Burdekin drought declared as the dam level falls below 50%

Canegrowers Burdekin has been successful in its push for the Burdekin to be drought declared.

The reason we had been pushing so hard is that irrigators could potentially receive some relief on electricity charges from the “Drought relief from electricity charges rebate scheme” (click here).

This scheme provides the potential for irrigators to be reimbursed for fixed charge components of their electricity account, excluding minimum demand charges.

The recent BBIFMAC Energy Efficiency Project indicates this benefit on Tariff 66 and using some of the common pump sizes in the Burdekin could amount to the following (inclusive of GST):

- 7.5kW (10hp) = $264/annum
- 10kW (14hp) = $529/annum
- 18kW (25hp) = $1377/annum
- 22kw (30hp) = $1801/annum

Although the BBIFMAC project ended on 30 June 2015 the Tariff calculator is still available and growers are encouraged to use this tool to assess which tariff is best for them and to assess the benefits of transferring to Tariff 66 given the Drought Relief Scheme. Also, growers should consult with Ergon as they may need to update their metre/s and need to be aware of the financial impact of this.

Click here to access the tariff calculator

Click here to access the Ergon Drought Relief Application Form.

Wilmar’s NO CHOICE – NO QSL Update

The Marketing Impasse may be nearing a resolution & putting things into perspective regarding the independent Burdekin growers who signed an interim CSA

The KAP Private Members Bill (click here) which provides growers with the right to continue to choose to utilise QSL and recognises Grower Economic Interest and provides for pre-contract arbitration, is scheduled to be debated and voted on in Parliament next week and there should be an answer one way or the other by Thursday 3rd December.

Representatives from Canegrowers Burdekin will be in Parliament to observe the action as it aligns with our long standing legal dispute with Wilmar relating to the 2010 shortfall. The legal case commences in the Supreme Court on Monday 30th November.

Everything is coming to a head in the one week.

Returning to the KAP Private Member’s Bill, on the face of it, the numbers are sufficient to push the Bill through. The Bill has the support of the KAP Party (2 votes), the LNP (42 votes) and independent Billy Gordon (1 vote). Whilst Labor, who has come out strongly saying they are not supporting the Bill, have 43 votes and we understand historically the remaining independent Peter Wellington votes with Labor. So on those numbers and providing no-one backs out and does not show up for the vote it should be 45 FOR and 44 AGAINST.

Given the Agriculture Minister’s strong comments last week on the Marketing Impasse and his apparent strong support for the international milling companies we were disappointed that Minister Byrne made an unannounced flying trip to the region yesterday and chose Wilmar’s Invicta Mill to make the announcement on drought declaration and failed to allocate any time to meet with any grower representative groups.

A meeting at this critical time would have provided the Minister with an opportunity to hear firsthand why growers are so incensed at Wilmar’s actions that strip them of their rights to continue to utilise Queensland Sugar Ltd.
Wilmar’s NO CHOICE – NO QSL Update

It would also have provided an opportunity to put things into perspective in regard to the tiny group of growers who earlier this week chose to sign an “interim CSA”.

This group of growers represent less than 2% of farmers supplying Wilmar’s mills and an interim CSA is exactly that ...it is a “temporary” “provisional” “makeshift” “stop gap” agreement that is in place until a commercial agreement is negotiated.

Interim agreements have been used previously and once the formal negotiations have been completed the interim agreement ceases and the new agreement comes into play.

Wilmar’s PR machine has really gone into overdrive making out this is some huge breakthrough in the marketing “dispute” and their actions had the potential to pitch grower against grower.

Wilmar have also tried to use this as a tactic to convince the State Government that the Marketing “battle” can be resolved with commercial negotiations and that there is no need for legislation.

It is pleasing to know that the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Deb Frecklington has taken the time to visit most of the cane regions (on more than one occasion) and to talk at length with growers to ensure she has a solid understanding of the issues. Deb Frecklington replied strongly to a recent letter from the Australian Sugar Milling Council (click here) whereby the ASMC urged the LNP to vote down the KAP Private Members Bill. Deb’s response (click here) made it clear the LNP would not be changing their stance.

