



## **WELCOME TO 2024 ISSUE # 3 OF 'CANE NEWS'**



### **ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON FACEBOOK?**

Be sure to 'like' our page to keep up to date with Proserpine cane industry news, events



### **Info, new video & new PDFs to download & read**

Members can access current and previous updates by logging into the member services section at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au), using your CANEGROWERS membership number.

If you do not have your member number, please contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office on 4945 1844.











**Are you looking for something interesting to listen to while you're in the tractor or car?**

New CANEGROWERS podcasts are now available.

Podcasts can be heard by clicking the link below, or on any of these platforms:

### **Listen to this podcast on**

-  Apple Podcasts
-  Spotify
-  Google Podcasts
-  Overcast
-  Castro
-  Castbox
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## ***Get ready for Show Cane 2024!***

Show Day is nearly here, so take the opportunity to showcase your growing achievements to the community and win some amazing prizes along the way. With close to \$10,000 worth of prizes across the competition this year, it is well worth the entry!

### **There is a new kid on the block!**

Following the positive feedback on the Young Farmers Trophy last year, a new Under 18 Kids Cane award is being introduced for 2024. So, get your young ones out to cut and enter any six sticks of cane and make it a family event.

### **Another Major Lucky Entrant Prize for entrants who attend the event!**

Whitsunday Law has again generously sponsored the major lucky entrant prize this year. Every entrant will go in the draw to win the 'Farm Party Pack' which includes a Dune 4WD 45L Fridge/Freezer and protective cover, Yeti bundle, Webber BBQ and protective cover, \$150 Metropole voucher and a JBL Party box Speaker. So even if you don't win a section, you can still win one of the biggest prizes available on the day if you attend the event in person. So come along and show your support for our winners and sponsors on the day.



Keep an eye on our facebook page this coming week for more information on prizes and our generous sponsors.

Schedules for this year's Show Cane Exhibit have now been emailed to all members. If you require a printed copy, please visit the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office.

2024 Whitsunday Show Cane Exhibit proudly sponsored by:



## WILMAR GROWER UPDATE



### Proserpine Grower Update

- We have consulted with Proserpine grower representatives about the need to revise our planned start date for the 2024 season.
- Despite our best attempts at mitigation, industrial action has forced us to push back the planned start of production at Proserpine Mill by two days.
- The new start date is 13 June.
- We have been advised of two further days of industrial stoppage next week, so the start date could be pushed back further.
- As always, we will keep you updated.

**PETER LUKE**—Proserpine Cane Supply Manager



# CANEGROWERS PROSERPINE 2024 PRE-SEASON MEETING ROUNDUP

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, close to 50 members and industry stakeholders came together for a CANEGROWERS Pre-season meeting that included an update by Wilmar on Mill Preparations.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine Chairman Glenn Clarke opened proceedings and was followed by an address from Queensland CANEGROWERS (QCGO) Chairman, Owen Menkens. Stacey Corrie and Frank Millar from Sugar Services Proserpine also presented their Productivity Awards.

## Highlights

Members were informed of the many issues that had been addressed by QCGO over the previous 12 months. There had been a strong advocacy role with key ministers, leaders and international role players. From the 'Sugar Plus' program to new market and international trade opportunities, QCGO continued their drive to increase value for growers.

QCGO had also made important interventions to maintain value for growers. This included dealing with various issues such as load restraint compliance and the proposed Biosecurity Protection levy. Actions addressing the 'Future' of the industry were also raised including an Educational Strategy and Next Ratoon Leaders program. What was evident was the vast array of challenges faced by industry, many of which are difficult to deal with at a local level.

Luis Rodriguez (Wilmar Operations Manager) and Cory O'Shea (Wilmar Regional Operations Manager) gave an informative presentation on mill preparations and the outlook for the 2024 season. Although there had been good strides to address the operational issues from the previous two seasons, there remained significant challenges with experienced staff shortages. At the time of writing this article, the Enterprise Agreement negotiations remained on-going, and the mill start date extended. It is hoped this is resolved amicably with minimal disruption to the performance of the mill for the upcoming season.

