We need your help

Call for Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct Submissions

Individuals and organisations can now make a submission to the Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct Taskforce established by the Abbott Government. The taskforce will consider the need for a code of conduct within the sugar industry and if such a code should be mandatory. Submissions should include any information or recommendations relating to a possible Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct, particularly with reference to:

- The concept that growers’ have an “economic interest” in the sugar they supply to the mill;
- The growers’ ability to choose a marketing entity for their “economic interest”;
- Transparency of sugar marketing activities;
- The mill supply contract negotiation process;
- Protecting growers from discrimination by millers;
- Arbitration where agreement cannot be reached as part of a contract negotiation process;
- The encourage of investment in high-quality mills, milling procedures and marketing arrangements;
- The facilitation of financial returns for growers;
- State and Commonwealth Acts relating to the sugar industry and competition; and
- Codes of conduct in other industries.

Submissions should be made to the Taskforce Chair, George Christensen via email: George.Christensen.MP@aph.gov.au

Submissions close 5pm April 17.
For further information, phone (07) 4944 0662.

Last year we put out a call for growers to make written submissions for the Senate Inquiry into the “Current and Future arrangements for the marketing of Australian Sugar”. Many growers took up this call and put pen to paper to express their thoughts and frustrations on this important topic.

These submissions had an enormous positive impact on the Senate public hearing held in Townsville last Friday. See page two of canenews for a link to a clip of Senator Barry O’Sullivan’s speech to the Senate whereby he states “These farmers are very engaged in this process”.

We again need your help.

Local MP George Christensen is heading up a taskforce to consider the need for a Sugar Marketing Code of Conduct.

Although the topic is the same, this is a separate process to the Senate Inquiry. The implementation of a mandatory code of conduct as a very important move to ensure growers rights are protected now and into the future.

We ask that you put pen to paper and make a submission to ensure George and his taskforce very clearly hear the views of every day growers on this important topic. This can be as simple as a half page letter.

If you need any assistance at all, please let Wayne (0428 834 802) or Debra (0417 709 435) know and we will be delighted to assist.
Senate Inquiry
Public Hearing
Townsville & Radio Interview Transcripts
The Hansard public hearing transcript of the inquiry into the marketing of Australian sugar conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs References Committee conducted last Friday in Townsville is now available by clicking here.

Monday’s ABC Country Hour interview with Senator O’Sullivan and Wilmar Manager Shayne Rutherford is also available by clicking here.

Also the Committee Secretary has confirmed that the Committee is still accepting further submissions or supplementary information pertaining to the inquiry and public hearings into “Current and future arrangements for the marketing of Australian Sugar”.

The details of whom and where to send to are:

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6277 3511
Fax: +61 2 6277 5811
rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

The following extracts are from Senator Barry O’Sullivan’s discussion on the sugar inquiry public inquiry
Significant changes are being proposed to the marketing arrangements that have been in place for the past 100 years.

I bring to the attention of my fellow Senators the depth of the anxiety with respect to this issue. Never seen the size of the crowds that attended the recent public hearings. These farmers were very very engaged in the process.

Historically a Royal Commission decided to offset the power of the millers by introducing what is described as “Grower Economic Interest”.

The current issue is an unintended consequence of the industry deregulation.

The abnormality now has arrived as a number of powerful millers want to take the economic interest of the growers. They want to distinguish the choice of the grower who will market their sugar and on what terms.

I am against any corporate ownership within the agricultural processing sector that can make decisions that will impact on growers where the industry is not taken into account.

The hallways of Parliament House are full of lobbyists from the millers who are going door to door trying to convince us to leave the market commercial arrangements to sort themselves out but when you only have one buyer that is not a free market.

As a parliament we have an obligation to the 4,500 small family farms ... I urge all fellow Senators to keep an eye on this inquiry and to have input.

Senator O’Sullivan Stated
Common-sense will prevail ... we will find a way to protect the interests of these farmers .... as we ought.
Ergon Energy - Highload Permits
(for loads 4.6 metres and higher)

Ergon recently changed their permitting system for over height vehicles to something that has ended up being unworkable for them and cane growers.

