Update on the 2017 Agreements

On Wednesday 6th July the CANEGROWERS Alliance, together with CANEGROWERS solicitor Chris Cooper and Head-Economics Warren Males, meet with Wilmar at CANEGROWERS Hall, Home Hill.

The CANEGROWERS Alliance comprises CANEGROWERS Burdekin, Herbert River, Proserpine and Plane Creek .... a group that represents 10 million tonnes of cane or 60% of Wilmar’s cane supply.

Canegrowers Burdekin representatives included Chair Phil Marano, Deputy Chair Owen Menkens, Managers Wayne Smith and Debra Burden.

The main purpose of this long awaited meeting was for Wilmar to present an overview of their proposed agreements for 2017-2019 and to provide the CANEGROWERS Alliance with an opportunity to gain an initial understanding of Wilmar's offer, in particular how Wilmar intends to comply with the legislation and how grower choice in marketing will be offered.

It would be fair to say that we were disappointed that Wilmar did not provide or distribute copies of their proposed agreements at the meeting, particularly as the Plane Creek and Proserpine representatives had travelled considerable distances to attend the meeting. Wilmar have stated these agreements will be distributed to collectives Friday 08/07/2016.

At the meeting various Wilmar representatives spoke to a presentation (click here). Part of the presentation was a high level overview of the key documents for 2017-2019. These key documents include:

1. Cane Supply Agreement … this agreement, as is now the case will be an agreement between a grower and the Mill and, as has previously been the case, this agreement for CBL will be collectively bargained between the Mill and CBL.

2. Molasses Gain Share Agreement … Wilmar are proposing that the payments relating to molasses be removed from the CSA and put into a separate agreement. Wilmar are also proposing that collective bargaining is not available to negotiate this agreement. Obviously we have a different view and there will be further discussion to occur.

3. Grower Economic Interest Sugar Sales Agreement … this is an agreement between the Mill Owner and GEI Marketers (such as QSL) … Growers are not part of this agreement and it is an agreement that will be negotiated between Wilmar and QSL. We understand the first meeting between Wilmar and QSL was to occur on Thursday 7th July.

4. Grower Economic Interest Sugar Marketing Agreement … this is the agreement growers will enter into if they wish to forward price. Wilmar are calling their document a Pricing and Pooling Agreement and have stated that this is not a document that is open for negotiation. Also, growers will not be able to forward price via QSL with the Wilmar document and to forward price with QSL would need to occur via a separate document.

Growers can be assured that we will be doing everything within our power to progress this negotiation to an acceptable outcome whilst balancing growers need to forward price.

Once we receive Wilmar’s proposed agreements we will be able to gain a better understanding of Wilmar’s proposal.

For further information we encourage members to contact Managers Debra Burden (0417 709 435) or Wayne Smith (0428 834 802) or Chairman Phil Marano (0404 004 371) or Deputy Chair Owen Menkens (0409 480 179).

As at Friday afternoon we have now received copies of Wilmar’s proposed agreements for 2017-2019 and we are considering our response.
Crush statistics

**Burdekin Tonnes Cut Per Week**

Week 4 as at 02/07/2016

- **Invicta**: 284,810 Tones
- **Pioneer**: 33,436 Tones
- **Kalamia**: 22,993 Tones
- **Inkerman**: 217,955 Tones

**Burdekin CCS Per Week**

- **Week 1**: 2014 - 12.81, 2015 - 12.39, 2016 - 11.87
- **Week 2**: 2014 - 12.41, 2015 - 12.84, 2016 - 12.22
- **Week 3**: 2014 - 12.52, 2015 - 13.35, 2016 - 10.94

**Comments:**

A total of 33,000 tonnes of cane was crushed for the week, as crushing resumed at Invicta and Kalamia mills after the rain event on June 19.

Inkerman and Pioneer will recommence crushing in the coming week.

Train movements have resumed in all milling areas. Parents and guardians are encouraged to remind children not to play around trains during their school holidays.

**Steve Postma**
Cane Supply Manager

**Have your Harvester and Haulout drivers completed a siding induction**

This week highlights the importance of those working on the Wilmar sidings of having completed an induction with a haulout driver in a stable condition after being reversed over at a siding. To complete an online induction email BKNCSTOperations@wilmar.com.au for password and access to the site.

