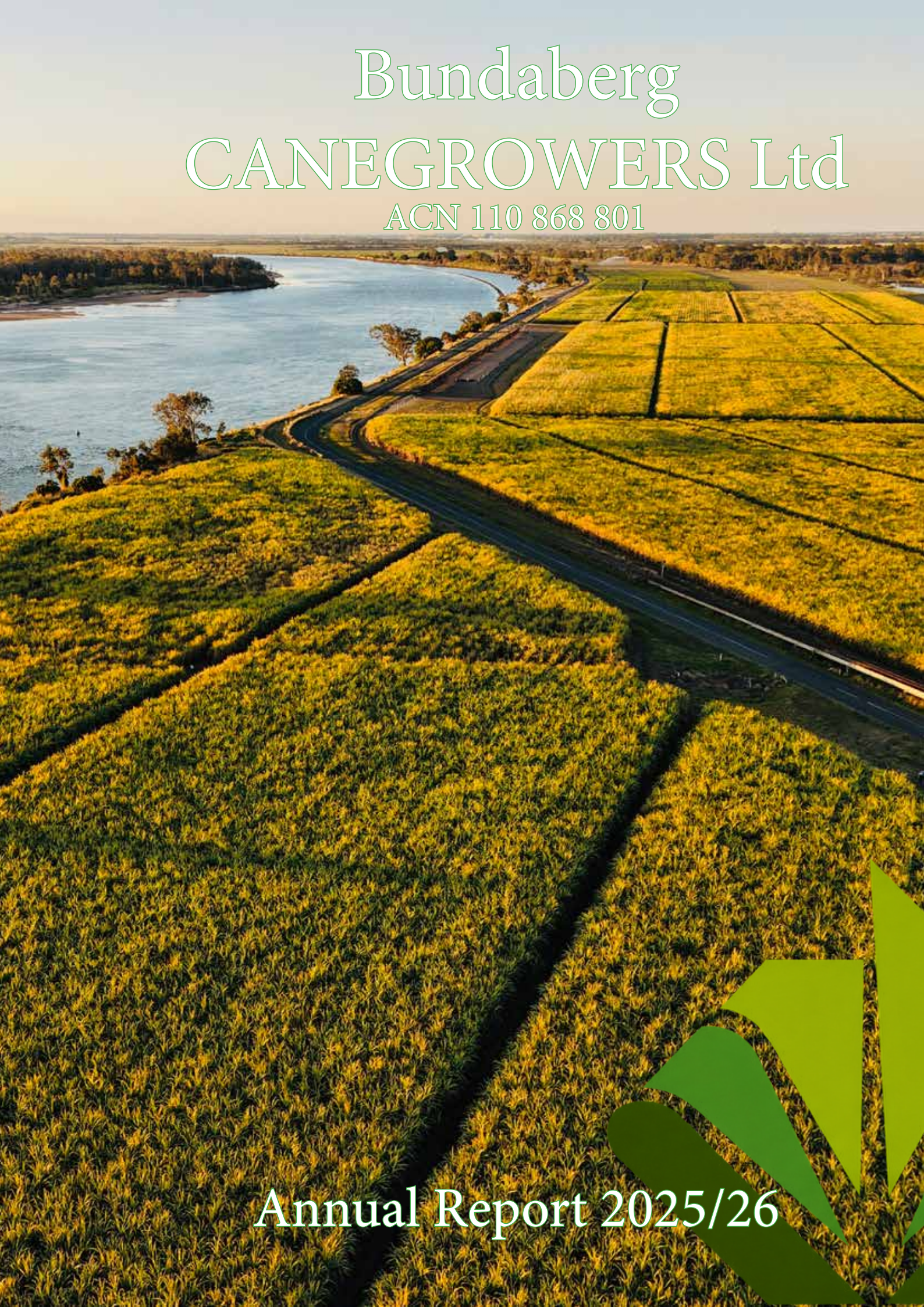


An aerial photograph of a vast sugarcane field, with rows of crops stretching towards a winding river. The scene is captured during the 'golden hour' of sunset, with warm light reflecting off the water and the tops of the cane. A dirt road or canal cuts through the middle of the field. In the background, a line of trees marks the far bank of the river.

Bundaberg CANEGRROWERS Ltd

ACN 110 868 801

A stylized graphic of a green leaf, composed of several overlapping, pointed shapes in varying shades of green, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Annual Report 2025/26



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 2025/26

The following report covers the financial year from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 including the 2025 sugar cane season.

The 2025 sugar cane season saw significant weather variability, transitioning between heavy rainfall events and periods of fine, dry weather. Heavy downpours created some delays during crushing with a total of 319 hours lost to wet weather.

The crop estimate for the 2025 season was 1,350,000 tonnes and Millaquin Mill commenced the pre-crush of non-relative cane on Thursday 22 May 2025, which saw 141,607.44 tonnes of cane processed (including organic), followed by the commencement of the core season on Wednesday 11 June 2025. Millaquin Mill crushed a record throughput of 1,309,469.90 tonnes for an average CCS of 13.73, ceasing operations on Saturday 20 December 2025.

Seasonal rain saw some tremendous growth in the young ratoons and the demise of the CCS towards the end of the season. Bundaberg Sugar was able to achieve a very credible performance by Millaquin Mill this year 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 with a reduced throughput. Our assessment was that mill availability was around 95% with an average throughput of 290 tonnes per hour. This put Millaquin Mill near or on top of the performance of all Queensland mills.

The transport system struggled throughout the season 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.

We work closely with Bundaberg Sugar management in representing growers' needs and I would particularly like to acknowledge Guy Basile, Giuseppe Barazza, Lincoln Williams, and Michael Green for their efforts during the 2025 season.

2025/26 saw some great achievements gained for the Bundaberg sugar industry and we resourced a number of strong advocacy campaigns targeting sustainable electricity and water pricing, transport, reef regulations, right-to-farm, science integrity and local Council issues.



