026 Season advance price will be determined and advised by June.

The industry-first FlexPay payment option has been designed to help you manage your cashflow by providing increased control of your Advance payments, with the ability to:

- Request a quick 'cash boost';
- Add or skip payments; and
- Adjust your Advances schedule up or down across the season.

You will have the opportunity to make changes to your Advances each week through QSL Direct, and model the impact of any proposed changes on

your payment schedule and estimated finance adjustment before submitting a request.

QSL FlexPay operates on a user-pays basis, with finance costs adjusted depending on whether payments are brought forward or delayed. Participation is subject to approval and completely optional, enabling you to stay on the Standard QSL Advances program or use QSL FlexPay to tailor your payments across the season.

For more information about FlexPay, visit [www.qsl.com.au/content/payments](http://www.qsl.com.au/content/payments).

### New QSL Representative

Menn Mutton has been appointed as QSL's new Grower Relationship Officer for the Bundaberg and Isis districts. To chat with Menn or make an appointment, please contact him on 0437 498 148 or via email at [mennard.mutton@qsl.com.au](mailto:mennard.mutton@qsl.com.au). Phone support also remains available via the



QSL Direct helpline on 1800 870 756.

### 2026-Season Deadline Reminder

Growers are reminded that they have until 30 April 2026 to nominate the pricing options they wish to use for the 2026 Season. Any unallocated tonnage remaining after this date will default to the QSL Harvest Pool. ■



# Harvesting Contractor Agreements

... by Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor



## Written or verbal agreements

Whenever a grower engages a harvest contractor there is a contract agreement made between the parties. This contract may be written or verbal, or a bit of both. But while verbal or handshake agreements are just as binding as written agreements, they are not without problems. For a start, with a verbal agreement some important terms that govern the relationship may not be discussed.

Also, the grower and contractor may each have a different understanding or recollection of what was agreed.

It is for these reasons that CANEGROWERS strongly recommends that growers and harvesting contractors document in writing the agreement they propose to enter. The written agreement should cover the essential and important terms

of the agreement. Whilst oral agreements are enforceable, there is considerably more scope for dispute and disagreement if there is not a written record of what has been agreed. A written agreement can clearly set out the expectations of the grower and the contractor.

Harvesting the crop is a major component of sugarcane farming and one of the biggest costs. An efficient and cost effective harvesting operation is important for grower viability.

Similarly, a contract harvesting operation is a significant business investment with large sums of money tied up in expensive machinery. A reliable harvesting sector is essential for growers to operate their own farming business. Co-operation between the grower and the contractor can help minimise harvesting losses and improve efficiency.

## Sample agreements

A sample contractor harvesting agreement is available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

If a full written agreement seems too involved, consider using at least a basic contractor acknowledgment, a sample of which is also available from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.

Even if only a verbal agreement is being entered into, usually by a discussion in person or over the phone, the grower should still make a diary note after the discussions of what was agreed and the essential terms. Sending a note or email after the discussions to confirm the basic terms of the agreement is also recommended. ■

# Cane Supply Contract highlight

## Industry Management Committee

Did you know the Bundaberg Cane Supply Contract includes provisions for an Industry Management Committee?

The Industry Management Committee means the group comprised of representatives of the Mill Owner and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd formed to consider operational aspects of harvesting and transport to achieve increased efficiencies targeting industry best practice and the Cane Analysis Program.

Responsibilities of the Industry Management Committee include:

- Harvest roster dispute resolution process where Growers retain the right to contest decisions where the harvest roster does not ensure the efficient and economic operation of the transport system (Clause 7.2)
- If a Grower exceeds their daily loading allotment without permission, the Industry Management Committee may authorise the Mill Owner to deduct \$5 per tonne from the Grower's payments for the excess bins (Clause 7.8)
- If a Grower disagrees with a Mill Owner's decision to change a

delivery point, they can seek resolution through two primary channels - initiating a formal dispute under Clause 20 of the Agreement or requesting a review by the Industry Management Committee (Clause 8.5)

