QSL remains largest marketer of QLD sugar

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) has retained its status as Australia’s largest marketer of raw sugar following the implementation of new Marketing Choice arrangements for Queensland cane growers.

QSL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Beashel said that more than 1000 Wilmar growers had allocated nearly 1 million tonnes to the industry-owned not-for-profit company for the current season.

Mr Beashel said the forecast tonnage in the 2017 Season from Wilmar growers and the tonnage already contracted from the Bundaberg Sugar, Isis Central Mill, Mackay Sugar, MSF Sugar and Tully Sugar milling districts brought QSL’s total tonnage to around 1.9 million tonnes for 2017.

“We’ve been very heartened by the strong support we’ve received from Wilmar growers following the long-awaited implementation of Marketing Choice around six weeks ago,” Mr Beashel said.

“They fought long and hard to be able to choose their marketer and so we are very keen to repay the faith that they have put in us.”

Mr Beashel said growers who had chosen QSL would not only benefit from an experienced, Queensland-based team working hard on their behalf, but also the risk mitigation and marketing flexibility that comes from QSL having a contracted supply in every major raw sugar export region in Queensland.

“In a state where we are often at the mercy of Mother Nature, there is incredible strength in producers throughout Queensland banding together and pooling their sugar in order to manage production risk, secure shipping flexibility and maximise their pricing opportunities on the world market,” he said.

“Queensland growers have long been the envy of their international counterparts for just this reason and through QSL will continue to enjoy the many benefits of our unique model where all net value is returned to the growers and millers we serve, rather than a private owner or company shareholders.”

Mr Beashel said the 2017 Season marked a new chapter for both the Queensland sugar industry and QSL.

“The advent of Marketing Choice has already seen us roll out a number of changes to our business, including the introduction of a separate logistics division as well as a range of cost savings and streamlined operations to reflect our new tonnage base.

“However, our key driver remains the same – our commitment to promoting the long-term prosperity of the Queensland sugar industry.

“After three years of widespread industry upheaval and uncertainty, we’re keen to refocus all our efforts on this and doing what we do best – marketing sugar and supporting the industry we’re here to serve.”

New QSL Payment Statement

Wilmar Growers who have received a payment from QSL in recent weeks will be aware of the reporting discrepancies between their QSL Payment Statement and their Wilmar RCTI (Recipient Created Tax Invoice).

QSL has released a new Payment Statement format for Wilmar Growers. Click here to read QSL’s information statement.
Crushing Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>Rain Stops hrs</th>
<th>Bud Week tonnes</th>
<th>Bud Season tonnes</th>
<th>June Re-Forecast</th>
<th>ACTUAL / FORECAST</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Act/For CCS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rain Stops hrs</td>
<td>Act/For Week tonnes</td>
<td>Act/For Season tonnes</td>
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<td>02-Dec-17</td>
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<td>196,228</td>
<td>8,400,000</td>
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Weekly production figures

Burdekin Region mills
Week 04, ending 8 July 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane crushed</th>
<th>This week</th>
<th>Season to date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invicta</td>
<td>147,186</td>
<td>346,996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pioneer</td>
<td>66,587</td>
<td>220,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalamia</td>
<td>80,890</td>
<td>261,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inkerman</td>
<td>71,988</td>
<td>188,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin</td>
<td>366,651</td>
<td>1,018,432</td>
</tr>
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</table>

CCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane</th>
<th>CCS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invicta</td>
<td>12.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamia</td>
<td>12.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inkerman</td>
<td>12.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burdekin</td>
<td>12.84</td>
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Weekly variety performance for region

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>CCS</th>
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<td>12.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q240</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q183</td>
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<td>13.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q208</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.53</td>
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</table>

The Burdekin mills passed the first million tonnes crushed milestone on Saturday 8 July, with a total throughput of 366,650 tonnes for the week.

Inkerman Mill had an extended stop to repair a broken gearbox shaft on the bagasse bin reclaimer while Pioneer had an extended stop to repair a failed intermediate carrier chain.

There are three planned stops this week. Inkerman and Invicta’s A side will stop for scheduled cleans on Tuesday while Kalamia will stop for a scheduled clean on Thursday.

Peter Luke
Transport Operations Manager
Burdekin Region

Wilmar
2016 season final pay
Wilmar have advised that the final payment for the 2016 season will be released on Tuesday, 1 August 2017.