We have issued an invitation to Minister Byrnes to meet with us next Tuesday in Brisbane and have confirmed that our previous invitation whereby we invited the Minister to present to our growers remains open. We have urgently encouraged him to talk to his Queensland cane farming families about this critical issue.

The fact is that Wilmar’s NO CHOICE NO QSL Interim Agreement strips growers of their rights to continue to access Queensland Sugar Ltd (QSL).

QSL is a not for profit, industry owned marketing company that offers buyers a unique niche supplier. QSL is the heart of the sugar marketing system, a system that has faithfully served the needs of the Queensland cane industry for over 100 years and is the envy of other countries.

In place of QSL, Wilmar is endeavouring to force growers to accept a privately owned, for profit Singaporean based company to market the raw sugar made from growers cane. It is important to understand that the way growers are paid for their cane is directly related to the price obtained for the raw sugar. Growers are paid around 66% of the price received for the raw sugar. Growers bear double the risk faced by the milling company and it is only fair that they have the right to choose to continue to utilise QSL, if they so wish.

We are stunned that the Queensland Labor Party, a party that is based on the value of fairness and the value of giving everyone a “Fair go” has taken the position of being against the KAP Private Members Bill. This Bill is designed to protect growers’ rights and provide them with a choice in marketing whilst also recognising they have an economic interest in the raw sugar as it impacts the price they receive for their cane whilst providing pre-contract arbitration. There is nothing in this Bill that prevents growers from choosing to utilise the privately owned Singaporean based marketing company Wilmar is campaigning. The Bill provides for competition that can only benefit the cane industry.

Queensland Productivity Commission sticks with their position

As reported as the front page story of canenews last week (click here) the Queensland Productivity Commission was undertaking a Consultation Regulatory Impact Assessment of the KAP Private Members Bill.

The QPC considered two key questions as part of this assessment of the KAP Private Members Bill. These questions being:

⇒ is there evidence of market failure in the sugar industry arrangements that would indicate the need for government intervention?
⇒ is there a net benefit from the Bill; or are there alternative options that would meet the overall industry objective?

Late October the QPC released their Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement which contained the QPC’s draft response to the two key questions as follows:

⇒ No evidence to support a case for market failure
⇒ Benefits of additional regulation do not outweigh the costs

The QPC called for input from interested parties prior to making a final decision. Working to a very tight timeframe Canegrowers Burdekin (together with other CANEGROWERS local companies and CANEGROWERS Qld/ACFA) made a submission to refute the QPC draft decisions. (Click here to view all submissions).

On Wednesday of this week (25th November) the QPC provided the final “Decision RIS” (Click here) to the Treasurer. The QPC advised they had considered the submissions and made some amendments to the analysis but they were not prepared to alter their draft conclusion.
Mills deliver No Marketing Choice for Growers
ASMC plays one of Wilmar's tricks

Readers may recall Wilmar's arrogant actions at a meeting we attended in Townsville on 25 June and was covered on page 2 of canenews edition 29 June (click here).

At that meeting Wilmar issued a press release about the meeting prior to the meeting even concluding.

Today, the ASMC have repeated this arrogant action.

As reported previously CANEGROWERS and other grower representative growers have been taking part in a voluntary mediation process with ASMC in an attempt to resolve the marketing impasse. This process has been mediated by Mike Logan the founding CEO of NSW dairy group Diary Connect and all parties agreed to keep the discussions and negotiations within the group. The process has been underway since 9th November. At this stage of the negotiation process both groups have put forward options which have been unacceptable to the other party.

Today, with the KAP Private Members Bill up for debate next week, the ASMC moved the mediation into the public arena by issuing a press release (click here) and again using one of Wilmar’s tactics of confusion by replacing growers demand for “choice in marketing” with “choice in pricing” and talking up the proposal as a compromise and making subtle treats that if the KAP Private Members Bill is passed this “opportunity” or any other “commercial comprise” is lost.

Cane growers refute claims that the ASMC has tabled a compromise that will be acceptable to growers in the ongoing sugar marketing dispute.

“CANEGROWERS is disappointed that mills have decided to move the negotiation into a public debate. The fact is, if a deal that was acceptable to growers was on the table, we would be embracing it,” says CANEGROWERS Chairman, Paul Schembri.

