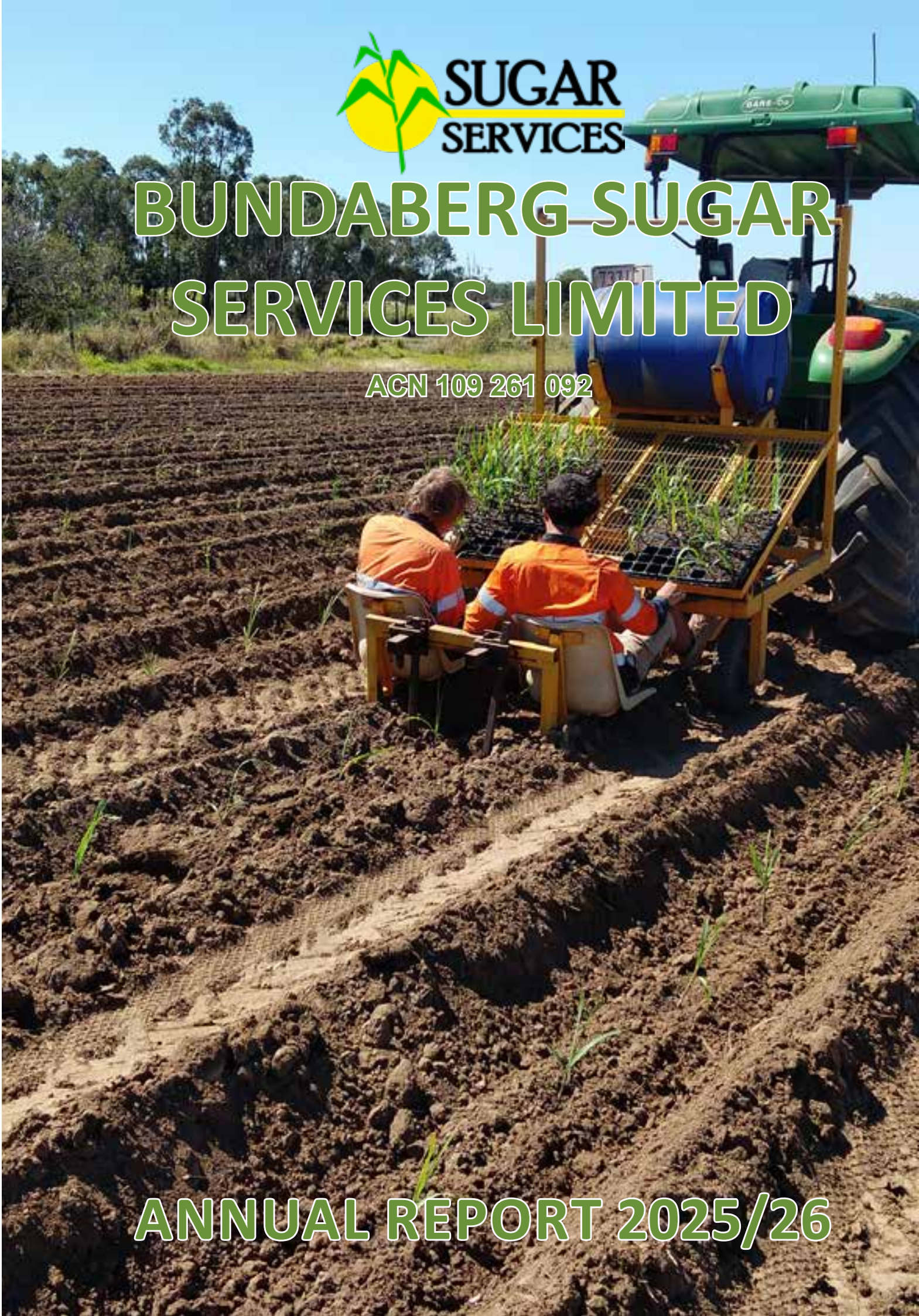


BUNDABERG SUGAR SERVICES LIMITED

ACN 109 261 092

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

SUGAR SERVICES

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

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

The objectives of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited are:

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

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

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

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

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

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

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








Top row from left: Michael Cavallaro, Matthew Curtis, Ian Dart, Anna Attard
Bottom row from left: Tanya Howard, Lily Schipper

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

We present the report for the financial year 2025/26 and have the pleasure in highlighting some of our achievements in delivering a range of services to our members.

