ARC UP Update

On Tuesday of this week ARC UP joint spokespersons Dale Holliss and Debra Burden spent the day at Brisbane Parliament House meetings.

The first meeting was with Minister for Energy Mark Bailey and a Representative for the Treasurer. At this meeting Dale and Debra described the details as to why the ARC UP campaign was established. They provided the background of irrigators desperate with the rising prices of electricity. Over the last four years the CANEGROWERS groups have provided 31 different submissions and have given up on getting any real changes by this process.

The ARC UP spokespersons provided the Minister with an overview of members of the ARC UP Alliance which now includes the Association of Independent Retirees and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ).

The Senior Policy Advisor of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Julia Mylne was in attendance at this meeting. Questioning from the Minister of Energy to Julia confirmed CCIQ supports ARC UP including 33% reduction in all Ergon Tariffs.

Debra asked the Minister if he was prepared to put a freeze on electricity prices until this matter is resolved and forego the proposed 10.3% increase for irrigators on July 1.

The Minister stated that the Government relies on the dividends of Ergon for the State Government Budget; and advised he was not prepared to consider Debra’s proposal of freezing prices.

Therefore at the conclusion of the meeting Debra advised the Minister that there appears to be no option but to continue with the Private Members Bill to get a real reduction in electricity prices. The Minister replied that you need to do anything you need to do.

The second meeting was with Shane Knuth Katter’s Australian Party State Member for Dalrymple who is sponsoring the Private Members Bill.

Dale and Debra provided Shane with an overview of where ARC UP is at with gathering community support for the Private Members Bill.

To put the Private Members Bill up Shane needs to prove he has consulted widely, to show this support please provide a letter of support for the Private Members Bill. These support letters can be:

Emailed: debra_burden@canegrowers.com.au

Posted: ARC UP Campaign

Reply Paid 933

AYR QLD 4807
Cane firing permits and controls

New season burning notifications

With the 2016 season about to commence growers and contractors are reminded of the following requirements regarding the firing or burning of cane in preparation for harvesting of cane.

The annual fire permit application notice on behalf of CANEGROWERS members informing the Burdekin community regarding cane firing has been displayed in the public notice section of this week’s Advocate.

Cane land adjoining cane land

Under the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Act, special provisions apply to the burning of sugarcane, tops and trash in those situations where a grower’s Cane Production Area (CPA) is bordered on every side by other cane land. A seasonal permit application to a fire warden is not required in this situation.

Cane land adjoining non-cane land

Where a grower’s CPA adjoins a neighbour’s property which is non-cane land, the grower wishing to burn sugarcane, tops or trash, must obtain a seasonal permit to burn from the local Fire Warden. The grower need only make a single application to cover the whole season (or can apply for a one-off permit).

A requirement for all fire permit applications is that the grower must notify all adjoining neighbours whose lands are non-cane land, either verbally or in writing, at the time when applying to the local Fire Warden for the fire permit whether it be a seasonal or one-off permit to burn.

Also, before actually burning cane, tops or trash the grower must follow conditions on their permit and notify the neighbour whose land immediately adjoins the block of cane or the block upon which tops or trash are to be burnt. This notice can be verbal with the neighbour being advised at least two (2) hours before burning takes place or a minimum of twelve (12) hours notice where the neighbour is advised in writing by the grower.

Permit not required

A permit to burn cane, tops or trash does NOT have to be obtained where a cane grower’s CPA land is separated from the neighbour’s non-cane land by a watercourse or fire break which is at least ten (10) metres wide and which is clear of vegetation and flammable material.

Cane firing control

All cane growers are urged to ensure they abide by the requirements of the CANEGROWERS Burdekin Collective Supply Agreement (CSA) and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Act which restrict the hours for burning.

In accordance with the regulation and the CSA, this means that for the Burdekin district:

- Burning of cane can only take place between the hours of 4:00 pm on one day and 9:00 am on the following day, unless specific permit is obtained to burn outside these hours;
- Adequate precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of fire;
- The burning takes place in accordance with recognised industry practice;
- Where a fire is lit for the purpose of burning tops and trash, such tops or trash are raked at least ten (10) metres from any headland, standing cane or other flammable material;
- Burning of trash and tops should take place at a time when sugarcane tops or trash are normally burnt in the local area (subject to no burning between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm).