Safety around train lines is also of importance with Wilmar representatives encouraging motorists to approach all cane railway with caution, obey all signs and signals and always give way to oncoming cane trains., with locomotive derailments already happening four weeks into the crush.
Take the hassle out of the New Financial Year with CANEGROWERS Professional Services

Did you know that CANEGROWERS Burdekin provides professional services at highly competitive prices that are available for ALL kinds of businesses?

These “Professional Services” include Payroll, Bookkeeping (tailored for your needs), Marketing services including Social media, Website establishment and Newsletters and Company Secretary services. Click here for our brochure outlining the services available.

The beginning of the financial year is the perfect time to take up our services, with the new superstream obligations for small business and new Award rates for employees you can take the worry out of payroll knowing our fully qualified and trained staff will ensure you are compliant.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin is a registered BAS Agent with a registered Individual BAS Agent overseeing the services we offer. We have been providing payroll services since the 1990s and bookkeeping and administration services to a number of industry organisations over the past ten years.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin are now extending these services to all businesses at competitive rates, if you would like to know more contact our staff on 4790 3600.

New Sugar Industry Award rates
As at the 1st July 2016 the minimum wage increased 2.4% as well as the Modern Awards, the new rates for Sugar Cane field workers are reproduced below.

![Sugar Industry Award rates](image-url)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>$ Week</th>
<th>$ Hour</th>
<th>$ Single Contract</th>
<th>$ Casual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation / Cane Employees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / Trainee (Youths under 18 years)</td>
<td>422.97</td>
<td>11.13</td>
<td>12.80</td>
<td>13.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / Trainee (Youths 18 to under 19 years)</td>
<td>528.71</td>
<td>13.91</td>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>17.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / Trainee</td>
<td>679.10</td>
<td>17.87</td>
<td>20.55</td>
<td>22.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>730.00</td>
<td>19.21</td>
<td>22.09</td>
<td>24.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>755.30</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>24.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cane Haulage Employees – Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / Trainee</td>
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<td>18.75</td>
<td>21.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>755.30</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>24.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cane Harvesting Employees – Adults</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / Trainee</td>
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<td>19.21</td>
<td>22.09</td>
<td>24.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>755.30</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>22.86</td>
<td>24.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>783.30</td>
<td>20.61</td>
<td>23.70</td>
<td>25.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One of the components of the Rural Water Use Efficiency Irrigation Futures project is the financial incentives scheme (FIS). This scheme provides funding for growers to make changes to their irrigation systems to improve irrigation efficiency that will minimise deep drainage and reduce the volume of water contributing to groundwater rise. The financial incentives are available to all cane growers in the Burdekin Groundwater Management area as well as Millaroo, Dalbeg and Leichhardt.

Many growers have already taken advantage of the FIS to assist them with installing infrastructure that will allow them to irrigate more efficiently and reduce losses of irrigation water to deep drainage. Some of the projects that have been funded have been for new pipelines and risers to replace fluming; trickle irrigation as an alternative to furrow; and recycling systems to allow higher inflow rates to be used. Other potential projects could include: installing sensors and telemetry to remotely manage irrigation, automation equipment, and irrigation scheduling tools.

Projects are funded on a dollar for dollar basis, up to a maximum of $40,000 per grower. For more information on the RWUE-IF program contact Marian Davis on 0428 927 079.

The SOI phase for the end of June has been classified as being in a ‘near zero phase’.

The SOI to the end of June was close to plus 3.8 (+3.8) putting this recent phase within the ‘Near Zero Phase category’. The SOI has appeared to stall in its upward momentum, at least for the time being.

Longer term: Long-term climate/ocean models continue to show a fair amount of spread in their outlooks: some model runs suggest near-La Niña conditions and other model runs show closer to a neutral pattern.

Climate forecast outputs are varying quite considerably at the moment.

SOI (phase)-based outputs now show the most likely probability values are regions for average to below average rainfall for most (sugar) regions, while General Circulation Models (eg BoM output) are more bullish and suggest high probability of above median rainfall - albeit mostly for more southern

Click here for the full report.
Workplace Health and Safety QLD launch year-long audit

Queensland’s workplace health and safety have launched a year-long audit campaign that aims to raise awareness of the risks between mobile plant and pedestrians and help workplaces implement effective traffic management strategies. The project is aiming to reduce the number of fatalities and severity of injuries involving people being hit by mobile plant and vehicles at the workplace. This includes Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors visiting workplaces to raise awareness of the risks and help to implement effective traffic management strategies.

