Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology launches a new Climate and Water Outlook service

Last week the Bureau of Meteorology conducted a National Climate and Water briefing on the climate outlook for August to October. The current climate drivers indicate a brief negative Indian Ocean Dipole and near average Pacific Ocean temperatures. An El Nino alert remains in place, indicating at least a 70 percent chance of an El Niño developing in 2014 but the El Nino development is easing and unlikely to be a strong event if it occurs. For Australia, El Nino is usually associated with below-average rainfall over southern and eastern inland Australia, with about two thirds of El Nino events since 1900 causing major drought over large parts of the continent.

The Bureau has released a new Climate and Water Outlook video service and will be releasing monthly videos which will cover rainfall, stream flow and temperature for the next three months and beyond. To view the initial video which provides forecasts for August, September and October click here.

CANEGROWERS Climate Variability ...Tools for primary producers in the Qld sugar industry

CANEGROWERS has produced a great booklet for growers which outlines climate tools, weather drivers and information on how these can be applied on farm. This easy to read booklet covers the three core topics of:

1. using seasonal climate forecasts on farm. This topic covers a range of seasonal information linking to weather and forecasting tools which may be useful for assisting day to day farm management decisions such as planting, irrigation, fertilizing, spraying and harvesting;
2. climate drivers. This section assists growers to know more about the SOI and what the MJO actually is and how they can affect farm production. The section covers how some of the climate drivers influence the Queensland climate and associated weather conditions growers experience over the season;
3. seasonal forecast information. This section provides an explanation of terms such as median, percentiles and probability values as used in seasonal outlooks. The section provides an outline of the following key forecasting models:
   a. General Circulation Models – GCMs
   b. European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts – ECMWF
   c. Predicative Ocean Atmosphere Model for Australia – POAMA
   d. Southern Oscillation Index – SOI
   e. Climate Prediction Centre – CPC

Professor Stone will present a FREE Climate Forecasting Workshop at CANEGROWERS Hall Home Hill on Wednesday 27th August between 9:45am and 2:00pm
What are the odds of an El Nino hitting North Qld in 2014?

Come and find out at a FREE Climate Forecasting Workshop with Professor Roger Stone

Professor Roger Stone entered the realm of climate change when its impact was only partially on the cusp of international attention. It is perhaps apt that his role is now at the forefront of global climate change research, with his appointment to lead a United Nations (UN) research program in climate change and extreme weather events and as the Director of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments and a University of Southern Queensland Professor in Climatology and Water Resources.

The pioneering Professor was selected to lead the international program during a recent UN Commission for Agricultural Meteorology congress meeting. "The program aims to provide practical examples to the UN on how practices should be changed so that communities around the world are much better prepared for the shocks that are likely to come with climate change. That could be a whole range of different examples, from typhoons in Vietnam, drought in West Africa, to floods in Pakistan."

He views his UN appointment as a double-faceted success. "It’s harnessing a lot of the work that we’ve been doing, not only at University of Southern Queensland, but also in government, in the DPI, CSIRO and other universities, so we are seen internationally as a zone of excellence."

Professor Stone is well known by cane farmers in the Burdekin following his 2012 workshops.

Attendees from 2012 spoke highly of the value of these practical Plain English sessions and how they would be able to utilise the information gained to make better farm management decisions. Growers particularly indicated they would be able to make more informed decisions in regard to fertiliser use and forward pricing decisions as they now had a greater understanding of long “climate forecasting” compared to their previous short term “weather forecasting” knowledge.

Anyone associated with the cane industry is welcome to attend but book early by contacting Tiffany on 4790 3600 or bdk@canegrowers.com.au.

Climate Forecasting Workshop

Ever wondered why some years are wetter or drier than others, what climate terms like SOI, El Nino or La Nina mean, or how to know when the next burst of the monsoon might impact on the Burdekin region??

A workshop to be held in Home Hill on Wednesday 27th of August will answer those questions and any others you may have about climate and climate forecasting issues. Workshop participants will also be challenged to use the information provided in the workshop to make better and more profitable business decisions.

Canegrowers, millers and other service providers to the sugar industry who attended workshops held in 2012 rated the workshops very highly in terms of the usefulness of information presented and how that information could be used in their planning and decision making. Fertiliser and planting activities, marketing and investment decisions were examples of where climate information presented at the workshop could be used in a practical way.

Climatologist, Professor Roger Stone will provide information on El Nino and La Nina, the SOI (Southern Oscillation Index), and how they are associated with rainfall in the Burdekin district. New forecast system information developed with international partners will also be presented which is assisting the sugar industry to improve planning and marketing decisions.

DAFF Industry Development Officer, Neil Cliffe, will challenge participants to use the wide range of climate information available on the internet and elsewhere to make better decisions.

Venues/Dates/Times: CANEGROWERS Hall, 68 Tenth Street Home Hill, - Wednesday 27th August, 9:45-2:00, with smokey and lunch provided.