Smoke Hazard

In order to avoid hazards from smoke which is generally at its worst when burning trash blanket after green cane harvesting, it is recommended that:

- Post harvest burning of trash blanket except in the most exceptional circumstances be avoided;
- The trash blanket is left for at least a week to dry out and then back burn slowly;
- Obtain weather forecasts, particularly wind direction and strength before burning;
- Ensure that correct signage is placed on public roads.

A guide to the application of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Act for the sugarcane industry, is available from the CANEGROWERS website here.
Is your crop covered?
Growers should ensure they have Fire Perils Crop Insurance in place given the risks of fire associated with the dry conditions of another failed wet season and that irrigation has been suspend in preparation for the burning and harvesting of cane and as none of the Burdekin mills are yet ready to commence operations.

CANEGROWERS has once again secured the very low premium rate of 1.86 cents plus gst per tonne of cane for members.

All members of CANEGROWERS have cover for “Fire Perils Crop Insurance” as part of their membership fee. This year the cover is set at $35/t with a 50 tonne excess for any crop loss. This crop insurance covers the following situations:

⇒ total crop loss; a crop affected by fire and unable to be harvested
⇒ partial loss; the crop is able to be harvested but yield has been affected
⇒ the loss of a trash blanket and the costs of farming practices to re-establish the crop

CANEGROWERS also offer members the opportunity to “Top-Up” their insurance to $40/t. It is important to be aware that the Underwriter’s maximum liability under the Fire Perils Crop Insurance policy is limited to the selected $ indemnity value per tonne of cane or 90% of the value of the cane at the mill, whichever is the lesser amount. This may be important if growers have some forward pricing at prices significantly higher than the current QSL 2016 harvest pool estimate of $456/t sugar. However like all insurance products members need to be aware not to over or under insure their crop.

Top-Up insurance can be applied for by visiting or contacting CANEGROWERS Burdekin on 4790 3600 and completing the relevant forms.

Fire and Water Perils
As part of your membership fees you are covered for fire perils insurance and water perils crop compensation scheme. The table below details the current cover of the policies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Perils</th>
<th>Water Perils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coverage</strong></td>
<td>The policy provides cover for financial loss due to the total loss of standing cane or the additional cost of harvesting as a result of fire damage to standing cane (other than controlled burn-off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provided By</strong></td>
<td>CGU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period of Insurance</strong></td>
<td>It is an annual policy renewed from 1 June each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indemnity</strong></td>
<td>$35 per tonne of cane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50t excess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$400,000 (Aggregate Indemnity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional features</strong></td>
<td>CGU will pay for additional costs including fire brigade charges necessarily and reasonably incurred for the sole purpose of avoiding or diminishing a loss following an insured peril.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARC UP Update continued
Debra and Dale then met with Shadow Minister for Agriculture Dale Last and Shadow Minister for Energy Michael Hart. Michael was provided with a full briefing as to why the ARC UP campaign was established and the goals of the campaign.

Michael advised that he needs to gain a better understanding of the proposed Bill and agreed to meet with Hugh Grant (click here for Hugh’s latest report Assets or Liabilities? The need to apply fair regulatory values to Australia’s electricity networks), with this meeting being organised for the near future.

Debra met today with the North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils including Mayors and CEOs of Burdekin, Townsville, Charters Towers, Palm Island and Ingham Councils, in addition to representatives of the local Government Association of Queensland. An update on this meeting will be provided in next week’s edition of canenews.

We need a LOUD STRONG COMMUNITY VOICE, two months into the campaign there are 742 likes on the facebook page (www.facebook.com/ARCupQld) these likes need to substantially increase for the ARC UP campaign to be successful.
Release of the GBR Water Science Taskforce Final Report

On Wednesday, 25th May the much anticipated Final Report from the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce was released with Dr Geoff Garrett, Chair of the Taskforce, handing over the Final Report to Minister Miles and the Premier at Parliament House.

