

MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS
MACKAY

10 December 2024

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CANEGROWERS secures payment for cane under 7 CCS

Despite current difficulties with yet another extended harvest season, CANEGROWERS' ongoing advocacy for members has achieved a strong result.

We are pleased to announce that thanks to the tireless work of the CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee, Mackay Sugar has agreed to pay for cane with a **CCS of between 6 and 7 and a purity under 75%**. Normally, cane under a CCS of 7 and below 75% purity would not be paid. Any cane supplied under this agreement will be ex gratia, (meaning this will be paid outside the relative CCS formula).

Starting 16 December, Mackay Sugar will pay **\$11 per tonne** for cane that falls within these parameters. This payment is designed to support CANEGROWERS members and help cover costs during the extended crushing season while encouraging the harvesting of all available cane.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee Chairman Joseph Borg said: "CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee is very aware of the economic loss to those members who have cane condemned. It also appreciates the tight budgets under which everyone is operating during this prolonged series of late finishes to the crushing and the need to receive fair payment for all cane supplied. We are constantly working in cooperation with the mills to mitigate the hardship that these conditions cause by minimising standover and making it possible to harvest as much of this year's crop as possible. We thank Carl Morton, Chief Executive Officer of Mackay Sugar for his cooperation in reaching this positive outcome."

Please note:

- This payment is a one-time offer for the 2024 season.
- The new payment scheme will only apply to cane delivered after 16 December, 2024.

This newly agreed payment provides an opportunity to maximise returns by harvesting all cane that may have previously been left in the paddock.

"We encourage all growers to continue to prioritise the delivery of high-quality cane to the mill, as very low quality cane can have a negative impact on milling operations, costing everyone time that we don't have. It is strongly recommended that when selecting blocks and paddocks for harvesting, growers carefully consider the maturity and condition of your cane and where possible, to test it with a refractometer. The impact of wet ground conditions should also be taken into account," Mr Borg advised.

If growers have any questions or require further clarification, please contact the Canegrowers Mackay office on 49 442 600.

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For more information contact:

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