From left: Minister for Primary Industries Anthony (Tony) Perrett MP, Member for Burnett, Mr Stephen Bennett MP and Chairman Mark Pressler

Reef regulation requirements were introduced to our region in 2019 and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS remain strongly opposed to regulations for the Burnett Mary catchment. It is unjustifiable to include a region outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that can have no impact on it. However, we continue to support our growers to meet their regulation requirements including assistance with soil tests, record keeping and N & P Budgets.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has representation on the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Advisory Committee and continues to provide secretarial requirements of that organisation. We have direct representation on the Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee, Paradise Dam Reference Group and Sunwater Customer Advisory Committee.

We were pleased that Sunwater agreed to continue the electricity cost pass through trial for the 2024/25 year confirming a return to customers of \$15.50/ML. The outcomes of the trial saw the following overcollection from electricity allowances returned to Bundaberg Scheme Irrigators:

- 2020/2021 - \$14.88/ML resulting in \$1,913,400 returned by credits across the scheme.
- 2021/2022 - \$13.26/ML resulting in \$695,200 returned by credits across the scheme.
- 2022/2023 - \$12.29/ML resulting in \$732,200 returned by credits across the scheme.
- 2023/2024 - \$15.46 resulting in \$1,310,925 returned by credits across the scheme.
- 2024/2025 - \$15.50/ML resulting in \$1,247,520 returned by credits across the scheme.

Energy is paramount to irrigated agriculture and electricity remains one of our largest input costs. Electricity tariffs available to growers can vary from a simple one price all day and night like Tariff 20, to more complicated tariffs that have a peak, off peak and shoulder time of use charges. Our Electricity Bill Check service has ensured that 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.

The Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme opened for applications to receive a 15% rebate to eligible businesses on bills issued by Sunwater, including Burnett Water and staff are available to assist with applications.

Bundaberg growers continued to have full access to the QSL Direct Portal and were advised of the release of the new QSL FlexPay product available for the 2026 Season and beyond. The ICE11 price crashed and the Aussie dollar continued to rise and a larger than expected drop in sugar price saw some negative adjustments and a decline in the final Harvest Pool Price for the 2025 Season. Glenn Harris announced his departure from QSL and Menn Mutton was appointed to the position of QSL Southern Qld Grower Relationship Officer.

We had the privilege of hosting Tony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries, for a visit aimed at highlighting the significance of the Bundaberg sugar industry. Key issues discussed included Reef Regulations, biosecurity, water, right to farm, bio-fuels and the 25-year road map to grow Queensland's primary industries to \$30bn by 2030. The Minister's tour included a visit to local cane farms as well as the Bundaberg sugar terminal, facilitated with the assistance of QSL and STL. The continued viability of agriculture in Bundaberg is essential for the regional economy.

Our work with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) continued on a project to identify the current challenges and potential solutions to recycle agricultural off-the-road (OTR), end-of-life tyres (EOLT) in key production regions across Queensland.

The QFF SmartAg Queensland project continues to go from strength to strength having delivered training to more than 80 growers and employees in Bundaberg since June 2024.

Fuel prices surged following the late February closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the sudden price shock saw waves of uncertainty for the industry leading up to the 2026 harvesting season. The spike in diesel prices has eroded farm profit margins even further at a time when sugar prices are also low.

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 four times it's capacity. 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.



Bundaberg's Sweetest School competition kicked off with an aim of encouraging 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.

We welcomed 18 young growers from Herbert River and the Burdekin to 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.



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS celebrated a Century of CANEGROWERS with the historic grounds of Fairymead House providing a fitting backdrop for local cane farmers and their families to gather to commemorate a landmark – a century of CANEGROWERS. The Centenary Picnic served as a tribute to an industry that has remained the lifeblood of the Bundaberg region.

I acknowledge on behalf of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and thank our Mayor and Councillors, and our local members of Government both State and Federal for their support in 2025/26. Their continued support to gain a better outcome for growers is much appreciated. All three levels of government can have a profound impact on what we do as an organisation and on how we individually operate our farms.

I also recognise our fellow industry service providers, Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Alliance Ltd, 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 of our industry service providers including Bundaberg Sugar. We collaborate where we can but, when necessary, recognise that our members come first in every instance.

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

We are facing challenging times, and the Board and staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS remain committed to providing grower biased, needs based and outcome focussed services, representation and leadership.

We have hard working and capable staff and on behalf of the Board and members, I thank them for all that they do to ensure we are represented.

Thanks also to my fellow Directors for their valued input and support over the past year and finally, thank you to you, our members.