Canegrowers Burdekin was represented at the release by Manager Debra Burden.

The Taskforce was established by the Queensland Government to provide advice on the best way of achieving the water quality targets in the Reef 2050 Plan, and how to invest an additional $90 million over the next four years.

Dr Garrett thanked the many stakeholder groups that provided feedback on the Taskforce Interim Report and took the time to meet with members of the Taskforce and discuss key issues.

Key messages:
- We are all in this together
- There is no one silver bullet
- Water Quality improvement is complex
- Industry and farming needs to co-exist with the reef
- Recognition of the need for a sustainable future for the reef and all key stakeholders

Dr Garrett stressed that the Taskforce report will no doubt be an important piece of information to feed into the review and update of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan by June 2017.

The Taskforce recommendations are:

2. Substantially improve communication and information to build understanding of the pressures on the reef and to support management practice and social change.
3. Invest in more effective, targeted and coordinated extension to support large scale land management practice change.
4. Establish greater use of incentives and market approaches to support water quality improvements.
5. Implement staged regulations to reduce water pollution throughout the reef regions.
7. Fund additional long-term and finer-scale catchment monitoring, modelling and reporting for improved decision making and adaptive management.
8. Implement two, well facilitated major integrated projects (MIPS) in pollutant ‘hot spot’ areas to evaluate the most effective combination of tools to inform the design of future programs.
10. Simplify and strengthen governance and clarify roles and responsibilities within and between the Queensland and Australian Governments.

The full report is available here.
DEHP Starts Next Phase of Reef Compliance Program

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) have written to grower representatives advising that with the completion of voluntary visits by DEHP officers the program will now transition to DEHP initiated farm visits.

The roll out of the program began when DEHP approached grower representative organisations seeking volunteers to participate in the initial compliance inspections.

The department has advised that this resulted in some very positive engagement with growers which provided an open and informative start to the program. The department is very appreciative of the willingness of those involved to provide this opportunity.

With the completion of the voluntary compliance visits the program is now transitioning to department initiated farm visits and officers will begin contacting growers to schedule these visits in coming weeks.

The officers are also available to meet with growers off farm if that is their preference.

If any CANEGROWERS members would prefer to meet with the officers off farm; the CANEGROWERS Burdekin meeting room and a representative Manager (either Debra Burden or Wayne Smith) will be made available by appointment.

The initial aim of the compliance program is to communicate and provide information to ensure that growers understand what’s required under the regulations, and to work with them to achieve these requirements.

SRA to invest $18.9 million in 2016/2017 and continue focus on Impact Areas

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has announced its research investment agenda for 2016/2017, delivering research and development outcomes that provide direct benefits to sugarcane growers and millers.

SRA Chairman Dr Ron Swindells said that SRA would invest $18.9 million in contestable research activities for 2016/2017.

“SRA is making this investment in projects that will deliver real benefits on key issues for our investors,” Dr Swindells said. “In seeking new projects, SRA put the call out for projects that focus on the four Impact Areas of Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS); conventional and genetically modified plant breeding; harvesting efficiency; and extension and adoption.

“These four Impact Areas have been identified as requiring priority investment from SRA for the Australian sugarcane industry.

“In addition, we also continue to address the eight Key Focus Areas identified in SRA’s strategic plan.

“Our investment includes new projects to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

“These new projects will improve our varieties through introgression techniques and selections based on plant vigour; improve industry productivity through the analysis of industry data; address new chemical approaches for canegrub control; and improve identification methods for exotic moth borers and soil-borne pathogens.

“Our investment will also include a new three-year project being developed with the University of New England to develop a remote sensing platform.”

Dr Swindells said SRA continues to invest in projects that have a priority on delivering tangible outcomes on-farm and at the mill.

SRA’s investment is funded by the statutory levy of 70 cents per tonne of cane, to which growers and millers each contribute 35c per tonne of cane each. This investment in research is supported by matching funds of about $6M from the Federal Government and an average of $4M from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) over the previous 4 years.