This follows confirmation from QSL earlier today that it would make payment to millers on Friday, 28 July 2017. Wilmar will release funds to growers via EFT within two business days of receipt.

Demonstration site looks at best legumes for cane grown on sandy soils
The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) recently completed a demonstration site on a cane farm near Freshwater to determine if different species and varieties of legume produce different amounts of nitrogen. The project also analysed the legumes resistance to Root Knot Nematodes (RKN) on sandy soils.

DAF senior agronomist Derek Sparkes explained that green manure legumes were commonly used in the sugarcane farming system to break the monoculture, providing a break for cane pests and diseases.

“The green manure legumes provide excellent soil cover during the wet season as well as providing nitrogen for the plant cane crop,” Mr Sparkes said.

“Cane crops grown on sandy soils have a tendency to be infected with RKN which may also infect many other crops such as legumes that are commonly used as break crops.”

“The purpose of the study was to see which of the available legumes showed the most resistance to RKN.”

“We looked at nine different species, or varieties of legumes and compared the outcomes.”

“We found that all the legume crops were well-grown and there were similar amounts of Nitrogen fixed per hectare in the above ground part of the plant (around 150 – 180 kg Nitrogen/ha; based on measured and N concentration data in ‘six-easy-steps’).”

“Despite all the crops looking very healthy, there was a wide variation in the health of the roots and root galling.

“Although it is hard to draw firm conclusions from this study, soybeans like Stuart and A6785, as well as Sunn Hemp and peanuts, appear to have more fine roots, less root galls and low RKN numbers in the soil after four months of crop growth.”

“We are keen to share the technical findings of the study with local canegrowers, who can call 13 25 23 to get more details.”

Growers needed for EEF60 on farm fertiliser trials
CANEGROWERS and Sugar Research Australia (SRA) are encouraging Queensland sugarcane farmers to take part in a series of 60 on farm trials of enhanced efficiency fertilisers.

Dubbed EEF60, the project will run over three harvest seasons in a bid to identify the conditions under which enhanced efficiency fertilisers can increase grower profitability while reducing any fertiliser losses to the environment, particularly into waterways running to the Great Barrier Reef.

“This is a big ask and a big project – one of the biggest coordinated and independent trials of fertilisers ever undertaken in the sugar industry,” CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

“We will be working with SRA to scientifically evaluate these enhanced efficiency fertilisers which various manufacturers have developed.

“They have the potential to release nutrients more slowly than conventional fertilisers or stabilise them into a form that is less likely to flow to waterways, so the technology is exciting.

“However, they also come at a cost, so our growers need to verify that they won’t be compromising their businesses by making a switch.”

EEF60 trial sites, selected for a variety of soil and climatic conditions, will host controlled and replicated field trials.

“The project will run 30 trial sites in the Wet Tropics region, 15 in the Burdekin, 10 in the Central Region and 5 in the Southern Region,” Mr Galligan said.

“Growers who participate in EEF60 will have access to extension and agronomic support to develop a nutrient management plan and the results of the trial will allow them to make informed decisions in future seasons.”

The project is funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Environment and Energy (Reef Trust 4) and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Growers interested in hosting a trial site can contact SRA agronomists Julian Connellan in the Wet Tropics region on 4056 4514 and Nick Hill on 4963 6807 in the Burdekin, Central and Southern districts.
First 2017 Harvest Management Meeting
The following report was distributed to members on Friday 7th July 2017.

The first Harvest Management Group meeting for 2017 was held on Friday 7th July at the Inkerman Mill meeting room. Grower and Wilmar representatives reviewed the progress and other topics on the meeting agenda in all of the Burdekin mill areas for the first two weeks (three for Kalamia) of crushing.

Harvest & Transport Safety

Wilmar officers reported on an incident with a loco in the Pioneer yard where a communication issue led to a rake of full bins being shunted into a line of empties.

There was a derailment in a siding in Clare resulting in damage to several sleepers. Also Invicta loco crews have reported two near misses recently at the Shirbourne level crossing.

There was some reports of risky actions at sidings where bins are being delivered into sidings by haul out trucks whilst the loco was still working at the siding. Wilmar Logistics Officers are progressively checking that siding inductions are in place with most mill areas currently around the 75% mark completed.

