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Why Seek Financial Planning Advice?

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During our lives there are many stages, and with each stage comes different challenges, and concerns:

- Saving for a deposit on a home
- Surviving on one wage while a spouse takes time off to raise the family
- What happens if I die? Will my family be ok?
- Saving for retirement
- Once retired, how long will the money last?
- How can I help my children and grandchildren financially?

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Kalamia Sweet Notes

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Having seen recent media reports on how such diverse things as autonomous vehicles, drones, automated production processes, genetic modification, environmental and social issues, capital efficiency and requirements, global demographic changes, I wondered what will farming look like in 2030 and beyond?

We have seen substantial changes over the last 50 years in most sectors of agriculture. Intensification of production systems for increased outputs per unit of input whether it be in tonnes per hectare of a crop, of a meat or of milk solids. Innovations in engineering has enabled and increased mechanisation and capability to farm much greater area per labour unit than ever before. Increased sophistication in plant and animal genetic selection, in agronomy science and practice has added to the improved volumes of production and even new types of food and fibre being commercialised. Investment and innovation in handling, storage and transport has expanded market opportunities globally. Stories of lettuces from the Darling Downs being on Japanese supermarket shelves 36 hours after being picked astound me.

Back to the future ... much farming may be on a larger scale and a lot of activities will be run from control rooms. Already we see this starting in automated irrigation systems on some cane farms. A variety of data loggers, feeding information wirelessly back to a software program that interfaces with pumps and valves to optimise water and energy usage. The idea of an autonomous vehicles without drivers is already a reality not just in cars, buses and general transport but in farm machinery. A driverless tractor without cab was a

feature as a recent agricultural field day in the USA. Why should we be surprised, driverless trains and ore trucks have been operating in the Pilbara for a number of years. Drones seem to have significant potential in agriculture. In the cane industry, I can see crop yield assessment, targeted fertiliser, herbicide or pesticide application to patches in the crop all happening with the use of drones.

Scale of enterprises will continue to grow as efficiency requires more capital investment and ultimately having more control of your share of your product's retail value means having to have the ability to invest to achieve vertical integration. The concentration of market power away from agricultural producers has not occurred overnight, it has been through the organising of capital in the upstream sectors over many decades. An Australian success story in coming to terms with this is the Australian Agricultural Company. Established by Royal Charter in 1824 it originated as a beef breeding enterprise in Northern NSW, expanding into a string of properties across the top end, just selling cattle. In the early 90's it started a value adding process by establishing a large feedlot, but still largely just selling cattle for slaughter. In 2014 it built an abattoir south of Darwin, and now its revenue mix is 70% boxed beef sold to meat distributors internationally and only 30% from live cattle sales ... a complete reversal of where it was only 10 years ago. The next step could well be AACo branded beef in supermarkets and restaurants.

This is not say that family farming will not still have a place but it is highly likely co-operatives and other corporate structures will emerge that farmers can become part of so that there is scale and a greater degree of market power to influence the returns you get for your labour and your capital.

Regards, David



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On-Supply Agreement negotiations continue



MARKETING CHOICE UPDATE

By Greg Beashel, QSL CEO and Managing Director



Wilmar's current OSA proposal does not offer title on an FIS basis, but proposes a quasi-FIS model.

In essence, it would require QSL to pay for any sugar Wilmar delivers to the terminal when it arrives at the terminal, but Wilmar would then continue to control that sugar until it was loaded onto the ship for delivery (on average 145 days later). So even though QSL would pay for the sugar and technically own it, it would be controlled by one of our marketing competitors – Wilmar. This arrangement would include GEI Sugar that growers had chosen to nominate to QSL under Marketing Choice arrangements.

QSL strongly believes that title holders need control of the raw sugar they own as they are exposed to risks, and to propose otherwise is unacceptable in what is a highly competitive market. QSL or any

INFORMATION FOR KALAMIA GROWERS

Industry Relationship Manager Carla Keith is regularly in the Burdekin to answer any questions you may have and is also coordinating our next round of pricing information workshops in the district with QSL GM Trading and Risk Dougall Lodge. Please contact Carla direct (Carla.Keith@qsl.com.au or 0409 372 305) for further information.

As QSL works to implement Marketing Choice and negotiate On-Supply Agreements (OSAs) with various Millers, we have had plenty of discussions and questions about Free In Store (FIS). So I thought it important that we explain FIS, how it works and why QSL thinks it's the optimal way to handle Growers' Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar).

The Queensland sugar industry has traditionally transferred the title of sugar passing from Millers to the Marketer on an FIS basis. In practice, this means that when the Miller sends export sugar to the bulk sugar terminal, QSL pays for that sugar at the weighbridge (or shortly after), receives title to it and starts managing it as that sugar's marketer. The actual amount paid reflects the Advances payment arrangements.

It's important to note that the 'free' in FIS means that title is handed over 'free' from any restrictions – i.e. QSL has paid for the sugar and QSL can now decide how it is managed. QSL can then use the sugar title as collateral for funding, resulting in savings for the Millers and Growers who use our services.

Queensland Millers also currently transfer title to their Miller Economic Interest in Sugar (MEI) to QSL on an FIS basis so that it can be pooled with other sugar in the terminal for logistical advantages and the maximisation of storage. The Miller, as that sugar's Marketer, continues to make the marketing decisions for that sugar, with QSL performing the day-to-day terminal operations required for that sugar, as per its role as the terminal operator.

third-party marketer must be able to manage their GEI Sugar stocks and instruct the terminal operator on how they wish to have these stocks managed, i.e. whether to commingle, blend, etc.

THE QSL ADVANTAGE

Changes to State legislation means Queensland cane growers will soon have the ability to choose their Grower Economic Interest (GEI) Sugar Marketer.

As your trusted partner, QSL leads from the front offering individual and collective pricing products to help manage your price and production risks. We've set the standard by providing a competitive finance offering to help with your cash flow prior to sugar being shipped to customers. We also have a proven track record of managing the industry's six bulk sugar storage terminals and shipping quality raw sugar to our international customers on time and in full.

What's more, we work for you and only you – that's the QSL Advantage.



We are owned by you and focused on you – QSL is owned by its Members and focused on maximising returns. We do not pursue our own commercial interests above those of the industry we serve.



We pass on the value – QSL is a tax-exempt, pass-through industry service organisation. That means we don't 'clip the ticket' and pass on all net value created.



We offer multiple pricing options – Whether you want to make your own forward pricing decisions or prefer a managed pool, we offer a varied range of products for you to choose from.



We are experienced professionals – Our dedicated and Queensland-based marketing and pricing team leverages a range of global partnerships to serve our Members and their interests.



We go above and beyond – From daily SMS price updates to more detailed market reports and regular information sessions, QSL is committed to keeping you up to date on the raw sugar market and our performance.

