



CANEGROWERS
MACKAY

Your Membership

Growing Together



Striving to
Serve You



Our commitment to members



'We work for you - consistently seeking a more profitable, efficient and sustainable future.'



CANEGROWERS Mackay staff, your Board and elected representatives work for cane growers, their businesses, families, and the industry, throughout the regions of Mackay and Plane Creek.

We are committed to providing valued services and assistance to our members on a large number of varied matters.

About us

CANEGROWERS Mackay is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation which for almost 100 years has been dedicated to representing the industry to government and the community with unity and leadership. We do this, as our Mission Statement states, in our members' interests.

We have a highly skilled team of people to provide a wide range of services and assistance which you automatically receive as a member. These include marketing, legal, financial, agronomic, insurance, farm productivity analysis, payroll and training, and more.

Did you know?

CANEGROWERS is one of only a handful of agricultural member-based organisations in Australia whose representatives are selected from the same grassroots the organisation represents – they are farmers! As a result, we are closely in touch with the practical realities of modern sugarcane farming businesses and keenly aware of the issues which make or break them.

Individual actions may seem insignificant, but together the small steps of many can have an astonishing impact.



Dedicated to YOU, our members

Our Mission

To ensure a secure and profitable future for cane growers

Our Goals

- To assist in maximising growers' productivity and profitability
- To contribute to long-term industry efficiency
- To enhance organisational effectiveness
- To develop a positive external environment for cane growers
- To recognise and manage growers' diverse needs while maintaining organisational unity
- To provide a foundation and structure for future industry development and planning.

CANEGROWERS

CANEGROWERS provides strong leadership and representation for sugarcane grower members throughout Queensland and northern New South Wales in local, state, national and international forums.

CANEGROWERS is respected and recognised by all tiers of government and business leaders as the strong and authoritative voice of growers in the Australian sugar industry.

CANEGROWERS is grower-owned and is a highly successful lobby, representation and services group with a national office in Brisbane and 19 offices in Queensland and New South Wales.

CANEGROWERS has been proudly advancing and protecting the interests of cane farming member families in Queensland since 1926!

The CANEGROWERS organisation exists to:

- Provide strong leadership for cane growers within a viable sugar industry
- Deliver effective representation and valuable services to cane growers
- Ensure cane grower strength and influence at local, district, state, national and international levels through unity and shared common values.

Unity.
It starts with 'U'
If not YOU, then who?



A strong united voice when and where it counts

Among our industry's top issues are:

Sugar marketing: working to ensure returns to growers are maximised through efficient marketing and selling of raw sugar; through ongoing efforts to achieve a fair world market playing field; and importantly, through the retention of the protection of the hard-fought for Sugar Industry Code of Conduct. The mandatory code was established in 2017 to give growers rights to choose a sugar marketer.

Trade: negotiating with government for the inclusion of sugar in all Australian trade agreements.

Transport & licensing: reviewing and contributing to the drafting of legislation, regulations and licensing requirements relating to the movement of agricultural farm machinery on public roads to ensure these are practical and reflect the realities of modern sugarcane businesses.

Industrial relations: representation for and on behalf of members under federal laws, reflecting the fact that all employers and employees within the sugar industry are covered by the modern Sugar Industry Award 2010.

Electricity and water: lobbying of state and federal jurisdictions to contain electricity and water costs for irrigators.

Environment: striving for public recognition of cane growers' ever-improving environmental record through adoption of the industry's Smartcane BMP program; working to ensure government policy on agricultural chemicals, fertiliser, farming practices, vegetation management and water quality is determined by evidence-based science.

Research & Development: close monitoring, involvement and input into the direction of sugar industry research, development and extension to ensure effective returns for industry funds.

Other services/representation

Marketing Information Service: education and information for members to assist with sugar marketing choices to improve grower profitability.

Smartcane BMP: development, review, monitoring and implementation of the industry's world-class best management practice program, Smartcane BMP; associated leadership and liaison with the community, governments, customers and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable profitable future for our members.

Government programs: ongoing liaison with government regarding initiatives such as Great Barrier Reef Foundation grants, Water Quality Grants and Partnerships (Federal and State), and membership of the Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership (Mackay-Whitsunday Isaac); assisting our members to access available funding as programs arise to implement the latest technology and farm management

practices.

State, national and global affiliations: to increase the strength of our voice on behalf of grower members, CANEGROWERS is affiliated with the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and is represented on the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG).

Legal services: provision of legal advice to our members on a range of pertinent issues including land resumptions, Native Title claims, easement issues, dividing fence disputes, straying livestock and trespassers.

Opportunities: investigation of value-adding and/or diversification opportunities for our members.

Biosecurity: guidance to our members regarding on-farm adherence to the Biosecurity Plan for the Sugarcane Industry.