Factory Performance

Appears that mills have hopefully settled down to normal crushing operations for the time being.

In the first two weeks the following major stops were encountered and addressed. These stops have put the crushing budget and availability marginally behind for season to date (01/07/17) at Invicta and Inkerman.

Cleaning stops were to be carried out the next week at Inkerman and Invicta A side on Tuesday 11th July and Kalamia on Thursday 13th July.

**Invicta** – An issue with a high priority alarm on the main incoming transformer meant the site had to go to into Island mode for electrical power. An alternators control response issue caused site blackout with a vacuum in pan while attempting restart.

Actual crush rate has been 30 tph above budget.

**Pioneer** – Liquor pipe at the exit of the storage tank was choked with debris/ scale, this has been cleared and flushed and has since been ok. Some issues early with a cable and hardware fault on Boiler 2 ID fan which have now been resolve.

Actual crush rate has been 15 tph above budget.

**Kalamia** – The Tippler slat conveyor gearbox mount broke due to an overloaded after a choke. The lift deck hydraulics have had some difficulties with heavy bins which is still to be resolved.

Actual crush rate has been 15 tph above budget.

**Inkerman** – The B Massecuite Receiver issue arose when first put into service for the season in an attempt to restart approx. 6 hrs later material had settled and the drive overloaded causing a bearing failure. This was nursed through until a stop was called to resolve this and the B shredder gearbox temperature. B shredder turbine was impacted by a small water carry over event – water in steam. The result was that additional load was being placed on the gearbox associated with this drive and the bearing was running hot. This was addressed on a stoppage with the B receiver. Boiler 2 tube leaks – a series of leaks appeared late last week – the boiler was operated through until the work could be prepared – lower steam flow to the factory has reduced crush rates and incurred some stops.

The crush rate has been below budget; evaporators are clearly working better than the 2016 crush rates with around 580 tph achieved. The 2017 budget has been set higher (~20 tph) than 2016.

Estimates, Equities & Transfers

As it is still early in the season there was not any significant issues to report on.

Estimates are currently running at 101.16% for Burdekin with individual mills indicating 101.22% for Inkerman, 100.78% for Invicta, 99.45% for Kalamia and 103% for Pioneer.

Work was still being done to produce district and individual mill harvest group equity reports similar to what has been produced and distributed in past seasons. Any grower or contractor requiring a print out of their group’s weekly equity report are advised to contact and request the reports from the relevant Wilmar Logistics Officer.

Also Wilmar have requested that growers and contractors be mindful to burn to quota when conducting last day burns.
General rates increase 1.5%

Burdekin Shire Council announced their budget for 2017/18 (click here) at a Budget Meeting held on Tuesday 27th June.

During last years election campaign half of the Councillors that were elected gave their unconditional commitment that they will vote against any General Rate increase greater than the Consumer Price Increase (CPI) and vote against any increase in the Rate in the Dollar for Category D Rural Sugar Cane until the percentage of General Rates paid by cane farmers is no more than the “total valuation of all cane farm land as a percentage of the total valuation of all land in the Shire”.

The rate increase for this year of 1.5% is below the current CPI increase of 2.1% as at March 2017. However unlike last year where general rates for Category D - Sugar Cane decreased, which was a positive step in aligning total valuation of all cane farm land as a percentage of the total valuation of all land in the Shire, this year Category D increased the 1.5%.

The general rates for this year and last year are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Rates Category</th>
<th>2017/18 cents in the dollar</th>
<th>2016/17 cents in the dollar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>1.424</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1 Rural Residential</td>
<td>1.405</td>
<td>1.384</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Commercial &amp; Industrial</td>
<td>1.581</td>
<td>1.558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1 Shopping Centre</td>
<td>2.454</td>
<td>2.418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Grazing &amp; Livestock</td>
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<td>2.431</td>
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<tr>
<td>D Sugar Cane</td>
<td>3.898</td>
<td>3.840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Rural (Other) less than 20 Ha</td>
<td>2.180</td>
<td>2.148</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1 Rural (Other) 20 Ha or more</td>
<td>3.898</td>
<td>3.840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Sugar Milling</td>
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<td>G1 Water (less than 10 Ha)</td>
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<td>G2 Water (10 Ha or more)</td>
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<td>66.775</td>
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<td>H Other</td>
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<td>1.424</td>
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Applications open for SRA Travel and Learning Awards

Sugar industry participants are encouraged to apply for a Sugar Industry Travel and Learning Award (STLA) through Sugar Research Australia (SRA). The awards offer up to $5,000 for an individual award, or $10,000 towards a workshop or event, or up to $30,000 as a contribution towards a longer term staff placement or learning opportunity.