On-Supply Agreement negotiations continue



QSL'S MARKET VIEW

Current as of 14 September 2016

QSL's team of experienced pricing and marketing professionals are focused on maximising QSL's pool returns, leveraging global contacts and information sources to help inform their decisions when selling and pricing raw sugar on the international market. As we transition to Marketing Choice, QSL intends to tailor the information services provided by this team to reflect the varied needs of our Miller and Grower clients. In the interim, we have provided a brief snapshot of the market drivers which we view as having a potential impact on \$A/metric tonne returns for the 2016 and 2017 Seasons.

CURRENT MARKET DRIVERS	ICE 11 PROMPT (Oct16) \$A/mt Gross \$598*	ICE #11 2017 SEASON \$A/mt Gross \$570*	COMMENTS
Current Market			
Global Sugar Fundamentals (exc. Brazil)			Current global fundamentals continue to reflect a deficit in supply for the 2016 Season and 2017 Season. Underweight consumers and well-priced producers.
Brazil Sugar Fundamentals			QSL's view on Brazil for 2016 remains neutral, with expectations that they don't have the capacity to crush all of this year's crop. 2017 is expected to remain constructive while Brazil's production is not expected to be able to increase too much due to milling capacity constraints.
Macro issues/ Specs			The macro environment remains positive for 2016, with investors continuing to favour sugar and commodities.
AUD/USD			We expect the \$A to remain sticky and QSL's view is that current levels around the 73-78 cents are likely in the short to medium term.

*Figures quoted reflect mark-to-market OTC \$A/tonne as at 14.09.16. Source: Bloomberg. For the latest market prices visit: www.qsl.com.au.

- Trend is more favourable to positive \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is neutral to \$A/mt returns.
- Trend is less favourable to \$A/mt returns.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment or product advice or a risk management strategy. You should seek your own financial advice. This report should not be taken to include representations as to future matters, and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.



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Dear Grower,

Improved weather conditions in the past week have had a positive impact on CCS levels across most regions.

Proserpine's average CCS has climbed to a season high of 12.85 while in the Herbert, average CCS has lifted from 12.1 to 12.4. The Burdekin's CCS levels have risen slightly to 14.5. Plane Creek's CCS levels dropped slightly this week but remain above 13 units.

While the improvements in sugar content are welcome, we acknowledge that CCS levels remain well below historical averages.

The run of fine weather has enabled us to make good progress with the crushing.

The Burdekin mills passed the 4 million tonnes mark on Wednesday night and are on track to reach the halfway milestone next week.

Ground conditions are still wet in parts of the region, but this has not impacted the volume of cane supply to the mills in recent days.

As at 8am, the mills had crushed a total of 4.08 million tonnes of cane for the season. We are optimistic of achieving

a weekly throughput of about 400,000 tonnes of cane.

There are scheduled stops planned for Kalamia, Pioneer, Inkerman and Invicta's A side next week.

The Herbert mills had crushed a total of 2.05 million tonnes of cane as at 8am today, which represents about 45 per cent of the total crop. The improved ground conditions have benefited both the harvesting and milling sectors, with a steady supply of cane coming from all parts of the district.

A bagasse choke at Macknade Mill caused a 10-hour stoppage yesterday. Despite this, we are on track to crush more than 220,000 tonnes of cane for the week.

Proserpine Mill has now crushed a total of 761,500 tonnes of cane, which represents about 42 per cent of the total crop. Crushing rates have been high overall and the mill is currently expected to process more than 95,000 tonnes of cane for the week.

The positive movement in sugar content is a welcome development. The Proserpine region could achieve a weekly CCS average of around 13.

Unfortunately, Plane Creek has had a challenging week. A shredder breakdown (a sheared high-speed gearing shaft) on Wednesday morning caused a significant stoppage. Crushing was disrupted again about 1am today due to an intermediate carrier chain failure.

Teams have been undertaking repairs and the mill is expected to resume crushing by mid-afternoon. The factory is expected to reach full production about midday tomorrow.

These interruptions mean the mill's weekly throughput will be lower than anticipated at about 55,000 tonnes. It is frustrating to have experienced these factory issues when the weather was favourable after so many disrupted weeks.

As at 8am today, the mill had crushed a total of 631,000 tonnes of cane, which is about 46 per cent of the total crop.

Hopefully all four regions will have passed the halfway mark by my next update. The short-term weather outlook is reasonably positive and we hope to take full advantage of the improved conditions.

Best regards, John Pratt

Executive General Manager - North Qld

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INDUSTRY NEWS



CANE TRAINS ON LANDLINE

Wilmar Sugar's adoption of remote shunting units in the cane transport sector featured on ABC's Landline program last Sunday.

Long-time cane train driver Gary Vaughan from Invicta Mill was interviewed in the story, which also delved into the history of the cane train.

Invicta Mill is on track to become the first in Australia to use 100 per cent driver-only trains. You can view the Landline story here.

STAY SAFE DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With the school holidays now in full swing, parents and carers are urged to remind children to stay well away from the cane rail network.

Trains will continue to operate 24 hours a day seven days a week during the holidays and throughout the 2016 crushing season.

Children should never walk, ride or play on or near cane railway tracks. They also shouldn't play on or between cane bins, whether they're moving or not.

Let's all work together to spread the cane train safety message.

Remember to:

Keep off cane trains and their bins



Keep clear of cane railway tracks



Stay off cane railway bridges



Stay safe at cane railway crossings



Stay safe these school holidays

APPRENTICE ASSESSMENT CENTRE

About 85 applicants will attend Wilmar Sugar's Apprentice Assessment Centre in Home Hill next week as part of the selection process for our 2017 apprenticeship intake.

Wilmar Sugar is offering 28 apprenticeship positions across its four milling regions, with successful candidates starting work early next year.

Learning and Development Advisor Scott Young said the company had received more than 250 applicants for these positions, with diesel fitting emerging as the most sought-after trade.

"The high level of applications for the diesel fitting trade is probably linked to a downturn in the mining sector which has traditionally provided a good number of diesel fitting apprenticeships," he said.