Lastly, CANEGROWERS Proserpine wishes to congratulate all the Prod Awards winners. To all our Members we wish a good, hopefully somewhat dry, start to the crush!



Glenn Clarke (Chairman)



Owen Menkens (QCGO Chairman)



Cory O'Shea and Luis Rodriguez (Wilmar)



Pre-pay and save

**EARN \$150 CREDIT**

for every \$10,000 pre-paid for Bio Dunder liquid fertiliser before 30 June 2024



Get in touch



[agservices@wilmar.com.au](mailto:agservices@wilmar.com.au)



1800 881 957



\*Credit must be used by 31 December 2024 \*Terms and conditions apply



## NEW SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS NOW AVAILABLE

### Full Time, Part Time or Casual Employment Contract?

New employment contract templates for [full/part-time staff and casual labour](#) are available on request to members. These have been updated by QCGO and AiGroup to accommodate further legislative changes since the previous version was released.

It is important for members to use the new contract templates when engaging seasonal or casual employees. Legal advice provided by AiGroup to QCGO include the following important points for those looking to use the templates:

As of the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 (last year), there are new legislative requirements and restrictions regarding the use of fixed-term contracts including where an employer is now **prohibited from engaging an employee under a fixed term contract if it:**

- (i) continues for more than 2 years; or
- (ii) has a term permitting renewal or extension, so the total period is more than 2 years; or
- (iii) has a term permitting renewal or extension more than once (even if the total period is less than 2 years).

Where there was previously one, there are now two contracts available. The first is for full or part-time staff (Seasonal Contract) and the other for casual labour. It is important to use the correct template to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

In accordance with the Sugar Industry Award 2020 (clause 11), **only full-time and part-time employees may be engaged on a seasonal basis**. Therefore, the seasonal employment contract references the crushing season. The casual contract has been prepared simply as casual terms and conditions of engagement and are not subject to the crushing season.

In other words, if you employ someone consistently over the season, they are considered either a full or part-time employee. In this case you would need to use the Seasonal Employment Contract.

**The laws relating to casual employment, including the definition of a casual employee, will change on 26 August 2024.** The casual Terms and Conditions of Engagement have been prepared based on the laws relating to casual employment that are in effect currently. The casual Terms and Conditions of Engagement will require review and amendment following 26 August 2024 considering the new

This means that the Casual Employment Contract or 'Terms and Conditions of Engagement', will have to be updated post 26 August 2024.

AiGroup note that "there are some limited exemptions to the restrictions on fixed-term contracts. We recommend that you carefully consider the new legislative requirements regarding fixed-term contracts and ensure that any seasonal employees you engage comply with the new legislative requirements."

Lastly, "a Fair Work Information Statement, plus whichever is relevant: [Fixed Term Contract Information Statement](#) or [Casual Employment Information Statement](#), must be provided to every new employee before, or as soon as possible after, they start their new job." These are also available from the CANEGROWERS Office on request.



We'd love to share how our members are filling their days, new technologies or methods being used, photos of our beautiful area and any feel good or funny situations that you find yourselves in, but we need your help!



If you have something to share on the CANEGROWERS Proserpine facebook page – Proserpine Director, Bessie Orr, wants to hear from you!

Need a little help taking some photos to share or putting together your story – no trouble – we'd love to help.

Email your stories, photos etc to Bessie at: [proscgmedia@gmail.com](mailto:proscgmedia@gmail.com) or phone Bessie: 0437 538 044.

## SSP DELIVERS OBSERVATION TANK TO PROSERPINE STATE SCHOOL

Stacey heard that the Grade 3 classes at Proserpine State School are learning about sugarcane this term and wanted to help by providing a Perspex observation pot. The pot stands around 1 meter tall and is clear so that the students can grow their own cane while observing how the cane starts from a billet to an established plant.