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

David and now Lily have continued to work on member focused programs including one-eyed setts, plant source inspections/ RSD surveys and general extension for growers across the Bundaberg region. Special thanks to Michael Turner who continues to support Sugar Services in the background with his decades of expertise and to Matt Leighton who assisted in the transition between David and Lily. Casual workers have been employed to assist when required.

BSSL and SRA have both cooperated to target areas of mutual interest within the past year and will continue to target key grower interest in the future.

The Pachymetra Survey which is currently ongoing, is one of these programs. SRA and BSSL will continue to work together to support growers and research in sugarcane.

The breeding program, part of SRA's core business, is currently changing to better reflect cane as a crop that ratoons, with testing in first and second ratoons being removed and placed instead on the fourth ratoon, though this is still in its early stages.

The release of SRA44$^{\phi}$ (released 2024 and made available in Spring 2025) and SRA38$^{\phi}$ (released 2022 and made available in Spring 2023) have seen continued adoption from growers. One of the newer varieties, SRA32$^{\phi}$ released 2024 and made available to grower's spring 2025 has yet to see any adoption in the region. SRA47$^{\phi}$ was released provisionally in 2025 and will be available to grower's in spring 2026.

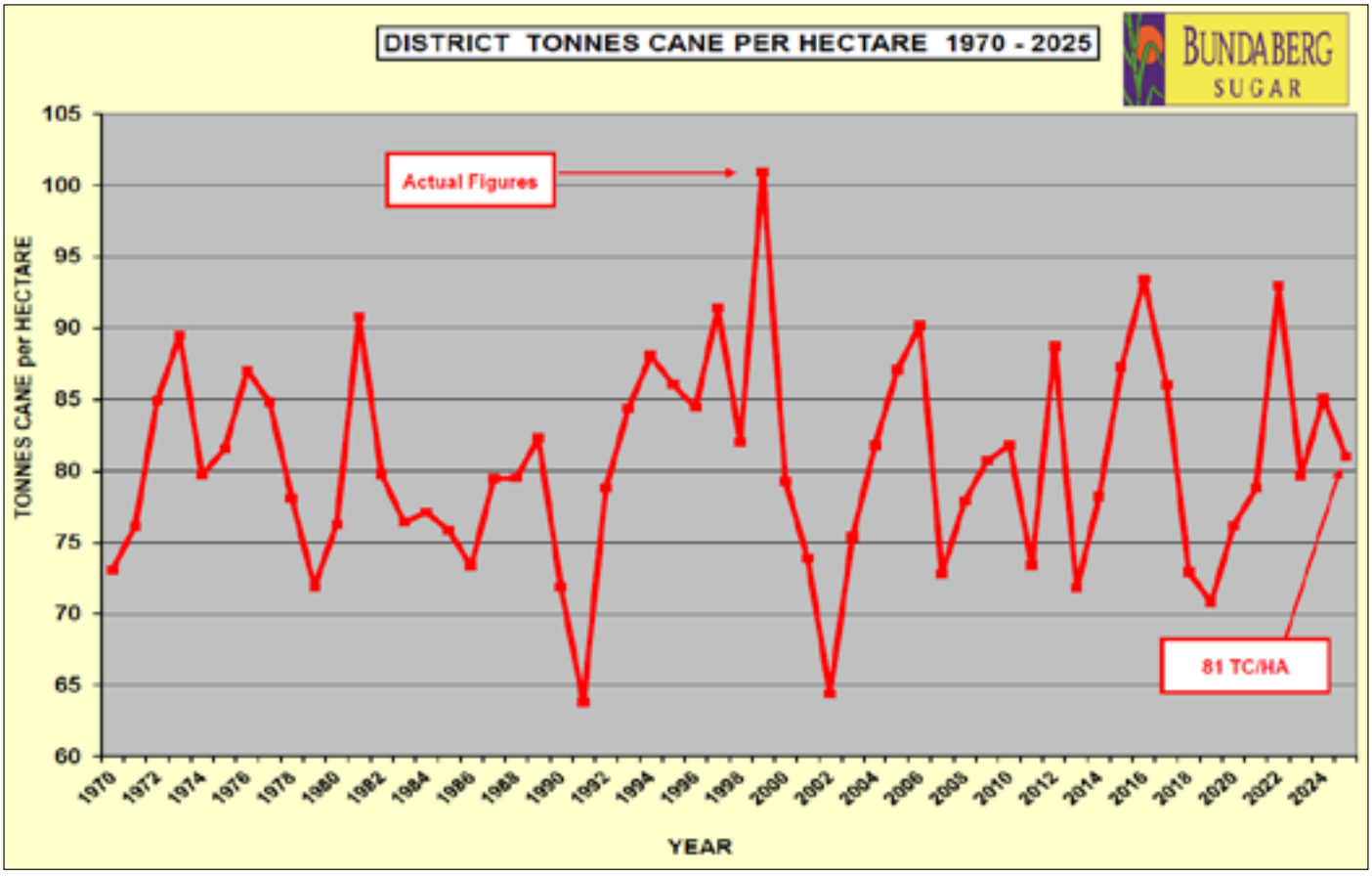
The 2025 growing season followed the long-term average for the district, however heavy downpours created some disruption to farming activities. The 2025 season also saw high levels of disease due to climatic conditions, including high levels of rust across the district followed by high levels of Smut.

