Readers will recall that the Federal Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce announced, as part of a listening tour in the Burdekin on 10 December, the establishment of a new sugar marketing taskforce to look into competition and marketing issues facing the cane sector.

The terms of reference of the Taskforce is to consult with the sugar industry on a range of issues around marketing and export arrangements for cane growers. The Taskforce will consider issues such as the growers’ economic interest in the commodity, grower ability to choose marketing entities, transparency of marketing activities, as well as the need for a code of conduct, among other issues impacting on growers.

The taskforce chair is the Member for Dawson, George Christensen.

George Christensen commences consultation

Terms of Reference – Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct Taskforce

The Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct Taskforce is formed in response to grower concerns regarding changes to sugar marketing arrangements in Australia and is to report to the Minister for Agriculture by May, 2015.

The Taskforce is to:

1. Determine if a code of conduct for the sugar marketing process is needed;
2. Determine if such a code should be mandatory;
3. Consult with the sugar industry; and
4. Consider provisions in such a code of conduct to address issues including, but not limited to, the following:
   - Negotiation process;
   - Grower economic interest sugar;
   - Ability to choose a marketing entity;
   - Transparency of marketing activities;
   - Protections from discrimination;
   - Arbitration where agreement cannot be reached;
   - State and Commonwealth Acts relating to the sugar industry and competition;
   - Codes of conduct in other industries; and
   - Any related matters.

George Christensen met with Canegrowers Burdekin on Monday 2nd Feb to commence the consultation process and advised that the Government is aware of the significant concern and future uncertainty that now exists amongst cane growers following the announcement by three major sugar mill owners to break away from QSL from the 2017 season.

George advised that the first meeting of the Taskforce will be held next week. At this meeting the members of the Taskforce will be finalised together with the development of a timeframe to ensure the May reporting deadline is achieved. It is expected that the Taskforce will be calling for written submissions from the industry seeking views on the establishment of a sugar marketing code of conduct, including should there be a code developed, what should it include etc etc.

The code of practice developed for the grain industry has been mentioned as a potential template. (click here)
Update on the updating of the Burdekin Regional Natural Resource Management Plan

The current Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Plan (BDT-NRM plan) which was originally released in 2005 is under review.

An overseeing group has been established to work with the project team to review the plan. This overseeing group’s role is to provide high level advice on planning processes, including aspects of consultation, promotion, tool development, evaluation etc., and guide the design of the BDT-NRM Plan. Canegrowers Burdekin is represented by Manager Debra Burden and the group comprises other representatives from GBRMPA, CSIRO, Townsville City Council, Lower Burdekin Water, NQ Dry Tropics, NQ Dry Tropics Board, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, North Queensland Conservation Council and the Traditional Owner Management Group.

The driver for updating the BDT-NRM Plan is to better prepare the community and the economy for dealing with increasing pressures on the region. Major aspects are climate change and enhancing the resilience of our way of life in the dry tropics.

To assist with the development of the Plan and the inclusion of up to date Climate Change provisions the Federal Government provided funding for the development of research to cover climate change mitigation and adaption. See the separate story within canenews titled The lastest Climate Change forecasts from the CSIRO for the Burdekin Region.

Between June 2013 and June 2015, the BDT-NRM Plan will transition from being a five-year plan with a forty-year planning horizon and scant mention of climate, to a continuous planning system for contributor inclusion and innovation uptake. It will include climate change as an integral part of a five part planning system.

A revised governance framework, strategic approach statement, action plan, renewal process and contextual information hub are being developed. The transition project will deliver a NRM Plan consisting of a suite of practical, cross regional tools.

The Plan will cover all of our region’s natural resources including its landscapes, soils, wetlands, groundwater and waterways, the Great Barrier Reef, its coastline and it unique plants and animals. As canefarmers we well know the importance of these resources for our economy, our lifestyle and the wellbeing of the community.

The BDT-NRM Plan is not a government plan ...it is also not a NQ Dry Tropics Ltd plan ...what it will be is a Plan that sets out the community’s priorities for action and targets for protecting and restoring the natural resources of our region. It will also provide a mechanism that better enables the community to work together in a way that will deliver positive and enduring results through the efficient use of resources and funding. To do all of this requires extensive input from the dry tropics community.

You are encouraged to participate by either communicating the issues that are critical to you to Debra (0417 709 435) or by contacting the Project Team direct on 07 4724 3544.
The latest Climate Change forecasts from the CSIRO for the Burdekin Region

To assist with the development of the new Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Plan and to ensure the Plan includes up to date Climate Change provisions the Federal Government provided funding for the development of research to cover climate change mitigation and adaption. The CSIRO has recently released its updated report on Climate Change in Australia... Projections for Australia’s NRM Regions (click here).

The BDT-NRM region is located within the section titled “Monsoonal North East”. The Monsoonal North East sub-cluster, comprising NRM regions of the Northern and Southern Gulf as well as the Burdekin. This region experiences a pronounced wet and dry season. The Monsoonal North East covers relatively intact savannah woodland and important rainforest areas as well as the Mitchell, Gilbert, Norman and Staaten River catchments, all of which flow into the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Burdekin region of course, also includes the very wet coastal plains of the lower Burdekin river.

The key messages from this up to date research for the Monsoonal North East are:

- Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons (very high confidence).
- More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence.
- Changes to rainfall are possible but unclear.
- Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence.
- Mean sea level will continue to rise and height of extreme sea-level events will also increase (very high confidence).
- With medium confidence, fewer but more intense tropical cyclones are projected.
- On annual and decadal basis, natural variability in the climate system can act to either mask or enhance any long-term human induced trend, particularly in the next 20 years and for rainfall.

The CSIRO research indicates ‘More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence.’ Extreme temperatures are projected to increase at a similar rate to mean temperature, with a substantial increase in the temperature reached on hot days, the frequency of hot days, and the duration of warm spells (very high confidence). It looks like the hot weather we have been experiencing recently is going to be a more regular event into the future.

How the Burdekin Voted

2015 State Election Burdekin Electoral Booth Results as at 05.02.15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Votes</th>
<th>Informal Votes</th>
<th>Actual Votes</th>
<th>Pre-poll</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowen</td>
<td>4.38%</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
<td>7.00%</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
<td>4.25%</td>
<td>10.74%</td>
<td>1.53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burdekin</td>
<td>3.21%</td>
<td>6.12%</td>
<td>8.73%</td>
<td>2.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total votes</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
<td>12.23%</td>
<td>26.47%</td>
<td>4.67%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 State Election Burdekin Electoral Booth Results as at 05.02.15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BQ Cleary</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Katter</td>
<td>12.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Cate</td>
<td>26.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binde Johnson</td>
<td>4.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total votes</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The vote results show a significant increase in informal votes compared to pre-poll data.
Queensland May/June chemical collection expected to surpass program records

Preparations for the 2015 Queensland ChemClear collection are underway and the program is forecasting a very successful campaign.

The collection, due to run through May and June, will be ChemClear’s sixth visit to Queensland.

National Program Manager Lisa Nixon believes the total amount of chemical will surpass all previous collections undertaken in the state.

“We have had a lot of interest already from primary producers and other agvet chemical users who have registered over 25 tonnes of surplus stock over the last 12 months for disposal. We are expecting this figure to rise above 35 tonnes when the booking line closes at the end of next month,” said Ms Nixon.

As in previous campaigns, any chemicals displaying the drumMUSTER eligible container logo are collected free of charge as long as they are within two years of deregistration or expiry.

This year’s Queensland campaign is supported by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Funding means that any primary producers who register their out-of-date, deregistered and unknown agvet chemicals will have their costs partly subsidised.

Booking lines for the Queensland collection will close on 27 March 2015.

Agvet chemical users are encouraged to take an inventory and register their chemicals on the ChemClear website (www.chemclear.com.au) or call 1800 008 182.

To date, ChemClear has collected over 141,000 L/kg of chemical from five previous collections held in Queensland. Nationally, ChemClear is on the brink of breaking the 460,000 litre milestone.

For more information, visit the ChemClear website.
Did you know Queensland Country Health Fund:

1. offers members of CANEGROWERS a special CORPORATE discount off the policy of their choice
2. has a branch in Ayr and Home Hill where you can talk directly to a real person
3. has just opened their magnificent new Head Office across the road from Myer in Townsville and is the only health fund with its head office in North Queensland
4. has just opened a brand new major dental practice under their head office and that members of the health fund have access to free general dental whilst members of the credit union have access to discounted dental services
5. owns accommodation units in Brisbane and Townsville and that these units are available for health fund members use when they need to travel for medical needs
6. has been independently awarded the CANSTAR 5 star rating for outstanding value on hospital cover for Queensland
7. is a “not for profit” which means that the profits are directed back to provide better services for members

The real question is why would anyone not have their health fund with Queensland Country?
Fun or Fatality

The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety released research results this week, based on media coverage from 2014, indicating a small reduction in on-farm injury deaths from 59 to 54 (compared to the same time last year).