“Let’s be very clear, the options put forward for pricing by the mills have not given growers any choice over the physical marketing of sugar, which is the crux of what growers have been fighting tooth and nail for.”

“Omitted in their release was that an alternative proposal had been presented to the mills by the growers, which could have formed the basis of further discussions.

“The grower offer on the table was a significant compromise to facilitate miller agreement to a genuine commercial solution.

“Perhaps the ASMC have forgotten that on 13th October, 2005, prior to deregulation, the Queensland Sugar Industry and the Queensland Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Click here). The MOU included the following statements:

a. the working group recommend a commercial, non-legislatively based marketing structure for the sugar industry be developed and that it be based on the recommendations of the working group report. The key principles include that QSL would continue to be the industry’s preferred bulk raw sugar export marketing company

b. The Australian Sugar Milling Council stated: All members of the Australian Sugar Milling Council remain committed to working with QSL to assist QSL to remain the preferred marketer by suppliers and customers of Queensland produced bulk raw sugar for export.

Recycling of used fertiliser bags

The trial recycling program by Farm Waste Recovery is coming to an end, with the sites accepting bags until mid-December. The bags will then be collected by processors and recycled.

Your recycling efforts can still continue after this date with local recyclers AMDETT. They offer a recycling service for all recyclable plastic materials including chemical drums, fertiliser bags, old fluming and poly pipe; with drop off point at Greenacres, next to the United Service Station. Phone to discuss drop off or collection on Dimitrios 0407 690 698 or Peter 0408 702 123.
Harvest Management Group concludes for 2015

The final meeting was held on Wednesday where an analysis of the season’s production and throughputs was presented to the harvest management group.

Although some of this data was presented in a previous edition of canenews it didn’t include other data such as hectares, molasses production and fibre levels.

Siding Inductions

Wilmar managers at the meeting provided an update on the Shared Workplace Online Siding induction where in the Burdekin 239 inductions for 2015 were successfully completed and of the 531 current inductees there 292 expiring next year under the two year currency that an inductee has once completed. Wilmar are now using the online process in all of the mills in the other regions with the total being 1091 inductees.

Wilmar will continue to review the course content and fine tune where necessary and are happy to accept any suggestions for improvement.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland still hope to audit some delivery sidings in northern mills in December with an expectation that they will do some work on the project in the Burdekin next year although Division personnel maybe different and the scope of the project may be redefined.

Major Capital & Maintenance

Wilmar General Manager Operations Mike McLeod provided an overview of the major capital and maintenance works planned for the coming maintenance season. The overview was similar to what has been previously reported in the 12th November edition of canenews (click here).

Grouping Process for 2016

The Grouping application forms have been modified to reflect the relevant dates in the 2016 calendar and are available by clicking here or via the Wilmar grower web.

Dirt in Cane

To date the research being conducted on the modified base cutter has yielded good results and the chopper box research has not yielded definitive results. BPS and SRA will be communicating research progress and outcomes to growers and harvesting contractors. Peter Larsen of Wilmar has offered to speak to the Harvest Management Group early in new year about the 2016 program for further research in these aspects of cane supply.

Crop and Start Date

The first forecast issued by Wilmar last month was for 7.51Mt, this has now been raised to 7.69Mt and will be reviewed again in the new year. The increase has been as a result of first the early November finish, increased sugar price, slight increase in water allocations and some recent rain received from storms traversing part of the production area.

All mills are currently planning works so that crushing can begin at the start of June if required and Wilmar will wait for the estimate to be complete before consulting on start dates. Most collectives represented at the meeting expressed a preference for a 2016 start to be in the second week of June.

Season Review of the Group’s Activity

After each season a review is conducted where each attendee at the meeting were invited to provide comments based on what went well and what didn’t go well in regards to the process, conduct or operation of the Harvest Management Group meetings and also harvest operations. The review also highlights and notes any areas of improvement for future action.
Weather update by Professor Roger Stone

We are currently further progressing into the El Niño pattern. The SOI phase for the end of October was classified as being a ‘consistently deeply negative phase’.

The SOI to the end of October was close to minus 21.31 (-21.31).