Burn Ashburner, CANEGROWERS Old Industry Manager, met with Ergon on Thursday in Townsville. Burn has reported that there has been some progress and the below gives the change ERGON has made to the over height permit application process. See below “Notification from Ergon”.

Burn reiterates the following:

 There is a new application form online.
 The route/s need to be more fully described. In the previous application form growers/contractors listed the roads they wanted to travel on and this now needs to be the routes not just roads i.e. the via example.
 It is the application for over 5.0m height vehicles (highest harvester on low loader is approx. 5.3m) which are of concern and there will be some routes which will not get the permits where they perhaps did previously.
 The permits will be for 28 days but Ergon will automatically renew them if nothing on the routes has changed. Thus the grower/contractor does not have to apply every 28 days.

Burn has asked growers to let him know if these changes are now workable or not.

Burn’s contact details are: T: 07 3864 6474 M: 0438 104 404 E: burn_ashburner@canegrowers.com.au

Notification from Ergon
The link to the application form is Highloads Application

ROUTE
The application need to be submitted and in Part C - High Load Route Details of the form need to include actual route.

For example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Location:</th>
<th>Destination:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAMOOWEAL (BARKLY HWY)</td>
<td>MCALEESE PAGET &amp; RETURN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Via (List streets, roads, highways etc.)

BARKLY HWY, ISLEY ST, ALICE ST, STATION ST, FLINDERS HWY, GREGORY DEV RD, PEAK DOWNS HWY, HOMEBUSH ETON RD, ROSELLA HOMEBUSH RD, BRUCE HWY, FARRELLYS RD & return via same route

There may be some side roads that need to be travelled to get to particular farms so just include that detail in the Via section. i.e HOMEBUSH ETON RD, Jack St to Lot 24 & return, HOMEBUSH ETON RD.

In the past the approval has been for a listing of roads however in reviewing this we are unable to approve as 5.3 meter loads will come within the safe distance of the electricity line on some crossings.

PERMIT
The permit will be only valid for 28 days from the start date however Ergon Energy will reissue a new permit automatically for the following 28 day (if nothing has changed) for the crushing season.

To be clear: transport operator will not have to submit to Ergon a new application every 28 days
Tuesday the 10th and Wednesday the 11th of March six members from Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc attended the annual Women in Sugar Australia conference. This year the hosts were Women in Sugar Herbert with the conference being held in Ingham on day one and a bus tour of the local surrounds on day two.

Over day one we had many speakers present information on a variety of topics including insurance, Austsafe super, organ donation, succession planning plus health and fitness. We also had the opportunity to listen to speakers for the major sponsors of the conference CANEGROWERS, QSL and Wilmar.

During the evening the conference dinner was held at the Royal hotel and we had speakers from Sugar Research Australia and CANEGROWERS on industry related topics. The evening also gave us the time to spend with people from other districts networking and learning what is happening in their industry.

The final day was wrapped up with a bus tour of the local surrounds. We were going to Wallaman falls but due to the overnight rainfall it had to be cancelled. All was not lost we travelled around Ingham and taken to other locations and given some insight into the local history. First stop was the mosaic tile project that has been helping the locals come together learn a new skill and create an amazing legacy of the cane industry and its beginnings. Further stops at the botanical gardens and interesting talk with one of the local rice growers and then onto the Cardwell range to experience the newest section of the lookout. The view is amazing of Hinchinbrook Island and well worth a stop and venture on your next trip north.

The highlight of the tour was the visit to the Lucinda Sugar Terminal with the sheds at full capacity we were given the opportunity to explore the facility and then driven out onto the jetty. Fully suited up in our safety gear and life jackets we ventured the 5.76kms of shore to were the ships are loaded. It was an amazing experience to be given the access to see this facility and understand its importance to our industry. We concluded our day with a visit to the Halifax museum before returning to the Burdekin.

A wonderful two day event and congratulations to Women in Sugar Herbert for a fantastic conference.