- If a dispute regarding a delivery point change is not resolved through mediation and is not referred to arbitration, the matter must be escalated to the Industry Management Committee. The Committee will then review the case based on established criteria and, if necessary, issue its own substitute decision within 14 days of the referral (Clause 8.6)
- Growers who repeatedly overload bins risk having their bin allotments suspended by the Mill Owner for a period deemed reasonable. In cases of persistent underloading, the Mill Owner must first discuss improvements with the harvest contractor twice before notifying the Grower in writing. The Grower then has 10 business days to explain to the Industry Management Committee why a penalty should not be applied (Clause 9.3)
- The Mill Owner must maintain existing delivery points unless

changes are made through mutual consent, Industry Management Committee nomination, or specific logistical triggers such as low seasonal tonnage, siding capacity issues, lack of legal land access, or non-cost-effective repairs. If a voluntary agreement cannot be reached under these specific exceptions, the Mill Owner may reasonably specify a new delivery point. Growers can challenge such a decision by applying for a review by the Industry Management Committee, which evaluates the change based on transport efficiency and must issue a final ruling within 14 days (Clause 11.5)

Ultimately, the Industry Management Committee serves as a safeguard for Bundaberg growers, ensuring that operational decisions, from harvest rosters to delivery points, remain fair, transparent, and focused on collective efficiency. By providing a structured pathway for dispute resolution and oversight on penalties, the Committee balances the Mill Owner's logistical needs with the Grower's right to a reasonable and economic harvest. Understanding the Cane Supply Contract is key to navigating the season ahead. ■

## Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants

Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants of up to \$75,000 are now available to eligible primary producers. These grants are administered through QRIDA and are designed to support clean-up, reinstatement, and recovery following the recent weather events.

### How the grant works

- Up to **\$10,000 (initial grant)** to help you get started quickly (evidence of damage, quotes, invoices, and receipts required)
- Up to a further **\$65,000 (subsequent grants)** for ongoing recovery (paid invoices required)

You can apply for more than \$10,000 straight away — you don't need to submit an initial claim first.

### What can be claimed?

Eligible expenses may include clean-up costs, disposal of damaged crops or livestock, repairs to infrastructure and fencing, replacement or repair of essential equipment, salvaging crops, and replanting.

### What you need to provide

To lodge a claim, please provide the following:

- Details of direct damage
- ID Identification for at least one owner/director (driver's licence must include front and back)
- Property details Rates notice (if owner) or lease/agistment agreement (if applicable)
- Damage evidence 5–10 photos of damage, or quotes/invoices if photos are unavailable

- Financials Financial statements and tax returns for all relevant entities
- Proof of expenses Quotes, Tax Invoices and payment evidence for applications exceeding the initial grant or subsequent claims
- Fuel claims (if applicable) Machinery used, hours worked, and fuel invoices if applicable
- Bank details Including bank statement for the nominated account
- Insurance Policy details and any claim information (if insured)

We encourage all impacted growers to apply as soon as possible.

**If you need assistance with your application or have any questions, please contact the office on 4151 2555. ■**

## Reimbursement of Burnt Cane Deduction

The Collective Agreement has a clause which enables reimbursement of the burnt cane penalty, i.e.

*10.5 Where the Grower makes a written application to the Mill Owner for reimbursement of the burnt cane deduction and it is the Mill Owner's opinion that the cane was burnt in order to improve cane quality or increase productivity, the Mill Owner shall reimburse the burnt cane deduction for cane delivered on or before the second day after burning of 9.8 cents to the Grower.*

If you wish to claim reimbursement you need to apply to Bundaberg Sugar in writing each season.

You may wish to copy the pro forma shown below or collect one from reception.

**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members can contact Matt Leighton or Tanya Howard on (07) 4151 2555 for assistance. ■**

Cane Supply Manager  
Bundaberg Sugar  
PO Box 500  
Bundaberg

Email: [gjharris@bundysugar.com.au](mailto:gjharris@bundysugar.com.au)

Dear Glenn

I / We wish to be reimbursed burnt cane deductions for:

Blocks .....

on farm number/s .....

Reason.....  
(insert reason eg. trash causes water logging and rots the stool)

Signed

.....

Name:

Date:

## SRA Bundaberg Field Day – 27 May

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) will be hosting a Bundaberg Station Field Day on Wednesday 27 May at the SRA Bundaberg Station (Pashleys Road), and growers across the region are warmly invited to attend.