The STLA are part of SRA’s investment in building the Australian sugarcane industry’s knowledge and capability. Dr Michael O’Shea, General Manager of the Research Funding Unit at SRA, said that applications for the awards are open and that SRA was seeking applications for innovative learning ideas.

“The awards cover a range of possible activities that will deliver benefits throughout the Australian sugarcane industry,” Dr O’Shea said. “This includes, for example, skills-development activities that could include visiting farm trials and assessing new farming methods, visiting other mills, wineries, or paper mills, and then sharing this information back with industry via an adoption activity.

“These awards are on offer to all industry participants, including growers, millers, and service providers including researchers.

“The Awards recognise that it is crucial that the Australian sugarcane industry continue in developing its skills and expertise, which includes looking at other industries and even other countries to ensure that we keep our ideas and innovation at the leading edge.

“SRA is committed to investing in research that can be adopted on farm or in the mill, providing a tangible outcome for sugarcane growers and millers. All applications will be assessed in that context of their benefit to the industry.

SRA Adoption Officer for harvesting, Mr Phil Patane, participated in an SRA STLA in 2016 to visit the major sugarcane harvesting manufacturers in the United States and Brazil. Mr Patane said that it was a valuable experience that provided professional development and also benefit to the Australian industry by building relationships with the major harvesting manufacturers.

“SRA is currently running a major integrated research and adoption program to improve harvesting efficiency, and the information I learned through this STLA is assisting me to optimise harvesting outcomes for the Australian industry,” Mr Patane said. “I encourage people with innovative ideas that have a direct benefit for the Australian sugarcane industry to apply.”

New Strategic Plan to shape the future of sugarcane research investment

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has released its new five-year Strategic Plan, following an extensive development and consultation process with growers, millers, government investors, and other stakeholders.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said SRA has listened to its investors and is responding to their call for SRA to deliver research that has a real impact on-farm, at-mill and in the communities and environment in which the sugarcane industry operates. This brand new Strategic Plan allows SRA to addresses the challenges and opportunities facing the Australian sugarcane industry with a focus on research where SRA can have the most impact. In short, SRA aims to deliver research that has a transformational impact on the profitability, sustainability, and resilience of the industry.

“Through our consultations, our investors were clear that they need SRA to be delivering tangible outputs and outcomes for sugarcane growers and millers,” Mr Fisher said. “Our investors, through the Strategic Plan, have identified particular areas of attention and investment for SRA in coming years, which includes improving the efficiency of the sugarcane breeding program, improving adoption and communication, enhancing soil health while minimising nutrient run-off, and continuing to work on the yellow canopy syndrome dilemma.

“The bottom line is that SRA exists to help put more dollars in the back pocket of growers and millers, who underpin regional jobs and economies in large areas of Queensland and NSW.

“SRA is committed to being accountable for our investment, and we do that through measuring and reporting on our performance. Our Strategic Plan has clear measures of success, and we are accountable to these measures through an annual Performance Report, and an Independent Performance Review every three years.

“SRA has also consulted widely with our Commonwealth and State Government investors, and our Strategic Plan aligns with the National Sugarcane Industry Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Strategy, the Commonwealth Government’s Science and Research Priorities and Rural Research, Development and Extension Priorities, and the Queensland Government’s Strategic Objectives for investment in the sugarcane industry.

“What sets this Strategic Plan apart from our previous plan is the establishment of four goals that underpin our research investment. These are: drive profitability, improve sustainability, enhance capability, and strengthen organisational excellence.”

The Plan also has nine specific Key Focus Areas (KFAs) for SRA’s investment: optimally adapted varieties, plant breeding and release; soil health, nutrient management and sustainability; pest disease and weed management; farming systems and harvesting; milling efficiency and technology; product diversification and value addition; knowledge and technology transfer and adoption; collaboration and capability development; and organisational effectiveness.

“Each year, our Strategic Plan is enacted through an Annual Operational Plan, which has also now been released for 2017/18,” Mr Fisher said.