For Queensland, rainfall probability values for the next three months are low for most regions (especially coastal zones) compared to normal for this time of year.

At this stage, the current El Niño system is expected to persist until about autumn 2016, suggesting a possible return to higher rainfall from early winter onwards, 2016.

To read the monthly outlook and review click here.

Insurance savings for household and vehicle owners

As you would know by previous articles in canenews there is a new insurer to the Australian market for house and vehicles Berkshire Hathaway which is offering competitive premiums.

Owen and Sarah Menkens recently saved $2600 dollars on their insurance following a review by Insurance Consultant Martine Bengoa. Martine was able to find them cheaper premiums through new insurer Berkshire Hathaway Insurance.

They are extremely happy with this saving, particularly as the quality of cover with Berkshire Hathaway is on par with their previous insurer, but at a fraction of the cost. They were also pleased with the personal friendly service offered by Martine.

CANEGROWERS Insurance provide cover on domestic products such as home and contents, cars, caravans and boats as well as farm. CANEGROWERS Insurance has no broker fee and a wide range of insurance companies to compare quotes.

When you receive your insurance bill let us undertake a thorough insurance review and shop around for the best deal for you. Phone Martine on 4790 3605 to arrange a comprehensive insurance review or Tiffany for home or motor enquiries.

Would you like to advertise in canenews?

Email bdk@canegrowers.com.au to receive more information
Trade
✓ Paul Schembri and Dan Galligan attended the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) and International Sugar Organisation (ISO) meetings in London last week. Both events demonstrate the global nature of our industry, particularly the WABCG forum, which provided an excellent opportunity to share information with other farming groups on areas of critical industry development. This included the negotiation of commercial supply contracts and managing input costs, environmental pressure and nutrition and health.

✓ Further meetings were also held with global sugar traders, market analysts and other grower bodies.

✓ CANEGROWERS accompanied Minister Joyce on the Japanese leg of his north-Asia visit, to ensure a focus on the market access issues for high pol (Brand 1) sugar.

✓ CANEGROWERS also met separately with officials from Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture. Japan has responded positively to the concerns raised. Protocols are being established to address the technical barriers.

✓ Two sugar roundtable discussions on sugar tariff structures were held during the Indonesia-Australia Business Week in Jakarta. CANEGROWERS joined Minister Robb, Australia’s Ambassador to Jakarta and the CEO of Austrade, in discussions directed at solving the emerging tariff issue.

✓ Australia has questioned India’s use of export subsidies in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), following concerns raised by CANEGROWERS on behalf of the industry.

Marketing
✓ There has been significant activity in the lead up to the December debate in the Queensland Parliament on the KAP Real Choice in Marketing Bill. CANEGROWERS has commented on the proposed LNP amendments.

Red Imported Fire Ants
✓ CANEGROWERS attended the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program ceremony for the retirement of Mikey the performing odour detection dog. The event was also used as a fire ant awareness activity. Mikey is being retired after eight years of loyal service to Australia in the fight against fire ants, for which he received an award, together with his handler Justin Gibson, for outstanding achievement which was presented by the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk.

Nitrogen
✓ CANEGROWERS has met with Bernard Schroeder from University of Southern Queensland, on nitrogen related matters.

Smartcane BMP
✓ As part of the BMP-Sugar Research Australia (SRA) training contract, Mosman Agricultural Services will be running Practical Drainage Training in the Wet Tropics. A workshop with local extension service providers and BMP facilitators is being held on 20 November to get feedback and ideas to help improve training requirements for the program, including any variations required to maximise relevance to each district.

✓ Smartcane BMP engagement is trending upwards:

 nutritious N
✓ 1088 registered in system.

✓ 894 have benchmarked their farm (45% cane area).

✓ 28 growers have achieved accreditation, with 100 anticipated by February 2016.

✓ A draft report of the SRA review of BMP modules has been distributed to participants from the review workshop for comment.
The Ministers Great Barrier Reef taskforce met on 12 & 13 November. The taskforce is developing recommendations to meet water quality targets and will be developing a draft report that outlines the mix of incentives, regulations, grant and market based tools for Minister Miles to consider. This will influence future regulations, government policy and grower requirements.

