Released by: Chris Walker | *Manager Communications & Member Development*

**CANEGROWERS MACKAY** | T: 07 4944 2612 | M: 0427 178 370 | PO Box 117 MACKAY  QLD  4740

[www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au](http://www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au/)  |  [Christine\_Walker@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:Christine_Walker@canegrowers.com.au)

Visit us on FACEBOOK at [www.facebook.com/canegrowersmackay](http://www.facebook.com/canegrowersmackay) and on TWITTER at @CanegrowersMky

CANEGROWERS Mackay invites growers to visit the organisation’s marquee at the Ag Trade Expo on 10-11 May to discuss an irrigation efficiency audit for their farm.

On hand will be John Eden, CANEGROWERS Mackay’s Agricultural Economist, Chief Operating Officer and Smartcane BMP Facilitator who runs the program.

John says the audits, which are subsidised by the Federal Government, are a great way for growers to identify ways to reduce irrigation power costs, increase water and fertiliser use efficiency and meet Best Management Practices for irrigation.

“At a time when prices for water and power are going up and up, these audits are a valuable way for growers to find out how to improve their practices for better productivity and less cost,” said John.

The audits are conducted by ag consultant, Ron Coomer, who systematically identifies where there are inefficiencies across the whole irrigation system on farm and what these are costing growers.

He then produces a list of recommendations for improvements which can be steadily implemented.

“Some of these recommendations are very simple and low cost – with payback in less than 12 months – but they can have a really positive impact on the bottomline,” John Eden said.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has had naming rights for the Ag Trade Expo held at Wests Tigers Leagues Club at Walkerton for the past two years and is proud to be associated with this popular event again this year, commented CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg.

He said that in addition to information on the irrigation efficiency audits, he and other accredited Smartcane BMP growers would be on hand to discuss how growers could qualify for Smartcane BMP themselves and what the benefits were to their businesses.

“Becoming a Smartcane BMP accredited grower is the best protection against the State Government’s proposed new Reef regulations,” Kevin Borg said.

“Growers with Smartcane BMP accreditation are considered to meet the State Government’s Reef requirements which have been proposed under new stricter legislation due to be before the Parliament in May.

“The program is also recognised by our largest customers such as Coca-Cola which ultimately translates to better sales of Australian sugar,” he said.

Also on the program at this year’s Ag Trade Expo will be the latest heavy machinery, showcased by Central Highlands Equipment. Industrial Drones Australia will conduct a drone spraying demo in the crop next to the Club. A Yamaha generator will be raffled by Blacksmith Jacks. Live music will be played by Damian Agius on both days and food demonstrations will be held by Wests own popular chef.

The event will this year support the Pioneer Valley Relay for Life. More information: http://www.mackayagtradeexpo.com.au/

**More information: CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg, 0429 876 441**

**Irrigation efficiency audits booked at Ag Trade Expo**

Monday 29 April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

2019