“These plans ensure SRA is positioned to lead, partner and invest in research, development and adoption activities that will enable growers and millers to remain profitable and our industry resilient over the long-term.”

The Strategic Plan and the 2017/18 Annual Operational Plan have been approved by the SRA Board and the Commonwealth Government. They are available on the SRA website.
Executive comment

- Manager meeting in the CANEGROWERS Burdekin office to discuss organisational priorities and operational arrangements with the District Manager, Harvey Coe.
- Finalizing phase two of our Social License to Operate project. This phase develops the draft strategic report for a new operation to developing our social licence.
- Meeting with Qld Department of Ag to discuss progress with Cyclone Debbie recover.
- ASA Trade Committee meeting to discuss current trade priorities.
- ASA Board meeting and Social License to Operate workshop. The Board considered the draft strategy and have recommended the CANEGROWERS Board and ASMC Board consider possible funding arrangements for the next phase. The Social License Strategy will be discussed and next week’s Policy Council meeting.

Legal

- Advising district on cane fibre contracts and drafting contract extension for growers.
- Advising district in relation to issues concerning corporate governance and the making of statements outside of Board meetings.
- Advising Bundaberg grower regarding options relating to breach of lease of land and possible lease termination rights.
- Assisting Mackay office in issues relating to variation of cane supply agreement and possible termination provisions of RSSA and associated OSA and grower choice arrangements.

Electricity

- CANEGROWERS, working with National Irrigators Council, provided comments to the Sapere Research Group on the draft submission to the ACCC inquiry into electricity prices being prepared on behalf of the Australian Agricultural Industries Energy Taskforce.
  - The submission includes several sugar industry case studies that highlight the on farm investments irrigators are increasingly making to avoid the adverse impact of electricity price hikes on their businesses.
- CANEGROWERS met with QFF and CCIQ to coordinate messages on electricity ahead of the Queensland state election.

Trade

- Continuing to actively lead the industry’s efforts to improve the trade environment for sugar, CANEGROWERS briefed the ASA Trade Committee and Board on key issues:
  - Indonesia – the Prime Minister was briefed to raise Indonesia’s delayed implementation of the sugar agreement with President Widodo ahead of their G-20 meeting.
  - Japan – we are working with DFAT and Embassy staff to improve access for high pol sugar.
  - China – we are working with DFAT to limit the impact of China’s adverse safeguard finding on exports of Australian raw sugar.
  - Peru – we briefed Australian officials ahead of the first round of negotiations of the Australia-Peru free trade agreement.

Environment & Sustainability Committee

- The E&S Committee met on 6 July.
- Agenda and discussion focused on Reef Regulations and Smartcane BMP.
- The meeting outcomes will inform the Policy Council papers and upcoming Policy Council meeting.

Biosecurity

- The Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee held a phone conference to discuss a request by the Mackay region to review the Fiji Leaf Gaul resistance rating on variety Q253.
- The Committee held the decision over until the upcoming workshop on Fiji Leaf Gaul to be held in late July.

Reef Regulations

- QCGO provided its submission on the Queensland Government’s Regulatory proposals for enhancing Great Barrier Reef protection measures across agricultural activities - consultation paper.
Farm Input and Research Committee

- The farm Input and Research Committee met on Thursday 6th with the main topics covered being RD&E with the SRA Strategic Plan and the development of a CANEGROWERS Position Statement on RD&E, Transport issues around the Christmas curfew, NIR progress to pattern approval and the SRA NIR service, GM cane and the implications of Brazil now being able to produce GM cane and some discussion around the Variety Adoption Committees and their operations.

Bentley Systems and Maryland Department of Transportation

- CANEGROWERS met with Bentley Systems the Head of Technical Support at Maryland Department of Transportation. Bentley Systems provide the software that Maryland Department of Transportation use for their heavy vehicle permitting system and this was demonstrated. Maryland Department of Transport claim that 70% of their permits are approved within 2 hours and over 90% within 2 days. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has developed a similar system which will be available for agricultural vehicles at the beginning of 2018. The background information on the complete road network is critical for more automated permitting and this relies on the road managers (Transport and Main Roads and the Regional Councils). This again highlighted the need for NHVR and the road managers to cooperate.