Mark Pressler
Chairman



2025 BUNDABERG SEASON OVERVIEW

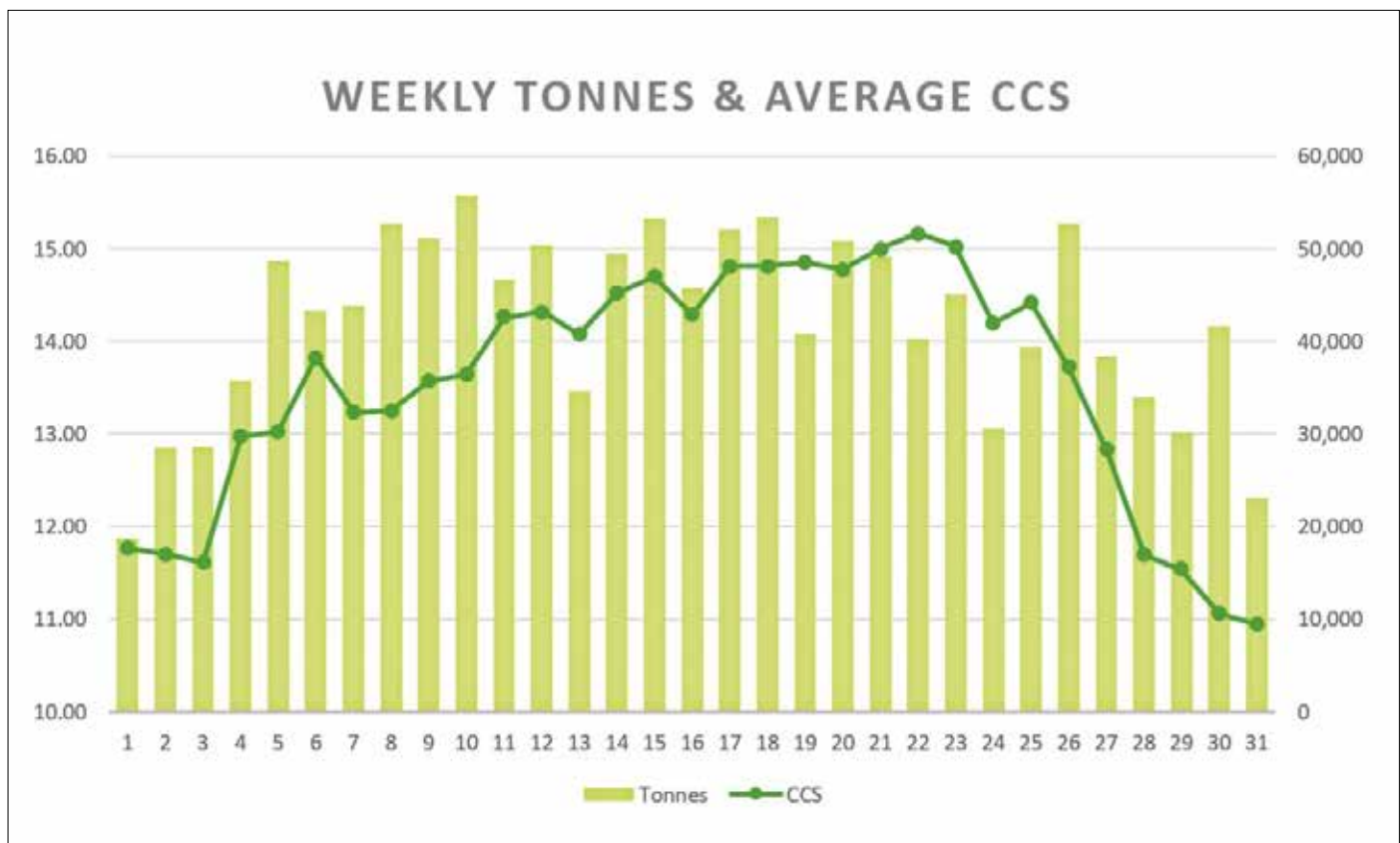
Millaquin Mill commenced the pre-crush of non-relative cane on Thursday, 22 May 2025, which saw 141,607.44 tonnes of cane processed, followed by the commencement of core season cane on Wednesday, 11 June 2025.

Millaquin crushed in continuous crushing mode ceasing operations on Saturday, 20 December 2025.

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

Mill	Tonnes through Rollers	Mill Average CCS
Relative	636,261.75	14.03
Non-Relative	673,208.15	13.45
Total	1,309,469.90	13.73

There was no condemned cane crushed this season.



Cane Price 2025 Season

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

	Average CCS (Relative)	Average Price / Tonne Cane
Millaquin	14.03	\$43.15

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 2025 season the allowance was \$1.34 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.

2025 Season Final Harvest Pool Price

The final QSL Harvest Pool price for the 2025 Season was set at \$470.90 per tonne IPS. Pool returns for the 2025 season were finalised on 31 July 2026 once all pricing, shared pool elements and finance allocations were completed.

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 will only 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	\$472.57
Share Pool - Actual	\$14.59
Net - Actual	\$487.16
Net QSL IPS	\$470.90

Forward Pricing

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.

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.

Below is a summary of the forward pricing achieved as of 12 October 2026.



REPRESENTATION

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

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 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 Burnett River Floodplain
Action Plan
Member Bundaberg Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee



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 Transporting Committee
Member QCGO Farm Inputs and Research Committee
Member Bundaberg Regional Ratespayers Association
Director Regional Business HQ
Cooperative Secretary Grain in Cane Co-operative
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
Member Bundaberg Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee



Dale Holliss
Projects 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



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 Co-operative
Member Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management
Area Advisory Committee