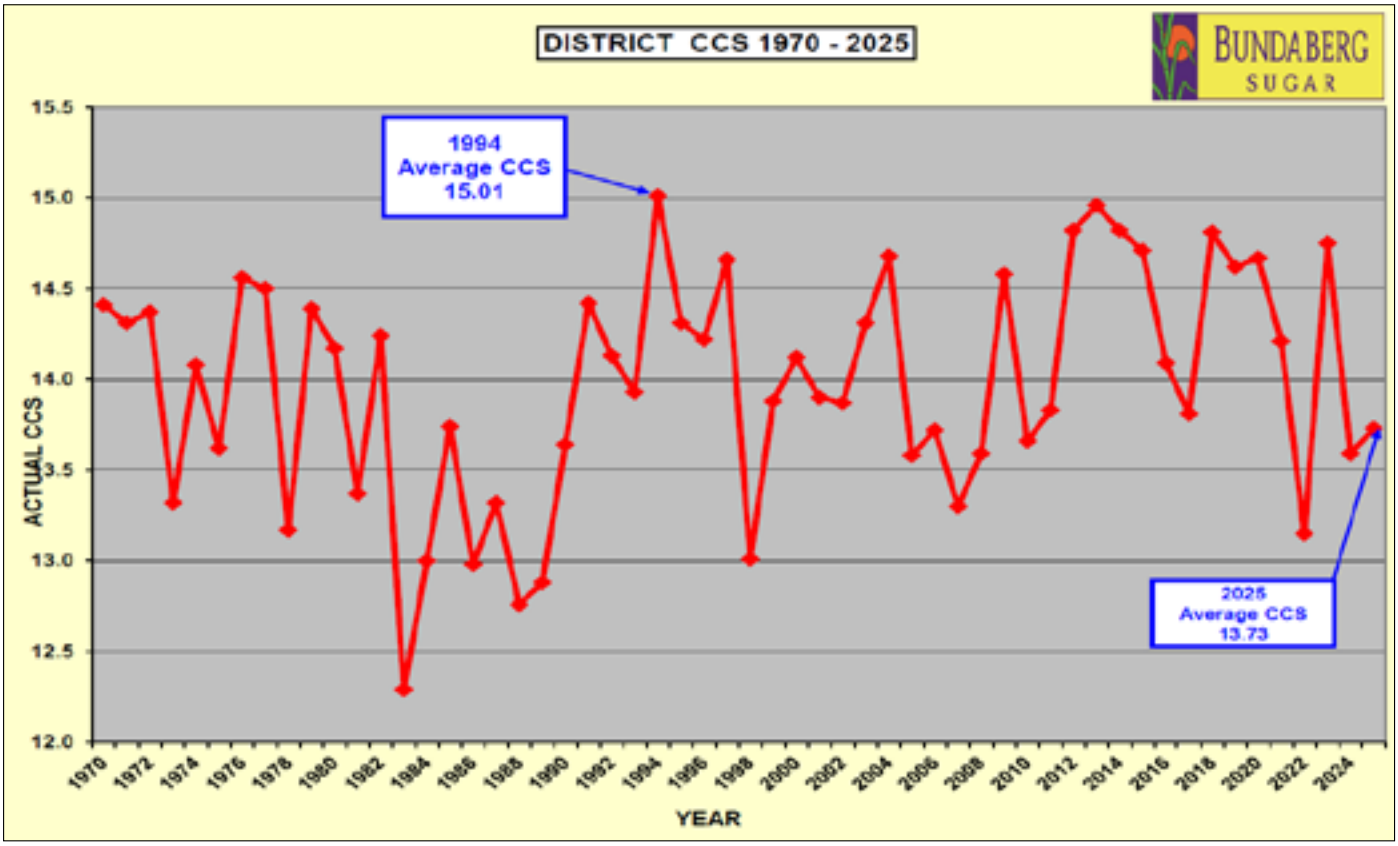
District yield average decreased to 81.0 tonnes of cane per hectare, lower than the long term average of 86.7tc/ha. 140 district growers produced 1,309,470 tonnes of cane crushed at Millaquin Mill. This was well up on 2024 season by 104,241 tonnes or an 8% increase.