If you would like more information on the Women In Sugar find them on Facebook, contact Burdekin President Kimberley Mallon by phone on 0413 864 784 or email kmallon16@bigpond.com.
Chemical Storage
ChemCert has designed this Free quick guide for chemical users to reference when storing chemicals.

ChemCert strive to remind users about the best practice involved in storage of Chemicals.

A message from the Ayr Police Service

Property theft

Unfortunately in the past few days there have been two cars stolen from unattended farms in the Ayr area, where the keys have been left in the ignition. Rural property, by their isolation, lack of security and where tools, equipment, fuel and vehicles (e.g. late model utes and 4wheelers) can usually be readily located, are generally viewed as easy targets by property offenders.

I would urge property owners to review their security from basic steps of removing keys from vehicles, locking vehicles and buildings were able and consider installing CCTV or motion activated cameras.

Such cameras may not be as expensive as you would think and some can record constantly or be motion activated. Some cameras also have a ‘black flash’, which is able to record good footage at night. I know many farmers have such equipment at fuel sites and some sheds and an increasing number of town residents are also installing this equipment.

Also, in many instances where property theft is reported, apart from a brand there is no serial number to positively identify the property. For example, a property list received by Police will include the description of ‘green drill’ – do you know how many green drills are around?? Probably twice as many than there are white four wheel drive utes driving around the Burdekin.

Further, talk to your neighbours or if you see a vehicle or person acting suspiciously or in a location where they shouldn’t be, take down details of that person and vehicle including registration number if possible and call Police. If you do fall victim of property theft, again let your neighbours know. This not only increases their level of awareness but your neighbour may have seen something of interest related to those involved.

By taking further steps to protect your property, you are also protecting your business, your neighbours and the area you live in.

If you have any information about these thefts or of suspicious activity in your area, I would urge you to contact your local police station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Yours sincerely

Steve BARTON
Snr Sgt, 5950
OIC Ayr
4790 3555

Insurance Broker Services

Are you properly insured for theft?

Come see Jim or Martine today for an insurance review

at the Canegrowers Building, 141 Young Street, Ayr
or phone 4790 3606 / 0408 638 518
be styled by a NAPOLEON PERDIS make up artist

INDULGE IN A ONE-ON-ONE EXCLUSIVE LESSON

TAKE HOME INDUSTRY SECRETS THAT WILL REVOLUTIONISE YOUR BEAUTY REGIME. YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO ACHIEVE A FLAWLESS ON-TREND MAKEUP LOOK AND LEAVE LOOKING AND FEELING LIKE A CELEBRITY!

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2015
55 MACMILLAN STREET, AYR
$100 REDEEMABLE IN PRODUCT

Purchase your ticket at Power of Beauty salon or contact us to secure your booking:
P:(07) 4783 5235 E: powerofbeauty@outlook.com LIMITED APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
BBIFMAC Manager Report
by Tom McShane
This report covers period from November 2014 to March 2015. The focus of this report recounts activities relating to past, current and potential projects as well as workshops, seminars, meetings and other work related engagement activities.

Staff News.

- In lieu of us loosing Eleisha Burton we have employed Sarah Simpson part time casual to assist with database management and reporting. To assist Arwen with the heavy workload in the EEGAI project we are also employing Leah Carr on a similar basis. Both are proving to be real assets to the project teams.

Sugar Cane Reef Water Quality Incentives.

- We are now approaching the last phase of the Reef Water Quality incentives program and applications are coming in thick and fast. From this point on we are letting farmers know that there is no guarantee that their applications will be funded, since the funding may well run out before their applications are processed.

Salvinia Weevil Breeding Project

- Dennis is continuing to oversee this project working with only one school at present.
- We are still seeking funding support for this project, however Dennis continues to service and distribute weevil larvae when outbreaks occur.

SRDC Microbiology Trial.

- The SRDC microbes Pot Trial is now nearing harvest stage for the second year and it appears that there is no obvious differences to be seen in pot grown crops.
- Under the banner of soil health we have collaborated with NQ Dry Tropics Diana O’Donnell who is also working on a soil health program.