The list of successful new projects is available on the Sugar Research Australia website here. The full portfolio of contestable research investment is also available here.
Transport field trip
By Burn Ashburner, CANEGROWERS Qld Manager– Industry

On 11 May 2016 CANEGROWERS Herbert River hosted a field trip for senior representatives from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

The attendees were

- **TMR Brisbane:** Michael Stapleton (Deputy Director-General), John Wroblewski, Ian Sturdy and Mark Mitchell
- **QPS Brisbane:** Michael Keating (Assistant Commissioner) and Ivan Sikorsky
- **NHVR:** Peter Caprioli (Assistant Director Operations)
- **Hinchinbrook Shire Council:** Mayor and senior engineer
- **Local Police**
- **CANEGROWERS Queensland**
- **CANEGROWERS Herbert River**

The demonstration included:

1. The impracticality of using mobile signage, which is a requirement on critical roads under the trial notice. The demonstration clearly showed the additional time taken ($), as well as the added risk to the operators and general traffic due to stopping and doing U-turns. It was pointed out that mobile signage may be practical for road works, which are carried out over several hours, but not useful for a short trips that may take just 5 to 10 minutes.

2. A tractor and implement 4.6m wide on a low loader which can travel legally with escorts, compared to a tractor and 4.6m wide implement on its own steam. It was pointed out that
   - The tractor could pull over to the side of the road much more easily and in more places than a low loader
   - The overhang of the implement on the low loader was at head height for people in cars and posed a more serious risk than an implement behind a tractor.
   - The claimed safety benefit of a low loader is that it can keep up with the other traffic and not become a hazard as a slow moving vehicle. However, it was pointed out that over short distances on local roads the low loader was not necessarily able to travel at faster speeds than the tractor.

3. A comparison of a water tanker of 2.5m width and 12.5m long which is legally able to cross public roads without conditions was made with a tractor and implement of 4.5m width and 12.5m long which must have a permit and most likely 2 pilots to cross any public road. This showed that the crossing of roads with wide equipment was not related to width but to the speed with which the vehicle was able to cross the road.

4. A range of over width farm implements to allow the participants to get an appreciation of what equipment was likely to be over width.

5. A clear demonstration that the critical roads on which the participants travelled on had very little traffic. This was to show the relative safety and that the review of critical roads by TMR roads was necessary and that these roads should be downgraded.

What we asked:

- Give growers an option for roadside signage or two pilots (preferably agricultural pilots) on critical roads in a permanent gazetted notice to replace the trial notice for 3.5m to 4.0m width agricultural vehicles.
- Look at including up to 4.5m wide agricultural vehicles in the above or in a separate notice
- Expedite the gazetted notice to change from FORM 14 zone 1 conditions to zone 2 conditions. This had been agreed by TMR, NHVR and all necessary regional councils but not the QPS.
- Expedite the TMR “Review of Critical Roads” and reclassify particular critical roads in the Herbert River region.
- Make sure permits were issued for at least one year (preferably longer) and for multiple travel.
The result:

TMR agreed to review the roadside signage but offered no guarantees on the outcome.

The QPS were still concerned about their accountability and having a defence, in terms of a justification for agreeing to any changes, to present to the coroner if they were called to do so. Thus they required further evidence before they approved any changes. They were also concerned that the possible changes to critical roads may affect their accountability for the change to zone 2 conditions.

TMR, NHVR and QPS agreed to meet by the end of the week and report back to QCGO.

This meeting has taken place and TMR reported by telephone that:

- Permits would be issued for a 12 month period and multiple travel. This is already happening in most issued permits.
- TMR had agreed to make some changes (unclear what) and provide further information to QPS which should lead to QPS approval of zone 2 conditions. The outcome is uncertain.

Overall the demonstration was positive and had the effect of bringing the parties together. Thanks must go to CANEGROWERS Herbert River for organising the demonstration and to the participants for making the effort to attend, given their busy schedules.

Farm management deposits

Recently, some key changes were made to the Farm Management Deposits Scheme. This is a federally administered risk management tool to help farmers deal with an uneven income and the impacts of natural disasters, climate and market variability.