To Register Contact: Tiffany at CANEGROWERS on 4790 3600 by 25th August.
CANEGROWERS Weather

The CANEGROWERS website features a weather section that by typing in your postcode will provide you with a seven day forecast for your desired postcode along with a 12 month rainfall outlook, SOI information and sea surface temperatures.

To see the latest forecast for your postcode click here.

The following outlook is for Home Hill.

CHAIRS FOR HIRE

CANEGROWERS Project and Training Centre

$10 plus $0.50 per Chair
Plus GST
75 Available
To book please phone
4782 1922
## Harvest Update

**Burdekin Tonnes Cut Per Week**

![Burdekin Tonnes Cut Per Week Chart]

### Burdekin Mills - 2014 Season

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<th>Week Tonnes</th>
<th>Season tonnes</th>
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**Season**

7,930,000

**CROP CRUSHED TO DATE**

2,176,190 tonnes

**2014 estimate**

7,930,000

**Week 8 - as at 26/07/2014**

28%
This week Premier Newman launched The Queensland Plan (click here). The Queensland Plan is seen as a community plan that every Queenslander had the opportunity to have a say in developing. The Plan sets a roadmap for growth and prosperity for the next 30 year and is seen as being a once in a generation opportunity to look beyond the immediate horizon to a future full of possibility.

The Queensland Plan & RegionsQ

The 30 year aspirational community vision for Queensland

- In 30 years Queensland will be home to vibrant and prosperous communities.
- Our state will be well planned with the right infrastructure in the right places to support a population that has grown across every region.
- We will value education as a lifelong pursuit where we gain practical skills, enrich our lives, find secure jobs and improve the competitiveness of our economy.
- Our brightest minds will take on the world and we will work collaboratively to achieve the best results for Queensland.
- We will be the greatest state in which to live, work and play, and guardian of a sustainable natural environment that inspires an active lifestyle and supports healthy communities.
- We will have a community spirit that embraces our diversity and unique culture and gives everyone the opportunity to shine. We will not leave anybody behind.
- Government can’t do this alone but as a community working together we can achieve everything we want for our state’s future.
- The Queensland Plan is supported by nine key foundations, one of which is “Regions...Building thriving communities”.

The vision in relation to Regions states: In 2044, our strong and diverse regional economies will support communities where people live, work and raise families. Our Regions will balance and preserve liveability with robust, sustainable economic growth. They will be centred on towns and cities with growing populations that attract new residents to their enviable lifestyles and opportunities for growth. Reliable and accessible infrastructure will connect our Regions with one another, the nation and the world. We will capitalise on the unique attractions of our Regions and promote the growth of niche industries and local talents. Each or our Regions will discover and develop their distinct character, culture and heritage.

RegionsQ is the name given by the Queensland Government to the framework to achieve vibrant and prosperous regions. (Click here for framework). Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney launched the RegionsQ process in Townsville last month.

On Wednesday of this week Canegrowers Burdekin took part in an invite only Townsville based forum to provide feedback to the Government for use in developing the “RegionsQ Action Plan”. These forums are being conducted in each of the regions. In particular, the Government was seeking feedback on the following:

1. How can we entice more people to move and stay in this region?
2. How can we better promote the advantages of investing and living in this region?
3. What unique issues or impediments do regional business face, or opportunities to build business capability?
4. What are this region’s competitive advantages and key opportunities for economic growth?
5. What projects in this region would benefit from a collaborative effort to unlock the economic opportunity ie “Projects of Regional Significance”? Noting that the Burdekin Catchment Development has already been identified as a “Project of Regional Significance”.
6. What can we do (collectively) to facilitate critical infrastructure that could unlock economic and community development potential in your region?
7. Are there any regionally-specific land-use constraints or obstacles to economic development that may need to be addressed in this region?

The RegionsQ Action plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2015.
RWUE-IF Program

The Rural Water Use Efficiency program is a long running partnership between the Queensland Government (through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines) and peak industry representatives organisations such as CANEGROWERS. In late 2013 it was announced that a new program to be known as Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures (RWUE-IF) would be funded for 3.5 years from January 2014 until June 2017.

In the Burdekin the project will have a particular focus on activities that will reduce irrigation losses to deep drainage to prevent subsequent groundwater rise.

Burdekin Productivity Services has been contracted by CANEGROWERS to deliver the program and provide extension services, Marian Davis has been employed as the RWUE project officer.

There are four components to the Burdekin RWUE-IF project:

- Provision of extension services to cane growers in the Burdekin region
- Incentives to implement improved irrigation practices that will reduce deep drainage in the Burdekin Groundwater Management Area (BGMA)
- Installation of dewatering bores in the BGMA
- Information support tools to assist with irrigation scheduling in the Burdekin region

Extension services

BPS will be providing irrigation extension advice to all growers through the project officer. This advice will include irrigation system evaluations and the development of irrigation plans as well as responding to specific grower queries and providing general information through newsletters and shed meetings.

Incentives

The financial incentives program is open to growers in the BGMA (map 1), Dalbeg, Millaroo and Leichhardt areas, but not the Delta. It provides assistance for growers to implement changes to their irrigation system or management that will lead to a reduction in deep drainage.