The campaign is statewide where inspectors will be predominately visiting construction, agriculture, manufacturing, transport and logistic industries where mobile plant and other vehicles are in use.

There will be three phases to the worksite assessments:

Phase one - July to September 2016
Phase two - February to April 2017
Phase three - August to September 2017

Click here for more information or visit Worksafe.qld.gov.au and search “Onsite traffic management and pedestrian safety project”

National Feral Cat Management Survey

RMIT University is seeking volunteers to participate in their 5 minute National Feral Cat Management Survey to help gain better understanding of feral cat management across the nation.

The survey is being conducted by Mr Richard Faulkner, Dr Georgia Garrad and Associate Professor Sarah Bekessy at RMIT University, with the aim to determine the extent to which feral cat control is occurring across Australia and to estimate the number of feral cats that are removed from the environment each year and is also seeking to understand how efforts to control feral cats are changing over time. Take part in the survey HERE.

AgTrends update

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries AgTrends update for April 2016 has now been released and is available here.

The forecast for sugar cane is The GVP of sugar cane for 2015–16 is forecast to be $1.141 billion, a 15% increase on the October 2015 forecast and 5% greater than the average for the past 5 years.

Queensland’s crop of sugar cane reached 32.7 million tonnes for the 2015–16 season. This exceeded the 31.5 million tonnes predicted in October 2015. The final average CCS (commercial cane sugar) of 13.97 exceeded the 13.75 units predicted in October, but was slightly down on the 14.1 units achieved for the 2014–15 season.

As at 26 February 2016, Queensland Sugar Limited estimated its harvest pool return to be $383 per tonne IPS (international polarity scale). This was $32 per tonne (9.1%) higher than the October forecast.

This trend of rising sugar prices was anticipated by ABARES, based on the expectation that global consumption will exceed production. The upward trend in sugar prices is expected to continue into the 2016–17 harvest season as demand begins to deplete world carryover stocks.
Behaviour Change Project

Project Cane Changer is an initiative designed to value and recognise Queensland’s sugar cane farmers for their role as custodians of the land and their ongoing efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Headed by the team at Behaviour Innovation, in partnership with CANEGROWERS and supported by the Queensland Government, Cane Changer is built on the simple concept that valuing, acknowledging and reinforcing farmers for their positive farming behaviours is pivotal to improving farming practices.

John Pickering, Jinny Hong and Sue Pillon from Behaviour Innovations have been continuing their engagement in the Wet Tropics with meetings in Mossman, Tablelands, Cairns, Tully, Innisfail and Herbert River last week. This follows on from their initial meetings in the region several weeks ago and their attendance in the CANEGROWERS Induction meeting in Townsville. To date, John and his team have engaged with over 140 different individuals from the cane industry.

A key aspect to the first phase of the project is to hear the voice of as many growers as possible. The team is asking all growers who are interested in providing important insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the industry to participate in a short survey. To have your say, visit www.behaviourinnovation.com/pcc

Data hub

CANEGROWERS participated in a progress report for the Consultative Committee of the ‘Sugar Industry Productivity and Data Recording Spatial Data Hub for Research and Extension’ project. The objective is to collect spatial mill data (mostly block, productivity, class, variety, CCS etc.) from all mills and put it into a consistent format for the use of research and extension i.e. yield by variety by ratoon by soil type. All mill areas except two have agreed to participate. The data once “cleaned and collated” will only be available from the individual mill areas through the current agreement processes, not directly from the data hub.


CANEGROWERS attended the Renewable Energy Expert Panel - Industry Forum. The Queensland Government is committed to increasing the uptake of renewable energy with one of the objective to establishing a credible pathway for up to 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030.

Transport Operational Industry Sub-Committee (OISC)

CANEGROWERS attended the second OISC meeting which is a sub-committee of the Queensland Ministerial Freight Council. This covers all freight but the issue of importance on the agenda was the access for over dimensional agricultural vehicles. AgForce, Cotton Australia and Growcom all had similar issues to cane growers with the current permitting system and a specific workshop will be held to address this.

