



WELCOME TO JULY 2024 ISSUE # 5 OF 'CANE NEWS'



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



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, 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



CANEGROWERS MEMBER RESOURCES

Some Very Useful CANEGROWERS Tools (available to members)

As a member, you have access to some very powerful tools and information developed by Queensland Canegrowers (QCGO). These include the:

- **Cost of Production Tool** – It helps you work out your cost of production and serves as a useful guide in your forward pricing strategy.
- **Electricity Tariff Selection Tool** – This tool helps you choose the best tariff based on when you irrigate. It has quick and easy input and provides a very useful comparison between the various Ergon tariff options.
- **Transport/road access guides for farm equipment** – These guides help you easily identify legal requirements for moving farm equipment on different categories of roads.
- **Workplace Health and Safety Guide for sugarcane farms** – A key handbook every grower should read when it comes to workplace health and safety. Download a copy today.

If you need help in accessing or using the above tools and resources, please feel free to contact CANEGROWERS Proserpine office on (07) 4945 1844.

Also, Don't Forget Your Membership Discounts!

Being a member of CANEGROWERS means you get discounts on various products and services. See below for the current offerings listed on the CANEGROWERS website:



BOC supplies CANEGROWERS members with industrial gases, welding equipment & consumables and safety products. [See the range on the BOC website.](#) Quote your CANEGROWERS membership number next time you place your order to access CANEGROWERS corporate pricing. Orders can be placed in store or phone 131 262.



CANEGROWERS has partnered with [Queensland Country Health Fund](#) to offer Members a Corporate Health Plan - meaning a discount on annual premiums, coverage for health care anywhere in Australia with a choice of provider and a range of convenient ways to claim.

To find out more:

- Go to queenslandcountry.health/portal and log in with Username: CANEGROWERS Password: CGR2020
- Contact Kim Anderson on 0417 622 856 or email kanderson@queenslandcountry.health



CANEGROWERS legal adviser, Chris Cooper, provides legal services to individual growers. Members can access prompt, free initial legal advice over the phone by calling 07 3864 6441.



Through CANEGROWERS' membership of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, all grower members are eligible for an extra range of services and support offered by QFF. This includes companies such as Mitsubishi Motors, Mobil, Telstra, RCS Australia, BDO, Agribusiness Connect Sparke Helmore Lawyers, Rural Aid. To find out more [click here](#).

The Qantas Club

Qantas offers CANEGROWERS members access to their corporate rate for [Qantas Club](#) Membership. Through CANEGROWERS *corporate membership – individually managed scheme*, discounted rates apply to new memberships or renewal of your existing Qantas Club membership.

By quoting the CANEGROWERS scheme number, based on current rates, you may save \$97 on a one-year subscription, or \$176 on a two-year subscription. The CANEGROWERS Scheme number is 0000825424. Call Qantas on 13 11 31 (select menu option 2 for the Qantas Frequent Flyer Service Centre) and quote our scheme number. *Please note these savings may change when Qantas makes changes to its membership rates.*

BBQ & BEERS INFORMATION SESSION



CANEGROWERS
PROSERPINE



CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Sugar Services Proserpine will be hosting a BBQ and Beers Information Session on Monday 12 August 2024 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at SSP Carpark.

This information session will be an informal opportunity to discuss your record keeping obligations under Reef regulations, with local resellers and agronomists available to answer any queries or concerns. Information on expanding cropping activities, permit requirements and obligations will also be offered.

Bring the whole family for a sausage, a couple of drinks and a discussion.

RSVP not essential but appreciated. (07) 4945 1844 or email jess_harrison@canegrowers.com.au or stacey.corrie@sugarpros.com.au

A MESSAGE FROM QUEENSLAND CANEGROWERS (QCGO) CHAIRMAN



Owen Menkens
Chairman, QCGO

We had a great policy council meeting last week which covered many important topics including an investigation into mill viability as well as protection of agricultural land.

We have had a reasonable result from the NHVR with regard to load restraint as it appears haulage vehicles will only be fined if they actually spill billets as opposed to requiring covered loads. This process has involved a lot of negotiations with the NHVR and was a great achievement by CANGROWERS. I will say that growers and contractors need to be vigilant to not overfill haulage equipment otherwise fines will happen.

At the Policy Council meeting we also discussed the new electricity tariffs which involve an increase in the solar tariff of 22C which may make growers reassess their options going forward. I encourage growers to try the electricity calculator tool on the CANEGROWERS website.