The observation pot was planted with one billet against one side of the pot, and two one eye setts against the opposite side of the pot. KQ228 was selected due to its fast germination. The pot was then delivered to the PSS Grade 3 class where students were given a talk on how cane is propagated, what to expect while observing germination and how to care for their cane plants. Students were encouraged to ask questions and share their thoughts.

It will be very exciting to see how the experiment progresses and what the Grade 3's learn from growing their own cane.



The banner features the text 'PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE' in white on a blue background. To the right of the text are two yellow icons: a stylized sunburst and the letters 'QSL' in a white font.

## PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE

### **Authorised viewers**

Why are they useful? Do you need to update yours?

Authorised viewers can be nominated on your account to provide access to parties you wish to have viewing capabilities. For example, accountants and business partners are common users of the authorised viewer access. To check who you have provided access to on your account, contact your local QSL rep.

### **QSL App - Converting cane to GEI Sugar**

Want to double-check your GEI Sugar estimate for future seasons?

Head to the Cane to GEI Sugar Converter in the Tools section of the QSL App and simply enter your estimated cane tonnes and average CCS. You don't need to be a QSL Direct grower to access this feature – anyone with the QSL App on their device can use it.

### **Changes to your farm structure or third-party payments?**

It's important for QSL Direct growers who are planning any changes to their farm's operating structure to inform their local QSL team before harvest begins. This includes changes to ABNs and farm ownership.

Growers are also reminded that all third-party payment arrangements they have in place for the 2023 Season with QSL will automatically roll into the 2024 Season. If there has been any change to your third-party payment arrangements, including extension or expiration of lease and share farming agreements, please let us know.

### **QSL App – Access your personalised Advances schedule**

Not sure what your Advances payment will look like next month?

Head to the QSL App to check out your Advances schedule and expected payment values based on your own Weighted Average Price result.

Click on the 2023 Season in the QSL Direct section of the QSL App, then select 'More' to access.

Need help? Get in touch with your local team.

### **Advance rate increase**

The 2023 QSL Standard Advance rate increased last week to 92.5%.

The QSL Standard Advance rate default payment increased by \$19/tonne IPS net to \$765/tonne IPS net, based on an estimated combined QSL Harvest and US Quota pool value of \$827/tonne IPS net as of 26 April 2024.

### **Key Dates 2024**

#### **20 June**

Any 2024-Season Target Price Contract tonnage not priced by this date will automatically have its pricing window extended and roll costs may apply.

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#### **20 June**

Any unpriced tonnage allocated to the July 2024 contract through the Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract that is not rolled by this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.



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## Education - Who is UNICA?

UNICA released its first report for the current harvest season last month, but who are they and why is this significant?

Brazilian Sugarcane Industry and Bioenergy Association, also known as UNICA, represents the interests of the sugarcane sector in Brazil. Its regular reports on sugar and ethanol production are considered a key information source by market analysts.

### Central Region



*Grower Relationship Manager*  
**James Formosa**  
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james.formosa@qsl.com.au



*Grower Relationship Officer*  
**Karen Vloedmans**  
0429 804 876  
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*Grower Relationship Officer*  
**Brad Dunn**  
0418 978 120  
brad.dunn@qsl.com.au

Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this document.

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## MEMBER NOTICE

### 2024 CANEGOWERS Proserpine Levy

As per earlier communication, this serves to notify CANEGROWERS members that the Proserpine levy for 2024 will be 18c/t cane.

This equates to an average annual increase of 2% since the previous increase in 2018 and will be an additional \$200 paid by members per year for every 10,000 tonnes delivered.

We appreciate your continued support of CANEGROWERS Proserpine. Should you have any queries in this regard, please don't hesitate to contact our Chairman (Glenn Clarke) or Manager (Brendon Nothard).

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### Sugar Services Proserpine - Soil Testing

A reminder that as a service to members, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) offer soil, plant tissue and water testing, as well as CCS, RSD and pachymetra testing. Detailed recommendations are provided, and nutrient management plans (NMP) are also available upon request.