Reef

CANEGROWERS attended the RP150P Project (Reef Plan Practice Change Monitoring and Evaluation Framework) workshop to discuss the draft recommendations of the project.

This project targets the monitoring and evaluation of investments aligned to Actions 5 and 6 of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. The purpose of the project is to develop an improved Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework for those Reef Plan investments that specifically relate to management practice adoption. The framework aims to enhance the current Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program. It is proposed to apply the framework across the Queensland Government as well as its collaborative partners and contractors.

Biosecurity Roundtable

CANEGROWERS attended the 2016 Queensland Biosecurity Roundtable (roundtable) on 15 June 2016. The roundtable is an annual event that gives biosecurity stakeholders the opportunity to engage directly with their federal, state and territory government representatives.

Continues next page
Cane Biosecurity Committee Meeting

The Cane Biosecurity Committee met on 22 June 2016. The attendees included CANEGROWERS, ACFA, SRA, QDAF, NSW Cane growers and CPS representation.

The items discussed included:

- Queensland Government new biosecurity regulations for sugarcane – which also touched on Pest Quarantine Areas, variety approval, plant material and machinery movement.

- PHA update - half yearly update on PHA, minor amendments have been made to the EPPRD, Sugarcane Biosecurity Plan which has been finalised and the draft Sugarcane Biosecurity Manual.

- Biosecurity levy - Cane industry needs to manage biosecurity into the future, particularly around how we fund PHA.

- Red Witchweed update - Red Witchweed has been contained on the 6 properties, is in the eradication phase being led by Biosecurity Queensland.


- Australian Government biosecurity regulations and consultation process - The Australian government have been developing regulation and putting them out to industry for comment.

- Fire ants - Rocky point growers looking to transfer cane to NSW mill for crush due to mill issue, fire ants the main issue. Requires going out of restricted zone and across the border.

Biosecurity update

Varroa mite (Varroa jacobsoni) detection in Townsville

Biosecurity Queensland is conducting surveillance in the Townsville area after the exotic bee parasite varroa mite was confirmed in a feral Asian honey bee hive detected near the port.

The feral Asian honey bee hive was reported to the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in late June by local stevedores.

Varroa mites are a serious pest and a threat to the local honey bee industry. Certain species and strains can infest European honey bees, killing off hives and severely affecting honey production and pollination services.

Queensland Chief Plant Health Manager with Biosecurity Queensland Mike Ashton said CSIRO had confirmed that the mites collected were the species Varroa jacobsoni.

“Asian honey bees are the natural host of this species of varroa mite. However, a recent report by the CSIRO has shown for the first time this species reproducing on European honey bee and it is this strain that we are most concerned about,” he said.

“This strain is known to be widespread in Papua New Guinea. “Asian honey bee is not known to be established in Townsville and to date, no further feral Asian honey bee hives have been found in the area where this hive was located and then destroyed.

“Biosecurity Queensland is conducting surveillance within a 10 km radius around the detection, which will include surveillance of managed and feral hives, and traps set to attract bees.

“While Asian honey bees have been established in parts of Far North Queensland centred around Cairns for some years, varroa mites are not known to be present in this population.

“Biosecurity Queensland’s quarantine and surveillance program includes surveillance of managed and feral hives, and traps set to attract bees. Restrictions have been imposed on the movement of bee hives, bees, bee products (excluding honey), and used bee keeping equipment from the Townsville area to prevent any possible spread of the mite.

“We are keen to examine a number of managed hives in the Townsville area to ensure they are not infested with varroa mite. We are also asking the public to report feral hives so they can be sampled and destroyed to prevent any spread of the mite.”

If you know of feral bee hives in the Townsville area, or see Asian honey bees or suspect your bees have been affected, call the Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
Major holistic and strategic investment in harvest losses

New Research Investment to Help Sugarcane Industry Increase the Size of the Harvest Pie

The costly and significant problem of sugarcane harvest losses will receive a major research investment boost, thanks to a new $5.5 million announcement as part of the Commonwealth Government’s Rural R&D for Profit Programme.