The funding is in the form of a rebate of up to 50 per cent of the pre-GST costs of improving irrigation, up to a maximum of $40 000 per farm business. Applications will be assessed as they are received, and will be deemed either eligible or ineligible for funding. Growers who have made changes since January 1, 2014 can also apply to have 50 per cent of those costs funded.

Dewatering

The installation of dewatering bores is being managed by a technical assessment panel. This year the panel has chosen to focus on installing bores in the Mulgrave area. There is a relatively small amount of money available and it was decided that a small target area would provide the best value. It was also important to choose an area with good surface water supplies so that the bore water could be mixed and reused for irrigation, and to have a good network of monitoring bores to gauge the effectiveness of the dewatering process.

Four bores have been installed and are being equipped with pumps and monitoring equipment. Each of the sites will be intensively monitored for depth to groundwater (continuous logging); the volume of water pumped; the conductivity of the water (continuous logging); and the amount of energy being used for pumping.

Information support tools

The details of the information support tools part of the program are still being negotiated, but it is hoped that BPS will soon have access to some irrigation scheduling tools. These tools will be used to provide general scheduling advice to all growers in the district.

For any irrigation related enquiries or to find out more about the financial incentives program please contact Marian Davis at BPS on 0428 927 079.
SunRice looking to expand production into Queensland

Rice food company SunRice is looking to North Queensland to secure additional supplies of specialty rice.

It's entered into an agreement to acquire Blue Ribbon Rice Group's milling and packaging plant at Brandon in the Burdekin region.

SunRice chairman Gerry Lawson says with its climate and secure access to water, the Burdekin region is regarded as one of the most promising rice-growing areas outside of south-west New South Wales.

"Local conditions are particularly suited to the growing of specialty rices, including fragrant varieties and specific long grain options, which will complement our Riverina crop and increase the overall competitiveness of Australian rice."

The company will carry out further research through its subsidiary, Rice Research Australia, to maximise growing options in the Burdekin.

SunRice CEO Rob Gordon expects the deal to be finalised by September and is subject to clearance by competition watchdog, the ACCC.

Last year the Blue Ribbon plant processed 2,000 tonnes of rice.

Mr Gordon expects that tonnage to be quadrupled before too long.

"We'll try to scale the business to twice it's current size in the next 18 months to two years.

"And then if things look like they're making sense, we'll look to double it again in the years after that."

He says there will be no job losses after the acquisition.

"We anticipate offering jobs to all of the current employees."

"We anticipate more employment prospects, not less."
The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 has passed the Senate

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation (Removing Re-approval and Re-registration) Amendment Bill 2013 has passed the Senate.

The legislation will ease the unnecessary regulatory burden imposed on Australian agriculture, by removing the requirement to re-register already approved safe and effective chemicals used on Australian farms.

The Bill sees removal of Red Tape, while maintaining a robust regulatory system, which already includes a proactive risk-based chemical review program.

The Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on 19 March 2014. On 20 March 2014, the Senate referred the provisions of the bill to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (the committee) for inquiry and report by 16 June 2014. The Bill passed the Senate on 14 July 2014.

Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce said the new legislation reduced the burden of regulation by $1.3 million per year and delivered greater efficiency and lower costs for agriculture and industry while ensuring that existing protections were not compromised. The Bill also received bipartisan support from the Shadow Minister Joel Fitzgibbon.

This outcome is a significant win for Australian farmers and the wider agriculture sector. The National Farmers Federation (NFF) and its members opposed the introduction and then called for removal of mandatory re-registration. The NFF’s position has now been acted upon by Government.

CANEGROWERS is an active member of NFF and is part of the NFF’s AgVet Taskforce who championed the Bill and its amendments.

Australia has one of the strongest and most robust chemical regulatory systems in the world. It already includes a chemical review program, to assess any chemicals that members of the community are concerned with. Further info on the Bill is available at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r5196

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Australian Farm Institute Essay Competition 2014

Does the Australian agricultural sector need a common national brand to promote its products in international and domestic markets?

The 2014 John Ralph Essay Competition being conducted by the Australian Farm Institute is offering a $5,000 prize for the best essay on the question of whether the Australian agriculture sector would also benefit from a common national brand to promote its products in international and domestic markets.

Register here to enter the John Ralph Essay competition and you could win a $5,000 cash prize or $1,000 for undergraduate students. Entries close on Friday 19 September, 2014.

Businesses involved in Australian agriculture have traditionally been able to maintain international and domestic competitiveness by being very efficient and by minimising costs. However, over the past decade Australia has become a relatively high cost nation, with some of the world’s highest wage rates and energy costs. At the same time, major new agricultural exporters have emerged in South America and Eastern Europe that have much lower costs. The result has been a loss of competitiveness for Australian agriculture in both international and domestic markets, evidenced by the dramatic growth in the value of annual food imports into Australia over recent years. Competitor nations facing similar challenges, such as New Zealand, Canada and Denmark, have responded by developing a national brand for their farm commodities. These national brands emphasise the quality and safety of farm products from those nations, and are targeted at wealthier international and domestic consumers who are prepared to pay a premium for products that are perceived to be superior. Australia has not, to date, developed a national brand that can be used to promote the specific qualities and values that are inherent in Australian farm products. There are a growing number of people arguing that this needs to occur in order for Australian agricultural produce to remain competitive, and to capture higher-value markets.