The service offered is basic sugarcane soil testing, at a cost to the grower of \$125.00 per test including GST and postage.

Please contact Stacey 0488 777 657 or Frank 0419 679 427 if you would like any samples collected.

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## SSP PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

Canegrowers Proserpine held their Pre-Season Meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2024, followed by SSP's Productivity Awards for the 2023 Season. Thank you to all who were able to attend the event, held at the Proserpine RSL.

This year there were an additional four awards, Overall Productivity Winners and Runners Up for farms less than 130ha and greater than 130ha. These awards consider growers farms under each individual ABN as a collective, regardless of zone. The winners are those that have the highest tonnes of sugar per hectare within each category.

Congratulations to all the winners:

Productivity Zone Awards

Zone A - Cantamessa Farming

Zone B - Salisbury Plains Grazing

Zone C - Watts Farming Pty Ltd

Zone D - Steve Hinschen

Zone E - FA & KL Clayton

Overall Handicap Winner - Salisbury Plains Grazing

Overall Productivity Winner - Small Farm <130ha - Cantamessa Farming

Overall Productivity Runner Up - Small Farm <130ha - John Faletti

Overall Productivity Winner - Large Farm >130ha - WR Farming Pty Ltd

Overall Productivity Runner Up - Large Farm >130ha - AP & LJ Pini.

There has been some query on how the zones and awards are selected. The Proserpine growing region is divided into five Productivity Zones, with each zone designated based on irrigation supply.

Irrigated Proserpine and Andromache.

Rainfed and supplementary irrigation.

Dry plains and limited irrigation.

Kelsey irrigated.

O'Connell river and tributaries.

All awards are based on tonnes of sugar per hectare. In each Productivity Zone, an award is given to the management unit that:

Has less than 30% plant cane.

Supplies cane from more than 50ha harvested area.

Has the highest tonnes of sugar per hectare.

The Overall Zone winner is then calculated by handicap.



Susan Vail & Stacey Corrie



Joanne & Madalyn Wright & Stacey Corrie



Steve Cantamessa & Stacey Corrie





Maurice Faletti & Stacey Corrie



Frank Clayton & Stacey Corrie



Steve Drinkwater & Stacey Corrie

## LOOKING FOR WORKERS THIS COMING SEASON?



visit <https://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/work-in-the-industry>

## DAF—PLANTING REMINDER



In preparation for, or as part of your planting over the coming months, it is important to make appropriate records of all agricultural chemicals used during this time including any insecticides and fungicides used when planting, any grub control products used at planting and any herbicides used post planting. For further information regarding record keeping requirements please visit:

- <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/sustainable/chemical/use/record>
- [www.qld.gov.au/AgVetChemicals](http://www.qld.gov.au/AgVetChemicals)

OR scan the QR code.





## **SUGAR MARKET STRUGGLING TO FIND SUPPORT**

**Simon Hood**

**Wilmar Manager Grower Marketing**

The ICE#11 sugar contract continues to be weighed down by the growing 24/25 forecast global trade surplus.

The early start to the Brazilian harvest, and clear weather, has resulted in record breaking production numbers being posted in the UNICA half monthly production reports for April. Seasonal cane tonnages are up and so is the ratio of sugar to ethanol production, particularly for this early in the season. This is forcing analysts to revise their sugar production numbers for Brazil.

Additionally, much needed rain in Thailand is improving the outlook for this year's crop to climb back above 10M tonnes of sugar production. Combined with incremental increases in tonnage for Europe, China and Central America, there is a growing consensus around another surplus year in sugar production.

The speculative money has sensed that the path of least resistance has been down, and has consequently moved to net short position on the market to around 50,000 contracts.

The good news is that global stocks are low and demand remains strong. Even with the significant pullback in prices, the forward market still exhibits a slightly inverted structure in which near-by prices are higher than deferred.