Below is the advice we have received from the Department of Agriculture regarding the changes:

I am writing about the changes to the Farm Management Deposits (FMD) Scheme which were announced as part of the Australian Government’s Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper on 4 July 2015. The Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Act 2016 has been passed by Parliament, meaning the below changes will commence on 1 July 2016:

- doubling of the cap on deposits from $400 000 to $800 000
- re-establishment of an early access trigger during times of drought
- allowing FMDs to be used to offset the interest on primary production business debt.

Please be aware, the increase in the cap on deposits and the early access trigger during drought will be administered through the annual tax returns of FMD holders. The Australian Taxation Office continues to monitor the FMD Scheme to ensure appropriate use by FMD holders. From 1 July 2016, this will include compliance with the increased cap on deposits and the drought early access rules.

A tool which assists FMD holders in determining their eligibility to the drought early access provision is being developed and will be available from 1 July 2016. A link to this tool will be provided on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources’ FMD webpage: [www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/fmd](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/fmd).

The legislation allows for FMDs to be used to offset the cost of interest on primary production debt. It is not compulsory for financial institutions to offer an FMD loan offset product and it will be up to each financial institution to determine if it will offer such a product and how it will be operated. Interested FMD holders should contact their financial institution to confirm if they will be offering FMD loan offset accounts. It is important to note that a primary producer would need to hold both their loan(s) and FMD(s) with the one financial institution to take advantage of this measure.

While primary producers may obtain financial benefits by using their FMDs to offset their farm business debt, they should also be aware that it may have wider taxation implications. For example, primary producers who opt to hold an FMD loan offset account may find the level of tax deduction that they can claim against their interest expenses on farm business loans is reduced.

Rabobank Commodity Analyst visits the Burdekin

A timely visit to the Burdekin by Rabobank commodity analyst Georgia Twomey coincided with the NY#11 tipping over A$500 a tonne for the first time since July 2012. This positive movement has followed a few months of very volatile prices with the benchmark just over A$400/t just weeks earlier.

“There have been significant changes to market conditions and sentiment during the past 12 months. In August last year, following five years of consecutive surplus production, the world was awash with sugar, stocks were at record highs and the Brazilian real was at record lows, seeing prices pressured” Ms Twomey said.

“Today, the global sugar market boasts a much brighter fundamental picture as global sugar transitions to deficit, with Rabobank’s expectations that this will be at least 6.8 million tonnes.

While the deficit has certainly been widening through early 2016 as Thai, Indian and Chinese production estimates continue to contract, much of the market volatility has also been driven by currency movement and speculator involvement in the market.

“The recent rally of the Brazilian real, has also provided support to the current prices,” Ms Twomey said. “Speculators also have continued to add to their net long position. Both of these factors remain risks to prices at their current levels however and are expected to continue to fuel the volatility.”

Ms Twomey said the market in 2016 will be continue to be impacted by Brazil’s currency movements as well as how the fundamental picture develops. “As industry starts to look to the potential for the global deficit to continue into 2016/17, eyes are turning squarely to Brazil’s production, which has kicked off strongly, in addition to the extent of damage the dry conditions in India and Thailand have had on the new crop,” she said.

Locally the outlook for the upcoming Australian cane season looks positive, with early forecasts anticipating volumes at similar levels to the 34.8mt crushed in 2015. The key question will now centre around weather and the ability to get the sizeable crop off smoothly.

“Beyond the cycle, the longer term view for Australian sugar is also positive although not without challenges. The long-term supply gap in the Asian region, which takes the vast majority of Australian sugar, continues to grow as production has failed to keep up with consumption. Australia’s key markets are likely to remain net importers for some time to come and market share, although falling on a global level under the weight of substantial increases in Brazil and Thai output, is still strong in key markets like Korea and Japan,” Ms Twomey said.

“Maintaining level playing field market access with our competitors remains critical for the industry with price differentials quick to impact trade volumes. Beyond this, as has been highlighted by cane growers across North Queensland, productivity growth needs to be a key priority for the industry. Its improvement will be of critical importance for Australian sugar to maintain competitiveness in the global sugar market.”