For the fourth year in a row, not surprisingly, quad bikes were the leading cause of non-intentional injury deaths on farm; followed by tractors, farm utes and other farm machinery. For children, quads and drowning were the most common cause of death. Over half of all non-fatal incidents involved quad bikes – followed by other machinery and tractors.

Quad bikes have become a highly utilised item of machinery, due to their adaptability, low running cost and easy operation. Quad bikes are widely used by cane farmers and can be an important and useful addition to the workplace and in some cases can improve the safety of operations.

Quad bikes can be unstable due to a high center of gravity, increasing the risk of a rollover on rough terrain, especially when turning or driving across slopes.

Overloading, inappropriate fitment of attachments or towing can significantly change the handling, stability and braking conditions of a quad bike and may contribute to its instability and potential for roll over.

The quad bike’s fitness for purpose should be assessed prior to its use. Consider whether:

- there is another item of farm machinery that could provide a safer operation, i.e. small tractor or utility
- fitting equipment that will reduce the risk of injury from possible rollover
- the quad bike is maintained to manufacturer’s specifications, including equipment such as brakes are working and tyres are inflated to the correct pressure
- all guards are in place, particularly foot plates
- all controls are adjusted so they can be operated comfortably and safely when seated.

Operators need significant experience in various terrain or conditions depending on the power and type of quad bike being used. Operators should:

- have undertaken training or have sufficient experience before operating a quad bike, particularly when riding across paddocks, at speed or with attachments
- wear personal protective equipment appropriate to the task being undertaken, such as, helmets, gloves and eye protection
- ensure equipment or liquids being carried or towed are secured and do not suddenly change the weight, balance, steering or braking dynamics by distributing additional weight to the side, front or back
- have sufficient strength, weight and agility to operate safely and can react quickly to changing terrain or conditions. Operators should be physically capable to control the machine and to correctly move their body weight to keep the wheels on the ground at all times
- be aware of heat stress, fatigue or other limiting conditions which may affect concentration while operating a quad bike.
CANEGROWERS Queensland … taking up the fight on all issues affecting cane farmers
For the week ending 19 January 2015

Trade and Market Access

✓ Trans-Pacific partnership (TPP) negotiations are continuing. QCGO Chair Paul Schembri and Warren Males are in Thailand representing the industry’s interests in seeking improved access to all TPP countries (including the US, Japan and Mexico) in these negotiations.

Marketing – State Election

✓ CANEGROWERS unified and collective action yielded results. In calling all parties to the table to resolve the marketing issue, the LNP gave a pledge that should it return to power, it will legislate, if necessary. While the fact that a hung parliament is still a possibility, and counting is continuing, we wait with the rest of Australia to see where all the seats finally land. Chairman Paul Schembri's tireless efforts are particularly acknowledged.

Red Witchweed

✓ This process is ongoing. It has been prolonged and frustrating.

✓ CANEGROWERS has responded to recommendations provided by the Australian Government through the National Management Group (NMG).

✓ There is still no certainty for the four grower businesses caught in the middle of this situation. The continued non-decision has impacted on their business operations, financial position and future planning. The expectation that this was to be resolved by December 2014. These growers deserve certainty and it is fair to say that the affected growers’ have lost patients and their good will is no longer there.

✓ The issues that have and continue to be raised are:
  1. There is no mechanism to deal with RWW.
  2. The governance structures have not been agreed. The proposed governance structures were provided for agreement on the NMG meeting 15 January 2015. A decision was not made.
  3. The risk to trade, production and yield is considered low or negligible. If there is no risk to trade, why is RWW listed as a Class 1 pest? RWW doesn’t affect cane productivity or export markets.
  4. Proposed budget to eradicate is too high and affected parties cannot pay because there is no mechanism to raise the money to pay or governance to bind affected parties.
  5. The Cost benefit analysis is flawed.
  6. The categorisation of 50:50 wasn’t agreed to because the governance structures haven’t been agreed.

✓ CANEGROWERS is part of an industry-government Steering Committee consisting of AgForce, The Cattle Council, Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Agriculture. The committee’s role is to provide advice on the eradication and management of RWW. A lot of work and time has been committed to resolving this matter.

CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research Committee meeting

✓ The first meeting of the committee was held on 21 January and the main issues agreed around the issue of Road Transport Permits where:

✓ Signage should be removed as a condition from the “trial”. No signage and 1 agricultural pilot is considered as practical and safe (similar to the police conditions which don’t seem to have caused alarm bells to ring in terms of actual incidents) particularly for minor and major roads.