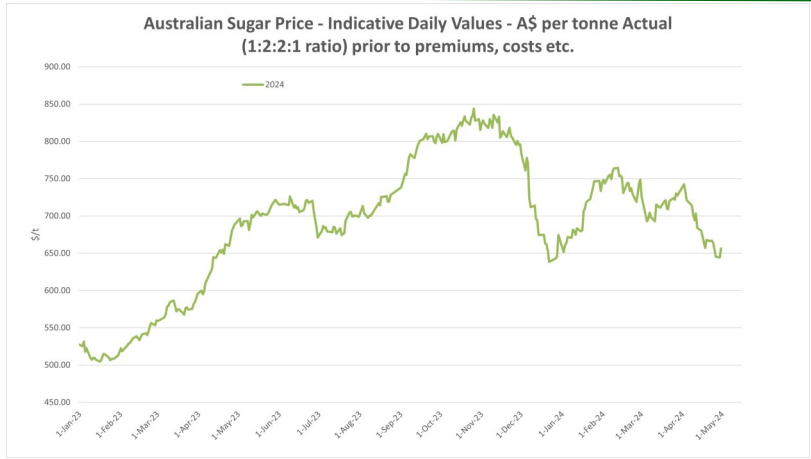
Australian sugar is selling well into our traditional Asian markets and the solid physical premiums paid for the 23-season crop look likely to be repeated into this year's pricing. While Brazilian ethanol parity is still well below current market levels, the import parity for raw sugar into Chinese refineries is resulting in some fresh business and plenty of price checking.

Following the close of the 24 season pricing nomination date (April 30), the grower's GEI sugar pricing mix has shifted back to traditional pool pricing mechanisms for price management. After a couple of years of record returns for our Production Risk Pool, this is not a total surprise.

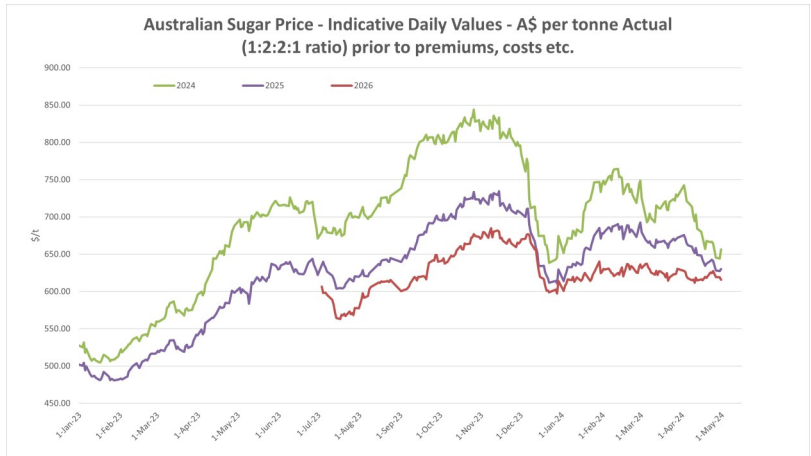
Further, the large volatility of prices over the last 18 months has left some growers who forward price feeling a bit whiplashed. As with all choices, there are trade-offs.

For those in the pools you can never be sure of your final price until well after harvest has been completed, whereas forward pricing gives you certainty and control of your own income.