Entrants in the 2014 John Ralph Essay Competition are asked to argue the case for or against the proposal to develop a common national brand that can be used to promote Australian agricultural products.

Queensland Heritage Rally

Smartcane BMP

Smartcane BMP Facilitator Gary Halliday will not be available from Monday the 4th August to Friday the 19th September inclusive.

If you would like assistance with the Smartcane Program Rob Milla from Burdekin Productivity Services will be available, contact Rob on 4783 1101 or rmilla@bps.net.au

Congratulations to the organisers of the 6th Queensland Heritage Rally held on the 25-27 July.

Exhibitors for the rally were hosted by the Burdekin Machinery Preservationist Society to a BBQ dinner on Thursday 24 July, where Mayor Bill Lowis officially opened the Marshall Tractor Pictorial Display.
Electricity

✓ CANEGROWERS and QFF will make a presentation to the Queensland Government’s 6 August Agricultural Cabinet Committee in relation to electricity issues. The presentation will cover prices, extending the on farm energy use efficiency project, resource and information availability. As well as continuing to ask for lower prices, we will be seeking the establishment of an inter-agency Working Group to address electricity the reform issues head on.

✓ CANEGROWERS wrote to Energy and Water Minister McArdle calling on the Queensland Government to pass on the full benefit of the removal of the Carbon Tax to electricity users on transitional tariffs (T22, T62, T65 and T66). Tariffs 62, 65 and 66 are the principal tariffs used by irrigators.

Trade and market access

✓ Despite the signing of the Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), DFAT is continuing its engagement with Japan in the TPP to improve terms of trade for Australian sugar to Japan.

✓ TPP negotiators are targeting early November for the conclusion of the TPP negotiations.

Reef alliance

✓ The reef alliance meeting was held, with discussion topics including the Reef 2050 Long Term strategic plan, Reef Trust and Reef Program updates. The meeting was chaired by Dan Galligan from QFF and included Growcom, Queensland Dairy, NRM, WWF and the Queensland Government.

✓ The Reef 2050 plan is the umbrella plan that encompasses Reef Plan, the Reef Programme, the BMP programs and Reef Trust.

✓ The Reef 2050 plan is finally recognising and will also include other point and diffuse source pollution including urban, waste treatment plants, ports and coastal development - hallelujah!

✓ The discussion covered its objectives and intended deliverables, how it all fits together and of course targets. The comments will feed up to the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Reverse auction

✓ CANEGROWERS met with the Australian Government Department of Environment in Canberra about the Reverse Auction tender that is being rolled out under Reef Trust Program. This program is an incentive grant style program that focuses on nitrogen in the wet tropics. The aim is to reduce DIN in runoff going to the reef.

✓ Growers interested in the program would offer innovative ways to reduce their nitrogen usage in a bidding system and the ideas considered to provide the best outcomes would be funded for three years.

✓ There is a current tender out for the program delivery agent. The successful organisation would then administer the program. Tenders for the program delivery agent close 4 August 2014.

✓ CANEGROWERS had some questions around how the program would measure reduction in DIN given it is a highly complex and variable program. A lot of this is still to be worked out. The Department and CANEGROWERS will continue discussions.

Smartcane BMP

✓ CANEGROWERS met with Regional NRM Groups Collective Chair, Mike Berwick, to discuss support for CANEGROWERS Reef Trust incentive proposal.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Landcare Propagation Workshop, **Saturday 2 August** @ Kennedy Street Nursery, Ayr

Carbon Market Institute Information Session, **Tuesday 5 August**, Townsville

Landcare Meeting, **Tuesday 5 August**, 5pm @ John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council

Grower Information Meeting, **Wednesday 13 August**, 1pm-3pm @ CANEGROWERS Hall, Home Hill

Climate Forecast Workshop, **Wednesday 27 August**, 9.45am-2pm @ CANEGROWERS Hall, Home Hill

Classifieds

**WANTED**

- 8 Foot Back Blade Bonel or similar
- 2 Row Scarifier with Crumble Rollers with or without tynes
- Drag Roller 3.8m or wider

Phone 0417 798 541 or 4782 1341

Lower Burdekin **Landcare** Propagation Workshop
Saturday 2 August
8.00am - 11.30am
Kennedy Street Nursery, Ayr

**CASUAL / RELIEF HAULOUT WORK WANTED**

- Over 15 years experience
- HR Licence
- Forklift Licence

Phone: 0407 674 862

HAULOUT WORK WANTED

- Over 17 years experience
- HR Licence

Phone: 0428 626 127

Lower Burdekin **Landcare** Meeting
Tuesday 5 August
5.00pm
John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council

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CANEGROWERS Burdekin Ltd
Sugar Marketing - is it all about the ICE11?
By CEO Greg Beashel

I have been spending a lot of time lately explaining some of the facts around the current debate about sugar marketing. Recently, I addressed the Rural Press Club and one of the questions I received focused on why there is so much fuss over marketing arrangements when growers can control 95 percent of their pricing via the ICE11. Wilmar have also pointed to this in their latest media release where they state: “The choices currently available to growers allow them to determine more than 95% of the gross price of their sugar exposure independently of the miller”. The final sugar price is determined by more than just the ICE11 price and these factors can influence the final sugar price significantly. These other marketing costs and revenues, as well as the influence marketing decisions have on tonnages priced against each of the ICE11 pricing positions, have a large impact on final sugar prices.