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Advances and payments by pricing category



2015 SEASON: HERBERT, BURDEKIN & PLANE CREEK

2 September 2016

		US Quota	Wilmar Managed Pool	FSP 2 - 2 Season Forward Pool	FSP 3 - 3 Season Forward Pool	Actively Managed Pool	Guaranteed Floor Price Pool	Harvest Pool	Totals & Averages	
POOL PRICES										
Previous Net Pool Price Estimates	A/t IPS									
25 Mar 2016		\$683.12	\$461.45	\$467.72	\$482.58	\$466.35	\$430.06	\$450.12		
29 Apr 2016		\$690.61	\$440.38	\$469.34	\$485.51	\$477.02	\$434.61	\$456.50		
27 May 2016		\$678.06	\$472.58	\$478.59	\$494.70	\$523.84	\$455.59	\$501.29		
30 Jun 2016		\$668.04	\$470.14	\$477.97	\$497.80	\$556.89	\$466.45	\$525.41		
29 Jul 2016		\$669.99	\$470.40	\$475.44	\$493.92	\$541.85	\$456.79	\$508.86		
Current Gross Pool Estimate	A/t IPS	\$762.59	\$470.79	\$476.26	\$497.88	\$558.67	\$464.55	\$527.47		
Shared Pool Premiums	A/t IPS	-\$64.43	\$33.40	\$33.40	\$33.40	\$33.40	\$33.40	\$33.40		
Shared Pool Charges	A/t IPS	-\$33.19	-\$33.19	-\$33.19	-\$33.19	-\$33.19	-\$33.19	-\$33.19		
Net Pool Price Estimate	A/t IPS	\$664.97	\$471.00	\$476.47	\$498.09	\$558.88	\$464.76	\$527.68		
26 August 2016 Pool Reports										
ADVANCE RATES	A\$/t IPS	% Advance	Status							
In-Season \$ Rates										
Initial	\$267.00		Paid	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	
18 Aug 2016	\$326.00		Scheduled	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	
20 Oct 2016	\$351.00		Scheduled	\$351.00	\$351.00	\$351.00	\$351.00	\$351.00	\$351.00	
15 Dec 2016	\$377.00		Scheduled	\$377.00	\$377.00	\$377.00	\$377.00	\$411.11	\$377.00	
Post-Season Differential Rates										
26 Jan 2017		80.00%	Scheduled	\$531.98	\$376.80	\$381.18	\$398.47	\$447.10	\$418.28	\$422.14
23 Feb 2017		82.50%	Scheduled	\$548.60	\$388.58	\$393.09	\$410.93	\$461.08	\$418.28	\$435.34
23 Mar 2017		87.50%	Scheduled	\$581.85	\$412.13	\$416.91	\$435.83	\$489.02	\$418.28	\$461.72
20 Apr 2017		90.00%	Scheduled	\$598.47	\$423.90	\$428.82	\$448.28	\$502.99	\$418.28	\$474.91
18 May 2017		92.50%	Scheduled	\$615.10	\$435.68	\$440.74	\$460.73	\$516.96	\$429.90	\$488.10
22 Jun 2017		95.00%	Scheduled	\$631.72	\$447.45	\$452.65	\$473.19	\$530.94	\$441.52	\$501.30
Final		100.00%	Scheduled	\$664.97	\$471.00	\$476.47	\$498.09	\$558.88	\$464.76	\$527.68
FORECAST RETURN FOR A 'DEFAULT GROWER' (i.e. A grower with no Forward Pricing or QSL Fixed Tonnage Pools)										
% Allocation to US Quota and Harvest Pools				2.68%					97.32%	100.00%
Initial Advances to be Paid	A/t IPS			\$326.00					\$326.00	\$326.00
Final Forecast Advances to be Paid	A/t IPS			\$664.97					\$527.68	\$531.36
% Paid Season-to-Date				49.02%					61.78%	61.35%

Notes to Advances Program

Forward Pricing pools

In addition to the above pools, many growers have undertaken pricing via Wilmar's Forward Pricing program, namely under the Target Price and Call Pool pricing mechanisms. The final returns from these pools are subject to the same Shared Pool adjustment as for the ICE No.11 pools referred to above.

Shared Pool Element

The 'Shared Pool Premiums' and the 'Shared Pool Charges', as shown above, together comprise the 'Shared Pool Element' as defined in the Forward Pool and Pricing Agreement (FPPA).

General information

Advances are quoted EXCLUSIVE of GST. All advances are subject to QSL Board approvals, final returns for each price category, Wilmar's final sugar production for the season and tonnage allocations to various pricing methods. All growers who have used any form of Forward Pricing will have different advances depending on their price outcomes and tonnages fixed.

MEMBERS INFORMATION

NOTICE BOARD

Kalamia Member Recognition - AWARDS

Congratulations is extended to Mr Leo Previtera and family on receiving an industry award through Burdekin Productivity Services at their Annual General Meeting recently.

This annual prestigious accolade was presented to Leo for:
Highest tonnes per Ha (209.6 T/Ha) award.

Furthermore, we also congratulate our member Mr Graham Laidlow and family for receiving the impressive:

Sugar Producer of the Year (27.3 tonnes sugar/Ha farm average) award.

It is wonderful to see special recognition awarded to our Kalamia members for great productivity of sugar cane. Congratulations and very well deserved.

WEBSITE

Members are encouraged to register to use our new website at www.kalagro.com.au - Kalamia Cane Growers information hub.

To register, click on the member's login button, then click on the register tab. Fill in the necessary details required and approval to view Kalamia's Exclusive Member's Information will be updated within 24 hours.

CSA AGREEMENTS

Kalamia Cane Grower's pride themselves on keeping their members up-to-date with all current issues regarding the Sugar Industry.

Members wanting to further their knowledge and want assistance with questions or queries regarding the CSA agreement options for 2017 and beyond, are invited to make an appointment to discuss these issues with our Executive Manager, David Rutledge.

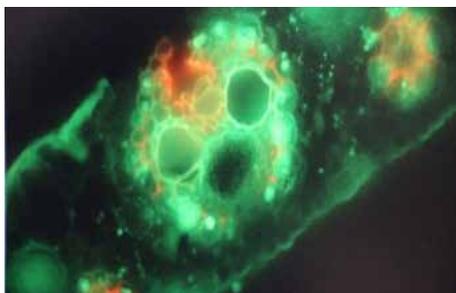
Interesting News Articles

MYSTERIOUS SYNDROME DESTROYING QUEENSLAND SUGARCANE FORCES GROWERS TO DIVERSIFY

By Courtney Wilson, Landline www.abc.net.au/rural

A mysterious and growing scourge of Queensland sugarcane is prompting some long time canegrowers to diversify to stay afloat.

Despite a team of researchers working to unravel the mysteries of Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS), the cause remains unknown and, in recent months, its spread south along the Queensland coast has been confirmed.



A team of scientists from Sugar Research Australia are working intensively to try and unlock the mysteries of YCS. (Supplied: Sugar Research Australia)

North Queensland canegrower Ian Shepherdson has been one of the hardest hit by YCS, since it was first detected in 2012.

"There's been a few sleepless nights, and just worry," said Mr Shepherdson, who has grown cane across three farms, totally about 140-hectares, at Home Hill for 25 years.

"It's an unknown, you're fighting against something that you can't pinpoint."

As well as turning the leaves yellow, YCS affects the crops' sugar content.

At its worst in 2013, Mr Shepherdson believes YCS accounted for at least a 30 per cent drop in yield over the farm.