DEH & NQ Dry Tropics funded Nitrate Farmers Project.

- The project is to be jointly funded by the NQDT and DERM now DSITIA project and we have just completed the final report for this project.
- Results indicate that caution should be observed in recommending reducing nitrogen fertilizers, while relying on low to moderate nitrates in irrigation from groundwater. Slight yield reductions could occur.

DEH/NQ Try Tropics WQ Adaptive Management Project.

- This project was also finished and the final report has been submitted and accepted.
- The results have been very informative and have been well accepted by industry.
- The project has gained an additional 50K funding to continue for another two years.

EEGAI Project.

- Arwen and Steve have done a great job on this project and we recently submitted a major milestone, which has been approved.
- Over 240 farmers have been successfully engaged and feedback from industry has been positive and showed appreciation for the outcomes.
- The Satellite groups have also been engaged with similar results.
- Several topical videos have been produces and will soon be available on the web site.
- Next month the final training sessions and workshops will be rolled out before preparing for the final reporting activities to complete the project in May.

Landscape Resilience Project.

- In this project we are supporting NQ Dry Tropics by conducting the old style WQ Pixel project for 20 farmers with a close connection to the wetlands.
- Dennis recently presented at a farmers meeting convened by the NQ Dry Tropics project team.
Catalyst Trial Water Quality Monitoring.

- We are monitoring 20 runoff events on the fertilizer form trial on the Lyne property and 10 events on the Mill-mud Trials at the Hesp property.
- This monitoring is almost over and equipment will be removed for next trials.

Nu Farm Imidacloprid trials.

- We have been contracted to monitor 6 events on farms in Clare and Ingham where two forms of imidacloprid are being compared. This is the second season of monitoring for Nufarm.
- The 6 runoff events are completed in Clare, however the Ingham site has not as yet received enough rain to produce runoff.

UQ Greenhouse Gas Sampling.

- We have been contracted to do gas sampling for a greenhouse gas sampling trial at Dalbeg.
- After completing 7 events we have ceased sampling. It does appear that this trial may be terminated in the Burdekin, because of possible loss of cooperating farmer.

Portable real Time Water Quality Units.

- We have been contracted by BPS, DAFF and DEH to build 5 trailer mounted portable real time water quality units.
- These units are completed and are being programmed by CSA in Townsville to be ready for delivery in a week or two.
- We have been provided contracts to install and service this equipment for the end users.

DERM Reef Catchments Event Water Quality Sampling.

- BBIFMAC is contracted to collect and process water samples from creeks and Rivers in the Burdekin area.
- Sites include Barratta Ck., Burdekin River at Saleigm and Burdekin Traffic Bridge, Bowen River.

WRC Integrated Pest Management on Wetlands of National Significance.

- BBIFMAC has partnered WRC in a project to manage pests (pests & weeds) in the wetlands. We have already place an application into DEHP Everyones Environment funds and are awaiting news of the result of our application.

BBIFMAC’s Environmental Monitoring Services.

- Paddock to Reef Monitoring. Monitoring of the P2R site at Rossatto’s will continue under the funding support from CQU.
- CSIRO/Cat. Instrumentation on these sites are being removed from the site since the project is being wrapped up.
- Davco’s Lysimeters. We are again monitoring deep drainage in Davco’s salinity project, and the suction towers will soon be reinstalled.
- MAFIA. Providing secretariat support for the MAFIA group and assisting with their activity planning.
- “Reef Catchments WQ Monitoring. We have had preliminary discussions with Ryan Turner (DERM) who is considering contracting BBIFMAC for this wet season’s event monitoring.
- Barratta Creek Tail Water Capture. Farmacist and BBIFMAC are working on a scoping study to determine the feasibility of major tail water capture, by having major tailwater recycle pits located strategically on the Barratta Creek system. BBIFMAC’s role is to monitor base flows in drainage system and water management in selected RC pits. The second milestone report has recently been completed and forwarded.
Burdekin welcomes new SRA development officer

Cane growers in the Burdekin are looking forward to working with energetic and well-respected research operative, Belinda Billing, who joined the Sugar Research Australia (SRA) team today as the new Development Officer based in Ayr.