Marketing costs and revenues attribute to final returns

If we solely look at the non-ICE11 components of the sugar price, there are some significant revenue and cost items here as shown in the chart below (taken from our 2012/13 annual report).

Most of these costs and revenues will be significantly influenced by the marketer and the decisions that are made around the marketing program. If we add up these costs and revenues that are in addition to the ICE 11 price, whilst they do typically largely cancel each other out, there are some very significant sums involved. Our competitiveness as an industry operating in an export oriented commodity market is significantly influenced by how well these non-ICE11 costs and revenues are managed.

These non-ICE11 revenues and costs are significant and need to be closely managed by the marketer. There is even more to consider though when thinking about the influence on the final sugar price of the ICE11.

**COMPONENTS OF TOTAL QSL-MANAGED ICE 11 POOLS VERSUS THE PASSIVE MANAGEMENT BENCHMARK**

Note:
⇒ The Net physical premium is net of freight costs.
⇒ The other costs relate to additional transportation that needed to be undertaken due to silt build-up at Bundaberg Port from the January 2013 floods.
⇒ Indirect selling is the QSL quality scheme
Sugar

The past fortnight could be best described as dull in the raw sugar market. Following the collapse of the previous fortnight, prices have consolidated and all contracts have traded within very narrow ranges to close the period about where it started.

The October14 contract traded in a 52 point range (17.43 – 16.91) and settled at 17.14, five points lower than the beginning of the period. The second position March contract traded over a similar range and closed the period exactly where it began it at 18.77 c/lb.

UNICA numbers continue to show production in CS Brazil tracking ahead of last year with more cane going to sugar, but this has had little effect on prices with the majority of the market now accepting a short tail to the crush as inevitable and expect total sugar production to be about 2 million tonnes down on 2013.

Despite production worries in Brazil, the short-term bearish sentiment is certainly dominating the current market structure as the spreads continue to shift the physical surplus down the board. The Commitment of Traders Report released on Friday shows the specs in an overall net short position of 12,500 contracts; this in stark contrast to a month ago when they sat at 120,000 net long.

With the physical surplus still in tow, we anticipate that the move higher in sugar prices will still occur but not likely until early next year once the decline in Brazilian production feeds into the supply chain. For now, we expect to see prices range bound.

Currency

The Australian dollar continues to remain relatively stable with trading mostly range bound between 93.5 and 94.5 US cents. Risk appetite has been somewhat muted over the fortnight with geopolitical tension high following the tragic downing of MH17 in Eastern Ukraine and ongoing conflict in Israel.

Data out of the US continues to paint a picture of steady recovery however, the Australian dollar remains well backed with our own positive data and attractive yields providing ongoing support at current levels.

Although still at uncomfortable levels for Australian exporters, we expect to see the Australian dollar come off later this year. The quantitative easing program in the US will likely wind-up before the end of 2014 and the commentary is signalling hikes in US rates in the not too distant future.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 4 June 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 14</td>
<td>$282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October 14</td>
<td>$303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 14</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January 15</td>
<td>$282</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$303</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March 15</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April 15</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 June 15</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* paid

The Advance Program is a guide only. CANEGROWERS Burdekin takes no responsibility for its accuracy. It only applies to growers who did not forward price for 2013 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2013 will be paid the same percentage of their final expected proceeds. For individual advance rates check your grower forecast on the Wilmar website.

Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
<td>$414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$476</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 11 July 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
<td>$428</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
<td>$433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The government is introducing a program to provide incentives for emissions reduction activities across the Australian economy.

The Carbon Market Institute invites you to join us for a series of information sessions on the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) to help you understand how the ERF will operate, the opportunities available under the ERF and how to participate.

These sessions will include an expert panel of speakers from industry, the Department of the Environment and the Clean Energy Regulator, who will provide an overview and will participate in a Q&A session.

A session will be held in Townsville, Tuesday 5 August 10.30am-12.45pm, followed by lunch.

To register click here.

Burdekin Community Association Inc.
Community Visitors Scheme

Many older people feel lonely or trapped in their home as their families have work and other family commitments to deal with. They may live away or are unable to visit.

Help yourself to feel happier and ask for a Community Visitor today. Our Community Visitors have been carefully selected for you:- they're caring, compassionate, understanding and can become a good friend.