"Yield, as in tonnes per hectare – we dropped from 144 expected for one particular block, down to 70," he said.

"It's been very difficult, financially it takes me below the cost of production, so I've had to borrow to stay afloat in those first couple of years."

FARMER DIVERSIFIES WITH MUNG BEAN, HIGH AMYLASE CORN CROPS



Ian Shepherdson is growing 29 hectares of high amylose corn on his property. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)

Struggling to cope with lacklustre YCS affected cane, and without a concrete diagnosis for almost five years, Mr Shepherdson decided to channel his frustrations into diversifications.

"I've just grown a crop, two crops of mung beans on some fallow ground and we've now got some high amylose corn in that," he said.

With 29 hectares of corn contracted to a buyer in Sydney, Mr Shepherdson's gamble has provided a boost both to the farm's bottom line – and perhaps more importantly – morale.

"It just responds. You water it, it gets green, it stays green. It's been a really uplifting experience, I've really loved it," he said.

"I would much prefer to grow that than cane at this point, and financially it seems it could be fairly rewarding, maybe not quite as much as cane, but the soil needs a break and that's why we've done that as well."



Canegrower Ian Shepherdson's farm at Home Hill in north Queensland has been one of the hardest hit by YCS. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)






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Interesting News Articles

'SUGAR CANE WITH A SUGAR PROBLEM'

Meanwhile, a team of scientists from Sugar Research Australia are working intensively to try and unlock the mysteries of YCS. Field research is being conducted across 12 main trial sites, including on Mr Shepherdson's property.

Analysis of leaf samples taken from Maryborough earlier this year, when signs of YCS were first spotted in the region, have shown a significantly higher level of sugar and starch in the YCS affected samples, compared to the sugar and starch seen in a healthy, green leaf.

"We believe that what's happening is as starch and sugars build up in the leaf, everything really does get messed up in there," said senior technician from SRA Gerard Scalia, who is involved in the YCS research activity.

"As photosynthesis is disrupted, the internal temperature of the leaf will heat up and finally you'll get photo oxidation, and that's the yellowing that you see as a visual on the outside of the leaf.

"If it [the leaf] can't export the sugar, the sugar just continues to build up and build up, so sugar cane with a sugar problem – it's really quite bizarre."



Sugar Research Australia's Barry Croft checking on the sugar cane crop for signs of CSD. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)

CANEGROWERS' LONG HISTORY IN SUCCESSFULLY BATTLING CANE DISEASE



Symptoms of Chlorotic Streak Disease include white streaks along the cane leaves. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)

Queensland canegrowers can take some heart that their industry has a long history in successfully battling disease.

Chlorotic streak disease (CSD) was first recognised in Australian cane crops in 1929, and it remains among the most widespread and common diseases affecting the industry.

CSD is characterised by white streaks along the cane leaf but despite the subtle symptoms, it can have a significant impact on yield.

It was first recognised in Australian cane crops in 1929, and remains among the most widespread and common diseases affecting the industry.

After keeping scientists across the globe guessing for almost 90 years, a team of Queensland researchers has finally identified the DNA of the unique water-borne organism that spreads CSD.

"It is quite a significant scientific breakthrough not only for sugar cane but for all plant diseases," said SRA Biosecurity Manager Barry Croft.

CSD 'A BIG PROBLEM' WHEN THERE'S LOT OF RAIN



SRA Senior researcher Kathy Braithwaite inoculating cane plants with an organism which causes Chlorotic Streak Disease, to screen varieties and gauge resistance. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)

At a quarantined research site at Woodford in south-east Queensland, researchers have been injecting hundreds of plants with the organism, to see which cane varieties offer the best resistance to the disease.

"We can get symptoms really quickly, in around five weeks, so we're hoping that we can develop a rapid screening technique for our plants," said SRA senior researcher Kathy Braithwaite.

Once the most disease-resistant cane is identified, that information can be given to growers to guide which crop to plant and which to avoid, particularly in wet years.

According to Lawrence Di Bella, a canegrower from Ingham and the head of Herbert Cane Productivity Services, the breakthrough is significant for growers in the tropics.

"We can get metres of rain – so our average annual rainfall in the Ingham area is 2,200mm, that's quite large compared to some of the other places in Australia, so it's (CSD) quite a big problem when we get a lot of rain," he said.

"This is going to help us a lot because in the past we would plant a variety without any knowledge of its resistance, so we would be taking a gamble when a variety was released and sometimes it hadn't paid off for us in the past."



Victoria Mill at Ingham. (ABC News: Courtney Wilson)



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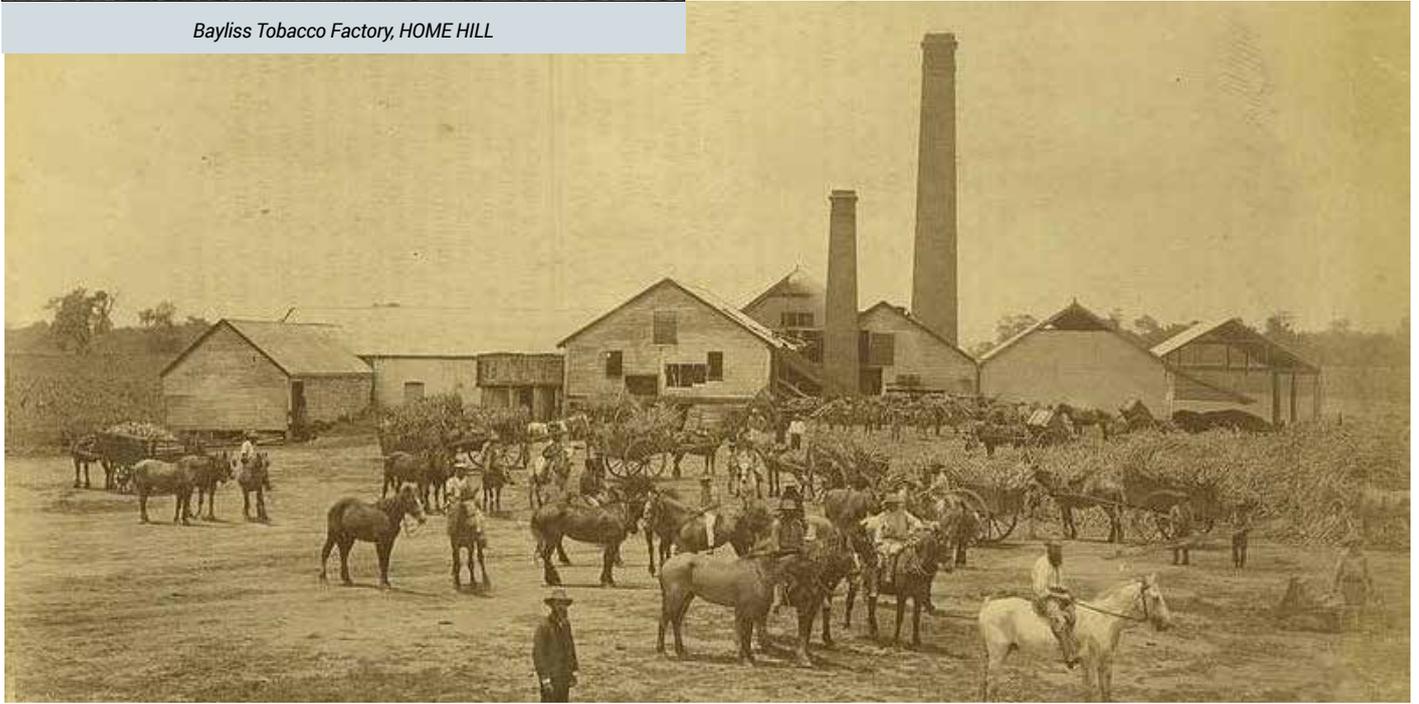
Ayr Fire Brigade Truck 1939-42