I encourage growers to log on to the new membership portal which gives access to this tool as well as the marketing info service, cost of production tool, workplace health and safety guide, business essential guide as well as information about discounts available to through our partner programs.

HERE FOR YOU



We're proud to be the marketer of choice for the majority of Proserpine growers.

It's not too late to choose Wilmar as your GEI Marketer for the 2025 season and beyond.

Contact Shirley Norris to find out more about our personalised service, strong performance and on-farm support.

Remember, you can make or change your GEI nomination for the 2025 season up to **31 October**.

Get in touch



SHIRLEY NORRIS
0437 803 019

wilmar

Sugar and Renewables

2025 COUNCIL RATES UPDATE - A MIXED BAG FOR CANE GROWERS

With significant increases in property valuations by the State Valuation Service, there have been concerns regarding the potential impact on total rates paid by growers.

Where total rates paid depend on both the valuation and the rates charged in the dollar, it was put to the Whitsunday Regional Council to downward adjust existing rates to ensure the impact on growers would be minimal. The latest rates have been approved by the Council and the good news is that 'rates in the dollar' have dropped significantly. Table 1 shows the percentage drop for each sugar cane property category:

Table 1: Whitsunday Regional Council 'rate in the dollar' changes (sugar cane)

Category (Sugar Cane)	Previous Rate in the Dollar	New Rate in the Dollar	Change
Up to 60ha	0.027167	0.0133088	-51%
Greater than 60ha up to 170ha	0.0327423	0.0187549	-43%
Greater than 170ha	0.0314425	0.0224685	-29%

Despite the significant reduction in the 'rate in the dollar', some growers will still see a substantial increase on their current annual rates bill. However, for those exceptionally high increases, a 20% cap will be applied. Without this cap Table 2 shows that increases in valuations above certain thresholds would have seen annual rates increases far higher than the cap of 20% (shown by the orange shaded area).

For example, a grower with a 150% increase in the state valuation on a 150ha property, would have had an overall 43% increase in their paid rates. This will fortunately be limited to the 20% increase cap.

Table 2: Paid rates increase corresponding to relative valuation increases (Sugar Cane)

Valuation Increase (%)	Up to 60ha	Greater than 60ha up to 170ha	Greater than 170ha
0%	-51%	-43%	-29%
25%	-39%	-28%	-11%
50%	-27%	-14%	7%
75%	-14%	0%	25%
100%	-2%	15%	43%
125%	10%	29%	61%
150%	22%	43%	79%
175%	35%	58%	97%
200%	47%	72%	114%
225%	59%	86%	132%
250%	71%	100%	150%
275%	84%	115%	168%
300%	96%	129%	186%

In summary, some growers may be fortunate enough to see a reduction in rates paid while others could see up to a 20% increase as a worst-case scenario. Thankfully the increases from July 2025 won't all align to the valuations as some growers would have seen unfordable increases. Given the valuations are in place for the next few years and continue to see upward pressure in local market sales, the change in rates will need to be closely monitored going forward.



Sugarcane growers within the Whitsunday region are required to comply with Reef protection regulations that are in place to address land-based sources of water pollution, which includes nutrient, sediment and chemical losses. Growers are required to comply with the standard conditions in the Agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activity standard for sugarcane cultivation.

Compliance under the standard requires growers to ensure that they complete the following:

- Nitrogen and phosphorus budgets for all farms.
- Ensure ground-based broadcast application of fertiliser containing nitrogen is not used.
- Have appropriate erosion and sediment control measures and ensure fallow blocks have ground cover.
- Make and keep records.

The farm nitrogen and phosphorus budgets must be developed and verified by an appropriate person. An appropriate person can be an agronomist with the relevant professional qualifications, someone who is certified under the Fertcare Accredited Advisor Program or a grower who has obtained the appropriate qualifications through a Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) recognised program.

If you are uncertain on what records are required to be kept, your agronomist, reseller or Sugar Services Proserpine Limited (SSP) would be able to assist you. SSP can create and update Whole Farm Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) and undertake the required soil testing. This service is available to SSP members, with the only cost being that of the soil test (\$125.00 per test). It is essential that every grower has a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget in place. If further information is required, please contact Stacey on 0488 777 657.

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 or Frank if you would like any samples collected.