BCA Community Visitor’s are someone you can:
• Share stories with
• Have a cuppa together
• Read together
• Share a hobby, interest or activity
• Listen to music together
• Someone to talk to and listen to

There are many ways of getting to know someone and becoming a friend.

For further information please contact:
Burdekin Community Association Inc.
The Support Centre, 130 Queen Street, PO Box 815, Ayr QLD 4807
Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 4.00 pm • Phone 07 4763 3744 • Fax 07 4763 3996
bca@burdekin.qld.gov.au • www.burdekincommunityassociation.org.au

Growers can monitor QSL pool performance via the Price Pool Matrices published on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au). This information is updated regularly and provides a sense of how the QSL-managed pools are performing over the current season.
NFF Members Council meets in Cairns

The NFF Members Council met in Cairns this week to discuss a range of key issues affecting the industry, and advance the main areas of focus for the NFF and members. Most prominently, the key focus at this week’s meeting was the presentation of results from Newgate Communication’s extensive report into farm representation in Australia.

Over the past six months, Newgate has carried out an extensive research process into farm advocacy, and recommended different structures for the sector to harness in the future. Generally, members have welcomed the review, with most understanding that it is a necessary process amidst the immense strain experienced under the existing advocacy models.

With a willingness to change, Members also discussed a range of pathways to take in order to achieve a more streamlined and unified voice for Australian agriculture. The final Newgate report will be released in the coming weeks. For more, read our release here.

Senate Inquiry – National Landcare Program

At the end of June, the Senate Environment & Communications Committee was asked to conduct an inquiry into the history, effectiveness, performance and future of the National Landcare Program. The Terms of Reference are broad, and include Landcare under NHT, Caring for Our Country and the new National Landcare Programme. The TOR also reference the roles of the Departments of Agriculture, Environment and the regional NRM bodies. More information about the inquiry can be found here.

The NFF will be making a submission to the inquiry. Submissions are due on the 8th August. Any feedback should be provided to Jack Knowles.

IUCN World Parks Congress Sydney 2014

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s World Parks Congress will be taking place at Sydney Olympic Park, Australia from 12 – 19 November, 2014. This year’s theme is ‘Parks, People Planet: Inspiring Solutions’, and is aimed at finding better and fairer ways to conserve natural and cultural diversity. The Congress will also hear from inspiring people around the world, and demonstrate nature’s solution to our planet’s challenges such as climate change, health, food and water security. For more information, visit the website here.

Commonwealth Environmental Water Options 2014-15

The Department of the Environment is inviting individuals to contribute to the annual planning for Commonwealth environmental water use in 2014-15. The Department has now published documents outlining the options for Commonwealth environmental water this year, which can be found on their website here.

They form a framework to help guide decisions around the locations, volumes and timing of water use. They do not constitute a decision to actually use water, which is only taken after further analysis of the current weather conditions, benefits and risks of each action. The Department welcomes your feedback, suggestions or ideas at any time. If you have anything you’d like to share, please email the Department here.

REEF ALLIANCE MEET IN BRISBANE

THE Reef Alliance is a collaboration between Queensland’s agricultural industry groups and natural resource management regions working across the Great Barrier Reef catchments. Collectively these organisations deliver the Australian Government’s Reef Programme, which aims to improve water quality flowing to the reef. The Reef Alliance met last week to discuss priority issues over the next three months including the Long Term Sustainability Plan (LTSP), which sees the Australian and Queensland governments working together with key stakeholders to develop a long term plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to guide the protection and management of the iconic World Heritage Area to 2050. The LTSP will be released for public consultation in August. Queensland’s Reef Alliance has been working to improve water quality of the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon for more than six years. To hear about this work, subscribe to the Reef Alliance e-news, distributed quarterly.
REVIEW OF THE QLD WATER ACT

Submissions are due early next week on a Regulatory Impact Statement for a review of the Water Act. The Statement, which was released by the Minister for NRM in early July, has examined the likely costs and benefits of the proposed reforms. Important measures investigated included proposals to convert over 9000 water licences across the state to tradable water allocations in stages up to 2017. Also it is proposed to release water for new development projects following the conduct of an environmental impact assessment (EIS) process. Changes to the legislation are also outlined to manage the impacts of mineral resource development on underground water along similar lines to arrangements for the petroleum and gas sector. Management of the use of CSG water for gas extraction is also proposed. The Statement and supporting documents is available here.

The review is timely from a water planning perspective as all of the major catchments across the State now have a water resource plan in place and most have resource operations plans implemented. However, it is important that the proposed revisions of the legislation do not undermine entitlement security and environmental outcomes put in place by the first generation plans.

DARLING DOWNS RESEARCH INTO AQUIFERS

DARLING Downs farmer Graham Clapham is collaborating with research on his property looking at the condition of water aquifers on the Darling Downs, and in particular as a reference point for the impact of the gas industry on these aquifers. You can hear Graham’s interview with ABC Rural here.

