

Grower Representative Member Voting process 2017 – Second Round Election in Burdekin Region (arising from a tied vote) Q&As



Voting process

Why are we holding a further vote in the Burdekin Region?

As you know, voting for the 2017 Grower Representative Elections has been held and finalised for all regions other than the Burdekin Region.

In the Burdekin Region, Mark Vass, Owen Menkens and Russell Jordan secured three of the four available positions, with Roger Piva and Denis Pozzebon tying for the fourth position. As a result, a second vote will now be held in the Burdekin Region to obtain a definitive result for this fourth position only.

This second round of voting will now be conducted for all candidates who were not successful in the initial Burdekin vote, these being Shane McNee, Frank Mugica, Julie Artiach, Denis Pozzebon and Roger Piva (Sibby Torrisi has withdrawn his nomination).

Who can vote?

To vote for a grower representative for your mill area (ie, Burdekin Region), you must be a sugar cane grower who supplies sugar cane under contract to a mill in your mill area (ie, Burdekin Region).

When do votes have to be submitted by?

Signed voting papers must be lodged with QSL by no later than 5pm QLD time on Friday 8 September 2017.

What if I live in one mill area but supply sugar cane under contract to a mill in a different mill area?

You must vote for a representative for the mill area in which the mill that you have a cane supply agreement is situated. For example, if you have a contract to supply sugar cane to a mill in the Burdekin Region, then you can only vote for the grower representative nominees for the Burdekin Region (the Mill Areas of the Kalamia, Invicta, Pioneer and Inkerman mills).

If I own more than one farm, how many votes do I get?

You have one vote only. Every sugar cane grower entity who supplies sugar cane under contract to a mill in your area has only one vote. It does not matter how many farms you own.

If both my husband/wife and I own a farm, do we each get a vote?

You get one vote for each single grower entity that is party to a cane supply agreement with your mill. This means, in essence, that only one vote is attributed to each cane supply agreement (rather than to each natural person involved in a grower entity that is a party to a single cane supply agreement).

If I am a nominee in a voting area, can I vote for myself?

Yes.

Do I need to be a member of an industry organisation such as CANEGROWERS or ACFA to vote?

No, you do not need to be a member or affiliate of an industry organisation to vote.

How are votes counted?

The votes will be reviewed and counted in the presence of an independent scrutineer.

When will the QSL Grower Representative Members be appointed?

Once this second round of elections for the Burdekin Region have closed (5pm QLD time, Friday 8 September 2017) and the votes have been counted, an announcement will be made by Friday 15 September, declaring the outcome of this second round election.



General

What is the role of the QSL Grower Representative Member?

QSL Grower Representative Members are the voice of cane growers from across the state. Grower Representative Members represent the growers located in their local mill area. They are called upon to vote on key matters of importance at QSL general meetings, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In addition, Grower Representative Members are a vital communication link between QSL and growers throughout Queensland. They are in a position to provide direct feedback to QSL on behalf of growers in their region, and also share QSL updates and information with these growers.

How many QSL Grower Representative Member positions are there?

There are a total of 23 QSL Grower Representative Members, which also includes a representative from Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd (QCGO) and the Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA).

Region	Mill Area	Grower Member positions (23)
Southern	Bingera and Millaquin	2
Central	Farleigh, Marian and Racecourse	3
Burdekin	Kalamia, Invicta, Pioneer and Inkerman	4
Herbert River	Victoria and Macknade	2
Northern	South Johnstone	1
One position at each of the following mill areas; Rocky Point, Maryborough, Isis, Plane Creek, Proserpine, Tully, Mulgrave, Mossman and Tableland (9).		
Note: QCGO and ACFA each occupy one Grower Member position (2).		

How long is the Grower Representative Member term?

QSL Grower Representative Members hold their position for three years. To date, QSL has held a total of five Grower Member elections; 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2017.

What if the successful nominee can't see out their term?

While we prefer that Grower Members see out the full term, from time to time it is necessary for a Grower Representative Member to resign from the position due to exceptional circumstances. If this happens, the Chairman of QSL, after consulting with QCGO and ACFA, may appoint a grower from the relevant mill area to fill a casual vacancy until the next election is due to take place.

Is there any remuneration involved with this position?

There is no remuneration paid for this role however, reasonable travel expenses will be covered.

Do Grower Representative Members have input into the day-to-day running of QSL?

No, Grower Representative Members do not have input into the day-to-day running of QSL, however we do welcome feedback. QSL is owned by the industry and has a membership which is structured to have equal representation between growers and millers. Therefore, Grower Representative Members have voting rights at the AGM and other special general meetings as they are called.