Follow the harvester

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NPKS plus
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✉ agservices@wilmar.com.au ☎ 1800 881 957





Matt Kealley
Senior Manager Membership Engagement & Innovation

I was chatting to my old man last week and he mentioned he had just started to get into podcasts. He thought it was a great thing that you could listen to a podcast when you wanted on just about any topic that interested you. It reminded him of the radio shows that he used to listen to as a kid in the 1950's with his father such as *The Goon Show* and the *Smokey Dawson Radio show*. We reminisced about some of the antics Smokey and his young mate Billy got up to and how there was always a song to be sung.

Did you know CANEGROWERS makes podcasts?

Around the Paddock is CANEGROWERS podcast series that examines some of key issues and challenges in the industry as well as celebrating the successes of the advocacy we do on behalf of growers in Queensland.

The most recent podcast is called "*Getting a grip on load restraints*" which discusses load restraint with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulators (NVHR) on what growers can do to transport sugarcane safely, and what growers can expect at the roadside if they are intercepted by the NHVR's Safety and Compliance officers.

So far CANEGROWERS has produced 10 podcasts, and while these are not quite Smokey Dawson, that do have informative discussions with CANEGROWERS staff, industry experts and growers on trade, rural crime, emissions reductions, sustainable sugar, and business essentials for grower pricing.

CANEGROWERS *Around the Paddock* podcasts can be easily accessed through your computer or mobile phone:

1. CANEGROWERS website <https://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/podcasts>
2. Buzzsprout - <https://canegrowerspodcast.buzzsprout.com/>
3. Search for ***Around the Paddock*** on your favourite streaming platform such as Apple music or Spotify.

Podcasts are a great tool to unlock a world of inspiration and practical advice. If you're wanting something to listen to in the tractor or harvester, check out the ***Around the Paddock*** podcasts.

If you have an idea for a podcast let CANEGROWERS know!



Start planning now for upcoming no-spray windows in our region!

Usage restrictions, commonly referred to as '**no-spray**' windows, effect the use of several agricultural chemical products used in sugarcane production.

No-spray windows are often in place to prevent certain agricultural chemicals being applied during times of greater risk, such as adverse weather conditions or when waterways have low dilution capacity.

Details of no-spray windows can be found on product labels, usually under 'directions for use'.

Some of the agricultural products commonly used in sugarcane production that have no-spray windows include those containing:

- Diuron (e.g. Diurex 900)
- 2,4-D (e.g. amine 625, or 75D)
- Amicarbazone (e.g. Amitron)
- Imidacloprid (e.g. Confidor).

Always check your product label—the timing of the no-spray window may change with application rates, application method, location, or product type.

What to look for (example of product label)

Appendix 3: Timing Restrictions for spraying SUGARCANE		
Rate (L/ha)	Region	Timing Restriction
		DO NOT APPLY DURING THE MONTHS
Up to 2.2L/ha	Wet Tropics	No timing restriction
	Burdekin	No timing restriction
	Mackay/Whitsunday	October to November
	Mary/Burnett	October to November
	Northern NSW	No timing restriction
Up to 4.4 L/ha	Wet Tropics	October to December
	Burdekin	September to October
	Mackay/Whitsunday	August to December
	Mary/Burnett	April to January
	Northern NSW	October to November

For more information, scan the QR code:





Now available | Harvest Pool Opt Out

Proserpine growers can now choose to leave the QSL 2024-Season Harvest Pool and price more of their GEI Sugar themselves by using the QSL Harvest Pool Opt Out.

To opt out, just click on the Harvest Pool Opt Out button available within your QSL Direct account to view the current value of your priced Harvest Pool tonnage, how much remains unpriced, and the ICE 11 contracts you'll need to price it against if you decide to opt out and start pricing it yourself.

New QSL Direct portal features

The new-look QSL Direct portal just got easier to use, with a number of handy new features, including the ability to:

- Search for general key terms in the QSL Direct portal via the search bar located in the top right-hand corner of the screen; and,
- View your Weighted Average Price and Advances Schedule for both the 2023 and 2024 Seasons by using the new season-selector feature on these tools

Daily market commentary

Did you know that QSL's Daily Price Update email now includes market commentary?

Keep on top of what's impacting the raw sugar market by subscribing to QSL's Daily Price Update. In addition, growers can also access more in-depth daily market reports via their QSL Direct accounts. Simply log in to your QSL Direct portal and click on the 'News & Market' tab on the homepage.

We'll come to you!

Busy with the harvest and can't make it to town?

QSL's local, on-the-ground team offers convenient on-farm appointments at a time that suits you. Call Karen to set up a meeting.