According to Andrew Ward, Manager of SRA’s Professional Extension and Communications (PEC) unit, Belinda will be a key interface for SRA in the Burdekin.

“This role works closely with grower groups and industry advisors to direct and extend SRA’s research outcomes,” he says. “The flip side of the job is feeding back into ensuring SRA’s research remains targeted and relevant.”

Dr Ward says Belinda will promote the adoption of research and management practices proven to improve the productivity, profitability, sustainability for our grower and milling members.

Belinda recently relocated to the Burdekin region from Mackay, where she worked with natural resource management group Reef Catchments. It was here she became well known by Mackay and Whitsunday growers for her coordination role with Project Catalyst and other sustainable sugarcane programs.

Belinda is looking forward to working with grower groups to find solutions for on farm challenges by applying the latest research, best management techniques and using innovative technology.

“In my role I will be listening and learning about the needs of growers and liaising with our milling members to learn how SRA can direct and extend research outcomes and improve service and relationships in the Burdekin region,” she says.

“The Burdekin has such a unique geography, weather and soil profile that it will be particularly rewarding working with farmers on the practices which best suit the landscape here. It certainly is not a one size fits all approach when you have so much variation right across the district.”

Belinda says that understanding issues and challenges that program partners and landholders are facing and finding ways to share information effectively will be key to the success of the role.

“Working with growers, SRA staff, productivity boards, Reef Catchments staff, CSIRO and respected independent agronomists has given me access to an amazing pool of knowledge around sugarcane; in terms of best practice management, industry issues and challenges, environmental challenges, current research, and a good understanding of farm culture,” she says.

“I really enjoy interacting with the sugarcane industry, growers, millers and the community – to create opportunities to learn and improve together,” Belinda said.
James Ogden-Brown speaks with Bruce Quinn from Isis Productivity Services about the importance of clean seed.

Click to watch the clip.

Climate outlook as at 1 March 2015
Professor Roger Stone’s climate outlook and short review as at 1 March 2015 can be viewed here.

The report forecasts rainfall probability values for Queensland - probability of exceeding the respective long-term median values overall for the total period March to May 2015. Regions shaded yellow have below normal probability values (~30%), those areas shaded grey have close to normal probability values and those regions shaded blue have above normal probability values. Note that these values are relative to ‘normal’ rainfall at this particular period of year.
Letters from Chairman to every Minister and Member in Queensland

✓ Following on from a range of personal approaches and conversations with the new Premier and Ministers in key portfolios over the past few weeks since the new government came to power, Paul Schembri has followed up formally, sending targeted letters to each of the Ministers and Shadow Ministers heading up key portfolios, seeking face to face meetings with each as a priority. General letters of welcome, giving an overview of the sugar industry and its importance to the Queensland economy, have also been sent by Paul to every Minister and Member across Queensland. Paul’s letters also included a set of government briefing notes prepared by our policy team on the five key issues that CANEGROWERS took into the election.

Premier’s Business Forum

✓ Acting QCGO CEO, Ron Mullins attended the Premier’s Business Forum last week, along with 200 other business leaders. Ron had the opportunity to meet with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Environment Minister, Steven Miles and Agricultural Minister, Bill Byrne and raised issues relating to sugar marketing, environmental management, electricity and water charges. The new government is in the process of recruiting their departmental DGs and other key policy and communications staff.

Trade

✓ Warren Males, Head of Economics at QCGO was in Hawaii last week to attend the Trans Pacific Partnership meetings, continuing the industry’s efforts to have sugar fully included in the resulting trade agreement. The case for sugar’s inclusion was made directly with the U.S. and Australian negotiating teams and has been published in the Washington-DC based Inside US Trade.