The Field Day is designed to be a practical, on-the-ground event that combines scheduled research updates with plenty of time for informal conversations and Q&A with SRA subject matter specialists and industry partners. It's an opportunity to hear what's happening in current research investments, see new technologies in action, and discuss the challenges and opportunities you're facing on-farm.

The day will include a mix of short presentations, demonstrations, displays and guided station activities, with a focus on work that supports improved productivity, profitability and sustainability in the Southern region.

Topics will cover priority areas such as pest and disease management, water management, harvesting, variety development and what's coming through the pipeline, and emerging tools and approaches being developed to support better decision-making and practice change.

Importantly, it's also a great chance to catch up with other growers from

across the Burnett Mary region, share insights and experiences, and reconnect with the local industry network.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

An RSVP link will be available soon and will be shared in an upcoming update, along with the full program.

**For enquiries contact Lisa Devereaux, District Manager – Southern, Sugar Research Australia by email: [lisa.devereaux@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:lisa.devereaux@sugarresearch.com.au) or mobile: 0456 590 497. ■**



## Six key on-farm strategies that can help you manage the nitrogen squeeze

This is based on a Queensland Country Life article by Gregor Herd for grain growers which has been adapted for Bundaberg growers. Growers are anxiously crunching the numbers surrounding nitrogen fertiliser, with costs soaring to \$1500 a tonne and availability a further potential issue.

With this in mind the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has come up with a list of key tips that can help ensure every dollar spent on fertiliser generates a return. Fertiliser experts Chris Dowling, Back Paddock, Geoff Fosbery, Farm Focus and Lindsay Bell, CSIRO discussed the issue of holistic approaches to fertiliser management at a GRDC webinar recently and came up with six main points.

### 1. Pressure test your current fertiliser rate

Growers were urged to ask themselves a simple question before locking in product: is the rate you're planning paying its way?

Growers are often receiving fertiliser recommendations using Six Easy Steps using 120 tonnes per hectare yield. Considering the 2025 district average was approximately 80 tonnes of cane per hectare, there are some possible savings by reducing the fertiliser rate applied. There is a risk in doing this if the season improves and yield could have been greater with the nominal fertiliser application compared to the lower rate. Other factors such as sugar prices and seasonal outlook may influence the rate applied.

### 2. Focus on profit, not maximum yield

More fertiliser can still lift yield, but that doesn't mean it lifts profit. Using Six Easy Step means that the fertiliser rate has already been optimised to about 95 percent of maximum yield.

## Stomp Extra Voluntary Recall

BASF has placed a voluntary recall on Stomp Extra 20L drums manufactured between 01/02/2025 and 31/01/2026 with Batch Numbers H150FB0525, H946AP0125 and H943MY1925.

This is due to a manufacturing issue with the packaging, and drum, that make it unsuitable to store agricultural chemicals.

Again given the other factors on farm rates can be adjusted down.

### 3. Use your own paddock data

Every season the blocks are running fertiliser experiments taking into account soil type, irrigation performance, harvesting conditions and harvest timing.

Information generated on farm and under grower's management, is more valuable than generic recommendations. Using the previous season's block data and current yield estimates, a plan for reducing fertiliser use on the poorest performing blocks, or better still fallow those blocks, can better optimise fertiliser use.

### 4. Talk to your farm adviser

If you're unsure how to interpret what you're seeing, bring an adviser into the conversation. Growers are urged to do some basic scenario analysis using sugar price, fertiliser cost and yield differences to work out what fertiliser will return in dollars, not just tonnes.

### 5. Consider pulse or legume crops

Legumes such as peanuts, soybeans chickpeas, field peas, and cowpeas fix their own nitrogen, reducing the need for applied nitrogen fertiliser in crops and contributing nitrogen benefits to the following cane crop. Crop choice still needs to stack up agronomically and financially, however research shows legumes can reduce nitrogen input costs and exposure to fertiliser supply risk, when they fit the farming system.

Most of the listed legumes can be grown for green manure or grain crops. The exception is that peanuts are too hard to control as volunteers in the next crop to be green manured and cowpeas do not have a grain market.