Member Services

CANEGROWERS Mackay has a skilled team available to assist members with negotiations and representations relating to:

- **Cane supply contracts:** negotiations with millers by the Bargaining Representatives/Negotiation Team.
- **Sugar marketing:** representations to governments in relation to amendments to the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Act 2015.
- **Representations:** to councils and government, and liaison with CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser Chris Cooper, on behalf of our members on matters such as land resumptions.
- **Cane auditing:** employment of auditors and management of the Cane Audit Service in mills – ensuring all weighing and cane analysis procedures are conducted to the highest standard.
- **Harvest management:** monitoring and representation to achieve an equitable harvest throughout the crushing.
- **Local government matters:** representations on local government matters/concerns on behalf of members, including drainage, local road access and maintenance issues.
- **Environmental issues:** representations to government on environmental regulations including vegetation management and water quality issues.
- **Leases/share farming:** preparation of standard cane farm leases and share farm agreements.
- **Transfer of sugar terminal shareholdings:** assistance with transfer applications and advice regarding options to sell shares.
- **Cane pay advices:** investigation of anomalies in cane pays on behalf of members.
- **Cane sampling and analysis:** follow up cane analysis and quality queries.
- **Administrative assistance with Fire perils crop insurance claims:** Membership with CANEGROWERS provides cover for accidental fire or hail damage caused to a crop of cane or trash blanketed cane. Assistance is provided to growers with the insurance claim process to ensure compensation is received for the out of pocket expenses incurred with the re-establishment of the cane crop following a fire peril, including any yield losses suffered in the subsequent season.
- **Free Crop Insurance:** Members receive basic crop insurance covering for fire, hail or transport losses to the value of up to \$35/tonne, and can apply to top-up the crop value for the season in which cane is supplied.
- **Transport legislative requirements:** assistance and advice on the requirements for registration, licensing, excess mass and dimension permits and the movement of agricultural machinery.
- **Queensland Rail:** assistance with issues relating to crossings and compensation for land resumptions.
- **Electricity:** advice on farming and irrigation tariffs, safety on-farm requirements, assistance with discrepancies in electricity accounts and damage to powerlines caused by agricultural machinery movements.
- **Farm machinery:** liaison with machinery suppliers for costs associated with unsatisfactory repairs to machinery and similar matters.
- **Water/irrigation:** groundwater, salt intrusion, water metering and water quality issues.
- **Farm diagnostics:** including agronomic/economic/financial assessment and advice, budgets and cashflows, spreadsheets and farm recording tools.
- **Natural disasters:** assistance for grower members grappling with the aftermath of the effect of natural disasters on their homes, businesses and families with completing government requirements regarding applications and lodging documentation for available recovery assistance and loans.



Insurance



Members of CANEGROWERS Mackay are fortunate to have highly skilled and professional insurance representatives working hard to ensure they have the best insurance options available for you to access.

The insurance team works hard to grow this part of your organisation's business by opening up their insurance expertise to other sectors, companies, businesses and private clients.

Our insurance services

Our experienced, qualified staff provide personal service to:

- Identify risk and provide professional and technical insurance advice
- Provide access to a diverse market of reputable insurance providers
- Review your insurances on an annual basis
- Negotiate renewal terms with existing and/or other providers
- Make changes/updates to your current cover
- Assist with lodgement of claims and monitor settlement of the claims
- Explain the policy working, benefits and exclusions in terms that you can understand.
- We DO NOT charge broker or administration fees.

Products include:

- Farm motor
- Commercial motor
- Farm or rural Insurance
- Domestic insurance including landlords, motor, caravans and marine
- Professional Risks Insurance, including public liability, management liability and cyber insurance
- Earthmoving equipment insurance
- Tools of trade insurance
- Fleet insurance

Comprehensive payroll services

CANEGROWERS Mackay provides members with comprehensive payroll services for their farm businesses. Services include:

- Preparation of wages from timesheets at the end of each pay period (including Single Touch Payroll lodgement)
- Calculation and reporting of employer-obligated Superannuation Guarantee payments
- Leave entitlement calculations
- Electronic administration services for SuperStream compliance
- Monthly/quarterly reporting and calculation of gross wages and tax withholding amounts for your Pay As You Go (PAYG) and Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Single Touch Payroll
- Assistance with estimates and actual figures for annual WorkCover declarations.
- Assistance provided regarding wage-related matters such as industrial relations, Fair Work, superannuation, Awards and termination pays.

Discounted member rates apply to all these services.