Marketing

✓ The Senate hearings on the future marketing arrangements for Australian sugar were held last week. To represent QCGO, Chairman Paul Schembri appeared in Mackay on Thursday with Don Murday in support of the CANEGROWERS-ACFA joint submission. Warren Males appeared in Townsville on Friday afternoon.

Biosecurity

✓ Biosecurity Queensland has placed a banana plantation at Tully under quarantine after a positive test to Panama Race Four, which wiped out the Northern Territory’s banana industry.

✓ It is too early to tell how wide spread this is for the Banana industry in north Queensland however, the quarantine restrictions may have some impact on cane growers in Tully and Innisfail.

✓ CANEGROWERS has spoken with Biosecurity Queensland and will be seeking further advice in the coming weeks.

Transport

✓ Plans have been finalised for Graham Fraine from Transport and Main Roads to visit Ingham for a field trip with regard to over dimension agricultural vehicles and the road conditions under which they operate.

✓ A meeting with TMR was held to discuss a possible road show to inform growers and contractors of the trial conditions and the permitting process for this season. TMR have initially decline being part of a road show.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 10 February 2014

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 14*</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October 14*</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 14*</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January 15*</td>
<td>$323</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$337</td>
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<td>19 March 15</td>
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<td>23 April 15</td>
<td>$378</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 June 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$408</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 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 19 February 2015

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<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
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<td>$471</td>
<td>$451</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$466</td>
<td>$446</td>
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Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 13 March 2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
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<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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<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
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<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
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<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
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Waterfind Burdekin
Haughton WSS Water Market Summary

Allocations

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Latest</th>
<th>Same period last year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin Haughton WSS - Medium Priority</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dam Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>Current Volume</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin falls dam</td>
<td>1,727,319 v</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
2014 Advance Payment rates confirmed

At their recent March meeting, the QSL Board approved the advance rate increase for April 2015 to 92.5%. This increase will be paid based on the estimated QSL pool prices as at 27 March 2015.

The May and June advance rates will be considered again at the upcoming April Board meeting. A key factor that will influence the quantity of these payments is the current sales program and the timing of the associated shipments. QSL is currently holding sugar for June and July shipment so as to produce higher returns than those available for shipping in April and May. As always, QSL is seeking to maximise returns and the subsequent advances rate increases may need to be adjusted in line with this objective.

QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool Price Confirmed

Following the Declaration Date last month, an absolute floor price for the 2015 Guaranteed Floor Pool has now been confirmed.

The absolute floor price has been secured at $A420.50/MT Gross Actual ($A405.50 MT Gross IPS). For more information about the Guaranteed Floor Pool or any other QSL-managed pools please read the Pool Description Statements available from our website at www.qsl.com.au.

Market Update

By Ginette Barrett, QSL Liquidity Manager

Sugar

The Raw Sugar Market has made a modest recovery from the losses of last week, with the MAY15 contract closing 20 points higher Tuesday at 12.90c/lb. The rest of the board also finished between 13 and 20 points higher, triggering minor speculative buying.

This recovery can be mainly be attributed to a weaker US Dollar and a strengthening Brazilian Real. The improvement in the Real reflects the new Brazilian government’s recent anti-corruption legislation, which has been taken as an indication by some that the government will continue to take further action. The Brazilian Government also recently increased the domestic gasoline price by 3 per cent, with the ethanol content of gasohol blend expected to be raised from 25 per cent to 27.5 per cent. As the current sugar price is uneconomic for most Brazilian sugar producers, we expect some may switch to ethanol at start of their crush.

Further afield, Thailand and India’s crushes are going well, adding to an already heavily over-supplied world raw sugar market. The same dry weather that has been helping their current harvest may negatively impact these same countries’ 2015/16 crops, although this view is fading on the back of good rains in Brazil at present.

Most in the market still believe that the resolution of the short-term physical surplus is not likely until Q3/Q4 2015, with the overhang of the surplus set to erode any quarterly deficits until then.