### What to do?

Growers should check any Stomp Extra purchased since February 2025 to see if it has the affected Batch Numbers.

If the drum is one of the impacted Batch Numbers, growers should then check the production date of the chemical, which is on the base at the rear of the drum, to see if it is between 01/02/2025 and 31/01/2026, inclusive.

Legumes allow growers to target grass weed with strategic herbicide applications, however broadleaf weeds such as vines can be harder to control in some situations.

### 6. Set yourself up for next season's fertiliser decisions

The only way to know if a fertiliser program is profitable is to measure it. That is, measure the amount of crop grown from various fertiliser rates with the amount of rain and irrigation taken into account and putting a monetary value on it.

One potential method of measurement was using a strip trial, contrasting a lower nutrient strip with the paddock rate can show whether fertiliser is influencing yield in a meaningful way, so from that starting point, comparisons can progress to two or more fertiliser rates. Adding extra rates reveals the shape of the yield response and helps identify where acceptable financial returns are achieved.

### 7. Additional consideration of nitrogen inhibitors

This idea is outside the six (6) points from the grain scenario however is a viable consideration for sugarcane production. That is the application of a nitrogen inhibitor, such as Npower, to slow the conversion of urea to nitrate by keeping it in the ammonium form. Sugarcane is a crop that can utilise ammonium as a fertiliser source as well as nitrate. Npower coated urea needs to have a minimum of 10cm of soil cover over the fertiliser to stop volatilisation losses. However, the reduction in losses of the nitrate form have shown to increase yield at the same rate of fertiliser or grow the same yield from a reduction in nitrogen rate between 10 to 20 percent. ■

If the grower is in possession of the affected drums, they should isolate it and ensure it is in a banded area that can contain the volume of the affected drums.

Affected growers should contact BASF Customer Service on 1800 558 399 to organise stock return and either a refund or replacement. ■

# SUGAR INDUSTRY AWARDS 2025 SEASON

Brad Piper of MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 4) was announced as the District Champion at the Annual Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards held at The Waves on Friday, 27 March 2026.

Director of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Mr Michael Cavallaro congratulated Brad whose Bundaberg farm took out the top award of the night – Formatt Machinery’s District Champion with a three-year average of 17.09 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 2025 crushing season.

Chairman of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Mr Mark Pressler, 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.

Robert Canino was recognised as a Young Industry Achiever. In 2020 he purchased a cane farm and in 2024 he purchased an additional parcel of land and completed major land preparation before going on to plant cane on this land. He also operates the harvester for the Canino harvesting Groups in the crushing.

Roy Parfitt was awarded the Service to Industry Award recognising Roy's time as an SRA plant breeder for the Southern Region which saw nine varieties released all being SRA varieties. Roy has been very passionate in his plant breeding programs over the years to ensure new varieties are available for growers to grow on their farms and has been involved in many projects throughout his time with SRA.

Evelyn Taske was acknowledged for her extraordinary dedication to growing sugarcane and received an award for 60 Years of Excellence in Sugarcane Farming after having supplied Bundaberg mills for 60 seasons.

A total of 19 Award winners were announced in 14 categories.

To view the full collection of photos please visit the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS website under the ‘Project and Events’ tab.



# RESULTS

**J & R McCracken Highest Actual CCS Sample -**  
 DC & SD Svensson and KL & KP Bishop - 18.10 CCS  
*(Pictured)*

**Cheshire Machinery Harvesting Contractor Award for**  
**Best Harvesting Efficiency and Most Reliable**  
**Performance - JZ Harvesting**

**Wilson's Industrial Sales Best Farm Presentation**  
**For Harvesting-**  
 Kinkuna Agricultural Pty Ltd

**Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd Award for Contribution to**  
**Productivity -**  
 Ian and Alan Loeskow *(Ian pictured)*

