CANEGROWERS

OUR VOICE GROWING QUEENSLAND

working TOGETHER

Growing your business | Growing your industry

Working together

STRONG GROWER FOCUS

CANEGROWERS' strength comes from its members. District boards provide grass roots representation and they provide representatives to a state-wide Policy Council and Board to ensure growers have direct input to policy development and organisational strategy. The CANEGROWERS network of 12 district offices means that support is always close to you and your business.

NEGOTIATING CANE SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

CANEGROWERS brings together the negotiating power of farmers to seek the best conditions and terms for you from the sugar milling companies and processors. Local representatives are backed up by in-house and experienced legal counsel and industry experts to support negotiating groups to ensure the best possible outcome in the collective cane supply agreements.

LOCAL VOICE WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

Grower voices combine through CANEGROWERS to meet with farmers from other commodities to have an impact around the state, the nation and the world through memberships and affiliations. CANEGROWERS is a member of the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), National Farmers' Federation (NFF), Australian Sugar Industry Alliance, World Association of Beet and Cane Growers and a founding member of the Global Sugar Alliance which unites countries to work towards greater trade liberalisation.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT LOBBYING

CANEGROWERS is the first port of call for government at all levels for issues relating to sugarcane. When we speak up for you in Brisbane and Canberra, governments listen. Our experienced team works tirelessly on your behalf utilising their networks to build relationships with key government officials. CANEGROWERS maintains political relationships across the sperctrum to ensure that at every election campaign, candidates and parties understand the policy positions that will help grow our industry.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

All members receive the Australian Canegrower magazine full of reliable industry news, the key issues we are tackling on your behalf and the latest information on improving the productivity and profitability of cane growing. CANEGROWERS district offices provide training courses and information sessions on important farming and business topics.

Working for you

ENSURING ACCESS TO SUGAR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

CANEGROWERS works for a strong, transparent and competitive sugar marketing service for growers. Our advocacy underpinned the legal framework that enshrines competition in sugar marketing and now we have close relationships and direct connections with our major marketers. We are developing tools for growers to be able to understand and have confidence in the products marketers offer. We provide monthly market commentary and district level training to growers on how to determine their cost of production and understand the major influences on the sugar market. In this way, we are ensuring that growers can take advantage of the sugar marketing and pricing opportunities when they arise.

KEEPING MACHINERY MOVING

CANEGROWERS members work under a range of gazetted notices and permits to move over-size and over-mass agricultural vehicles on and over public roads. CANEGROWERS has a close relationship with regulators running annual district regulator workshops to ensure government decision makers and compliance officers understand the practicalities of their policy requirements.

REASONABLE INPUT COSTS – WATER, ELECTRICITY & FERTILISER

CANEGROWERS works closely with other irrigated agricultural groups at the QFF and NFF to constantly campaign for fair and reasonable electricity charges and pricing polices. We have representations at every level of water and electricity policy making from local irrigation boards, to customer committees with Sunwater, Energy Queensland, Ergon and we make regular representations to the Queensland Competition Authority and Australian Energy Regulator. CANEGROWERS has a long history of understanding and intervening in the fertiliser market. We have conducted a deep analysis of the drivers for fertiliser prices and the global influences and have formed relationships with wholesalers in this market.

PRACTICAL ASSITANCE WITH PERMITS, COMPLIANCE & LAWS

CANEGROWERS offices provide local assistance on a range of topics from fire permits to rats, pigs and fire ant control, to templates for workplace health safety and industrial relations. CANEGROWERS supports the industry team of auditors in each sugar mill, as well as negotiations on rail sidings. Through CANEGROWERS individual growers and district officers have access to a free experienced legal advisory service.

Growing your business

ACCESS TO PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN YOUR BUSINESS

CANEGROWERS has secured projects across our major districts that go towards assisting growers in their objectives for their business or for catchment wide solutions. These include reef water quality programs, rural water use efficiency projects, enhanced efficiency fertiliser trials, energy saver / efficiency programs and rural assistance grants and loans to help growers recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

INDUSTRY SPECIFC INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

As a member of CANEGROWERS, growers obtain free* crop insurance (subject to district variations). CANEGROWERS Insurance arm also provides a comprehensive brokerage service through qualified professionals located in all sugarcane regions. These brokers offer a quality service on all of your insurance needs, either business or personal and no broking fees are charged to CANEGROWERS members.

* Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited, ABN 11 000 016 722, AFSL 227681, trading as CGU Insurance. CANEGROWERS Insurance is a Corporate Authorised Representative (CAR No 429264) for Community Broker Network ABN 60 96 916 184 AFSL 233750

Growing your industry

SMARTCANE BMP – GROWING OUR FUTURE

Developed by farmers and industry researchers, this best management practice program is a 3rd party audited standard for productivity, profitability and sustainability on Queensland cane farms. Led by CANEGROWERS, delivered by local facilitators, growers have all the assistance they need to adopt the program. Now over 45% of Queensland Cane production is accredited. CANEGROWERS has ensured the program is to international standards for sustainable sugar and that it is recognised by sugar purchasers as they move towards delivering on guarantees of sustainability. We have also developed a traceability platform for Australian sugar and have worked with other organisations in the industry to deliver the worlds first traceable, certified sustainable sugar shipment using blockchain technology. Representation by CANEGROWERS has meant that the Queensland Government has endorsed the Smartcane BMP program and therefore accredited growers are not the focus of reef compliance activities.

IMPROVING TRADE ACCESS

Trade is critical for our industry and CANEGROWERS is the go to grower representative organisation on trade related matters. We invest significant resources into developing and delivering a comprehensive industry trade strategy in collaboration with the Australian Sugar Milling Council and sugar marketers. We are active at a national and international level to improve access for Australian sugar into key growing markets through trade agreements. CANEGROWERS jointly facilitate the Global Sugar Alliance of countries, committed to better, more open trading arrangements. CANEGROWERS provides advice to the federal government when it comes to the negotiation of our most important trade agreements.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CANEGROWERS supports and influences a targeted and relevant research effort to deliver tangible benefits to our industry through Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and other organisations.

Through a 35 cents/tonne of cane levy, growers contribute to projects on variety development, nutrient management, pest and disease control and harvesting efficiency. CANEGROWERS engages regularly at the Board, senior executive and district level with SRA to ensure these funds are spent on the issues of highest priority for growers.

CANEGROWERS also uses our regional network to encourage the co-ordination of extension activities and efforts across a range of providers.

EFFECTIVE BIOSECURITY

CANEGROWERS champion the development of the industry biosecurity plans and is the industry representative and member at Plant Heath Australia. We are the signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed that enables industry to respond to biosecurity incursions that could impact your crop and business.

WORKFORCE ATTRACTION, RETENTION TRAINING & EDUCTION

CANEGROWERS works with other industry organisations, particular as a member of the NFF, QFF and Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance to develop programs to address labour and skills issues for farmers. This includes our district offices offering courses and other learning opportunities for you and your staff. CANEGROWERS runs a national campaign to attract, retain and train a new and emerging workforce for the industry.

CANEGROWERS is a member of the Primary Industries Education Foundation and we have released an industry specific Primary Schools Education resource tailored towards the education curriculum. We have further developed a comprehensive education strategy that will build our capacity to engage with schools at the district level.

* The Smartcane BMP program is delivered by CANEGROWERS and co-funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

United we stand

For 100 years CANEGROWERS has represented the interests of the sugarcane farmers of Queensland.

Through times of challenge and opportunity, CANEGROWERS has helped family farms and the whole industry to grow and prosper.

CANEGROWERS comprises 12 district companies with offices in all cane regions staffed by committed and experienced professionals.

CANEGROWERS members are represented by 85 elected members, all sugarcane growers. A 18-person Policy Council provides overall strategic guidance while an 8-member Board provides corporate governance.

CANEGROWERS is known and respected for its strong voice locally, nationally and internationally — the collective voice of many farmers has a powerful impact.

Add your voice now!

Contact your local office to become a member.

Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd

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