

# MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS

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## **Major Grants Project develops tool to assist Herbert growers with their annual Nitrogen and Phosphorus budget**

Facilitated by CANEGROWERS Herbert River and part of the Major Grants Project, Herbert sugarcane growers had the opportunity to attend a series of Nitrogen & Phosphorus (N&P) Budget workshops showcasing the functionality of a new excel spreadsheet tool.

The tool allows growers to enter their soil test data and collate it into a budget of total amounts of N&P permitted across their farms, enter a fertiliser product as recommended by the agronomist who interpreted their soil test and a kilogram/hectare rate, and allows the growers to make a record of when they apply the fertiliser on farm which is a requirement by legislation.

Frank Succio is a second-generation grower who has been farming in the district for 36 years and said that although he felt a bit overwhelmed after attending the workshop, it is a tool which he believes will help him make better farming decisions when it comes to purchasing fertilisers.

Wally Skinner has been farming in the district since 1997 and said he tried to develop his own spreadsheet in the past but prefers this new tool which includes more comprehensive formulas for ease of use.

"I will definitely be using this tool from now on," said Mr Skinner.

Growers can clearly see their budget and a running total of where they are positioned with their budget versus actual applications allowing them to be in control and make decisions on changing rates or products throughout the season.

The tool comes with a full set of instructions and can be emailed to growers, or they can arrange to meet with Major Grants Project team members who will show them firsthand how to use the tool. Enquiries can be made by contacting Leah Russo on 0409 477 713 or Paul Marbelli on 0408 180 552.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River will hold future N&P budget workshops should our members require it.

The Major Grants Project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and aims to improve the quality of water flowing from the Herbert River catchment to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon while at the same time improving productivity and profitability of the Herbert sugar industry.

[More information and interviews:](#) Jason Wolfram | Communications Manager | 0436 469 018



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