

## CANEGROWERS Mackay helps to train more Queenslanders for jobs in the sugar industry

CANEGROWERS Mackay has been successful for the fourth year in a row in securing funding from the Queensland Government to offer training to interested job seekers to help them obtain positions in the sugar industry.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg thanked the Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training for its assistance through the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* Initiative to enable the organisation to offer the sugarcane haulout training for another year.

The organisation has been offering the training for 15 years in total, with 99 per cent of those trained having readily found employment in the sugar industry or associated industry.

“Every year we have been successful in attracting new people to the industry,” said Mr Borg.

“It is inspiring to see these jobseekers who are keen to be employed in agriculture get this start.”

The benefits of the project are two-fold - not only assisting interested jobseekers to enter the industry, but also helping the industry attract, retain and up-skill workers to fill haulout operator roles.

CANEGROWERS Mackay’s sugar cane haulout project will be held in May over four days and training will be delivered on a local cane farm. The project consists of four units of competency from the Certificate II in Rural Operations to make up a Skill Set appropriate for hauling sugar cane.

Assisting with the delivery of the training, CANEGROWERS Mackay has a team of dedicated trainer and driver assistants who are cane growers themselves.

“We are very appreciative of these growers who give up their time in the busy lead-up to the harvest to ensure course participants are work ready for the sugar industry,” Mr Borg said.

“They generously provide the latest heavy machinery for these newcomers to the industry to learn how to operate and manage safely and confidently.”

As a pre-requisite for the project, the successful participants need to undertake three online harvest safety inductions. They are then issued with an induction card that is valid for three years.

More information about the course can be found on the CANEGROWERS Mackay website ([www.mackaycangrowers.com.au/training-canegrowers/courses](http://www.mackaycangrowers.com.au/training-canegrowers/courses)) or by phoning 07 4944 2600. Limited places for the course in May are still available.

*Skilling Queenslanders for Work* funds not-for-profit community-based organisations to deliver projects that respond to the needs of local jobseekers and employment opportunities in their areas.

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