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





DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	CONTACT
10.07.25	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
14.07.25	QCGO Monthly District Managers Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
15-16.07.25	Qld CANEGROWERS Policy Council	To receive updates	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
17.07.25	Bundaberg Ag-Food and Fibre Alliance	To represent members	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
21.07.25	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
22.07.25	Tony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett	To represent members	Anna Attard Dean Cayley Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
23.07.25	B Collins, Avalo	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
30.07.25	SRA Plant Breeding	To represent members	Mark Pressler Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
07.08.25	SRA Monthly Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
18.08.25	QCGO Monthly District Managers Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
22.08.25	Avalo	To discuss opportunities	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
26.08.25	Bundaberg Ag-Food and Fibre Alliance	To receive updates	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
28.08.25	Bundaberg and Burnett Area Fire Management Group	To represent members	Matt Leighton
01.09.25	Prosper 2050 Wide Bay Burnett Action Plan - Industry Actions	To represent members	Tanya Howard
04.09.25	SRA Monthly Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
08.09.25	QFF Water and Energy Pricing Committee	To receive updates	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
10.09.25	Sunwater Customer Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
11.09.25	Burnett Mary Regional Group Precision Irrigation - Sugarcane	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
12.09.25	Sunwater Paradise Dam Reference Group	To represent irrigators	Tanya Howard
15.09.25	Regional Business HQ	To represent members	Tanya Howard
09.10.25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
09.10.25	QSL Grower Meeting	To receive updates	Directors Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
10.10.25	QCGO Sustainability and Extension Committee	To represent members	Mark Pressler
13.10.25	QCGO District Managers Meeting	To receive updates	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	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
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	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	CONTACT
31.10.25	Reefwise Precision Irrigation Project	To progress arrangements	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
03.11.25	Groundwater Area B	To represent irrigators	Matt Leighton
05.11.25	QCGO District Managers Meeting with QSL	To receive update on negative pays	Tanya Howard
05-06.11.25	Groundwater Area B Shed Meetings	To represent irrigators	Matt Leighton
11.11.25	Grain in Cane Cooperative	To make arrangements for 2026	Dean Cayley Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
11-12.11.25	QCGO Policy Council and Annual General Meeting	To receive updates	Mark Pressler
13.11.25	Sunwater Customer Advisory Committee	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
21.11.25	Biofuel Feedstock Workshop	To represent members	Matt Leighton
25.11.25	TAB Irrigation Price Review Customer Forum	To represent members	Tanya Howard
25.11.25	Sweetest Schools Planning Discussion	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard
25.11.25	Awards Committee Meeting	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard
27.11.25	BAFFA Board Meeting	To receive updates	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
04.12.25	Briefing Session: Key Findings of the Statutory Review of the regulated Standards	To represent members	Matt Leighton
04.12.25	Next Steps - Burnett and Mary Drought Resilience Plans Workshop	To progress arrangements	Matt Leighton
04.12.25	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
08.12.25	QCGO Monthly District Managers Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
10.12.25	Grain in Cane Cooperative	To progress 2026 season arrangements	Dean Cayley Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
11.12.25	Bundaberg Ag-Food and Fibre Alliance and Burnett Mary Regional Group	To represent members	Dale Holliss Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
11.12.25	G Basile, G Barazza, Bundaberg Sugar Ltd	To review 2025 season	Directors Tanya Howard
15.01.26	Monthly SRA Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
21.01.26	DLGV&W Water Plan Review	To represent members	Dale Holliss Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
22.01.26	QCGO Marketing Standards	To represent members	Tanya Howard
28.01.26	2026 Season Advance Schedule Discussion	To represent members	Tanya Howard
03.02.26	Women in Sugar	To represent members	Anna Attard
05-06.02.26	QCGO Sustainability and Extension Committee	To receive updates	Mark Pressler
09-10.02.26	QCGO District Managers	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
11.02.26	QFF Water and Energy Policy Committee	To represent members	Tanya Howard
13.02.26	QCGO Farm Performance and R&D Investment Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
17-18.02.26	QSL Grower Representation Meeting	To represent members	Mark Pressler
18.02.26	QCGO Industry Performance and Evolution Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
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
24-25.02.26	SRA Disease Identification Workshop	To receive updates on disease identification	Matt Leighton
02.03.26	Sweetest Schools Competition	To progress arrangements	Tanya Howard
02.03.26	QFF Water and Energy Policy Committee	To receive updates	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard



DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	CONTACT
09.03.26	QCGO Monthly District Manager Meeting	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
10.03.26	SRA Monthly Update	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
11-12.03.26	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	Matt Leighton
26.03.26	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting	To represent irrigators	Matt Leighton
01.04.26	SRA Regional Variety Committee	To represent members	Mark Pressler Matt 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
20.04.26	Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
21.04.26	Burnett Mary Regional Group Integrated Science Forum	To represent members	Tanya Howard
29.04.26	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee Water Trading Rules Meeting	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
05.05.26	Pre-Season Audit and 2025 Season Review	To represent members	Courtney Moar Tanya Howard
05.05.26	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
07.05.26	Bundaberg Sugar Harvest Group Lunch	To receive updates	Mark Pressler Tanya Howard
12.05.26	Paradise Dam Briefing with Minister Ann Leahy	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
15.05.26	Local Drought Committee	To represent members	Matt Leighton
18.05.26	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
19.05.26	Bingera Bin Taring	To represent members	Courtney Moar
21.05.26	Bundaberg Regional Forum	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
08.06.26	District Managers Meeting	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
08.06.26	David Batt MP, Member for Hinkler	To represent growers	Directors Tanya Howard
15.06.26	Agriculture Roundtable with David Batt and Senator Matt Canavan	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
15.06.26	QFF Water and Energy Policy Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
16.06.26	QCGO Farm Productivity R&D Investment Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
17.06.26	Paradise Dam Briefing Meeting	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss Tanya Howard
18.06.26	Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee	To represent members	Matt Leighton
18.06.26	Bundaberg Burnett Major Projects Briefing	To represent growers	Tanya Howard
19.06.26	Bioenergy Group Meeting	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard
24.06.26	QCGO Industry Performance and Evolution Committee	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
29.06.26	Reefwise Farming Project Consortium	To receive updates	Matt Leighton Tanya Howard

LEADERSHIP

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS resourced a number of targeted advocacy campaigns on affordable electricity and water pricing, water security and access, transport, right-to-farm protections, and water quality issues, including Reef Regulations during the 2025/26 financial year.

Our leadership ensured that federal, state and local representatives understood how policy and red tape affect our members and the wider community, as well as our concerns about these issues.

We work closely with policymakers at every level to secure the best possible outcomes for growers.

This advocacy delivered tangible outcomes, including new electricity tariffs and greater transparency on water security and Paradise Dam.



Mr David Batt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler, pictured with Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Directors.

Electricity

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) issued its retail electricity price determination for regional Queensland for 2025/26 on 6 June 2025. New prices set by the determination took effect from 1 July 2025. While wholesale energy costs slightly decreased, rising network charges meant most electricity customers in regional Queensland saw higher electricity bills for the year ahead.

Significant structural changes to tariffs were implemented to align with new network pricing rules set by the Australian Energy Regulator. As a result, many familiar tariffs were phased out, and new tariffs introduced with revised time-of-use (TOU) periods.

Our focus on achieving affordable electricity pricing for growers continued by working alongside Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Energy Qld and QFF. 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 is a collaboration platform bridging the cultural divide and building trusted relationships between the agricultural and energy sectors for better outcomes.

Established in 2014, the Ag Energy Taskforce brings together representatives of peak Australian agriculture bodies to collaborate, build capacity and provide advocacy regarding energy costs and infrastructure impacting agricultural industries. The Taskforce has a strong focus on land use and relationships with farmers and rural communities, as the renewable transition is rolled out.

Energy sector representatives collaborate with the Ag Energy Taskforce to identify strategic social licence issues at the nexus of energy and agriculture. They identify what's working, areas for continuous improvement, encourage collaboration and track action through the energy and agriculture network.