CANEGROWERS attended the Reef Alliance meeting for programs on the Great Barrier Reef, together with attendees from other agricultural industries, Natural Resource Management groups and the World Wildlife Fund. The meeting provided an update on the Australian Government Reef Programme, an update on the Queensland Reef Taskforce, an update on Reef Advisory Committee and actions for the Reef Alliance to progress. The Australian Government provided an overview of future reef trust funding, including a project for cane which will focus on a grant style program looking at improving practices around nutrients, sediments, chemicals and irrigation. The program, which will link to Smartcane BMP, is due to be rolled out in April 2016. More detail will be provided as it becomes available.

CANEGROWERS met with Allan Dale to discuss governance structures for reef programs and activities.

National Environmental Science Program

CANEGROWERS attended the National Environment Science Program (NESP) Tropical Water Quality Hub Steering Committee meeting to review project proposals to be funded under the current round of the program. Projects were evaluated and recommendations provided to the chair.

The goal of NESP is to conduct science that leads to more effective implementation of on-ground works investments in reef repair that results in improved water quality outcomes, more informed decision-making for the Great Barrier Reef and improved condition/resilience of its aquatic biota and habitats. It focuses upon the Great Barrier Reef and its associated catchments.

Chemicals

CANEGROWERS met with Adama (formally FarmOz) to discuss the chemical products and technology they are currently working on.
In critical times like now, between low prices, droughts, high electricity costs, high water charges, YCS, and everything else that gets thrown at farmers; it is now more important than ever to keep the health of your soil at its optimum, so you can keep productivity at its maximum. I know this too well, as I am a farmer myself, with experience and interests in sugar cane, small crops, heavy produce, mangos, broad acre crops, and forestry.

With all this in mind, can you afford not to use our products?

Don’t sell yourself short! “Remember it pays, not costs, to use our products.” If you can’t make money due to low prices and all the above, the next best thing is to increase productivity, or at least keep the productivity up as high as you can. Keeping your soil in tip top condition is the best medicine for those bigger production figures that will in turn result in a much higher return. Without soil health you can feed your crops all sorts of vitamins and minerals but will lack the response that you will achieve by having the soil in optimum health.

Let’s talk about input costs

In times of ever increasing costs of inputs and no letting down, we at Inkerman Lime & Gypsum are proud to advise that we have made some internal changes and a restructuring of our business operations by purchasing our own heavy vehicles for road transport, so we could reduce our product costs and in turn pass on savings to the customer. In doing so, we created extra jobs for our community, a win win for everyone.

We all should be asking other businesses who directly or indirectly benefit from farmers in this region, to help farmers in tough times to at least try to follow suit and reduce prices wherever they can. This is my challenge to other local business owners, “If I can, you can!”

I would also like to advise that a new crushing plant has ensured a very finely ground product which is important for a faster reaction in the soils. For those farmers who have their own spreaders, we can do you a good deal on bulk deliveries. “If things are a bit tight for you speak to us about a payment plan.”

Please call Joe, Rosetta & Robert for details on prices.

To our valued clients

By using the services of Inkerman Lime & Gypsum you can be assured that your money stays in the region. Each year, directly and indirectly, Inkerman Lime & Gypsum injects millions of dollars into the local economy for goods and services and provides employment for many locals.

Inkerman Lime & Gypsum has been operating since 1932, and since then has changed hands a few times, but always remained locally owned. Local knowledge, good service and premium finely ground products puts you in the winning position every time.

OUR SERVICES

- **SUPPLIERS AND SPREADERS OF:***
  
  **INKERMAN LIME & GYPSUM PRODUCT RANGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Calcium</th>
<th>Silica%</th>
<th>Magnesium%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Earth Lime</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winton Gypsum</td>
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<td>15.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulverised Lime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Rock Phosphate</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillgrove Dolomite</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend 3</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blend 5</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Garnett Dolomite</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium Silica</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium Carbonate</td>
<td>26.27%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium Oxide</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **CUSTOMISED BLENDS TO SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC NEEDS**

  Many farmers are opting to use our 50/50 blend of earth lime and gypsum, which keeps the price down and calcium up with the benefits of sulphur still in the mix.