Source: F.O. Licht, Rabobank 2016
Five key election issues for sugar region economies

CANEGROWERS will be urging all political parties standing in ‘sugar seats’ this federal election to commit to measures which secure the future growth and prosperity of this important Queensland industry.

“We are seeking commitments and assurances around five policy areas vital for a profitable future for our farmers and the regional economies and communities our industry supports,” CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said at a meeting of the grower organisation’s Policy Council in Townsville this week.

“Sugar is a valuable export commodity for Australia, the second largest for Queensland, with 80% of our production going offshore. 81,000 people work directly and indirectly in our industry which contributes $2 billion to the Australian economy each year.

“But there are a number of issues which need to be addressed by the next Australian Government, and all politicians, for Australia to maintain its place in the competitive global sugar market.”

The key areas highlighted in the CANEGROWERS Federal Election priorities include:

Electricity

The cost of redundant and obsolete assets must be removed from the calculation of network tariffs so farmers can access affordable power for irrigated crop production.

Sugar Tax

Rule out taxing a single ingredient in a single food item and commit to continuing whole-of-diet nutrition education programmes.

Trade

Include sugar in all international trade agreements and remove technical barriers to implementing agreements.

Environment

Boost the government support to growers who are changing to best management practices to deliver water quality outcomes to the Great Barrier Reef.

Research and Development

Increase total government expenditure on agricultural R&D from 0.5% of gross value of production to 1.5% by 2019.

The full election priorities document can be found here.

Over the remaining weeks of this election campaign, CANEGROWERS elected representatives and staff will be meeting with candidates in their local areas, explaining these policy priorities to them and seeking their support for these measures.
A message from the Ayr Police Service
by Steve Barton

Property Crime Update

Over the past three weeks, property theft has been reported to Police on two occasions.

Both instances have been in the Brandon/Maidevale area.

The first occur between 6pm on Friday 6 May and 6.50am on Saturday 7 May, 2016 where 1000 litres of diesel, a welder, angle grinder and battery charger were stolen from an address on Maidevale Road, Brandon. Unfortunately no brand names or serial numbers were able to be provided, which makes the likelihood of the property being recovered remote.

The second occurrence was between 6pm on Monday 16 May and 3pm Tuesday 17 May, 2016, where a 20m by 20m tarp was stolen from Bowie Road, Brandon.

As with my article last week, with the cane harvesting upon us, there will be much more movement around the rural areas as well as machinery left unattended more often than usual and your security should be reviewed and improved.

If you have any information about the 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.

Canegrowers Burdekin Manager appointed to Townsville Hospital and Health Board

Canegrowers Burdekin General Manager Debra Burden said she was incredibly excited to be appointed to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Board of Directors.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service comprises 18 hospitals and community health campuses and 2 residential aged care facilities. It has an annual operating budget of $804m and employs over 5,000. The health service area extends from Townsville east to Magnetic Island, north to Cardwell and Ingham, west to Charters Towers, Hughenden and Richmond, south to our very own Burdekin.

“I applied for the role in late 2015, along with a number of others, and was delighted to be offered the position,” she said.

“I thought my accounting qualifications and my current position as Deputy Chair of North and West Remote Health Ltd together with my former role on the capital fund raising committee to build the Townsville Hospice and Palliative Care Centre would provide me with a good background.”

“I have a personal interest in ensuring regional, rural and remote areas have access to quality health services,” she said.

Debra stressed that this appointment will not impact her commitment to her role as General Manager of Canegrowers Burdekin.

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Debra said her family, which included husband Phil and three children, was thrilled with her appointment to the new role.

Debra will be joined by new Board members Christopher Castles and Sarah Kendall. Current Deputy Chair Michelle Morton and Board member Donald Whaleboat have been reappointed.

The other members of the 10-member Board are Dr Kevin Arlett, Dr Eric Guazzo, Professor Ian Wronski and Professor Gracelyn Smallwood.

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Debra stressed that this appointment will not impact her commitment to her role as General Manager of Canegrowers Burdekin.

 Newly appointed THHS Chair, Mr Tony Mooney, congratulated Debra on her appointment which took effect from Wednesday, 18 May.

Debra said her family, which included husband Phil and three children, was thrilled with her appointment to the new role.