Smartcane BMP

- Influencing practice improvement: Recent reports have highlighted the influence of participation in Smartcane BMP on farming practices, including:
  - An independent review of the Program showed that more than half of all Smartcane BMP participants report a change in practice relating to nutrient, chemical and/or irrigation management.
  - All accredited growers and stakeholders report that the program is a robust means of demonstrating stewardship.
  - The quarterly reports from district facilitators continue to document the significant influence of BMP participation on growers’ consideration and adoption of better practices.
  - A project report on Smartcane BMP training workshops which were attended by more than 800 growers and covered key aspects of best management practice, such as soil health, drainage, weeds, canegrubs, and irrigation. Participants rated these workshops very highly with most intending to change practice as a result. This training was coordinated by Belinda Billings of SRA.
  - This proves that, while the program acknowledges and verifies existing good practice, it also provides a pathway to practice improvement.
  - Participated in a webinar hosted by Bonsucro to discuss their protocol for endorsing other programs:
    - Bonsucro now plans to have a 2-level process – an entry level and an ‘improvement’ level
    - The entry level protocol will not be ready before September 2017 and the second protocol will not be ready before March 2017
    - This delay in protocol development is disappointing as Bonsucro has been major the international program used by the buyers of refined sugar (such as Coca-Cola and Cargill) to work out where other programs stand – endorsement by Bonsucro helps these buyers decide on supply chains that meet their requirements for sustainable sugar.
    - Smartcane BMP will continue to communicate its on-farm sustainability credentials through the Bonsucro network but also continue to communicate with buyers directly. It will also encourage a relationship with Bonsucro that is on more equal terms – Smartcane BMP is a high quality program in its own right and has a comprehensive coverage of farming practices related to productivity and water quality. The latter is lacking in Bonsucro.
    - Integration of Smartcane BMP practice assessment into extension and adoption programs is important for reducing duplication and for encouraging use of a common set of practice standards across industry. Participation in Smartcane BMP is now a requirement in:
      - Trust III projects in each district, which are providing extension and other support improve practices especially around nutrient management. Participating growers must benchmark in the core modules.
      - Reef Trust IV projects in Wet Tropics and Burdekin, which are additional tenders/auctions aimed at reducing N us. This requires growers to benchmark and, eventually, become accredited.
      - The MSF Project Uplift (which is part funded by Reef Trust V), requires growers to become accredited and to be at above industry standard for key practices that improve soil health including controlled traffic, fallow management, and minimum tillage.
      - The Cane Changer project, which aims to understand and communicate the day-to-day challenges facing cane farmers, their role as custodians of the land, and their ongoing efforts to adopt farming practices that help protect the Great Barrier Reef. Participating growers must benchmark in the core modules and are encouraged to seek accreditation.
Agriculture & Food Research, Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap Discussion Paper

The discussion paper demonstrates how the agriculture and food sector has changed significantly over the years, and highlights the importance of research development and extension (RD&E) for the sector. It is the first step in developing the Agriculture and Food Research Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

When completed, the Roadmap will assist in identifying the key RD&E challenges facing the Queensland agriculture and food sector, and guide how industry and government address these over the next 10 years. It will also form part of the Queensland Government’s $405 million Advance Queensland initiative.

QDAF will be conducting consultation sessions in Brisbane, Bowen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald and Toowoomba. Please visit www.qld.gov.au/agricultureroadmap to register to attend a consultation forum, or, if you are unable to attend, to submit written feedback. Consultation on the discussion paper is open until 5pm, Friday 28 July 2017.

Ideas and concerns regarding the future of agriculture and food RD&E in Queensland are welcome and will help the Department to shape the roadmap and action plan to make a difference for the sector.

If you require further information, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23, or alternatively via e-mail at AgricultureRoadmap@daf.qld.gov.au.

Have your say - complete the Biosecurity Survey

Growers are strongly encouraged to complete the survey below by Queensland Farmers’ Federation (QFF), seeking your views on the future of Queensland’s biosecurity. We need your input to ensure the industry is at the forefront of biosecurity issues.

Click HERE to fill out the five-minute survey.

Web link available HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFFbiosecurity

BMP self-assessment workshop

Terry Granshaw from Burdekin Productivity Services will be running a BMP self-assessment workshop at the BPS office Tuesday the 18th of July, from 9am to 11.30am.