Losses from mechanical sugarcane harvesting have been conservatively estimated to cost the Australian sugarcane industry $150 million per year.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, today announced a new project to address this major issue as part of round two of the Rural R&D for Profit Programme.

“This project will see Sugar Research Australia (SRA) as the Industry Owned Corporation for research and development collaborate with a range of other organisations to address strategic research and adoption issues relating to harvest losses,” SRA Chairman Dr Ron Swindells said. “This is a massive investment in a priority area of research. This investment offers significant potential for gains for our $1.5 billion sugarcane growing and milling industry.”

Dr Swindells said that the industry already understood that significant amounts of sugar were lost during the mechanical harvesting process, with further issues associated with future ratoon crops of cane, and overall sugar quality. SRA has identified reducing the losses from mechanical harvesting as one of four priority Impact Areas of research investment. This new investment will allow SRA to collaboratively address research gaps and work toward the best outcome for the industry.

“We know that the industry could be sharing a greater ‘harvest pie’. This research will deliver valuable information about the true size of that pie, and how all sectors of the industry can increase the size of their slice.

“SRA welcomes the commitment from Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, and the Federal Government toward this vital sugarcane industry research.

“Benefits will flow throughout regional communities and economies, which makes this research investment a win for growers, a win for harvester drivers, a win for millers, a win for the community, and a win for industry stakeholders.”

Project collaborators include the Queensland University of Technology, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Norris ECT, Agtrix, and MSF Sugar.

Across the project, investment includes $3.5M from the Commonwealth and $1.7M from SRA, with additional contributions from the other collaborators.

Sugarcane Smut: 10 Years on

It has been 10 years since sugarcane smut was first discovered within the east coast sugarcane industry. However, the industry’s progress in managing this disease started far before the initial discovery at Childers in 2006. In fact, sugarcane industry researchers had been preparing for smut ahead in the preceding years, working in places including the Ord (WA) and Indonesia (click here) for the full article.
Update on the Vegetation Management Amendment Bill 2016

The Queensland Government made several commitments during the 2015 election campaign, in representations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and in the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan). The Government made these commitments on the believe these commitments would protect the Great Barrier Reef. Flowing from these commitments the Government put forward the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill).

Objects of the Bill

The Government stated that the Bill’s objectives were to:

- Reinstate a responsible vegetation management framework to more effectively manage vegetation clearing in Queensland thereby reducing clearing rates and consequential carbon emissions
- Guard against excessive clearing of riparian vegetation, especially in the Great Barrier Reef catchments
- Amend the Water Act 2000 (Water Act) to reinstate the application of the riverine protection permit framework to destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring, and
- Amend the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 (EO Act) to reinstate environmental offset requirements that ensure adequate conservation outcomes for prescribed environmental matters.

The Bill would amend the vegetation management framework to reinstate many of the provisions which were in the Vegetation Management Act 1999 prior to the changes made by the former Government in 2013. The Bill would prohibit clearing of high value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture, reinstate protections for high value regrowth to freehold and indigenous land, extend the existing protections for regrowth vegetation in watercourses and reinstate the onus of proof and remove the mistake of fact defence for vegetation clearing offences.

The Bill was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee on 17 March 2016 and the Committee was required to report by 30 June 2016 (click here for the full report) on whether or not to recommend the Bill be passed. The Committee examined the Bill and received 688 individual submissions and 871 form submissions. As would be expected, the Bill polarised views amongst submitters – with environmental and conservative groups supporting the Bill, whilst landholders and peak bodies strongly opposed the Bill. The Committee also undertook site visits to three Stations, held two public briefings and eight public hearings. Manager Wayne Smith presented at the Townsville session on 18 May 2016 and separately CANEGROWERS Queensland presented its case alongside QFF and Cotton. The message to the Committee was reject the Bill and enter into constructive discussion on how to make vegetation management work for all parties.

Outcome from the Committee

The Committee was unable to reach a majority decision as to whether the Bill be passed. The Committee did, however, agree unanimously with the following five recommendations.

1. The committee recommends that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines explains to the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, the consultation process that will be undertaken on the updated self-assessable codes, including details of who will be consulted.

2. The committee recommends that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines provides an update, during the second reading debate on the Bill, on the steps, including the associated timescales, that will be taken:

   - to improve the accuracy of vegetation mapping, and
   - to proactively engage with landholders to provide them with updated property maps of assessable vegetation which correct any inaccuracies.