Debra will be joined by new Board members Christopher Castles and Sarah Kendall. Current Deputy Chair Michelle Morton and Board member Donald Whaleboat have been reappointed.

The other members of the 10-member Board are Dr Kevin Arlett, Dr Eric Guazzo, Professor Ian Wronski and Professor Gracelyn Smallwood.
First meeting for newly elected Policy Council and Board

CANEGROWERS recently-elected Policy Council, which will drive the peak sugarcane farming body for the next three years, is meeting in Townsville this week.

One of the first tasks of the 21 grower representatives from every Queensland cane growing district today has been to elect a new State Board:

Paul Schembri, Mackay, Chairman
Kevin Borg, Plane Creek, Vice Chairman
Joe Marano, Innisfail
Michael Pisano, Herbert River

Allan Dingle, Bundaberg, Senior Vice Chairman
Owen Menkens, Burdekin
Rajinder Singh, Tableland
Mark Mammino, Isis

“The strength of CANEGROWERS is its proud history of drawing representation and leadership from a democratic and decentralised process – every member can nominate and every member can vote,” CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said of the election process which was started in February.

“This grass roots representation of growers, by growers, is at every level of our industry which contributes $2 billion each year to the Australian economy.”

Each of the 13 CANEGROWERS district companies elects a board which sends representatives to the Policy Council and from that group, the State Board has today been elected.

Paul Schembri said he was humbled and privileged to be starting his second term as CANEGROWERS Chairman.

“The past three years have been full of challenges for growers but we are hoping that the next three will give us a more stable and financially rewarding period,” he said. “Our right to choice in sugar marketing has been secured and prices have strengthened.”

“My belief has always been that with unity we can achieve great things and I look forward to continuing to work closely with growers and their elected representatives.”

Paul Schembri’s re-election follows his selection as a Vice President of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers – the international forum for farmers in the world sugar industry.

“This role gives me the opportunity to promote the interests of the Australian industry while also contributing to the welfare of the five million farmers represented by the WABCG,” Mr Schembri said.

On Friday the CANEGROWERS Policy Council was joined in Townsville by other district directors for an induction and planning meeting. A key item on the agenda is the CANEGROWERS Federal Election priorities. Among the issues around which CANEGROWERS will be seeking commitments are spiraling electricity costs, access to export markets, support for Great Barrier Reef water quality improvement work and a commitment to education-based nutrition programs.
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0497 340 268
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.

---

### 2015 Season Advances & Payments as at 9 May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$227</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 August 15*</td>
<td>$243</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 October 15*</td>
<td>$266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 December 15*</td>
<td>$304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 January 16*</td>
<td>$314</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 February 16*</td>
<td>$316</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 March 16*</td>
<td>$328</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 April 16*</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May 16*</td>
<td>$367</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 June 16</td>
<td>$376</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$386</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* paid

The Advance Program is a guide only. CANEGROWERS Burdekin takes no responsibility for its accuracy. It only applies to growers who did not forward price for 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.

---

### Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices as at 27 May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross $/Tonne IPS</th>
<th>Net $/Tonne IPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$540</td>
<td>$520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$517</td>
<td>$497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Season</td>
<td>$491</td>
<td>$471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Estimated QSL Pool Prices as at 13 May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2015</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$383</td>
<td>$480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$408</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$695</td>
<td>$783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$437</td>
<td>$474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$443</td>
<td>$490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Waterfind Burdekin Haughton WSS Water Market Summary as at 23 May 2016

#### Temporary Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Sell Vol</th>
<th>Total Buy Vol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$27</td>
<td>11,380 ML</td>
<td>875 ML</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Lowest Sell Order

50ML @ $27/ML

#### Highest Buy Order

380ML @ $26/ML

---

### Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Latest</th>
<th>Same period last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin Haughton WSS - Medium Priority Total : 979,594ML</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Dam Storage

#### Burdekin falls damp

Current Volume (ML): 1,748,349

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Total Capacity</th>
<th>May 23rd, 2016</th>
<th>May 23rd, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 %</td>
<td>77 %</td>
<td></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.

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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.
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