Bayliss Tobacco Factory, HOME HILL



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PLANT DIVERSITY CAN INFLUENCE EVERYTHING IN AGRICULTURE

www.northqueenslandregister.com.au

Sugarcane farmer and 2014 Nuffield Australia Scholar, Simon Mattsson, says farmers need to move away from simple or no crop rotations, and look to plant diversity for soil health.

Mr Mattsson and his family run a 190-hectare property at Marian, near Mackay, producing sugarcane, soybeans and chickpeas in rotation, utilising a two-metre controlled traffic farming system.

Part of his Nuffield studies focussed on the beneficial and predatory microbial activities that are crucial to sustaining productive soils.

Cane production at Mackay has suffered a nine per cent decline every five years for the last 20 years, something Mr Mattsson said can be reversed by building soil health

through plant diversity and biological activity.

"If you want a range of biology in any agricultural situation, you will need a range of plants, otherwise you'll limit your biological diversity which limits your farms productive capacity and increases your environmental impact," Mr Mattsson said.

"One of the main differences between successful farmers and the rest is that they take advantage of the key elements: Sunlight, rainfall, carbon and nitrogen.

"You need to implement a continuous regime of minimum mechanical soil disturbance, maintain permanent organic soil cover and a living root in the soil as well as plant diverse crop species in sequences or associations."

On-property he has experimented with



Marian sugarcane farmer Simon Mattsson believes declining cane productivity can be reversed by building soil health through plant diversity and biological activity.

multi-species intercropping trials to enhance soil biology, planting sunflowers and sugarcane in the same season, and within one metre of each other.

NATIONALS' LEADER BARNABY JOYCE RULES OUT SUPPORT FOR SUGAR TAX WHILE VISITING NORTH QUEENSLAND CAN HEARTLAND

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

By Lara Webster and Craig Zonca

"I do not support a sugar tax" were the words spoken by the Nationals' leader when he visited the cane heartland of North Queensland. Standing with Canegrowers representatives, Barnaby Joyce, also the Minister for Agriculture and Resources, made it very clear he would not support any sugar tax, or even a conversation about the idea. His firm stance follows a recent call by Victorian Liberal MP Russel Broadbent's for the Government to consider a sugar tax, saying it could be used to fund sporting facilities. However, Mr Joyce made it clear his stance would not be shifted and he would not enter into any conversations. "A sugar tax is not going to be supported," Mr Joyce said. "You know what happens when people say we are just going to start a little fire with the curtains but don't worry about the house. "Little conversations turn into money grabbing exercises so that they can take the money, and they will be taking it once more out of Central Queensland [and] out of North Queensland. "I am calling on the Labor Party members who get their pay checks from Central and North Queensland to come out and say you do not support

it." Lobby group Canegrowers continues to oppose tax Canegrowers chairman Paul Schembri said the tax would decimate the sugar industry and it was too simplistic to blame sugar alone for obesity and diabetes. "There is no doubt that a sugar tax would be an absolute disaster for the Australian sugar industry," he said. Canegrowers Mackay chairman Kevin Borg added that talk of a sugar tax just added more stress to an industry still grappling with the long-running sugar marketing dispute.

"We do need this put to bed very quickly so the industry can get on and do what it is supposed to be doing," Mr Borg said. "We are fighting all of these battles on a number of fronts at and we just need to get on with it."

CALLS FOR DISCUSSION ON SUGAR TAX CONTINUE

Various groups have been pushing the idea of a sugar tax as a means of combating rising obesity and diabetes rates in Australia. That push has intensified after the UK announced plans to introduce a tax on soft drinks in 2018. In Australia, the Greens called for a 20 per cent tax on sugary drinks during the election campaign and said it could raise \$500 million dollars per year in

revenue Diabetes Queensland is one group which has supported the calls for a tax and spokesman Cameron Thompson said it was time there was a proper conversation. "We support modelling of a sugar tax for all Queenslanders to see what it is we are trying to do and what are the potential costs involved with that," he said. "We want to have that fully understood but when we are already starting with carrying a burden of \$11 billion a year in the cost of obesity in Queensland, that is a huge thing to be hanging around your neck."



Photo: Barnaby Joyce (centre) says he is not supporting a sugar tax. (Supplied: Canegrowers Mackay)

Interesting News Articles

MONSANTO, BAYER AG IN \$US66 BILLION DEAL TO CREATE WORLD'S LARGEST SEED AND CHEMICAL SUPPLIER

German pharmaceutical and chemical giant Bayer AG has finally stuck a deal to buy out American biotechnology company Monsanto.

Bayer AG, the company that invested aspirin and once trademarked 'Heroin' as a cough medicine, wooed Monsanto's board with a \$US66 billion (\$88 billion) offer on Wednesday night Australian time.

If successful, the deal, touted as the year's largest, will make Bayer AG the world's largest agricultural seed and chemical supplier. It follows a string of similar mergers in the sector.

American industrial giants Dow Chemical and DuPont pioneer struck a merger in December last year, and Swiss-based chemical and seed company Syngenta agreed to a takeover by Chinese industrial giant ChemChina in February this year.

Now the internal negotiations are over, the biggest hurdle faced by the deal will be seeking approval from competition regulators around the globe.

Already, US Democratic senator and former primary candidate Bernie Sanders has

slammed the deal, calling it a "marriage made in hell" and urging the US Department of Justice to block the deal.

But Monsanto's market leadership in agricultural seeds and chemicals makes it a highly strategic acquisition for Bayer AG, which itself is a dominant crop chemical company.