- **LOCAL AGENT FOR MINERAL MULCH**

  We are pleased to advise that we are the new local agents for Mineral Mulch (12.3% Calcium, 51.14% Silica) from Redbank in South Qld, a very exciting new product with great results. Please see article on page 12.

- **FERTILISER, COMPOST, & MANURE SPREADING**

  We spread sand on roads, around sheds, homes, and anywhere you want to suppress dust.

- **MACHINERY HIRE:** FLOAT - SEMI TIPPERS - TRUCKS - LOADERS

  Our tractors and trucks provide a variety of spreading services with computerised direct drop Augers that are set up for an even spread or target specific areas in strips on the hill or in furrow. We also have spinners, orchard spreader applicators, and variable rate spreaders. All fitted with GPS navigational systems. We run a fleet of vehicles to help minimise delays.

  We provide a variety of spreading services with computerized direct drop Augers, Spinners, Orchard Spreader Applicators & variable rate Spreaders. all fitted with GPS navigational systems for a more accurate application.

  We run a fleet of vehicles to help minimise delays.

  Pick up the phone and give us a call to discuss your needs.

It pays, (not costs), to use our products!

**Increased Productivity = $$$**

Please call Joe, Rosetta & Robert for details on prices.
Pricing information

2015 Season Advances & Payments
as at 6 November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
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</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>$303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 January 16</td>
<td>$312</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February 16</td>
<td>$321</td>
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<td>17 March 16</td>
<td>$331</td>
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<td>21 April 16</td>
<td>$341</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May 16</td>
<td>$351</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 June 16</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$390</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 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 2015 Pool Prices
As at 30 October 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$442</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
<td>$452</td>
</tr>
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2016 Grower Pricing Information Sessions

Wilmam and QSL would like to invite you to attend a 2016 season pricing information session in your region.

The purpose of these meetings is specifically to explain the pricing/pooling mechanisms, key dates and provide a sugar market outlook to assist with growers’ decision making for the upcoming season(s).

Jean- Vincent Piot from Wilmar Singapore’s team will be presenting the market section and will be available to assist with any queries you may have.

Ayr Showgrounds
Wednesday 9th December
9am, 11am or 2pm
No RSVP requirements for these meetings.

Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices
as at 27 November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$439</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burdekin Reef Trust Tender – bid for a grant of up to $500,000

The Australian Government (AG) is providing $2.5 million to help Burdekin sugarcane farmers improve nitrogen and irrigation management practices on their farms.

The window is now open for you to submit an expression of interest (EOI) for an individual grant of up to $500,000, to help you trial a new practice to improve water quality leaving your farm.

You must register your EOI before 7 December 2015. Once the EOIs are in, the AG will open a reverse auction, where registered farmers who submit the best value for money bids will be prioritised for funding.

For more information on this project and how to apply, please visit the NQ Dry Tropics website www.nqdrytropics.com.au/reef-trust-tender or contact Luke Malan, Senior Project Officer, NQ Dry Tropics, on 0417 024 818 or luke.malan@nqdrytropics.com.au

For additional information, go to www.environment.gov.au/reef-trust-tender-burdekin

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.
Waterfind Burdekin Haughton WSS Water Market Summary
As at 23 November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary Market</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Sell Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Buy Order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total : 979,594ML</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dam Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>Current Volume (ML)</th>
<th>% of Total Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin falls dam</td>
<td>937,949 v</td>
<td>51 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75 %</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.

A meeting in Far North Queensland last week has enlisted a panel of eight expert scientists from Australia and around the world to assist with reviewing Sugar Research Australia’s investment into research into Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS). The panel of eight scientific experts has worked with SRA on its integrated research effort into solving the YCS dilemma. This expert panel will provide a report for the SRA Board that will inform and guide the current and future investment in the YCS research program.

Billet quality survey

This harvest season SRA, Wilmar and local productivity services conducted a cane supply quality survey for the Herbert, Burdekin, Proserpine and Plane Creek regions.

The project was initiated to gain a better understanding of the quality of cane supplied to the mill for each respective region.