**Nufarm Award for Service to Industry -**  
 Roy Parfitt *(Pictured)*

**Sunwater Young Industry Achiever Award -**  
 Robert Canino

**Ergon Energy Inspiring Female Leader Award -**  
 Desley Ford

**Incitec Pivot Cane Growing Excellence -**  
**Farms Up to and including 60 ha -**  
 WR & AJ Baldry

**Incitec Pivot Cane Growing Excellence**  
**-Farms larger than 60 ha -**  
 Mr SA Algeo *(Pictured)*

**RDO Equipment Closest Percentage Estimate to Actual**  
**Tonnage -**  
 JM & Mrs LG Steemson - 99.77% accuracy

**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Award for Highest**  
**Tonnes Sugar Per Harvested Hectare -**  
 Redtrail Pty Ltd (No.2) - 18.56 ts/ha *(Pictured)*

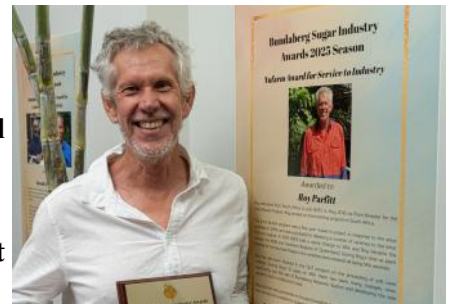
**Waterfind Award for Most Sustainable Yield for the Past**  
**3 Seasons -**  
 MRB Farms Pty Ltd - 120.2 tc/ha

**Bundaberg Distilling Co High Sugar Producer Awards -**

MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 1)	17.87 ts/ha
RM Dingle	17.64 ts/ha
DR & JL Zielke	16.77 ts/ha
P & GM Bonaventura	15.85 ts/ha
MB & Mrs DG Ford (No 5)	15.73 ts/ha

**Formatt Machinery District Champion -**  
 MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 4) - 17.09 ts/ha

**60 Years of excellence in Sugarcane Farming-**  
 Evelyn Taske *(Pictured)*



## Groundwater Allocation increases

After the recent good rain through March there has been an increase in groundwater allocations in some parts of the district.

While the timing of the increase means that there will be only a small amount applied to cane, it does provide a good base for next water year’s allocations when announced in July.

Growers are also reminded that they need to record their meter readings on the Department of Local government, water and volunteers portal by the due date. Failure to do so is deemed non compliance.

The local Coastal Burnett Groundwater area was previously the best in the

State for compliance on water readings and now the area is among the worst.

The full list of allocations is also included below as a reminder to all groundwater users. ■

AE Increases for Q4			
Zone Group	Zones	From	To
ZG01	001	90%	95%
ZG02	002 - 003	85%	90%
ZG05	015 - 016	75%	95%
ZG07	021	85%	90%
ZG11	025 - 026	60%	75%
ZG12	027 - 029	95%	100%
ZG13	030 - 036	90%	100%
ZG14	037	65%	85%
ZG19	061	95%	100%

## 2025/26 Quarter 4 Announced Entitlements commencing 01 April 2026



Area "A" Zones		
AE	Unit 1 Elliott Formation	Unit 2 Fairymead Beds
60%		
65%		
70%		
75%	025, 026	
80%		
85%	004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 037	080, 081, 082
90%	002, 003, 063, 064, 065	
95%	001, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020	
	027, 028, 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054,	084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089,
100%	055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 066, 067, 068	090, 091, 092, 094, 095

Area "B" Zones		
AE	Unit 1 Elliott Formation	Unit 2 Fairymead beds
60%		
65%		
70%		
75%	074	
80%		
85%		
90%	021, 070	
95%	022, 023, 024	
100%	061, 062, 069, 071, 073, 075, 076, 077, 078	097, 099, 100

Tables updated 27/03/2026

## Paradise Dam Environmental Approvals progress with Guideline publication

The Office of the Coordinator-General has published a tailored Guideline to support Sunwater in preparing an Impact Assessment Report (IAR) for the project.

The Guideline sets out the key environmental, social, economic, and technical matters to be assessed, providing clarity on what is required

for a fit-for-purpose assessment of this project.

It reflects coordinated input from Queensland Government agencies and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Declared a coordinated project in

August 2025, the Paradise Dam Improvement Project is being assessed through a whole-of-government process to support a streamlined and rigorous evaluation.

The community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project during public notification of the draft IAR, anticipated later in 2026. ■

## High-risk work licences fraud alert

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has received reports of people presenting high-risk work (HRW) licence cards with false information, including high-risk work classes they are not authorised to hold.