To register your attendance or for more information please contact Terry on 0437 553 149.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin members are reminded that the new CANEGROWERS Burdekin Cane Supply Agreement contains incentive payments for Smartcane BMP accredited growers that CBL secured from Wilmar during the negotiation process for the CSA.

Clause 11 on Pages 81 & 82 of the CBL Collective CSA contains the qualification and payment information for the 15 cents per tonne of cane for growers who have attained their Smartcane BMP accreditation in the three core modules being:

- Module 1 – Soil Health and Nutrition Management;
- Module 2 – Irrigation and Drainage Management; and
- Module 3 – Weed, Pest and Disease management.

Payments will be made after the conclusion of the Crushing Season and within 30 Business Days following receipt of satisfactory documentary evidence of Smartcane BMP accreditation and the Mill Owner’s verification of the Cane Delivery Tonnes.

The self-assessment is a good place to start.

Have your say - complete the Biosecurity Survey

Growers are strongly encouraged to complete the survey below by Queensland Farmers’ Federation (QFF), seeking your views on the future of Queensland’s biosecurity. We need your input to ensure the industry is at the forefront of biosecurity issues.

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Web link available HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFFbiosecurity
A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Party Government will join forces with farmers and industry to address out of control electricity prices. LNP Leader Tim Nicholls said farmers could not grow their businesses or plan for the future when weighed down by crippling power prices.

“Farmers are facing astronomical electricity price rises due to poor policy decisions by this do-nothing Labor Government,” Mr Nicholls said. “This year alone electricity prices on farm and irrigation tariffs are increasing by up to 5.1 percent. This is almost triple the rate of inflation.

“It isn’t good enough and it’s why the Liberal National Party is establishing the Agriculture Energy and Water Council.

“This Council will bring farmers, Ministers and Energy Queensland to the table to tackle critical issues such as tariff reform and spiralling prices.

“The LNP set up the Council in late 2014 as many farmers faced the prospect of electricity prices doubling in 2020 when the obsolete tariffs ended. “Labor axed the Council when it came to Government but we will bring it back and make it bigger and better should we be elected.”

LNP Shadow Minister for Energy Michael Hart said it was disgraceful when Labor’s so called ‘energy minister’ blamed farmers recently for higher electricity prices.

“Labor policy such as loading $5 billion of debt onto power companies has meant Queenslanders are paying more than ever to keep the lights on and the irrigation pumps going,” Mr Hart said.

LNP Shadow Agriculture Minister Dale Last said the new and improved Council will be expanded to include the Queensland Farmers’ Federation, AgForce and Canegrowers.

“One of the first things Labor did was to scrap our Agriculture Energy Council and because of Labor’s inaction, tariff reform has stalled and nearly three years has been wasted,” Mr Last said.

“Through the Council the LNP will also look at water, given the movement of water is a major source of electricity use.

“If we can sort out electricity and water then we can ensure every farming family has a future.”

The purpose of the Agriculture Energy and Water Council will be to:

- Develop further collaboration between Queensland Farmers’ Federation, AgForce, Canegrowers and the LNP to consider energy-related issues of the agriculture industry
- Provide strategic oversight to existing Government assistance packages for the agriculture industry, which is facing substantial change and uncertainty in relation to electricity, and
- Coordinate management of electricity and water as key agricultural inputs

Mr Nicholls said relevant LNP Shadow Ministers will start working with Queensland Farmers’ Federation, AgForce and Canegrowers even before an election is called.

“We want this Council to begin now so that if we are elected we can hit the ground running,” Mr Nicholls said.

“The agricultural industry can’t face electricity price increases of 50 - 100 percent all by itself. The LNP will listen, plan and act on electricity prices.”

To learn more about Our Plan visit betterqueensland.org.au
1. QFF was proud to help facilitate the successful Rural Press Club event last week discussing the future of agricultural crop insurance in Queensland. ABC Rural article HERE, ABC Qld Country Hour HERE (Listen from 14.00) QCL event write up HERE.

2. How do we prepare for the changing agriculture workforce? QFF & the Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance (RJSA) take a look in last week’s QCL column HERE.

3. The State Government has released its Agriculture and Food Research, Development & Extension (RD&E) 10-year Roadmap: Discussion Paper. Consultations are being held in Cairns, Bowen, Brisbane & Toowoomba. Details HERE.