Currency

The strengthening US Dollar finally took a small step backward on the back of some disappointing data. This negative sentiment was enough for the Euro to recover slightly and the Aussie Dollar to sneak back up to a high of 0.7680. The Aussie remains range bound and looks likely to trade between 76 and 77 cents, with the next trigger level at 75 cents in the coming months.

Investors are currently focused on the Federal Reserve, with a two-day meeting with the Federal Open Market Committee and a press conference with FOMC Chair Janet Yellen this week.

Today’s Market as at 19.03.15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prompt MAY15 ICE #11</th>
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<td>12.73c/lb</td>
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<tr>
<td>$A363/tonne actual</td>
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<td>$A350 IPS/tonne</td>
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<th>Spot Foreign Exchange $A</th>
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<td>77.49 US cents</td>
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DATES TO REMEMBER

FEAT Workshop, 
Thursday 26 March, 
9am-3pm @ 
CANEGROWERS Hall

Landcare Meeting, 
Tuesday 7 April, 5pm @ 
Burdekin Shire Council

Reducing irrigation 
energy costs, Thursday 
9 & Friday 10 April, 
8.30am-1.30pm daily @ 
Burdekin PCYC, RSVP 
by 2 April to 4783 4344

Burdekin value-adding 
seminar, Friday 15 May, 
8.30am-4pm @ Burdekin Theatre

Sugar Asia Expo, Friday 
22 & Saturday 23 May, 
Bombay Convention & 
Exhibition Centre, 
Mumbai, India

Planting/Farm Work Wanted
Previous experience
⇒ Ph: 0434 574 558

www.canegrowersburdekin.com.au

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Ltd
NFF welcomes new GM of Agribusiness & Rural Affairs

The NFF this week welcomed Charlie Thomas to the position of General Manager of Agribusiness and Rural Affairs. He brings detailed experience across a broad range of policy areas to the NFF – where he will advocate for the Australian agriculture sector on telecommunications, infrastructure, drought policy, research and development, chemical regulation and agribusiness issues.

Prior to joining the NFF, he was the National Policy Manager for the Property Council of Australia. In that capacity, Charlie was responsible for issues such as sustainability, risk and compliance, building regulation and economic policy.

Charlie has also worked for the NSW Farmers’ Association. There he focussed primarily on land use and regulatory issues; including those of native vegetation, mining and planning.

Charlie can be contacted on 02 6269 5666 or by emailing cthomas@nff.org.au.

Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

The Government has this week released exposure draft legislation to establish an Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman. The exposure draft legislation establishes the position and outlines the Ombudsman’s functions and powers.

The Ombudsman will be a:

- Commonwealth-wide advocate for small businesses and family enterprises;
- Concierge for dispute resolution; and
- Contributor to the development of small business friendly Commonwealth laws and regulations.

The exposure draft legislation and explanatory materials are available at the Treasury website for a consultation period ending 7 April 2015.

Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Workplace Relations Framework

This week the NFF filed its submission to the workplace relations inquiry being undertaken by the Productivity Commission. Key elements of the submission include reforming the modern award review process, restoring the voluntary nature of enterprise bargaining and making it more attractive for employers, narrowing the scope of transfer of business rules, rebalancing the general protections, extending the Fair Dismissal Code to all businesses (not just small businesses), improving the right of entry rules and reversing changes requiring remote employers to provide travel and accommodation for union officials as well as scrapping the workplace bullying regime. A copy of the submission is available here.

Maximising Agribusiness Competitiveness (30 June – 1 July 2015)

NFF Deputy CEO Tony Mahar will be speaking at the 'Maximising Agribusiness Competitive' conference being held on Tuesday 30 June and Wednesday 1 July in Sydney. Speakers include Angus Taylor MP, Meat & Livestock Australia’s Richard Norton and Austrade’s Sally-Ann Watts. The conference will bring together Industry and Commodity Groups, Government representatives, Exporters, Large producers and Co-operatives.

The key themes of the conference will focus on implementing business models to build capability and financial sustainability, market development strategies for identifying and understanding new markets and improving market access to compete in the global marketplace. For more information, or to register, please see here.
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4790 3600

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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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