✓ On critical roads the option of 2 agricultural pilots or signage is an improvement but is still considered to add considerable road activity and therefore risk. Thus the preference for one agricultural pilot.

✓ The permitting process is unworkable for agricultural vehicles over 4.0m width and the “trial” should be extended to 4.5m width with two pilots on critical roads.
There should be an investigation into the option of Queensland withdrawing agricultural transport from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Separately, a meeting was held between Kevin Borg (Mackay CANEGROWERS) and Transport Main Roads representatives to addressed Canegrowers issues. Overall there was some progress but there are still issues which are being followed at a higher level.

Research

A meeting was held with SRA to discuss the dashboard for reporting of Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s). This is work in progress for SRA with the collection of data over time for measurement of certain KPI’s.

Resource, NRM & Efficiency

CANEGROWERS attended the OFF Resource Planning and NRM meeting which discussed Water and Energy Policy Issues, Emissions Reduction Fund, and the Queensland election.

CANEGROWERS attended a meeting with DSITIA to discuss the Emissions Reduction Fund, Green House Gas emissions and nitrogen use efficiency within the Queensland Cane Industry.

Review of regulated retail electricity prices for 2015-16

On 10 December 2014, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) released its draft determination on regulated retail electricity prices to apply in regional Queensland for 2015–16 (click here). For more information on the QCA process see canenews December 19 edition here.

QCA will be conducting workshops to discuss the draft determination. If you would like to attend the workshop in Townsville on Tuesday 10 February, register online.

The above information is provided by Waterfind. The information provided is of a general nature only and must not be relied upon in substitution for professional advice. Waterfind accepts no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of any information provided. For more information click here.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 9 January 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</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January</td>
<td>$323</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>$333</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>$353</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>$374</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>$384</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June</td>
<td>$394</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$406</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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</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
as at 6 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
<td>$384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$472</td>
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</table>

Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 23 January 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$452</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REMINDER: 2015 Pricing
Nominations close date, Monday 23

2015 Planting Incentive

Wilmar’s planting incentive program is available for 2015.

The planting incentive letter and application is available on the grower web or contact CANEGROWERS on 4790 3600 or bdk@canegrowers.com.au to be sent an application.

Gross $/Tonne IPS
2014 Season $384
2015 Season $447
2016 Season $473
2017 Season $472

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.

Support Time4Kids to help raise money for Police-Citizens Youth Club’s youth crime prevention programs and activities.

CHAI RS FOR HIRE

CANEGROWERS Hall Home Hill
$10 plus $0.50 per Chair
Plus GST
75 Available
To book please phone
4782 1922
DATES TO REMEMBER

Co-operative Conversations Workshop, Tuesday 10 February @ Ayr Neighbourhood Centre

Irrigators’ energy savers workshop, Tuesday 17 February, 10.30am @ DAFF, 343 Old Clare Road

Women In Sugar Burdekin AGM, Wednesday 18 February

2015 Pricing Nominations close date, Monday 23 February

OVERVIEW

A 2 hr workshops which will present the latest scientific evidence on sugar and health in a fun, interactive way.

Key questions addressed in the workshop include:

- Does the body need sugar?
- What is the difference between natural and added sugar?
- How much sugar are we eating?
- How is sugar impacting my health?
- Are the myths true?

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

‘Quit sugar’, ‘Sugar is toxic’, ‘Sugar is as bad as tobacco’. Today, statements like these have become the norm, but how true are they? What does the latest evidence say?

This workshops will:

- Provide you information on the role of sugar as part of a healthy, balanced diet
- Give you the knowledge to successfully dispel common myths about sugar and health
- Help you understand the basics of sugar

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Andrea Olden at: aolden@sugaralliance.com.au

PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Landcare Nursery Kennedy Street Ayr
This Saturday, 7th February 2015
9.00am – 11.00am
Open to the public, volunteers and members - all are welcome.
Would you know what to do in an emergency situation?

Learn Fist Aid today!

Expressions of interest are being taken for members to attend a free workshop to receive a senior first aid certificate.

Phone Tiffany on 4790 3600 to register your interest today.
canenews is read by the majority of Burdekin cane farmers and their families in the Burdekin. Copies are also circulated to all CANEGROWERS Offices, businesses, industry, politicians, Government Agencies and members of the community.

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Facsimile: (07) 4783 4914
Email: bdk@canegrowers.com.au

Please direct all advertising enquiries and materials to the above.

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Phone Tiffany today for a quote 4790 3600

* Two employees paid fortnightly with membership discount applied.