Area harvested in 2025 was 16,048 hectares, this is well up on the 2024 area of 14,159 hectares. In 2025 there were 50, or 34% of district growers who produced cane yields of 100tc/ha or above.

District average CCS for the 2025 season was 13.73 compared with 13.59 in 2024 and 14.70 in 2023. In 2025, there were 5,413 tonnes of cane crushed with a CCS of 17.00 or greater.

We saw sugar prices drop from record highs in previous years with a Harvest Pool price of $470.90 per tonne of sugar.





The major varieties harvested for the 2025 season were Q240$^{\Phi}$ at 33.9%, KQ228$^{\Phi}$ at 22.1%, Q208$^{\Phi}$ at 13.1%, SRA varieties at 11.8% and Q238$^{\Phi}$ at 6.7%. These major varieties account for 87.6% of the cane harvested in the Bundaberg cane growing area. The top four best performing varieties for the 2025 season were Q240$^{\Phi}$, Q232$^{\Phi}$, Q252$^{\Phi}$, and KQ228$^{\Phi}$.

Regional Variety Committee (RVC) members play a key role in the review and decision processes supporting the commercialisation and release of new varieties.

In 2025, the Southern RVC voted in favour of releasing SRA47$^{\Phi}$, a highly promising new sugarcane variety. Trial data consistently highlighted SRA47$^{\Phi}$'s strong performance, yielding high tonnes of cane per hectare and CCS, making it the standout candidate to relieve the district's high reliance on Q240$^{\Phi}$. The Committee noted its susceptibility to Pachymetra and decided that the promising trial results outweighed this concern, particularly after considering that local growers are aware of the risks associated with planting in Pachymetra susceptible areas, and the decision to plant such a variety is ultimately a farm management decision.

SRA47$^{\Phi}$ was later approved for provisional release for the Southern Region in December 2025 awaiting further Pachymetra testing. SRA47$^{\Phi}$ shows a 7% increase in TCH and a 13% increase in TSH above Q240$^{\Phi}$, the most common variety grown in the south (42% of crop). Fibre quality readings and quality results suggested no issues for milling. SRA47$^{\Phi}$ is resistant to smut, Fiji leaf gall and mosaic, with intermediate resistance to leaf scald. It is susceptible to Pachymetra.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited submitted a proposal to Burnett Mary Regional Group to deliver extension services for the Reefwise Farming Program. Providing extension services for this project will ensure growers have a pathway to engage with the project and adopt innovative practices that assist their sustainability, productivity and profitability.

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

We would also like to acknowledge SRA, Burnett Mary Regional Group and Queensland Sugar Ltd for the support and assistance these organisations and their programs provide.

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

Michael Cavallaro	***Matthew Curtis***	***Anna Attard***	***Ian Dart***
Chairman	Deputy Chairman	Director	Director

CORE PROGRAMS

APPROVED SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

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

Approved Plants Scheme

The usual preparations and actions for the BSSL approved plant scheme were undertaken, however due to staffing issues from November 2025 to February 2026 there were some setbacks, however the organisation of grower forms, confirmation of orders, casual labour requirements, distribution and invoicing was completed as business as usual.

The spring 2025 mother plot did not receive timely care and as such, the cane's growth was stunted from lack of water and high weed pressure.

The plots were inspected for general disease issues with no diseases detected during these inpsections. Both mother plots were chippped for weeds however as mentioned above, the spring 2025 plot suffered from high weed pressure that impacted plant growth.

Plant Source Inspections

During the 2025/26 financial year plant source inspections were performed by both David. All growers were sent notification letters outlining their results.

Thirteen (13) growers requested plant source inspections for the spring 2025 growing season through David Downson.

No plant source inspections were requested for Autumn 2026, which is a concern. For the industry to maintain its productivity during periods of lower sugar prices, the use of high quality disease free cane is a must.

Mother Plot Planting

Spring 2025

The spring 2025 plot was planted on 28 August. Varieties planted consisted of Q138, Q151, Q183$^{\Phi}$, Q208$^{\Phi}$, Q232$^{\Phi}$, Q238$^{\Phi}$, Q240$^{\Phi}$, Q242$^{\Phi}$, Q252$^{\Phi}$, KQ228$^{\Phi}$, SRA4$^{\Phi}$, SRA11$^{\Phi}$, SRA19$^{\Phi}$, SRA20$^{\Phi}$, SRA29$^{\Phi}$, SRA32$^{\Phi}$, SRAW33$^{\Phi}$, SRA38$^{\Phi}$ and SRA44$^{\Phi}$.

Autumn 2026

The autumn 2026 plot was planted on 21 April. Varieties planted consist of Q124, Q138, Q151, Q183$^{\Phi}$, Q188$^{\Phi}$, Q208$^{\Phi}$, Q232$^{\Phi}$, Q238$^{\Phi}$, Q240$^{\Phi}$, Q242$^{\Phi}$, Q245$^{\Phi}$, Q247$^{\Phi}$, Q252$^{\Phi}$, KQ228$^{\Phi}$, SRA2$^{\Phi}$, SRA4$^{\Phi}$, SRA11$^{\Phi}$, SRA19$^{\Phi}$, SRA20$^{\Phi}$, SRA29$^{\Phi}$, SRA32$^{\Phi}$, SRAW33$^{\Phi}$, SRA38$^{\Phi}$, SRA44$^{\Phi}$ and SRA47$^{\Phi}$.

The majority of planting sources for the mother plot are derived from tissue culture to maintain integrity of the variety and disease free status. Due to issues affecting the availability of SRA32$^{\Phi}$ and SRA47$^{\Phi}$, these varieties were planted in the mother plot from OES propagated from tissue culture plants in the 2025 spring plot. These two (2) varieties will be at the approved seed plot level during the 2027 autumn distribution.

Approved Seed Distribution

One-eye setts

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

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

Some growers are ordering enough seedlings to plant up to one (1) hectare of approved seed cane.

The distribution in spring 2025 was the second smallest distribution since 2019 and the beginning of one-eye setts, however the autumn 2026 distribution was the second largest autumn distribution.

One-eye Sett seedlings sales (Jan-Dec) 2019-2026

Year	Autumn	Spring	Total
2019	0	9,440	9,440
2020	11,296	34,016	45,312
2021	18,976	27,573	46,549
2022	23,680	62,160	85,840
2023	40,448	55,391	95,839
2024	37,536	41,056	78,592
2025	30,080	14,784*	44,864
2026	39,904		39,904

**Note: The spring 2025 sale number includes the sale of 416 plants to Maryborough Productivity Services.*

Spring 2025

The distribution of spring 2025 seedlings was commenced by David on 18 August. Seventeen growers (17) collected 462 trays (14,784 seedlings). There were no orders from Bundaberg Sugar company farms

Autumn 2026

Autumn 2026 distribution of seedlings commenced by Lily on 18 March. Thirteen (13) growers including Bundaberg Sugar company farms collected 1,247 trays (39,904 seedlings).

Water Wheel Planter

Growers can borrow the Bundaberg Sugar Services seedling water wheel planter to plant their seedlings. The planter is delivered to farm with the seedlings and collected by Sugar Services staff once the grower has completed planting. Many growers are taking up this offer when purchasing seedlings.

There have been no major issues with the planter.