3. The committee recommends that the element of clause 6 of the Bill, which inserts new section 67A into the Vegetation Management Act 1999 to reverse the onus of proof in relation to vegetation clearing offences, be omitted.

4. The committee recommends that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection engage with the property, resources and development sectors to assess and establish the full impact of the proposed amendments to the environmental offsets regime in Queensland.

5. The committee recommends that the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef informs the House, during the second reading debate on the Bill, of the outcome of the assessment of the impacts, including potential costs, of the proposed amendments to the environmental offset regime and if any actions will be
General Meeting of QSL Members

A General Meeting of Members was held in Brisbane on Tuesday 5 July 2016 to consider proposed changes to QSL’s Constitution in relation to industry director appointments to the QSL Board. These changes were contained in two resolutions put forward by Bundaberg Sugar Limited, Isis Central Sugar Mill Company Limited and Mackay Sugar Limited (BIM).

QSL Members voted to pass both resolutions to amend QSL’s Constitution.

The changes to QSL’s Constitution are the subject of Federal Court Proceedings commenced by BIM on 14 June, 2016. BIM is seeking a declaration from the Court that the changes to the QSL Constitution are not oppressive to, or discriminatory against members of QSL. This matter is scheduled to be heard in the Federal Court on 29-30 August 2016 and QSL will keep members informed as to the outcome of these proceedings.

RSSA rollover update

Following a request from Bundaberg Sugar Limited, Isis Central Sugar Mill Company Limited and Mackay Sugar Limited, the QSL Board has extended the rollover period for the current Raw Sugar Supply Agreement (RSSA) to 15 December 2016.

The RSSA currently in place covers the term of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Seasons.

Each 30 June, the term of the RSSA automatically extends another Season (rollover), unless a Supplier (Miller) provides a notice to have the agreement terminate at end of their current term.

The option provided by QSL to BIM means the automatic extension to the supply agreements into the 2019 Season has been delayed until 15 December 2016.

The RSSA will automatically extend at 15 December 2016 unless BIM provides a notice prior to this date to have their RSSA conclude at the end of 2018 Season.

Marketing Choice Update

It is encouraging to see some progress in negotiations between Wilmar and its supplying grower collectives regarding Cane Supply Agreements (CSAs) for the 2017 Season.

As these CSA negotiations continue, QSL’s primary focus remains on securing the necessary On-Supply Agreement (OSA) between QSL and Wilmar to ensure growers supplying Wilmar mills can exercise the Marketing Choice provided to them under the new legislation and access QSL’s products and services.

Read Greg’s Update here:


Growers wanting to discuss QSL’s product offering for 2017 are encouraged to contact QSL’s Industry Relationship Managers Cathy Kelly or Carla Keith. Their contact details are provided at the top of this Update.
Pricing information

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.

### 2016 Season Advances & Payments
as at 6 June 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August 16</td>
<td>$302</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October 16</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 16</td>
<td>$349</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 January 17</td>
<td>$394</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February 17</td>
<td>$381</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March 17</td>
<td>$404</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 April 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 June 17</td>
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<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$462</td>
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</tr>
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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 2015 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2015 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 17 June 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2015</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
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<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$437</td>
<td>$477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$442</td>
<td>$495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Waterfind Burdekin
Haughton WSS Water Market Summary
As at 8 July 2016

#### Temporary Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Total Sell Vol</th>
<th>Total Buy Vol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$24</td>
<td>200 ML</td>
<td>0 ML</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Lowest Sell Order

- 200ML @ $39/ML

#### Highest Buy Order

- Buyers Wanted

#### Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices
as at 8 July 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season</td>
<td>$498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Season</td>
<td>$472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dam Storage

- Dam: Burdekin
- Current Volume (ML): 1,692,990
- % of Total Capacity: 91%

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](#).

![Burdekin Falls Dam Assessable Capacity Percentage](image)

**91.1%**

7 July 2016
QRAA’s interest rates drop further to benefit Queensland farmers

Queensland primary producers continue to benefit from low interest rates to assist them increase productivity, improve profitability and make their start in agriculture, with QRAA announcing their latest rates effective 1 July 2016.