CRAWFORD CONFERENCE LOOKS AT FOOD SECURITY

THE 2014 Crawford Fund Annual Parliamentary conference is titled Ethics, Efficiency and Food Security: Feeding The 9 Billion, Well. The conference, in Canberra on 26-28 August 2014, will focus on a range of vital issues facing the developing world and Australia in efforts to produce more food in an ethical and efficient way. Early bird and Group booking discounts are available, as well as travel scholarships for young scientists. See the website for details.

AFPA APPLAUDS NEW APPROACH BUT WORRIES SERIOUS ROADBLOCKS REMAIN

THE Queensland Competition Authority has recommended a much needed overhaul of regulations that have constrained land based aquaculture in Queensland for over a decade. The QCA has shone a spotlight on why the aquaculture industry in Queensland cannot realise its full potential and keep pace with the growth that this high value-added sector has experienced especially in Tasmania and South Australia.

Matt West, President of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association welcomed the QCA’s draft report finding that aquaculture can deliver superior returns compared to many traditional crops and the finding that ‘reducing regulatory uncertainty is essential to attracting more investment.’

“The call for creating ‘development areas’ for marine aquaculture ‘to encourage investment’ is long overdue,” Mr West said. “As is the recommendation for a dedicated aquaculture unit and a task force to ensure the reviews and recommendations are implemented with Queensland DAFF the most suited to host a specialised aquaculture unit or lead a stakeholder task force.

“AFPA wholeheartedly backs the QCA’s call for a ‘co-ordinated effort’ at all levels of government to develop a regulatory code for each development area and agrees such a ‘public code’ would provide better investor certainty and confidence from the outset of a project.” The QCA report has highlighted a vexatious issue of major concern to prawn and fish farmers in the north and far north of Queensland. It points out the overlap of Commonwealth and State regulations in areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. “The unyielding stance by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority indicating that any new prawn farms must have zero net discharge of outfall water (a scientific impossibility) has hamstrung expansion of our industry in the north and far north, where the majority of our members operate. Despite a numerous CSIRO studies which proved conclusively our discharges contain no harmful chemicals or residuals and that the outfall water – which is remediated before discharge – cannot be detected within two kilometres down river from the outfall point.

“GBRMPA ignores our calls for an independent scientific peer review of the CSIRO study and consideration of a possible strict alternative monitoring processes which could satisfy all stakeholders.”

Leaders meet to secure Australia’s future in China

NFF President Brent Finlay joined business and government leaders from Australia and China at the inaugural, Australia-Sino Hundred Year Agricultural and Food and Safety Partnership (ASA 100) meeting in Sydney yesterday. The meeting was focussed on positioning Australia as a primary solution to China’s growing consumption needs and long-term food security.
Spearheaded by mining magnate Andrew Forrest, the meeting brought together key parliamentarians Barnaby Joyce and Richard Colbeck, and agribusiness leaders across the food processing and distribution supply chain. The day produced some serious thinking about the opportunities available in China, and identified pathways to harness these future prospects.

A key outcome of the meeting was based around the development of a unified brand for Australian agriculture, and for this brand to fall under one, recognisable logo. And while these approaches aren't new – it was pleasing to see a range of parliamentarians willing to back Australian agriculture, and the engine rooms of agribusiness ramping up their efforts to form a collaborative approach overseas.

Brent welcomed the opportunity to be part of the meeting, and reiterated that a collaborative approach from industry and government was crucial to our sector's future, particularly as we reach the pointy end of a trade agreement with China.

The NFF is of the view that Australian farmers have a clear competitive advantage when it comes to Asia, due to our proximity to the region and our strong reputation as a safe, reliable and competitive provider of food and fibre products. But to make this a reality, we need to ensure proactive and practical steps are put in place to fully reap the benefits.

Brent found the discussions at the ASA 100 extremely valuable and looks forward to ongoing activity in this area. For more, read our release here.

McKinsey report reaffirms Ag's potential

A new report released this week by McKinsey and Co reaffirms that agriculture is a stand-out leader in terms of competitiveness, skills and natural endowments. The report outlines that agriculture has the potential to create more jobs for Australia, and also significantly contribute to Australia's economic growth.

To measure the results, the McKinsey report took into account both the relative productivity and the relative input costs of sectors. Only one sector—agriculture—stood out as a strong competitor from this method. Hence, the report segments agriculture as an “advantaged performer”.

The report says that in agriculture, Australia must drive for scale, and that it has plenty of untapped potential. Australia has the most arable land per capita of any country, and in some cases this translates into substantial market share – Australia has 50 percent market share of Merino wool. Substantial demand increase is predicted, for example China’s per capita meat consumption could increase by 40 per cent over the next 20 years.

One of the primary solutions is to play for scale. Governments should encourage (or at least not impede) the professionalisation and scaling-up of farming enterprises. The tendency to nurture small-scale farming should be weighed against the opportunity cost of not having larger, more capitalised and more efficient farms in their place.

In order to increase Australia's global competitiveness, the report described a set of purposeful cross-cutting actions, these include:

- Investment and immigration
- Regulation: set rules in a global context
- Business leaders: capture the value of innovation and collaboration – and make it last.
- Labour market structures and skills: create pathways to jobs of the future

For more, read the full report here.