Breakdown of seedlings distributed to growers

Variety	Spring 2025	Autumn 2026
Q124	160	0
Q138	160	0
Q151	0	0
Q183 ◊	1,440	0
Q188 ◊	160	0
Q208 ◊	0	896
Q232 ◊	1,056	0
Q238 ◊	0	64
Q240 ◊	64	1,824
Q242 ◊	0	0
Q245 ◊	160	0
Q247 ◊	0	96
Q252 ◊	3,584	512
KQ228 ◊	1,184	1,184
SRA2 ◊	1,280	0
SRA4 ◊	3,296	0
SRA11 ◊	160	0
SRA19 ◊	2,560	0
SRA20 ◊	0	384
SRA29 ◊	7,360	1,504
SRA32 ◊	0	1,568
SRAW33 ◊	5,120	192
SRA38 ◊	3,520	416
SRA44 ◊	4,544	5,376
SRA47 ◊	0	0



Lily Schipper cutting setts for germination in the hothouse.



Setts in trays prior to being covered with potting mix.



One-eye setts prior to distribution.

PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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

One of our objectives is to provide suitable advice and help to members about the prevention, control and eradication of pest infection and disease of cane or any other matter or thing that adversely affects the quantity and quality of crops of cane and/or the production and harvesting of cane. Also to help, and cooperate with other bodies involved in preventing, controlling and eradicating pests in cane.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS)

The 2025/26 seasonal observations identified there was YCS present through the Bundaberg District. Compared to previous years, the rate of YCS across the district was significantly higher. The majority of the cases that were identified had YCS in previous years however there were some cases where YCS had not been seen for a number of years.

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD)

RSD remains a major disease facing the Bundaberg district. Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited promotes the use of recommended hygiene measures during harvesting and planting and offers RSD testing to growers.

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

RSD testing of the mother plot was performed by David Dowson in the winter of 2025 and Matt Leighton over summer with testing conducted atleast every ten (10) metres. All samples returned a negative result.

RSD sampling results below.

Machinery Inspections

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

Planting, Pest and Disease data collection

BSSL conducts surveys of diseases and pests of growers in the Bundaberg district. Currently, BSSL is undertaking a pachymetra survey which is ongoing due to staffing issues in late 2025.

BSSL and CANEGROWERS also collected data and information on approved seed cane/OES, break crop rotations and fallow management, pest and disease problems including plant source inspection results, soil tests and nutrient management plan recommendations and N&P budgets.

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

Pachymetra sampling results

There were twenty-seven (27) pachymetra samples taken during the 2025/26 year with twenty-two (22) samples recorded as low, three (3) samples as medium and two (2) samples as high. There are impacts on variety selection to resistant varieties for those samples that are rated medium and high.

	Number samples collected	Doubtful samples	Positive blocks
Approved seed plots	39	0	0
Grower plant source / RSD survey	63	0	0
Total samples	102	0	0

IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE

Drain Cleaner

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



EXTENSION

EXTENSION SUPPORT

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

General Extension

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

Pest
- Canegrub
- Soldier fly
- Moth borer
- Armyworm

Disease
- Smut
- Pachymetra
- Yellow Canopy Syndrome

Tissue culture seedlings
- Sugar Services was the only purchaser of tissue culture seedlings for the year

One-eye sett seedlings
- Information on seedlings/varieties
- Confirmation of orders and delivery
- Loan of seedling planter
- Planting distance/tray
- Planter availability

Soil testing
- Nutrient
- Pachymetra

Other general requests
- Plant source inspections
- RSD test plant sources
- Stunted growth due to extremely sandy country
- Suspected herbicide damage
- Variety information and identification

Grower requested nutrient requests

During the financial year 2025/26 there were eighty-eight (88) soil tests from thirty-three (33) growers taken by BSSL.

This represents approximately 25 percent of all members who are utilising the BSSL soil testing service as part of their reef compliance.

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



During the 2025/26 year there were 88 soil tests for 33 growers with each sample represented by a yellow pin.

Sugar Industry Dinner 2025 Season Awards

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 group 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.



Roy Parfitt holding award for his Service to the Industry.



Brad Piper of MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 4) received the 2025 Season District Champion Award.

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.


Mrs Evelyn Taske holding award for her 60 Years of extraordinary dedication to the sugarcane industry.

2025 Season Award Winners

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

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

Nufarm Award for Service to Industry
Roy Parfitt

Sunwater Young Industry Achiever Award
Robert Canino

Ergon Energy Inspiring Female Leader Award
Desley Ford

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers Cane Growing Excellence Award –
Farms Up to and including 60 ha
WR & AJ Baldry

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers Cane Growing Excellence Award-
Farms larger than 60 ha
Mr SA Algeo

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

Bundaberg Sugar Ltd 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



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