

FALSE CLAIMS OVER CANEGROWERS GROUP

Claims have been made about CANEGROWERS Burdekin lately which demand to be corrected. The most ridiculous of these is the inference that CANEGROWERS is somehow not a grassroots or member-driven organisation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Like CANEGROWERS Burdekin, the 13 distinct grower bodies which make up CANEGROWERS, are all deeply connected to and involved with the industry in their local areas.

We employ local staff, hold local meetings and respond at a local level when issues and circumstances require it.

Every three years, the board positions in each district are all vacated and put up for election. Every single member has the ability to nominate and vote. While serving their fellow growers, board members, who are also growers like me, are available to listen to the issues of members.

Collectively, CANEGROWERS members around the state support a presence in Brisbane because there is strength in unity - in having a single voice to talk to government and the bureaucracy.

That voice is directed by a 21-grower Policy Council at which every district is represented. Because of our size in the Burdekin, we have four representatives at Policy Council and I am proud to be one of them. The debate is often robust and there are times when different districts have different views and, within the CANEGROWERS family this is understood.

To say that we are not grassroots is simply ridiculous.

PHIL MARANO, Home Hill