Education | Total recoverable sugar (TRS)

In last week's QSL Market Update, it was reported that TRS levels in Brazil remain relatively low – but what does that mean?

Like Australia's commercial cane sugar (CCS) indicator, total recoverable sugar in Brazil refers to the measure of sugarcane quality that gauges the total concentration of sugars that can be extracted during the industrial processing of sugarcane.

Key Dates 2024

20 September

Any unpriced tonnage allocated to the ICE 11 October 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.

20 September

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

30 October

Last day for growers to nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar marketer for the 2025 Season.

Central Region

		
<p><i>Grower Relationship Manager</i> James Formosa 0437 645 342 james.formosa@qsl.com.au</p>	<p><i>Grower Relationship Officer</i> Karen Vloedmans 0429 804 876 karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au</p>	<p><i>Grower Relationship Officer</i> Brad Dunn 0418 978 120 brad.dunn@qsl.com.au</p>



Sugar traders deliver cautious message

Simon Hood, Wilmar Manager Grower Marketing

We recently completed a roadshow through Wilmar's four milling regions with senior sugar traders, Peter Bingham and Neil Foo.

Peter and Neil work with Wilmar International and travel to Queensland once a year to meet with growers who choose Wilmar to market their GEI sugar. Peter is based in London while Neil is based in Singapore.

Their overarching message was for growers to be conscious that we may not see the elevated prices we witnessed in the last couple of years. The primary cause for caution on the outlook for #11 sugar pricing is based around the rapid ramping up of Brazilian cane production and crystallisation capacity.

Peter delivered a Brazilian masterclass, highlighting how acreage under cane had expanded. A 300,000 increase in 24/25 season hectares has essentially erased the previous eight-year steady decline in area under cane.

Additionally, millers have been aggressively investing in crystallisation capacity by converting ethanol-only factories to dual sugar/ethanol output. The increased acreage and sugar-make capacity has our projection for this year's Brazilian sugar production to be at 42.2m tonnes – similar to last year's record production.

The supply response in Europe, China and Thailand is expected to see a trade surplus for this year and beyond. India is expected to have a larger crop as well, but will not be a trade participant as domestic consumption and increased ethanol production will soak up the extra tonnes.

Overall consumption is expected to stay solid but the key importing countries of China and Indonesia are reasonably well covered in the short term and have sufficient stocks for them to sit out of the market for some time.

Peter and Neil were clear in their delivery that this is a forecast, which is based on modelling, which relies on assumptions, which relies on information known at the time. We could be wrong. No one was able to foresee the massive tail end of the Brazilian harvest in November 2023, which caused the spectacular collapse of #11 from US 28c/lb to sub 20c/lb.

The good news is that demand for Australian sugar remains strong into our traditional markets of Japan and Korea. Our 24-season physical sale program is well advanced and the large premiums that flowed into the Allocation Account for 23 Season are likely to be repeated this year – albeit at a slightly lower level.

Peter and Neil enjoyed their annual roadshow and look forward to returning next year.



Proserpine Grower Marketing Consultant Shirley Norris addresses growers at Wilmar's Proserpine marketing event.



Pictured from left are Wilmar Senior Trader Peter Bingham, Andrew Auld, Mark Orr and Wilmar Risk Manager Bevan Patterson.



Senior Sugar Trader Neil Foo checks out the view from a LOS Harvesting double row harvester.



Senior Sugar Traders Peter Bingham and Neil Foo also travelled to the Burdekin as part of their annual roadshow.

YOUR FARM, YOUR WAY

**Smartcane BMP
recognises how
you farm.**



Bill and Keith, Proserpine



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TOOLS | HOME & CONTENTS | BOAT | PRIVATE MOTOR | COMMERCIAL MOTOR**

↘ FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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www.canegrowers.com.au/page/insurance

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STL G CLASS SHAREHOLDER REGISTER UPDATE

Members who hold STL G Class shares are encouraged to complete and return the 'Member Status Declaration' form as forwarded by STL earlier this month. This is an important update to the register to ensure shares are held by active growers.

In the communication there is a further 'Consultation Questionnaire' for feedback being sought by STL. Growers are not obliged to fill this in, but it does present an opportunity to provide feedback on various STL share related questions.

Please also note: QCGO have stated that they have 'concerns about the inference of some of the questions included' which they will raise directly with STL.

If you want to sell or purchase STL shares please feel free to contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office to add your details to our share transfer list.

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.



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 or phone Bessie: 0437 538 044.

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 .