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

Reef

Since our region was brought under reef regulation requirements in late 2019, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has worked to have this region returned to its previous status. Including an area outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that can have no impact on it is unjustifiable.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS staff help growers meet Reef Regulation requirements, prepare for audits by Reef Regulation Compliance Officers and attend scheduled compliance audit meetings. Growers not selected for audit received record-keeping guidance, including N&P budgets, to help them prepare for possible future selection.

Earlier this year the Check the Science campaign was launched through the Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Alliance (BAFFA), in partnership with the Australian Environment Foundation. As a BAFFA member, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS supported the campaign's call for an independent review of the science underpinning costly layers of red and green tape.

As a practical case study, the campaign proposes reviewing the science underpinning the 2019 Great Barrier Reef Regulations, particularly their application to the Burnett–Mary region.



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.



The Committee provided feedback on converting Area B licenses to Area B allocations, while the final rules and arrangements remain under discussion. It also highlighted water users' frustrations with reporting through the WaterIQ portal.

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

Purpose

1. 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.
2. Provide a forum for representatives of the Department and groundwater users within the CBGMA to discuss matters of mutual interest.
3. 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.
4. Discuss and make recommendations on the provisions of relevant water legislation and associated documents.
5. 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.

6. Recommend, through resolution, courses of action to be taken by the Department when dealing with specific issues relating to groundwater resources within the CBGMA.
7. 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.

Surface Water



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd participates in the Bundaberg Customer Advisory Committee.

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

The primary purpose of the CACs is to:

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

The initial announced allocations for the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme were calculated at 100% for the Kolan subscheme and Burnett subscheme with both High Priority at 100% and Medium priority at 100% for the 2025/26 year.

The total metered use for Irrigation for the Sunwater Scheme for 2025/26 was 86,913ML or 51.9% of Irrigation Water Entitlements of 167,458ML.



PUMPING FIGURES BUNDABERG 2025/26 VOLUME DELIVERED/METERED ML

PUMP STATION	Pumped Volume ML 2025/26	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Distribution Efficiency %	Nominal Allocation Available ML	Nominal Allocation Delivered %
		1-Jul-25	1-Oct-25	1-Jan-26	1-Apr-26	1-Jul-25			
		30-Sep-25	31-Dec-25	31-Mar-26	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-26			
Gooburrum	18,852	1,732	4,286	5,017	3,676	14,711	78.03%	28,399	51.80%
Monduran	21,934	2,724	4,485	7,910	5,553	20,671	94.24%	38,543	53.63%
Abbotsford	224	34	100	18	35	187	83.34%	671	27.83%
ISIS	37,130	4,550	7,253	12,552	7,304	31,659	85.26%	62,408	50.73%
Woongarra	23,344	2,498	5,455	6,301	5,430	19,685	84.32%	37,437	52.58%
Total	101,484	11,538	21,579	31,798	21,998	86,913	85.64%	167,458	51.90%

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 2025. The trial included the eligible irrigation tariff groups in each of the six (6) high electricity use schemes including Bundaberg.

In 2024/25 Sunwater spent less on electricity than was recovered from customers in the Bundaberg Distribution Scheme which means eligible irrigation customers who used water in 2024/25 had a credit of \$15.50/ML applied to their bill in October 2025.

In November 2025, the Queensland Government allocated \$25.3 million to the Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme to provide rebates of 15% to eligible businesses on water bills issued by Seqwater or 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. Once an application is approved, it also confirms eligibility for government set regulated irrigation pricing in the future.

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 PDRG is a forum for discussions in relation to community safety, water security, cultural, social and economic and environmental values.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS joined a consortium of organisations in adopting the following policy position on Paradise Dam:

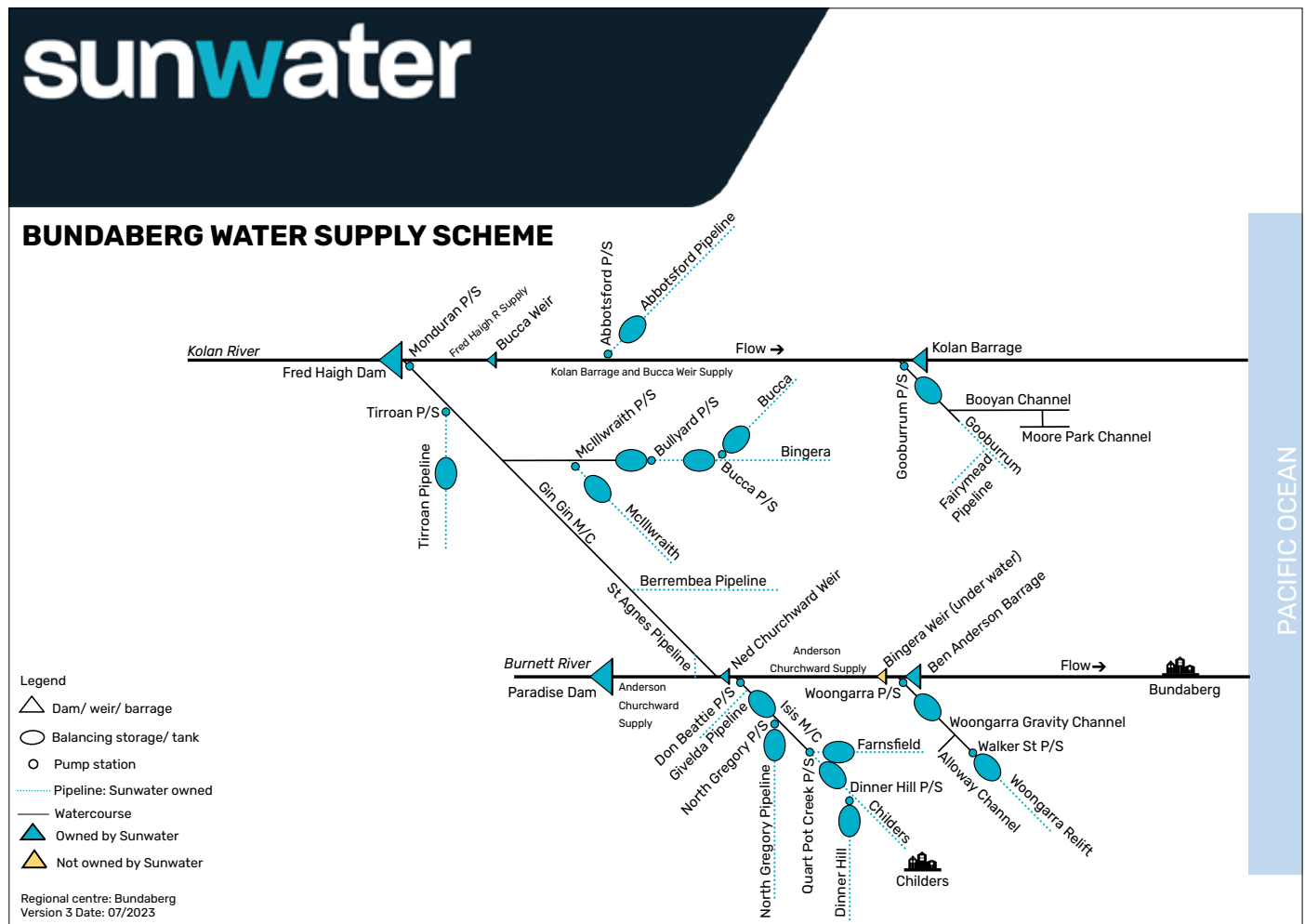
That we expect the dam to be reinstated to its original level and all election commitments honoured.

While solutions are being investigated, and until the dam is fully reinstated, we require the existing Announced Allocation process to remain in place: i.e.

- ***All Burnett (SunWater owned MP and HP) unsold water including the reserves on the Southside be removed from the AA calculations.***
- ***That no amount of unsold Burnett Water on the south side be retained for allowance for temporary transfer by SunWater. Irrigators pay Part A and C on all our nominal entitlement, and we wish to see AA maximised. There is already sufficient formal and informal infrastructure available to allow irrigators to TT unwanted water between themselves.***
- ***That the 15% Burnett irrigators share of Fred Haigh Dam will be used only as a last resort and Irrigators be advised when SunWater deems it necessary to draw on.***

We seek further detail on the process that will be followed to assess and progress alternative solutions and in particular, why the wall needs to be capped before those investigations are completed, especially given several years have already passed and the region has experienced a significant flood event during that time.

We also see value in obtaining greater clarity around the decision-making process, timelines, and what opportunities remain for stakeholders to contribute before any final decisions are made.





Mining

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS remain opposed to any mining application which could jeopardise agricultural land, groundwater and the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme. Advocacy against the Fox Resources Mineral Development Licence (MDL3040) resulted in a formal rejection of the proposal on 15 July 2025.

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 (MOU) 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.

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.

DrumMuster

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

Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is a member of the Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association. Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association was 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 businesses across the Bundaberg Local Government Area (LGA).



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

OUR VISION

To ensure a secure and profitable future for
Bundaberg cane growers

SERVICES

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has a proud history of service to growers in this district and our team works to improve farm profitability and protect growers' interests across all aspects of their operations. Our services are needs based, outcomes focused and intentionally member biased.

Membership Services Extension Officer

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Membership Services 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 or concerns 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 the creeks, without passing through farm dams or tail water recycling pits.
- Assisting growers to comply with Reef Regulations including assistance with soil tests and preparation of N&P budgets.
- Providing advice on soybean agronomy, soybean costs and returns as well as general information on other break crops.
- 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 \$2.17 million in wages were recorded during the 2025/26 financial year on behalf of thirteen (13) employers with seventy-one (71) employees.

This compared with over \$2.06 million in wages recorded for the 2024/25 year for eleven (11) employers and six-seven (67) employees.

The office processed superannuation contributions totaling over \$265,000 including additional contributions.

Oreco

During the 2025 season, there were nineteen (19) contracted Bundaberg growers supplying 3,814 bales of trash weighing 1,872.15 tonnes to the Oreco factory, with a total value of \$102,967.76.

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, checked for billing errors and the cost 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 minimise 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 Cooper provides a wide range of services to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS' members. 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.

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 growers may need certified.

This has proved to be particularly useful in assisting growers to complete applications for the QRIDA 15% Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme.

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 2025 season, the cover was set at \$55 per tonne with a 50 tonne excess and at no charge and covers growers for:

- Total crop loss from unharvested cane after a 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

The CANEGROWERS General Insurance Scheme was established in 2012 and is proudly owned by growers, for growers. The scheme was created to provide tailored insurance solutions that meet the unique needs of the sugarcane industry and the wider rural sector.



Wide Bay Authorised Representative Ray Goodwin brings extensive experience in rural insurance and has assisted many growers in securing appropriate insurance protection for their farming operations, businesses and personal assets. Ray provides a personalised on-farm service and can assist with a comprehensive range of insurance products, including:

- Farm/Rural Property Insurance
- Business Insurance
- Public Liability Insurance
- Heavy Motor and Machinery Insurance
- Home and Contents Insurance
- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- Personal Insurance Solutions

Through access to a broad range of insurers and underwriting agencies, Ray can source competitive insurance options and help ensure growers obtain appropriate cover at the best available value.

How CANEGROWERS Insurance Helps Growers

1. Expert Advice

Our support does not end once your policy is arranged. We provide ongoing advice and assistance to help ensure your insurance program continues to meet your changing needs.

2. Claims Support

Should a claim arise, Ray can assist throughout the entire claims process, from lodgement through to settlement, allowing you to focus on running your business while we help navigate the claim.

3. Better Outcomes

As part of the CANEGROWERS network, members benefit from the support of a large and respected organisation. We work

alongside growers and insurers to help achieve the best possible outcomes when issues arise.

Complimentary Insurance Review

CANEGROWERS Insurance offers members the opportunity to have their current insurance arrangements reviewed to ensure all aspects of their farming and business operations are adequately protected.