AUD Sugar Swap Price: 2024 season



AUD Sugar Swap Price: 2024, 2025 and 2026 seasons

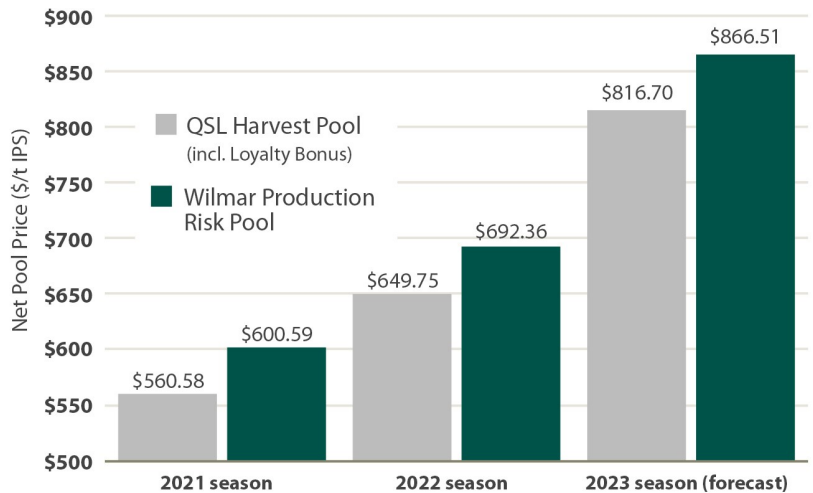
# WHAT IS THE LOYALTY BONUS COSTING YOU?

*The numbers speak for themselves*

Make a better marketing choice for the 2025 season. Choose Wilmar.

**Nominations close 31 October 2024.**

Wilmar Production Risk Pool and QSL Harvest Pool (Forecast as at 29 March 2024)



*Get in touch*

**SHIRLEY NORRIS**  
OFFICE PROSERPINE MILL  
PHONE 0437 803 019



## INSURANCE

***It's almost crushing time, we need to make sure you CRUSH these important Insurance Issues!***

### **CONTRACT HARVESTING**

If you are earning over \$200,000 or 20% of your total income is from Contract Harvesting you **MUST** let us know!

If your insurer is not aware your policy and liability coverage may not be applicable, should you need to make a claim.



### **DRIVER DECLARATIONS**

*Have you checked that your driver's hold a current driver's license?*

*Do they have any conditions?*

*Have they been charged, convicted, or have any allegations pending for any offence?*

It is a requirement of your insurance coverage that you disclose all information to your insurer. Failure to do so can result in your insurer cancelling your policy or reduce the claim settlement amount they will pay for a claim, or both. If your failure to tell them is fraudulent, they may refuse to pay a claim and treat the contract/policy as if it never existed.

To help our client's, CANEGROWERS Insurance has produced an easy-to-use Driver Declaration form to use throughout the employment process. Copies can be obtained by phoning or visiting the Proserpine office.

### **DRONES**

If you are using Commercial Drones (contracted or not) you need to check with us to ensure your current policy provides you the protection you need.

Proserpine Insurance Admin, Jess Harrison, is in the office 8.45am to 2.45pm Monday to Thursday. She can be contacted by phoning the office (07 4945 1844) or by emailing [jess\\_harrison@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:jess_harrison@canegrowers.com.au).

## SMARTCANE BMP

Maintaining Smartcane BMP status is a breeze as audits occur every 5 years. This ensures that the integrity of the program is preserved. The program modules are reviewed regularly with any changes communicated to local facilitators to ensure you remain up to date.

Generally, very few changes are made and if you maintain your practices from when you were first accredited, the reaccreditation audit is a breeze.

Give Jess a call on (07) 4945 1844 or email [jess\\_harrison@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:jess_harrison@canegrowers.com.au) to find out how to get started.



# ACCREDITATION'S STILL THE GOLD STANDARD

Let's show off the great  
work you're doing.



*Glenn, Proserpine*



Contact your district facilitator

## CLASSIFIEDS & NOTICES

### DO YOU HAVE ANY HISTORIC ITEMS THAT RELATE TO THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY?

Hotel Metropole have contacted CANEGROWERS Proserpine in search for historic or even recent sugar cane farming items that can be put up for display following renovations. This can include objects such as, cane knives and other smaller pieces of equipment.

If you have any unwanted items or would like anything on display in the Hotel, please contact the office on (07) 4945 1844.

*Closing date for classified advertisements is the close of business of the second week of each month.*

*Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members.*

*CANEGROWERS Proserpine does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in, or associated with the newsletter.*

*Articles appearing in 'Cane News' do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS .*