



CANEGROWERS HERBERT RIVER

Week Ending 23rd May 2025



Dear Members,

Today kicks off the first day of the CANEGROWERS Herbert River Link2Country Expo. This Expo is packed with activities for children and adults and we encourage you go for a look.

Expo runs today, Friday 24th and tomorrow Saturday 25th from 9am - 12am at the Ingham Showgrounds.
See you there!!

If you have any queries about the above or below do not hesitate to contact Canegrowers Herbert River Manager Frank Scardamaglia on 0475 818 800.



CANEGROWERS Herbert River Board and Manager met today with Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Tony Perrett, to continue important discussions around broadening the definition of "primary producer"—a move essential for ensuring fairer access to government support for growers. The team also discussed the Hinchinbrook Drainage advisory group to request further assistance in providing a simplified framework to carry works in sensitive waterways. Under the current definition, growers who derive a portion of their income from off-farm sources may be excluded from vital government assistance, including disaster recovery support.

Minister Perrett will also be opening CANEGROWERS Herbert River Link2Country Expo. As part of his visit, he toured a local cane farm to meet with growers and hear firsthand about the challenges they face and the pressing need for more inclusive eligibility criteria.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River Manager, Frank Scardamaglia, described the visit as timely and productive.

**“The visit was a great opportunity to discuss the ongoing concerns around the rules of disaster recovery,”
Mr Scardamaglia said.**

“We are grateful for Minister Perrett’s visit today and CANEGROWERS Herbert River will continue to advocate for farmers.”

The organisation remains firmly committed to representing the interests of local cane growers and working constructively with government to shape agricultural policy that reflects the realities of modern farming in Queensland.

Calling Cane Contractors

CANEGROWERS have organised the delivery of a program to assist Contract Harvesters meet their WHS and HR obligations. The program will take place via two online 90 minute sessions at 3pm on the 29th of May (HR) and 5th of June (WHS) and will cost \$249 per participant.

The program will be delivered by Rebecca Fing from House Paddock Training and Consulting, an expert in this space, and has been specifically tailored to agricultural contractors.

Contractors who enrol will receive supporting template to help put in place what is taught in the program.

To register participants can go to:

<https://www.housepaddocktraining.com.au/canecontractors>

Calling Cane Contractors



BOOTCAMP FOR AG CONTRACTORS

**Need to improve your WHS &
Staff management?**

We have the program for you!

*“Simple & understandable, every
contractor needs to do this program”*

Scott, Farming Contractor, St George

www.housepaddocktraining.com.au/canecontractors

or email Bec Fing at

projects@housepaddocktc.com.au



Are You Needing Workers?

CANEGROWERS Herbert River would like to know if any growers or contractors are still looking for workers for the upcoming season.

We currently have 2 people interested in the industry who are chasing work.

Please email or call our office to obtain their details.

4776 5350 / hroffice@canegrowers.com.au

Statutory review of the regulated standards

Update 20 May 2025

Public consultation is now open for the statutory review of the [Agricultural Environmental Relevant Activity Standards \(regulated standards\) for commercial banana and sugarcane cultivation and beef cattle grazing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment](#). You can provide feedback until Friday, 8 August 2025.

To provide your feedback or for further information, visit the [In the Loop engagement hub](#). You can provide your feedback in a number of ways:

- completing a 15-minute anonymous survey
- requesting a one-on-one chat with a member of the review team
- taking part in a workshop, or
- providing a written submission.

To join an online workshop about the sugarcane regulated standard on the 29 May 2025, [register here](#).

The review team wants to hear about:

- whether parts of the sugarcane, banana and grazing regulated standards (and supporting materials) may be difficult to understand and, as a result, may be difficult to comply with
- relevant recent studies or projects that will help ensure the standards remain evidence based and current with industry practices that minimise nutrient and sediment run-off.

You can also subscribe [here](#) to receive updates on the consultation activities and regulated standards.



CANEGROWERS

BUSINESS ESSENTIALS: FROM Paddock TO PROFIT

A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP SERIES FOR QUEENSLAND SUGARCANE GROWERS

📅 Thursday 5 June
🕒 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
📍 CANEGROWERS
Herbert River

- ▶ Free to attend any session
- ▶ Lunch provided
- ▶ Limited spots available!

BOOKKEEPING FOR BAS

Morning workshop (9am – 12:30pm)

WITH KATHY BRETHERTON

Take your bookkeeping to the next level! In this hands-on session, Kathy will guide you through the essentials of BAS and GST reconciliations using real-world examples and commonly used software. Whether you're already managing your accounts or just starting out, this session is packed with practical tools to help you stay compliant and confident.

Bring your laptop or device and follow along with live demonstrations (not essential)!

SUGAR PRICING AND INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE SESSION

Afternoon workshop (1 – 4pm)

WITH DOUGALL LODGE & CHRIS GILLITT

Navigate the world of sugar pricing with clarity and confidence. Dougall and Chris will break down key industry terms and systems like CCS and relative payment frameworks. This session empowers you to make smarter pricing decisions for your crop and stay ahead in a dynamic market.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Growers, farm managers, administrators and anyone involved in the business side of cane farming.

You can opt to attend either of the sessions or stay for both!



Workshops are provided **FREE** of charge.

Visit www.canegrowers.com.au or your CANEGROWERS district office today to find out more!

This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.



Women in Sugar Trip to Brisbane

15 women from Women in Sugar (WISH) from the Herbert River, Burdekin and Innisfail districts travelled to Brisbane as part of a study trip. The tour started in Brisbane at the CANEGROWERS office in the city where the growers met the QCGO team and the WISH group were provide updates on CANEGROWERS advocacy, education, membership, Smartcane BMP, environment and operations from the QCGO team.

The WISH group travelled to Rocky Point on Tuesday and toured the district with Ben Spann from CANEGROWERS Rocky Point before being treated to a guided tour of the mulching facilities at Rocky Point lead by Josh Keith.

Women In Sugar Herbert Meeting

Date: Friday 13th June 2025

Time: 9:00am

Location: Level 2, Canegrowers building



CANEGROWERS Member Survey

The 2025 Membership Survey had a good response of almost 15% of our membership, the report and outcomes will be presented to the CANEGROWERS Board and Policy Council in the coming months. Not surprisingly, the key issues for industry were mill performance, increasing input costs, sugar process, workforce and harvesting.

There is a strong satisfaction with CANEGROWERS services, however only 44% have confidence in the industry, with 75% of respondents supporting the need for all sectors of the industry working together and 68% saying that the value of the industry needs to be increased. Almost half of the survey respondents said this should be done by investment in new technology.

The survey prize draw was held in early May and the winner of the \$1500 prize was Gerald Azzopardi from Mackay and ten \$50 prize winners for participants from Burdekin, Herbert River, Mackay and Isis districts.

Sustainable Sugar – Marketers

CANEGROWERS provided an update on Smartcane BMP and sustainable sugar to raw sugar marketers, following their first joint briefing last December. Representatives from all marketers participated, except for Tully Mill. Issues discussed included:

- Progress in linking Smartcane BMP directly to the AIA emissions calculator and plans to rollout emissions calculations to all accredited growers over the next 2 to 3 years**
 - Progress in developing grower support materials for Module 4, with certification in this module being operational from June 30**
 - Integration of Smartcane BMP into supply chain integrity programs – this has been achieved with the VIVE program, needs to be formalised with Proterra, but is unlikely with Bonsucro given their attitude to date**
 - The need for mill certifications to complete achieve supply chain integrity**
 - The next follow up meeting will occur in July**
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Sustainable Sugar – Coca-Cola

CANEGROWERS met with Coca-Cola reps who had sought a meeting on Smartcane BMP to explore how CANEGROWERS can help assure their sourcing of sustainably produced raw sugar. CANEGROWERS indicated our continuing willingness to integrate with supply chain integrity programs but that this needs to be formalised in a way that has data integrity and that rewards growers. A follow up meeting is planned.

98 YEARS

Feast of St Anthony

Bemerside

Sunday 8th June 2025

Celebration of Mass

11.00 am

Mass will be celebrated
with our Parish Priest



Procession
&

Rosary

2.30 pm

followed by the
Blessing of Children
and Distribution of
St Anthony Bread

Lunch from
12.00-6.00pm

Stalls

- BBQ
- Fish & Chips
- Granita
- Tea & Coffee
- Cakes & Sandwiches
- Canoli
- Softdrinks
- Bar

Entertainment
Anthony Fracchia

- Religious Articles
- Monster Raffle
- 500 Club
- Bottle Stall
- Jumping Castle

**ALL
WELCOME**

For more information please contact
Angie on 0427 761 522

With thanks to:



Ju Fu Chinese
Restaurant



Lisa Maree



Ingham's
NEWEST &
BIGGEST
handmade
markets...

Markets at the Mosaic

SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2025



Demos



Music



Market Stalls

WHERE:

Mercer's Lane (beside
JK's Deli), behind Westpac
Bank & along Southern
end of Lannercost Street

WHEN:

8:00am - 12:00pm

MORE INFO:

www.hinchinbrookchamber.com.au



INGHAM SHOW TRACTOR PULL

INGHAM SHOWGROUNDS

COMPETITOR CAMPING AVAILABLE
FOOD AND DRINKS FOR SALE
NO 4WD ENTRIES

SAVE THE DATE



FRI 27TH JUNE 2025

INQUIRIES TO BRIAN EXELBY - PH 0428 758 372

QSL WEEKLY UPDATE

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QSL are pleased to advise that the QSL Board has this week confirmed a 97.5% Standard Advance Rate will apply for the 2024 Season June payment — a 2.5% increase on the initial June rate.

In addition, the indicative 2025-Season Pool Prices and the initial Advance Rate Schedule are currently being finalised, with the QSL website due to be updated in the coming days. We'll also provide an update for growers in this Friday's QSL Weekly Update.

Please click the below link to access QSL's Weekly Market Update

[QSL WEEKLY MARKET UPDATE](#)

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