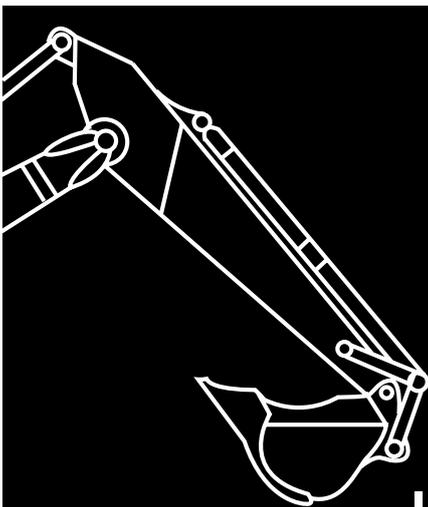
In Australia, Monsanto markets the weed-killer glyphosate and a range of genetically modified cotton and canola. It made a failed bid last year to buy Swiss company Syngenta.

Bayer's Australian arm sells birth control pills, cold and flu medication, crop chemicals, multi-vitamins and GM canola among its range of medications, chemicals and consumer health products.

The three companies that will emerge if the deals are approved – Dow-DuPont, ChemChina-Syngenta and Bayer-Monsanto, will collectively control close to three quarters of the agricultural chemical seeds market, according to analysis by Bloomberg.



Photo: Monsanto sells its genetically modified canola, cotton and vegetable seeds in Australia, as well the popular weed killer glyphosate. (Clint Jasper)



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Interesting News Articles

IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRALIA NOW WORTH MORE THAN \$15 BILLION

By Kallee Buchanan, QLD Country Hour www.abc.net.au/rural



Photo: Fruit and nuts, dairy production, and vegetables account for 56 percent of the total value of irrigated agriculture. (Stephen Stockwell)

The value of irrigated agricultural production in Australia has hit more than \$15 billion.

Value of Australia's irrigated agriculture 2014-15

- » Rice for grain - \$272.7m
- » Cereals for grain and seed (a) - \$464.1m
- » Cotton (b) - \$907.4m
- » Sugar cane - \$736.8m
- » Nurseries, cut flowers and turf - \$832.8m
- » Other broadacre crops - \$86.2m
- » Hay - \$265m
- » Vegetables (c) - \$2.67bn
- » Fruit and nuts (ex. grapes) - \$2.8bn
- » Grapes - \$1.02bn
- » Dairy production (d) - \$2.8bn
- » Meat cattle - \$1.07bn
- » Sheep and other livestock (e) - \$1.05bn
- » Total - \$15.1bn

(a) Excludes rice

(b) Cotton lint (irrigated and non-irrigated)

(c) Vegetables for human consumption only

(d) Value is calculated based on milk production from dairy cows in milk and dry

(e) Includes production of wool and eggs, and slaughtering and other disposals of sheep, lambs, pigs, poultry and other livestock n.e.c.

Figures released by the Bureau of Statistics this week show that in 2014-15, the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) rose by 3 per cent, or \$509 million.

Irrigated production accounted for 30 per cent of the Gross Value of Agricultural Production (GVAP), which was up 5 per cent to more than \$53 billion.

The highest value irrigated commodities were fruit and nuts (excluding grapes) at \$2.88 billion, dairy products at \$2.83 billion and vegetables at \$2.68 billion, accounting for 56 per cent of the total for 2014-15.

The value of most irrigated commodities rose from the previous year except for cotton, which shaved off nearly \$1 billion in value, suggested by the Bureau as being due to reduced water availability and unfavourable growing conditions.

IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$3.05 billion, with the value of all agricultural production at \$12.1 billion.

Cotton was the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$537 million, while production from sheep and other livestock was the most valuable commodity overall at \$2.96 billion.



Photo: The value of irrigated agricultural production in Australia has risen by \$509 million in 12 months. (Tim Wimborne: Reuters)

IN VICTORIA

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$4.9 billion, with the value of all agricultural production at \$13.1 billion.

Dairy production was the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$1.7 billion, and was just edged out as the most valuable overall by production from sheep and other livestock at \$3.1 billion.

IN QUEENSLAND

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$3.5 billion, with the value of all agricultural production at \$11.9 billion.

Fruit and nuts were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$853 million, while production from meat cattle was the most valuable commodity overall at \$5 billion.



Photo: Irrigated cotton shed \$1 billion in value in 12 months, dropping from \$1.9 billion in 2013-14 to just over \$907 million in 2014-15. (ABC Rural)

Interesting News Articles

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$1.77 billion, with the value of all agricultural production at \$6.2 billion.

Vegetables were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$446 million, while cereals for grain and seed were the most valuable commodity overall at \$1.86 billion.



Photo: Vegetables were the most valuable irrigated commodity in WA, home of the Ord irrigation scheme. (Leighton Contractors)

IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$887 million, with the value of all agricultural production at \$7.9 billion.

Vegetables were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$253



Photo: The value of irrigated rice in 2014-15 was \$272.7 million, down 1 percent on 2013-14 (Robert Cianflone: Getty Images)

million, while cereals for grain and seed were the most valuable commodity overall at \$3.75 billion.

IN TASMANIA

The value of irrigated agriculture was not available for publication, but the value of all agricultural production was at \$1.4 billion.

Dairy production was the most valuable irrigated commodity reported at \$334 million. It was also the most valuable commodity overall at \$442 million.

IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$69 million, with the value of all agricultural production at \$834 million.

Vegetables were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$46 million, while production meat cattle was the most valuable commodity overall at \$722 million.

IN THE AUSTRALIA CAPITAL TERRITORY

The value of irrigated agriculture was not available for publication, but the value of all agricultural production was at \$7.8 million.

Fruit and nuts were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$40,930, while production from sheep and other livestock was the most valuable commodity overall at \$2.9 million.

IN THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN

The value of irrigated agriculture was more than \$6.9 billion, with the value of all agricultural production at \$20.5 billion.

Fruit and nuts were the most valuable irrigated commodity at \$1.49 billion, while cereals for grain and seed were the most valuable commodity overall at \$4.8 billion.



Photo: The value of irrigated agricultural production in the Murray Darling Basin is about \$6.9 billion. (Mei French)

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Interesting News Articles

GOLD COAST CANEGROWERS OFFER UP 6,000HA SITE FOR CITY-STYLE DEVELOPMENT

By Michelle Rafferty and Matt Eaton

About 40 cane farmers on the northern outskirts of the Gold Coast have formed a consortium to sell their farms as a block to a major planner and property developer.

Several developers have expressed interest in buying the 6,000-hectare site in the Norwell Valley as the sugar industry becomes less viable.

The area is sandwiched between the Gold Coast and Logan and represents one of the last major tracts of undeveloped land south of Brisbane.

Rocky Point Cane Growers Association chairman Richard Skopp said they wanted the Queensland Government to change the agricultural zoning of the area, because economies of scale meant it was no longer viable to continue cane farming in the location.

"We'd like to see the South-East Queensland Regional Plan change to incorporate higher-end use for this land," he said.