4 yearly review of modern awards: Annual leave and transitional provisions

This week the NFF filed two submissions with the Fair Work Commission in connection with the modern award review; one on annual leave and one on transitional provisions. In response to an ACTU claim for leave loading to be payable on termination of employment in all but four modern awards, we argue that the claim cannot succeed and should be rejected, including because no evidence has been filed in support of the claim.

The ACTU is also seeking the continued operation transitional provisions dealing with redundancy pay, accident pay and district allowances in modern awards. These clauses expire on 31 December 2014. There are good legal reasons why these clauses cannot continue to operate past that time and our submission makes this clear. For copies of our submissions to the Fair Work Commission, please see our website.
Succession planning on the agenda

As a member of the National Rural Law and Justice Alliance, the NFF is actively involved in a project to develop Succession Planning Toolkits that help encourage succession planning and make it more accessible and affordable. Thank you to all members who have provided information about their own succession planning activities. Members who would like to get involved can contact Sarah McKinnon.

Mining & CSG Bioregional Assessments

The Environment Department has released a “context statement” for the Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion, as part of the Australian Government’s Bioregional Assessment Programme. These reports provide the background reference that will inform modelling and analysis of the potential impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining activities.

This report is now available on the Programme website here.

Water Trigger Regulations

Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt has changed the EPBC regulations, in line with his commitments to strengthen the role of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Mining and Coal Seam Gas. The minister’s press statement can be found here.

Landcare Australia Conference

Registrations are now open for the 2014 National Landcare Conference. The Conference will take place in Melbourne from September 17th to 19th. Register before August 25th for the Early Bird discount and share in the celebration of 25 years of Landcare. More details available here.

2015 Rural Women’s Award: Applications open now!

The 2015 RIRDC Rural Women’s Award identifies and rewards women’s contribution to primary industries and rural communities by providing financial assistance, mentoring, resources and support via its nation-wide network of business and community leaders for selected state winners. Applications close on 31 October 2014. Application forms can be downloaded from the RIRDC website here.

The RIRDC Rural Women’s Award is Australia’s pre-eminent Award for rural women. The Award identifies and supports emerging leaders and change agents who have the capability and resources to drive innovation, productivity and sustainability within primary industries, and build economic and social development within rural communities. The Award acknowledges that women offer a unique approach to leadership, which involves connecting and collaborating to effect change and influence, often without the need for position or authority. The Award also encourages primary industries and rural communities to embrace diversity in leadership to successfully navigate future challenges. The Award supports women with demonstrated leadership capabilities, or leadership potential and community contribution, who have the desire and commitment to make a greater contribution to their industries and communities. It provides women with financial and professional support to implement their visions for primary industries and enhance their leadership capabilities. Each State and Territory winner will receive a $10,000 financial bursary to implement their Award vision. Each State and Territory winner will have the opportunity to participate in the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Company Directors Course and will be supported to develop an individual integrated leadership plan. The Award is an amazing opportunity to further your leadership development, make a tangible difference and inspire others. The Award is a life changing experience that will link recipients with a positive and powerful alumni network of like-minded women across the country who are passionate about primary industries and rural Australia.

Well known local Alison Farleigh was the 2013 Queensland Winner. Alison is a passionate advocate for mental health issues and services in rural communities.
CaneClips

This week James Ogden-Brown speaks with Bruce Quinn from Isis Productivity Services about how to manage frost damaged cane.

YCS Industry Update

In April this year, the SRA Board approved an investment of $4 M from reserves to fund an integrated three-year research program to help solve the YCS puzzle. This investment program includes significant funding from DAFF from this month.

The program, which commenced on 1 July, includes a three-year extension of the initial research project and two new research projects. Each research project is investigating different aspects of YCS and collectively they are expected to provide complementary information and results that build our understanding of the condition.

New Information Sheet - Frost Damage

Growers in the southern and central regions have had to deal with frost over the last weeks. We have compiled an information sheet that gives practical advice on how growers can deal with frost damaged cane.

Read here >

2014 Canegrub insecticide trial harvests begin

CropCare and SRA (previously as BSES) have been working collaboratively for many years to evaluate improved insecticide treatments for canegrubs. This work has recently received SRA funding for another two years, to complete field evaluation of existing trials.

Read more >

Herbicide phytotoxicity screening kicks off

An SRA funded research project screening selected varieties against their reaction to a range of herbicides has kicked off in Mackay during July.

Read more >

Growers invited to participate in a Sugarcane Precision Agriculture Survey

We invite sugarcane growers to take part in this survey, which aims to understand the current adoption of precision agriculture, the potential for future adoption, and to inform future strategies for precision agriculture research, development, extension and communication by the research team.

Sugarcane Precision Agriculture survey >
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**CANEGROWERS Directors have an intimate knowledge of local and regional needs.**
**CANEGROWERS Directors are growers, just like you, doing demanding work for little monetary return. They understand your needs.**

Do you know of any stories that should be in canenews? Contact us today with the details.