This service provides members with:

- A review of existing insurance policies
- Identification of potential gaps in cover
- Professional insurance advice and recommendations
- Access to alternative insurance solutions where appropriate

To arrange an obligation-free insurance review, contact Ray Goodwin to discuss your insurance requirements.

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.

Website

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

Email

Email enables us to share important updates promptly, keeping growers informed as new information becomes available.

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.

Bundaberg Cane Audit Service

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

Auditors performed manual CCS calculations weekly to independently validate computer-generated results for both Laboratory and NIR analyses.

Missed sample percentages were calculated using the total of verified and missed samples. Dry sample percentages were determined against all cane delivered. Manual corrections were made in agreement between the NIR Coordinator and Auditors.

Seasonal data for first expressed juice (FEJ) are presented in the table below:

Mill	CCS Sample	Missed	Dry	Manual Corrections
Millaquin	28,208	574 (1.99%)	979 (3.29%)	719 (2.42%)

Total tonnes of cane crushed, and seasonal average CCS are represented below:

Tonnes through rollers	Mill average CCS	Tonnes assigned area relative	Relative average CCS
1,309,469.90	13.7314	636,231.75	14.0341

No condemned cane was crushed this season.

Weighbridges

Across the season, Auditors verified dry samples to ensure recorded weights were less than 15t net. Deliveries initially designated as 'Dry' that subsequently had weight added, exceeding >15t net, were reassigned as 'Sample' where results could be obtained; this resulted in 96 manual corrections. In the 10 cases where no data could be sourced, consignments were amended to 'Missed'. Additionally, six (6) grower validations were removed for failing to meet the minimum 15t requirement.

The 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.

Three multilift audits throughout the season were found to be outside the limit of tolerance. On 26 September (Week 19) a variance of 0.1t was recorded, likely due to the driver being outside the cab during the encoder reading. Similarly, on 21 November (Week 27), the road scales read 0.14t higher than the encoder, suggesting an additional person was on the scales. The check a week prior also failed with a 0.04t difference due to rain. During a weighbridge visit in Week 25, a 0.1t discrepancy occurred when a driver failed to draw the bin fully towards the cab before recording the gross weight. In this instance the Auditor provided a correction to the Units Clerk to ensure data accuracy.

Taring of all rail bins was performed pre-season and following any repairs. Truck shop scales were checked with a standard weight weekly.

Correct measurement of the weighbridge scales was verified with the roll-on weight at the beginning of each shift. While most were valid, there was a reoccurring need for repeats, with failures primarily recorded at 6.28t.



Auditors - Katie Paulsen & Courtney Moar

On 24 occasions weights recorded as out of tolerance; in six (6) instances the test was not repeated until an acceptable result was achieved as required by the Cane Analysis Program, subsequently, 96 bin weights were amended due to weighing light.

From Week 21 through to the end of season, Auditors formally requested that the rolling test weight be checked over both road and dispatch bridges to confirm correct weight and adjust limits accordingly. It is likely the test weight would have been verified 6.29t, which would have significantly reduced the frequency of 6.28t readings and subsequent repeat weighings.

Numerous shifts failed to check the scales with the test weight on start-up (Weeks 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 28 & 30), and due to obstructions such as cranes and empty bins on the line (Weeks 12 & 20).

Weekly standard weight checks of the rail weighbridge scales using the 2t standard weights were generally compliant, though several procedural deviations were noted. Auditors identified a few instances where weighbridge operators deviated from standard procedures such as failures to obtain a reading compliant with the certified weight (Week 15), check weights on both ends (Week 18), commit a 2t weight (Week 20) or the weight while the cradle was off (Weeks 24, 25 & 29), tare scales before adding weights (Week 28), and in one case the cradle weight was taken while a chain was sitting on it (Week 27).

Several times throughout the crush, cane deliveries were assigned an average weight and CCS based on block and variety. This was sometimes due to derailments, however there were instances when scheduled maintenance stops took priority over crushing out of the week's cane prior to closing the week.

A total of 1166 'camera view' bin checks were conducted by Auditors over the season. There were seven (7) instances of tracker identification errors involving typos or bins being out of sequence. In Week 7, two (2) consecutive shifts failed to notice inaccurate tracking after transloader bins were crushed out of sequence; this resulted in bin and weight amendments for fourteen (14) samples, five (5) of which were contaminated. In all instances, Auditors checked for sample contamination and notified the weighbridge operator or units clerk of the discrepancy. The sample tracker was corrected where possible, and tare weights amended to the correct corresponding bins.

No. 1 Mill

Over the season, hygiene at No.1 mill was constantly monitored via camera. Video footage of steamouts was frequently reviewed when signs of poor hygiene were evident. There were 107 official hygiene inspections, 33% of which were unsatisfactory. Hygiene audits of No.1 mill and the laboratory were conducted on a weekly basis to ensure compliance with the Cane Analysis Program (CAP). Leuconostoc, which deteriorates the sucrose content in cane sugar thus reducing CCS, was detected at No. 1 mill on several occasions due to a lack of sanitisation.

On rare instances, the Auditor had to request the hose be removed from hanging above No.1 mill and the spray bar hose be detached as a precaution for maintaining sample integrity. Hosing inside the mill was only noticed at appropriate times. Addition of chlorine to the main cane belt began on 7 September (Week 17) at the request of the Auditors to improve sanitation as temperatures increased. By Week 28 chlorine was being added every second day.



Auditors contacted mill staff to rectify Non-Conforming Hygiene Audits and Observations each time an issue arose. The Auditor also provided the Shift Supervisors with copies of the steamout procedure during Weeks 6 & 21 to assist with maintaining hygiene compliance.

Auditors witnessed procedural deviations fourteen (14) of the 28 weeks. The most common failures included not removing splash guards, no sanitiser usage (DairyChlor), and a lack of or insufficient hosing. Shift Supervisors were at times required to oversee hygiene procedures to ensure it was completed to the required standard.