Fellow canegrower and Rocky Point Future Planning Association president David Huth said the size of the area necessitated a single zoning plan.

"It can't be developed one corner at a time owing to flat nature, the flood plain nature, that it is," he said.

The project is in the hands of Canford Property Group, which is seeking a developer with the capacity to develop a satellite city.

Canford managing director Roland Evans said all levels of Government knew the significance of the future for the site, which is twice the size of the Springfield development in Ipswich.

"We've spoken to [Gold Coast City] Council,

local MPs, met with the State Government and informed the Federal Government as well," he said.

"We've had support from all levels of government."

Mr Evans said along with housing, the plan was expected to incorporate tourism infrastructure, medical research facilities, an IT facility, an educational area and town infrastructure.

"Let's create the industries of the future for our young people so there is no desire for them to go anywhere else," Mr Evans said.

The State Government is reviewing the regional plan.

LNP Member for Coomera Michael Crandon said he attended a Government briefing about the review 10 days ago.

"To be honest, the response I got was that it is problematic," he said.

"I said we need to stop it being problematic and backing the farmers and giving the farmers a future."

But Mr Evans said the scale of the project made government support inevitable.

"Everyone recognises sugarcane isn't viable now," he said.

State Planning Minister Jackie Trad said she appreciated the Canford Property Group's vision for the development.

"However, as acknowledged by Roland Evans ... finding a buyer is just one part of a long process given the current zoning of the site," she said.

"The redevelopment of this site for urban purposes is not currently consistent with the current planning framework, at both a state and local government level.

"The South East Queensland Regional Plan is currently being reviewed in partnership

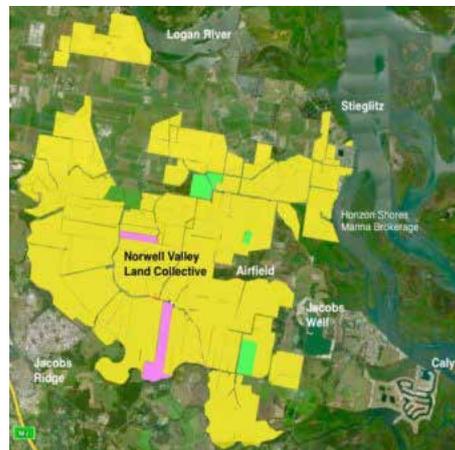


Photo: The site is twice the size of Springfield in Ipswich, Mr Evans said. (Supplied: Canford Property Group)



Photo: Growers in the Norwell Valley said cane was no longer viable. (ABC: Landline)

with all of the SEQ councils." Ms Trad said while the plan was still being reviewed it was premature to comment on the future of the cane fields.

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Interesting News Articles

RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD WINNERS HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS, NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PASSION

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural

A plan to help farmers harness social media to tell their own stories, and connect consumers with food, has seen Sophie Hansen named the 2016 Rural Woman of the Year.

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's annual awards celebrate the enormous but sometimes unsung contribution that Australian women make to their farming industries, and regional communities.

Also a food blogger, former food journalist, and now podcaster, Ms Hansen and her husband Tim farm deer at Orange in central west NSW.

She plans to use her year as the Rural Women's Award winner to hone farmers' social media skills through a new online course and podcast. She believes that will not only benefit their businesses, but farmers themselves through building support networks and communities.

"I really think there's this perfect storm of exponentially growing interest in where our food is coming from, you pick up a magazine or turn on the television and the content is probably going to be food related. But I'm not seeing the farmers in there enough," she said.

"I think it's a really good opportunity to use this social media that we've got in our smart phones to connect in a really positive way." While many farmers have embraced social media as a way of forming supportive online communities, it's also a notoriously aggressive space.

Farmers have often found themselves the target of social media campaigns that criticise what, and how, they farm.

Ms Hansen said that's more reason why

farmers need to be active in that space.

"I think it's really important to be transparent, to tell your story. We're doing great things, so let's invite people onto the farm [through social media] and say 'hey, this is how we farm, this is what we're all about, this is what we believe in'.

"Just bombard people with information, and then I think all those misunderstandings and misgivings can give way to a really good understanding of what's going on in the country."

ADVOCATING FOR AUSTRALIA'S TOP END

The 2016 runner-up was awarded to Kalyn Fletcher, who runs a seed and rum distillery business alongside her husband, children and extended family at Kununurra in Western Australia's Kimberley.

She said she entered the award to bring attention to her Ord valley community, its family farming businesses, and its potential for further tourism and agricultural development.

Ms Fletcher also gave an impassioned speech at the RIRDC gala in Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday night, calling for politicians and all southern Australians to take Top End development seriously.

"We are closer to the rest of the world [than southern Australia], but my produce and other produce from the Ord has to go by road down to Perth and then on a boat out [to export markets], so any competitive advantage we might have by location is completely eroded away," she said.

"That competitive advantage is being completely overlooked, and that needs to change. But it's not going to change until the whole of Australia believes that northern Australia needs to develop.

"We need the people of southern Australia to be supporting the idea or it won't happen, because the votes aren't up there and the people aren't up there, but [southern Australians] need to believe that money being spent up there is not a sink and that it will in turn benefit all of Australia, and it will.

"If we're exporting out of the north, and if we've got better jobs in the north, and if we've got better jobs in remote areas, it will benefit the rest of Australia."



Sophie Hansen of Orange, NSW winner of the 2016 Rural Women of the Year uses blogging and podcasting to connect consumers with farmers' stories. (ABC Rural: Anna Vidot) Map: Parliament House 2600



Sophie Hansen of Orange, Rural Women of the Year with runner up Kalyn Fletcher who runs a rum distillery and promotes agriculture and tourism in the WA Kimberley. (Supplied: RIRDC)



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Interesting News Articles

GENEX SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING AND STATE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT

Lea Coghlan

www.northqueenslandregister.com.au

An \$8.5 million federal government grant and long-term state purchase arrangement has the developer of a new solar project in the Gulf Savannah moving closer to construction.

Genex Power is developing the former Kidston gold mine site, 270 km North West of Townsville, into a renewable energy hub, which will include a pumped storage hydro project and solar project.

Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has granted the project federal government funding of up to \$8.5 million under its large scale solar funding program to assist construction costs for the 50 megawatt stage one of the Kidston Solar Project.

The project was one of 21 applicants short-listed from 77 expressions of interest for \$1.1 billion in funding.

Genex managing director Michael Addison said the company's partnership with ARENA targeted the stimulation of solar activity projects across Australia.

"ARENA has played a vital role in the development of large-scale solar photovoltaics (PV), injecting confidence into the solar industry and helping to build competitive supply chains," Mr Addison said.

"The estimated construction costs for the company's solar project will benefit significantly from this competitive environment.

"Additionally, the significant natural advantages of the site such as the high solar yield prevalent in this part of North Queensland, favorable ground conditions and existing infrastructure provide a compelling investment case."