Recent examples include the licence card being altered with the printed classes removed and additional prescribed classes superimposed, and a scanned version of the licence being presented as part of a job application.

With the growth in use of artificial intelligence and other advancements in cameras and scanner technology, it is timely to remind businesses to be alert to potential licence fraud and be diligent when checking current and

prospective employees' HRW licence credentials.

Even though a scan and/or photocopy of documents is a useful guide, the information should be verified against the physical licence card and the issuing regulator's HRW licence register.

WHSQ has also been alerted to statements of attainment issued by registered training organisations being modified to show the name of a different recipient. It is recommended that businesses require prospective employees to share their vocational and educational training transcripts digitally.



WorkSafe.qld.gov.au

WHSQ treats these matters seriously and acts on reports regarding suspected HRW licence fraud, with eight matters referred to the Queensland Police Service for further investigation under section 271 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. Four of the eight matters resulted in 11 charges.

It is illegal and unsafe to perform high risk work without a valid licence and penalties can include fines and criminal records. ■

## Training Opportunities



The SmartAg Queensland project continues to go from strength to strength having delivered training to more than 1000 farmers across Queensland since June 2024. QFF, alongside peak body members and delivery partners Cotton Australia, CANEGROWERS and Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, have delivered priority training to the cotton, cane and horticulture sectors across Queensland. ■

Course	Date	Subsidy
<b>Forklift Training (Strategix)</b>	28-30 April	25%
<b>Forklift Training (ASTA-Formal Course Work)</b>	20 April 13 May 19 June	25%
<b>Work Safely at Heights (ASTA)</b>	22 April 21 May 16 June	25%
<b>First Aid (ASTA)</b>	23 April 8 May 27 May 10 June 22 June	50%
<b>Pilot/Escort Training</b>	TBA	25%
<b>Chemical Safety Training</b>	14 April 11 May	25%
<b>Truck Training and Licensing</b>	Contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS	75% off MR, HR, HC 50% off MC
<b>Remote Pilot License Training</b>	Contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS	25%

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

## SmartAg QLD Advanced Spray Application – Sugarcane 2026

Craig Day, Spray Safe & Save - supported by CANEGROWERS



Craig Day is a leading expert in best practice chemical spray application. This workshop and workplace visit offers sugarcane growers the opportunity to increase their knowledge on latest technologies and practices to optimise their spraying efficiencies.

Two parts to delivery:

(workshop on Tue; visits Wed to Fri)

- Workshop – 8.45am to 3.00pm
- Workplace visit – individual farm visit approx. 1.5 to 2 hrs – spray planning and sprayer setup

### WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

**Introduction** - raising of spray application issues in the sugarcane industry

**Nozzle selection**/spray quality/ISO standard

**Water** quality

**Weather** conditions/inversions/new technology

**Spray planning** – speed, water volume, nozzle selection for optimal pressure

**Decontamination**

**Specific chemical** applications

### DEMONSTRATIONS

Various nozzles, surfactants, pressures

pH logger

Weather technology

### WORKPLACE VISIT

Customised **spray planning**

**Calibration** and testing of sprayers

Catering provided.

SmartAg QLD is supporting the delivery of this course.

Cost: \$250 pp excl GST

To register, click here:

<https://spraysafesave.wufoo.com/forms/smartag-qld-sugarcane-advanced-spray-application/>

or call/text/email Cath – 0437 455 818

[spraysafesave@outlook.com](mailto:spraysafesave@outlook.com)

- Name(s)
- Mobile and email address
- Business name

### 2026 Locations and Dates:

#### Childers

**Workshop:** Wed 22 April 2026

**Workplace visits:** Thu and Fri, 23-24 April

**Venue:** Canegrowers Hall

48 Churchill St. Childers

**Start:** 8.45am

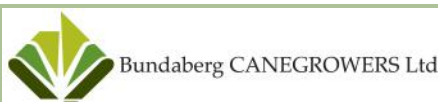
**Finish:** 3.00pm

Catering provided.

Please advise of any dietary requirements.

SmartAg Queensland is a collaboration between the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Queensland Government to support Queensland farmers.