The process was undertaken in accordance with standards set by the ISSCT-agricultural engineering committee and involved multiple samples being taken from each group between 7am – 9am.

Read more about the work here.
2016 QSL Pricing Pool Options

QSL will again provide a range of pricing options for our members in the 2016 Season. This week we take a brief look at what will be on offer.

As in previous years, the 2016 QSL-managed pools feature differing levels of risk and types of price management. QSL Pricing Pools to be offered next season are:

- The QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool
- The QSL Actively Managed Pool
- The QSL Harvest Pool
- The US Quota Pool

The table below provides an overview of each pool and its volume obligations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool type</th>
<th>QSL US Quota Pool</th>
<th>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</th>
<th>QSL Actively Managed Pool</th>
<th>QSL 2-Season Forward Pool</th>
<th>QSL Harvest Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pool objective</td>
<td>Encompasses the returns for sales made by QSL into the USA under the Tariff Rate Quota issued for the importation of raw sugar.</td>
<td>Provides a guaranteed minimum return with the potential for higher returns. Altered Advances rate (at 90% by 31/12/16).</td>
<td>Targets the best return over the season by pricing more frequently as short-term market opportunities arise.</td>
<td>Priced over 2-seasons and targets the best return for raw sugar to be produced in the 2017 Season.</td>
<td>Designed to manage possible production fluctuations across the 2016 Season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pricing season</td>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>2016 and 2017 Seasons</td>
<td>2016 Season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growers will be able to nominate tonnages into these pools from early January 2016 until mid-February 2016, with Millers required to finalise their pricing declarations with QSL by Monday 29 February 2016.

In addition to the pool offerings above, QSL will continue to execute the individual pricing nominated by growers. This pricing, administered by your Miller but undertaken on the ICE 11 by QSL, is managed within the current Raw Sugar Supply Agreement (RSSA). While those growers supplying Wilmar, MSF and Tully Sugar cannot currently price through the existing system beyond the 2016 Season (as these millers do not have RSSAs with QSL beyond this date), individual grower pricing for the 2017 Season is still available to those growers supplying our continuing Millers – Isis Central Mill, Bundaberg Sugar and Mackay Sugar. Please see your Miller for further details.

Updated Product Description Statements for each QSL-managed pool will soon be available on our website. The QSL team will also visit each of our Supplier areas prior to the pricing declaration date to meet with growers and provide further information on QSL’s pools.
DATES TO REMEMBER
Sugar Industry Calendar
Click here

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.canegrowersburdekin.com.au

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Sugar Industry Calendar

Are you interested in learning about the advances being made in low-cost automation within furrow irrigation?

NQ Dry Tropics invites you to inspect the prototype low cost furrow irrigation automated system developed through the NQ Dry Tropics, Sugarcane Innovations Program.

Take the opportunity to inspect, operate and provide your perspective on the practicality of the low cost automation and telemetry irrigation system.

- Inspect first hand, the systems componentry
- Discuss infield placement of end of row sensors and feedback mechanisms
- See working automated linear valve actuators paired with radio stations
- Inspect the pump station set-up, base station, solar powered system and fail safe measures.
- Interact with a fully operational bench top model
- Learn about remote control ability through the Phone App
- Discuss the costs involved, longevity and potential commercialisation of the system.

Presented by: Willy Lucas (host farmer), Peter McDonnell (Fermacist), Greg Payne (GPS/Laser technician) and Anthony Curro (NQ Dry Tropics).

REGISTER NOW
On 4722 5752 / 0408 272 613 or anthony.curro@nqdrytropics.com.au

You're Invited | Brandon Rice Field Day

SunRice invites you to attend its Rice Field Day in Brandon on Wednesday, 2 December 2015.

As the rice industry continues to grow across North Queensland, this will be a great opportunity to learn about SunRice's grain storage expansion plans at the Brandon Mill, hear the latest on product developments and view alternate irrigation techniques and new rice variety trials.

A farm tour will also be held at Rob Stockham's property, where you'll see harvesting in action as well as a seedling display and demonstration. Chris Quinn, Grower Services Manager, Field and Technical, will provide an overview of the seedling options available.

Growers, suppliers and members of the wider farming and agribusiness community are encouraged to attend.