The new concessional interest rates under the Queensland Government’s Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES), apply to newly drawn Sustainability and First Start Loans.

The new rates, which are 3.24 per cent for one year, 3.11 per cent for three years and 3.22 per cent for five years, reflect an incredible opportunity for primary producers to access funds tailored to their requirements.

QRAA Chief Executive Officer, Cameron MacMillan, said he is pleased that QRAA’s rates remain low and is encouraged by how proactive Queensland producers have been by making QRAA their long-term financial partner.

“QRAA plays an important role in nurturing the future of our rural sector – our First Start Loans are helping many rural families to implement succession plans, allowing the next generation of farmers to achieve their agribusiness goals.

“Our Sustainability loans are also allowing producers to invest in infrastructure and new innovations - maximising productivity and improving their future profitability.”

“Many of our clients also return to QRAA for new lending down the track – it’s fantastic to see Queensland producers benefit from a long term partnership with us.”

One example is Simon and Kerry McCarthy of Gracekate farm near Nobby, who have purchased and improved their vegetable farm using multiple PIPES loans.

“We really couldn’t have done this without QRAA – they have kept faith in us all along, and have made it easier to manage by setting up our payment schedule so it’s due after harvest time each year, which is extremely helpful,” Kerry said.

Over the past 12 months, QRAA has approved 109 Sustainability Loans valued at over $31.1 million, and 80 First Start Loans also for a total of more than $31.4 million. Mr MacMillan said he was confident the low interest rates would attract many more producers wanting to increase productivity or make a start in agriculture.

“Our consistently low interest rates help free up valuable funds that can be put to good use elsewhere in the business,” Mr MacMillan said.

Mr MacMillan urged farmers who are thinking about succession planning, or are wanting to improve their productivity and sustainability, to contact QRAA. QRAA - MEDIA RELEASE 2

“QRAA has Client Liaison Officers across Queensland who are available to meet on-farm to discuss loan criteria, terms and conditions and assist with the application process – give them a call today,” he said.

In addition to concessional interest rates, Sustainability and First Start Loans feature lending limits of up to $650,000, no fees or charges and repayment terms of up to 20 years. Primary producers also have the option of using joint lending with commercial banks if they need additional finance.

For further information visit www.qraa.qld.gov.au or contact QRAA on Freecall 1800 623 946.
Meeting
John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council
Tuesday 12th July, 5pm

C.J. COOPER
& ASSOCIATES
SOLICITORS
free call
1800 177 159

CANEGROWERS members
For free advice on legal issues contact
Canegrowers’ legal advisor
Chris Cooper

DATES TO REMEMBER
Sugar Industry Calendar
Click here

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to receive more information

SUICIDE - TAKING ON THE LAST TABOO
JOIN THE RIPPLE EFFECT

SUICIDE IS KILLING US.
Every farmer knows someone who has taken their life.
Every friend and family has lived with the collateral damage.
The ripple effect of that loss tears apart the fabric of family and community.

BUT YOU CAN HELP CHANGE THAT!
If we are going to turn back the tide of suicide on farms we need to know what people on farms are thinking. We need to know what you are thinking.
We want you to sign up for an anonymous survey – if you are aged over 18 please help us help you and your community.
It does not take much time and can be done where and when it suits you. But we need people from every state and territory to sign up.
The survey results will enable planners, researchers and government to fully realise the extent of the problem – and start developing ways to address it.
But it begins with you and signing up for our survey.

SIGN NOW AND HELP SAVE A LIFE – MAYBE EVEN YOUR LIFE.

WHAT CAN I DO?
- Log on www.rippleeffect.com.au
- Register, then participate - tell your story, hear farmers' stories
- Talk to anyone about the Ripple Effect
- Share on Facebook
- Distribute Ripple Effect flyers through your rural networks

Contact Alison on (03) 5551 8587 for more information.

Meeting
John Hy Peake Room, Burdekin Shire Council
Tuesday 12th July, 5pm

C.J. COOPER
& ASSOCIATES
SOLICITORS
free call
1800 177 159

CANEGROWERS members
For free advice on legal issues contact
Canegrowers’ legal advisor
Chris Cooper
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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Burdekin Cane Auditors—Workplace Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4782 9153</td>
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