## 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
19.02.26	Mark Hampson, CEO QSL	To represent members	Directors Tanya Howard
20.02.26	QCGO Industry Performance Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
24.02.26 - 25.02.26	SRA Disease Identification Workshop	To receive updates on disease identification	Matthew Leighton Lily Schipper
02.03.26	Sweetest Schools Competition	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard
02.03.26	QFF Water & Energy Policy Committee	To receive updates	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
09.03.26	QCGO Monthly District Manager Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
10.03.26	SRA Monthly Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
11.03.26 - 12.03.26	QCGO Policy council	To represent members	Anna Attard Tanya Howard
16.03.26	QCA RAB meeting	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
19.03.26	Flood Recovery Pop-Up Event for Businesses and Primary Producers	To receive updates	Lily Schipper Matthew Leighton
26.03.26	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting	To represent irrigators	Matthew Leighton
01.04.26	SRA Regional Variety Committee	To represent members	Lily Schipper Mark Pressler Matthew Leighton Michael Cavallaro Tanya Howard
02.04.26	Sunwater Customer Advisory Council	To represent members	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
02.04.26	QCGO Fuel and Fertiliser District Director Briefing	To receive updates	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
07.04.26	SRA Monthly Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard

## Schedule 4 Approved Variety List - 2026 Season

SRA47	Q245 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA44 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q242 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA38 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q240 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRAW33 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q238 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA32 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q235 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA29 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q232 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA20 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	KQ228 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA19 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q208 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA11 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q200 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA4 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q188 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>
SRA2 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q183
Q252 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q151
Q249 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q138
Q247 <sup>Ⓛ</sup>	Q124



## Hit there, hurts here campaign launched

The Burnett-Mary region is in the spotlight as a statewide campaign against unchecked science is launched to fight back against Reef Regulations and other unwarranted layers of red and green tape.

The campaign – **Hit There, Hurts Here** – showcases the devastating impacts of layers of regulation that are hitting the primary industries sector across Queensland, and how it flows down to hurt households in cities and communities already struggling against the cost-of-living and housing crisis. It is being strongly shared through social media and advertising into the South-East corner of Queensland, which has a large residential voter base, but is a statewide call to action.

The campaign is calling on the LNP Crisafulli Government to “check the science” behind layers of regulation that is impacting the primary industries sector – farming, fishing and forestry - and flowing through to households also struggling under the cost-of-living and housing crisis.

Premier David Crisafulli is being asked to refer the matter to the Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC), so it can launch an inquiry into unchecked science underpinning layers of unwarranted regulation.

The QPC was given a mandate by the new LNP Government in 2024 to provide independent policy advice “to help lift productivity, drive economic growth and enhance living standards for Queenslanders”.

The campaign is being delivered jointly by the Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Alliance (BAFFA) and the non-profit Australian Environment Foundation (AEF).

The QPC is already empowered to start science audits, and simply requires a referral from the State Government.

It’s an easy fix. No need for legislative changes, no action needed from the Crisafulli Government other than to refer the inquiry to Productivity Commissioner Angela Moody.

BAFFA and the AEF have suggested as an initial case study the “Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019”, particularly as applied within the Burnett-Mary region in Central Queensland, and have written to the Premier, his Ministers and MPs asking for the referral to the QPC be made as a matter of urgency.

BAFFA also is in contact with the Food & Fibre Commissioner Rachel Chambers.

Why the Reef Regulations? Because

they provide a clearly defined, real-world case study where predicted environmental outcomes and regulatory impacts can be independently examined against observed results.

We ask you to contact the Premier and your local MPs to make your voice heard. A range of template letters are available on our website at: <https://baffa.org.au/advocacies/check-the-science-campaign>

We also ask you to sign, and share, a Parliamentary Petition calling for the inquiry referral to the QPC. The petition can be signed at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/petition-details/4488-26>

You will see social media on the BAFFA Facebook page and YouTube sites, and liking / sharing the content will be appreciated. This is a statewide campaign, so share as far and wide as possible.

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/@BAFFA\\_Bundaberg](https://www.youtube.com/@BAFFA_Bundaberg)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BAFFABundaberg/>



If undeliverable return to:



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