The funding comes as Genex secures a long term price guarantee arrangement with the Queensland Government.

The arrangement is known in the electricity industry as a Power Purchase Arrangement and means 100 per cent of the power produced from the project will be surrendered to the state.

"The Queensland Government is leading the way for a renewable energy future by providing long term cash flow certainty to underpin the financing of projects," Mr Addison said.

ARENA chief executive officer Ivor Frischknecht said Australia's big solar industry was coming of age thanks to ARENA support, ensuring large-scale solar was a competitive, sustainable energy option.

"ARENA had been a driving force in bringing down costs and accelerating the commerciality of large-scale solar in Australia and has carried out a multiyear plan to



Genex managing director Michael Addison.

build capacity in Australian supply chains and expertise over successive projects," Mr Frischknecht said.

Genex expects to reach financial close on the project by the end of the year.

A feasibility study on the co-located pumped storage hydro project is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.



An indicative illustration of the Kidston Solar Project.

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Sweet Info



CADBURY CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT CHEESCAKE IN A GLASS

INGREDIENTS

- › 1 1/4 cups chocolate biscuit crumbs
- › 80g butter, melted
- › 250g Philadelphia Block Cream Cheese, softened
- › 110g Cadbury Dairy Milk Peppermint, chopped
- › 1 cup thickened cream
- › 1 1/2 tablespoons caster sugar
- › 1 teaspoon gelatine dissolved in 1 1/2 tablespoons boiling water
- › 220g Cadbury Dairy Milk Peppermint, extra, chopped, for decoration

Step 1

Combine the biscuit crumbs and butter, and then press into the base of 6 serving glasses or jars. Chill.

Step 2

Melt the Philadelphia and chocolate in a bowl over simmering water. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Step 3

Whip together the cream and sugar until stiff. Stir the gelatine mixture into the Philadelphia mixture, and then fold through the cream.

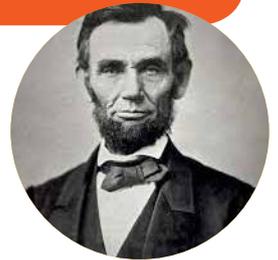
Step 4

Spoon half the mixture into prepared glasses. Then top with some of the extra chopped chocolate. Spoon over remaining Philly mixture and chill for 2 hours or until set. Decorate with the remaining chocolate just prior to serving.



'We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.'

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What do you call a Mexican that lost his car?

A: Carlos.

Q: Why did the apple run away?

A: Because the banana split!

Q: Why didn't the sailors play cards?

A: Because the captain was on the deck.

WORD OF THE MONTH

peradventure

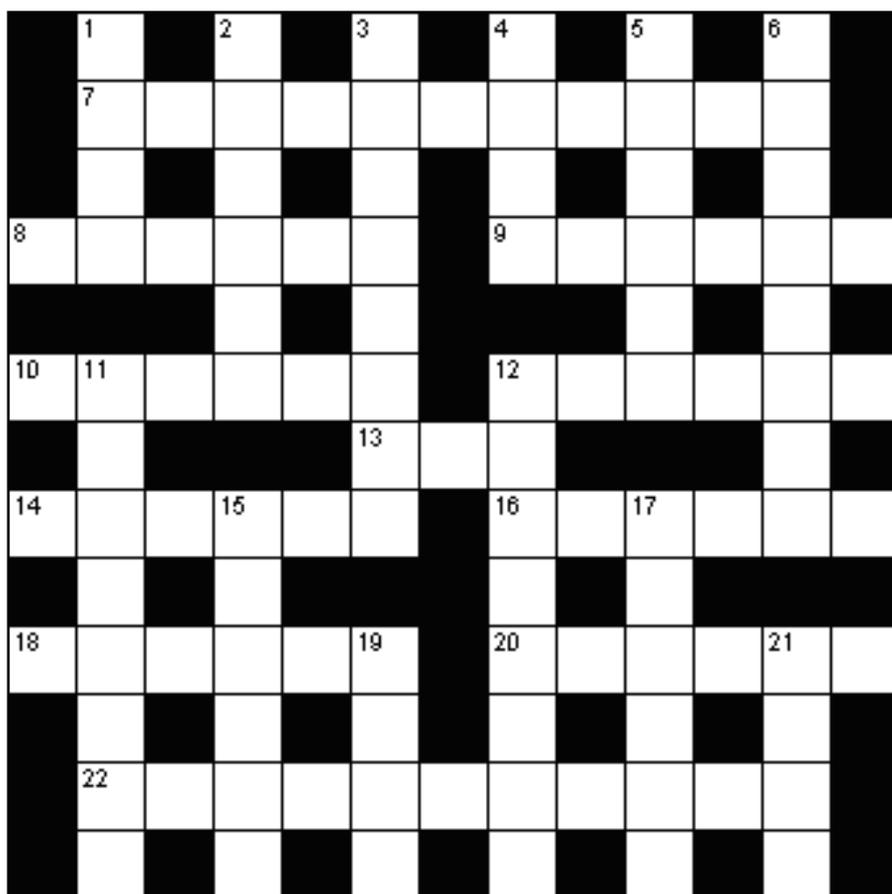
noun [pur-uh d-ven-cher, per-]

chance, doubt or uncertainty

DID YOU KNOW...?

- › Did you know Hilton was the first international hotel chain
- › Did you know human thigh bones are stronger than concrete
- › Did you know your foot and your forearm are the same length
- › Did you know crocodiles swallow rocks to help them dive deeper

Crossword



ACROSS

- 7 Suitable (11)
- 8 Put in (6)
- 9 Summer month (6)
- 10 Device for taking photographs (6)
- 12 German capital (6)
- 13 Regret (3)
- 14 Thinly scattered (6)
- 16 Rouse (6)
- 18 High-kicking dance (6)
- 20 Deer's horn (6)
- 22 Sparkle (11)

DOWN

- 1 Minor chess piece (4)
- 2 Orb (6)
- 3 Computer programs (8)
- 4 Operatic song (4)
- 5 Shed for aircraft (6)
- 6 Sweat (8)
- 11 Evaluate (8)
- 12 Tolerable (8)
- 15 Shrink in horror (6)
- 17 Existing in fact (6)
- 19 After deductions (4)
- 21 Looked at (4)

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Down: 1 – Pawn, 2 – Sphere, 3 – Software, 4 – Aria, 5 – Hanger, 6 – Perspire, 11 – Berlin, 13 – Rue, 14 – Sparse, 16 – Awake, 18 – Antler, 22 – Scintillate. Across: 7 – Appropriate, 8 – Insert, 9 – August, 10 – Camera, 12 – Berlin, 13 – Rue, 14 – Sparse, 16 – Awake, 18 – Antler, 22 – Scintillate.



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