4. QFF’s 4-part Energy Month series looking into the state of Queensland electricity crisis has concluded, but you can see the complete package HERE. Thanks to the QCL for publishing these important articles throughout June 2017.

5. Biosecurity authorities have vowed not to give up the fight to eradicate imported red fire ants, despite suffering a major setback last week with the discovery of a new nest on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast. Details HERE.

6. The Queensland Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance (RJSA) latest e-news including sector workforce analysis, updates from the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN) and discussion on STEM importance can be seen HERE.

7. QFF industry member CANEGROWERS has celebrated passing the 200 accredited Smartcane BMP grower mark. See how Queensland’s cane growers are doing their part to reduce their impact on the Reef HERE.

8. Did you catch the winter edition of the Reef Alliance’s e-news? See the latest edition HERE. Stay up to date on agricultural Reef Alliance related news HERE (sign up at bottom of page).

9. QFF has commended the Lockyer Valley Regional Council for implementing the Resilient Rivers Initiative that proactively addresses the health of its rivers and mitigates the impact of future natural disasters. Details HERE.

10. Australian farmers are getting older according to the ABS. The average farmer is 56-years-old, 17 years older than average Australian worker who is 39 years old. Details HERE.

Movement of over-width agricultural vehicles
A sustained CANEGROWERS campaign last year secured road access for growers needing to move wide agricultural vehicles.

The conditions for movement vary depending on the width of the vehicle and region. This outcome, negotiated with the Queensland Police and Department of Transport and Main Roads, avoids the need for growers to apply for individual permits. Click on the guidelines document below for the full conditions.

Growers are urged to comply with all of the conditions and use appropriate signage and pilots, where required. Failure to do so could jeopardise the future of the arrangements and put the grower in a position of liability should there be an accident.

CANEGROWERS has made a member’s only deal with Artcraft in Townsville for signs should they be required. Your CANEGROWERS membership number must be provided to get the special prices listed here. The company can be contacted on 4774 5255 or by email at tnvsales@artcraft.com.au

Operating guideline for the Movement of over-width Agricultural Vehicles and Combinations in the Queensland Sugar Cane Industry 2016
Pricing information

2016 Season Advances & Payments
as at 8 June 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>$267</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August 16*</td>
<td>$326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October 16*</td>
<td>$368</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 16*</td>
<td>$383</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 January 17*</td>
<td>$423</td>
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<td>23 February 17*</td>
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<td>1 August 17</td>
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* 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 2016 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2016 will be paid the same percentage of their final expected proceeds. For individual advance rates check your grower forecast on the Wilmar website.

Estimated QSL Pool Prices
As at 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed 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 2-season Forward Pool</td>
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*Please note: Wilmar Growers are reminded that the 2017 Actively Managed and Guaranteed Floor pool values listed below are not applicable to Wilmar Growers. Results for the Wilmar-Grower versions of these two pools will be published shortly.

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.

QSL Indicative ICE 11 prices
as at 14 July 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>AUD/MT</th>
<th>CHANGE SINCE PREVIOUS CLOSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 - OCT17</td>
<td>397.13</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 - MAR18</td>
<td>418.43</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 - MAY18</td>
<td>420.43</td>
<td>3.03%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>431.00</td>
<td>2.49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>442.65</td>
<td>2.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>440.98</td>
<td>2.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures quoted above are indicative of available ICE 11 prices as at the current date and reflect the weighted average AUD/mt price. The prices have been adjusted to include Over-the-Counter (OTC) margin fees charged by banking institutions and, therefore, may differ from daily prices quoted by the ICE #11 Exchange and/or other Marketers of Growers’ Economic Interest in Sugar (GEI Sugar). Values also do not account for any adjustments resulting from local grower-miller pricing arrangements.

For more information, view the latest QSL Market Snapshot here.
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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Please direct all advertising enquiries and materials to the above.

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Burdekin Cane Auditors—Workplace Coordinators

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invicta</td>
<td>Ray Collinson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ray@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au">ray@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au</a></td>
<td>4782 9153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamia</td>
<td>Vicki Lewis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicki@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au">vicki@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au</a></td>
<td>4783 0319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pioneer</td>
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<td>4782 5346</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:mark@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au">mark@burdekinincaneaudit.com.au</a></td>
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