Hear from presenters including:
- Mike Helditch, General Manager Grower Services, SunRice - North Queensland expansion and grower support
- Karl Cook, Business Manager, SunRice - SunRice product development
- Andrew Bann, Executive Director, Canegrowers' Association of Australia (EPA) - EPA in North Queensland
- Rob Eccles, Business Development and Agronomy Manager, SunRice Brandon - Introduction
- Jayson Bowle & Evan Shannon, Fermacist - Trial site review
- Dr Peter Snell, Rice Plant Breeder, NSW Department of Primary Industries - New varieties and future direction
- Evan Shannon, Fermacist - Drip tape as alternative irrigation technique

Date: Wednesday, 2 December 2015
Time: 12pm – 5pm, lunch and afternoon tea provided
Location: Commencing at the Brandon Tavern, Corner Drysdale and Spiller Streets, Brandon, followed by an AyR Research Station and farm visit. Bus transport will be provided.

To RSVP please contact SunRice Brandon Mill on (07) 4784 1410 or Anony.Vagg on 0437 862 428 or email avagg@sunrice.com.au
QFF 10 things to know

1. **QFF has joined the ‘Save Our Voices’ campaign for a change to outdated media laws that prevent regional broadcasters from competing fairly with their major metropolitan counterparts. See QFF’s statement** [HERE](#).

2. It is now mandatory for quad bike riders to wear an approved motorcycle helmet when the vehicle is operating on a ‘road or road related area’. A new set of guidelines for conditionally registered vehicles has been released and came into force on 1st November 2015. QFF was not consulted.

3. The latest edition of QFF’s *Energy Savers e-news* is available [HERE](#). See on-farm advice to reduce your energy use. Subscribe [HERE](#).

4. ‘Spotlight on North Queensland Investment Opportunities’. See QFF President Stuart Armitage’s QCL column [HERE](#).

5. QFF industry member Growcom has announced that two thirds of Australia’s melon growers have voted in favour of levies designed to keep the industry viable and competitive.

6. See QFF’s ‘Disaster resilience planning for agriculture in Queensland’ article in Rural Weekly by Natural Disasters Project Manager, Ross Henry [HERE](#).

7. QFF industry member QDO has called on the government to address proposed changes to the Biosecurity legislation, in particular Queensland’s tick and Bovine Johne’s Disease (BJD).

8. QFF industry member NGIQ held its Annual Dinner last Friday night. Queensland Award winners were Canopy Wholesale Nursery & Nathan Little from Oxley Nursery. The dinner was attended by over 120 of the state’s leading production nursery owners and their staff, retail garden centre operators and industry VIPs.

9. **Lockyer Valley Regional Council** has initiated an opportunity for local producers to promote the prospect of working collaboratively with the Asian market. Local producers are already reaping the benefits of the recent In-Market visit to Singapore.

10. Mirriwinni (near Cairns) vanilla growers Fiona George and Matt Allen recently made GoodFood.com.au “Australia’s top 30 producers 2015”. Their Broken Nose Vanilla crop has been successful in Queensland's wet tropics region.

CANEGROWERS weather

The CANEGROWERS website features a weather section that by typing in your postcode will provide you with a seven day forecast for your desired postcode along with a 12 month rainfall outlook, SOI information and sea surface temperatures. To see the latest forecast for your postcode click [here](#). This outlook is for Home Hill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Partly cloudy.</td>
<td>Partly afternoon shower</td>
<td>Shower or two.</td>
<td>Shower or two clearing</td>
<td>Possible early shower</td>
<td>Windy.</td>
<td>Possible shower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>20°</td>
<td>21°</td>
<td>22°</td>
<td>23°</td>
<td>23°</td>
<td>22°</td>
<td>23°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>32°</td>
<td>32°</td>
<td>32°</td>
<td>32°</td>
<td>33°</td>
<td>33°</td>
<td>33°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chance of rain</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely amount</td>
<td>&lt; 1mm</td>
<td>1-5mm</td>
<td>10-20mm</td>
<td>5-10mm</td>
<td>&lt; 1mm</td>
<td>&lt; 1mm</td>
<td>&lt; 1mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost risk</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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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