The Auditor observed two (2) sequential shifts, in Week 20, failing to remove the juice cone whilst performing steamout, resulting in the cone not being changed for 24 hours and being steamed twice whilst covered in juice and fibre. Again, during Week 25, the used juice cone was steamed as it had not been removed.

During review of hygiene practices by video replay, the Auditor noticed juice tray splash guards were rarely removed and not removed at all for the entirety of Weeks 6 and 8. This causes a high risk to sample integrity given the juice from the tray flows directly over the juice cone, which is the point of supply to the laboratory.

There were seven (7) weeks whereby Auditors identified *Leuconostoc* during site inspections, most often detected in the juice tray and on the floor surrounding the mill. Across Weeks 16 and 17 a thick growth developed at the back of the mill due to the absence of DairyChlor. Though notified by the Auditors multiple times, this took a week to rectify. Bacterial growth also poses a safety hazard due to the slippery film that develops.

Juice Analysis

In total, 101 validated lab analyses were adopted for cane payment over the season, 80 of which were due to low RI or no NIR results.

Juice analysis complied with all Program Methods. While mistakes were minimal during the calibration period, several procedural and data entry errors occurred throughout the remainder of the season. As a result, 66 samples were consigned as 'Missed'.

High staff turnover, necessitating the training of six new Analysts throughout the season likely contributed to heightened error rate compared to previous years.

Auditors confirmed procedural accuracy for first expressed juice sampling through continuous monitoring of apparatus and technique, supplemented by verification analyses. Auditors reviewed analysis data daily to ensure only accurate results were adopted for bias validation and cane payment. To assist with analytical integrity, during Week 19, the Auditor created a new

simplified information sheet to remind laboratory personnel of tolerance limits and compulsory practices.

The daily 8am Brix-pol range update occasionally fell outside default parameters, triggering an automatic system reset. As a result, the NIR Coordinator manually entered the correct values and verified analyses against the appropriate range, leading to one sample removal from validation. Following six (6) weeks of formal Auditor recommendations, the default range was adjusted back to the original broader limits, resolving the recurring reset issue.

Validation

For the season there were 2,736 grower validation samples or 19.9%. Weekly validation was consistently kept above the minimum requirement of 10% as per Section H3.0 of the CAP.

Auditors monitored average laboratory/NIR differences for grower samples via reports and validation control charts for the season.

Interaction with Growers

There was a total of 24 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 365 queries regarding sample details, resulting in 117 changes being made. These changes involved CCS, variety, class, block, and green/burnt classification.

A total of 453,570.39 tonnes (35%) of core season tonnage was crushed more than 24 hours after harvest.

Delayed grower cane (221,212.87t), 48.8% of delayed cane was investigated by the Auditors, resulting in 49 CCS changes made in collaboration with the Cane Supply Manager. There were considerable delays this season, some of which exceeded 69 hours. Week 19 saw grower delays greater than 48 hours account for 18.3% of supply, and 6.3% were greater than 60 hours.

Conclusion

The seasonal crop estimate at the start of crushing was 1,350,000 tonnes with the final tonnage being 1,309,469.90 tonnes.

Well-trained, diligent Laboratory Analysts and Rovers who adhere to the requirements of the Cane Analysis Program remain critical components 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.

BUNDABERG PRODUCTION STATISTICS

2021 to 2025 Seasons

CRUSHING STATISTICS - BUNDABERG DISTRICT

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Crushing Commenced	19 May	21 May	29 May	27 June	21 June
Crushing Finished	20 December	11 December	7 November	30 December	17 December
Average Season Length (Weeks)	30.5	29	23.3	26.5	25.4
Average Wet Weather Lost Time (Days)	13.29	16.25	1.3	28.5	30.46
Tonnes Cane Harvested from Mill Area *	1,309,496	1,205,229	989,298	1,085,255	936,828
Hectares Harvested in Mill Area *	16,048	14,371	13,123	11,647	11,892
Hectares Unharvested in Mill Area	242.75	233.8	126.8	942	863
Yield (Tonnes/Hectare) *	81.6	83.8	75.39	93.18	78.77
Average CCS	13.73	13.59	15.06	13.16	14.18

PRODUCTION AND VALUE

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Manufactured Sugar (Tonnes IPS)	178,641	149,406	144,360	135,505	129,725
Value of Sugar Production \$M	\$84.122 ⁺	104.61	118.37	89.84	74.28
Estimated Value of Queensland Sugar Production \$M	\$1,738.57 ⁺	2,543.39	3,255.36	2,274.68	2,238.15
Estimated Value of Bundaberg Production as Percentage % of State	4.83%	4.11%	3.64%	3.95%	3.56%

* Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing

+ Determined by using Harvest Pool Price announced by Queensland Sugar Ltd of \$470.90

BUNDABERG PRODUCTION STATISTICS

2021 to 2025 Seasons

NUMBER OF GROWERS AND CPA

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number of Growers	140	131	138	150	151
Total CPA (Hectares)	16,048	19,293	19,444	23,536	31,834

GREEN CANE HARVESTING

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Cane Crushed¹ (Tonnes)	1,309,469	1,205,229	989,298	1,085,485	936,828
Cane Cut Green (Tonnes)	1,262,758	1,162,498	929,731	1,014,301	880,987
Percentage % Green	96.51	96.3	93.9	93.4	94.0

MECHANICAL HARVESTING

	Tonnes Cane ¹	Percentage % of Total	Number of Machines
Total Cut by Cane Growers Not Contracting Outside their Own Farm	143,882	10.9	19
Total Cut by Co-operative Groups	128,743	9.8	5
Total Cut by Cane Grower / Contractors on Own Property and for Other Farms	295,048	22.5	29
Total Cut by Independent Contractors	741,795	56.8	15
TOTAL	1,309,469	100%	68

¹ Includes mill area cane condemned after crushing



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

ABN 66 110 868 801

Canegrower's Building
32 Bourbong Street
(PO Box 953)
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Ph: (07) 4151 2555
Fax: (07) 4153 1986
Email: bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au