Smartcane BMP

CANEGROWERS Mackay encourages growers to engage with the Smartcane BMP program and start the process of accreditation. CANEGROWERS has successfully negotiated for Smartcane BMP to be recognised under the Bonsucro and VIVE sustainability programs. Contact your productivity officer, or find out more at www.smartcane.com.au

Training services

CANEGROWERS Mackay staff have an important role in identifying the training needs and requirements for members and the industry. Our services include:

- Coordinating trainers and courses, and providing administrative assistance with bookings and training assessments, as well as learning guides
- Developing and assisting with online Harvest Safety and Siding Inductions
- Developing and coordinating Chemical Accreditation Courses
- Developing and facilitating the delivery of Queensland Government-funded annual Sugar Cane Haulout Driver training courses
- Facilitating local delivery of business training tailored to sugarcane grower agribusinesses, particularly the CANEGROWERS Business Essentials, delivered by a team of skilled specialists.
- Facilitating 'on demand' courses, and in particular, courses promoting Farm and Workplace Health and Safety obligations
- Facilitating the delivery of courses for the Pilot/Escort Level I and II Vehicle Driver.
- Providing a Jobs Board to assist members to recruit seasonal and full-time employees
- Seeking funding opportunities, completing applications to support relevant courses, and liaising with various Registration Training Organisations (RTOs) to ensure a high quality level of industry-related training is being delivered.
- Advising and assisting members using computers who are registering and working through Smartcane BMP
- Advising and assisting in navigating available government natural disaster assistance.
- Informing and promoting available schemes to members as they arise.



Keeping you up-to-date

CANEGROWERS Mackay's communication staff work hard to ensure members are kept up-to-date with information and news pertinent to their farm businesses.

- The Billet monthly magazine (print or email format).
- A weekly emailed District Update.
- Website with Member log-in area; Social Media
- In addition, through regular news releases, columns, letters to the editor, brochures, fliers and submissions we seek to ensure that the views of grower members on a variety of important issues are known by the government, community and industry stakeholders.

We aim to provide opportunities for increased engagement and input by members through such groups as CANEGROWERS Mackay Network (for women in sugar), monthly Branch Meetings across the district and annual Information Meetings for Mackay and Plane Creek milling areas

To encourage informal social contact with growers, we offer a growers' lounge at the CANEGROWERS Mackay building where growers who are visiting town can take the time to chat with each other and staff over free tea and coffee.

We also look forward to catching up with you at events like the Mackay Ag Trade Expo and the sugar pavilion at the Mackay Show. CANEGROWERS Mackay also sponsors other regional shows, fairs, industry field days and events which are of value to growers and their community,

Monthly Branch meetings

Monthly Branch Meetings are held at Plane Creek, Racecourse, Marian, Eton, Finch Hatton and Calen.

The meetings feature industry guest speakers, a forum to meet with other growers and Area Committee representatives and discuss issues and opportunities around production and the sugar industry, and simply a chance to socialise with fellow farmers from your local area.

Members are given reminders of their local meeting via SMS and Facebook. Dates, venues and contacts are also published in The Billet. and online at www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au



Thank you

Thank you for your support of the CANEGROWERS organisation and in particular CANEGROWERS Mackay.

It is your continued faith that gives your organisation a powerful voice to government, industry stakeholders and the wider community, and helps us to punch above our weight.

Our strength is built on our unified purpose to work for your interests and the sustainable and profitable development of the sugar industry.

Kevin Borg
Chairman

Contact your elected representatives

Your elected representatives have an important role in hearing your cane farming business concerns and bringing these to the wider attention of the organisation. They look forward to hearing your ideas on the future development of the industry for the benefit of all members.



KEVIN BORG

Chairman,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Chairman, Plane Creek
Area Committee

0429 876 441



FRANK PERNA

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0408 936 616



JOHN MUSCAT

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0418 186 054



JOSEPH BORG

Deputy Chairman,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Chairman, Mackay Area
Committee

0427 504 118



GREG PLATH

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0429 050 396



ANDRE CAMILLERI

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0412 769 150



BILL MACDONALD

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Deputy Chairman,
Mackay Area Committee

0408 936 616



PAUL VASSALLO

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0429 438 414



JUDITH THATCHER

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0438 422 089



WAYNE SCHMIDTKE

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Deputy Chairman,
Plane Creek Area
Committee

0429 957 639



BRETT LEACH

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0417 703 981



ANDREW NEWBERY

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0467 778 041



MALCOLM LANGDON

Member, Plane Creek
Area Committee

0407 969 837



PHILIP DEGUARA

Director,
CANEGROWERS
Mackay

Member, Mackay Area
Committee

0417 796 468



HAYDEN SWAN

Member, Plane Creek
Area Committee

0437 503 818

**We have your back
covered!**

**The membership
fees you pay are an
investment in your
future**

visit

www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au



**There is
no strength
without unity**

Mackay Canegrowers Limited (MCL)
Trading as CANEGROWERS Mackay

120 Wood Street, Mackay
Queensland, 4740

PO Box 117
Mackay, Queensland, 4740

Phone: (07) 4944 2600
Email: mackay@canegrowers.com.au
Web: www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au

FOLLOW US ON:



Do you know a grower who could benefit from membership? Please pass this brochure on, and ask them to call us for more information.

All details correct at time of printing, August 2023



**CANEGROWERS
MACKAY**