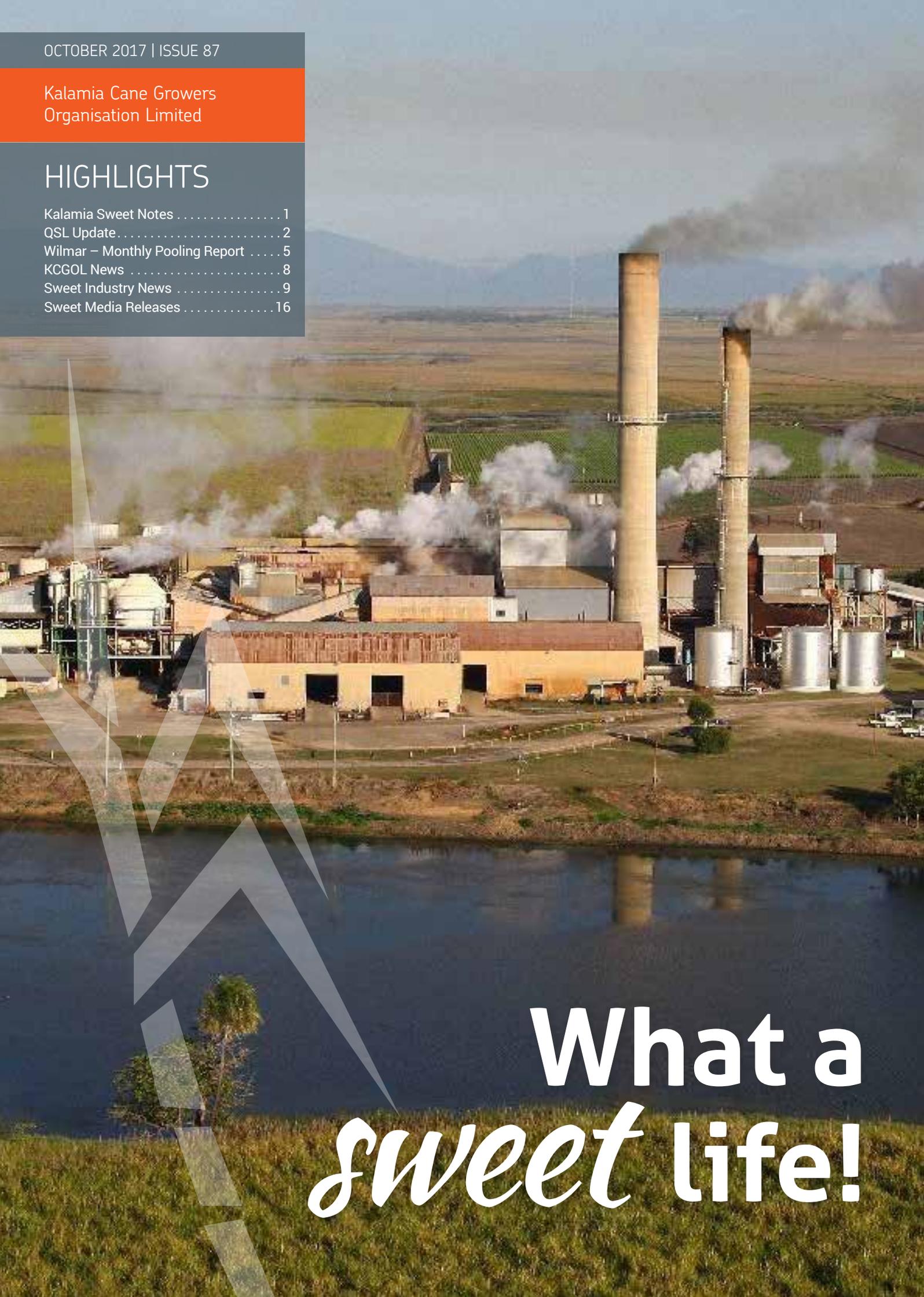


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What a  
*sweet* life!



## Transition to Retirement (TTR) pensions post 1 July 2017

From 1 July 2017, the tax treatment of TTR pensions changed and now earnings and capital gains are subject to tax up to 15%. In comparison, the tax treatment of retirement phase pensions, which can be commenced when a super fund member has met a full condition of release, are not taxed on earnings or capital gains. Due to the tax on earnings differential, the distinction between the two types of account based pensions becomes important.

As a result, once a client meets the retirement condition of release they should notify their super fund or financial adviser so that the TTR income stream can be converted to a retirement phase pension. They will then benefit from the more favourable tax environment and be able to receive pension payments in excess of the TTR 10% maximum.

If you wish to find out more information about account based pensions please call our office on 4783 1767.

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# Kalamia Sweet Notes

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KCGOL acknowledges and  
thanks all contributors.

I spoke too soon in my article last month in relation to 2017 season end only being 8 weeks away and now it has come back to bite me with some areas within the district having received in excess of 125mm recently resulting in cessation of crushing at all Burdekin mills at the time of writing this article. If the rain had only held off for another 3-4 weeks, but unfortunately it is something that no one has control over!!!

There has been widespread coverage in various media within the last week regarding the successful defeat of axing the sugar industry code of conduct in the federal senate, a relief to all sugarcane farmers throughout the country. Senator Leyonhjelm sought a postponement on the matter until November 13 but that move was defeated on Tuesday 17th October, bringing on a debate later in the day and the subsequent vote.

Chairman, Robert Malaponte and director, Robert Zandonadi were a party to a third delegation that travelled to Canberra for meetings with the various political parties on Monday 16th October 2017 in an effort to shore up support in having the motion defeated. The Coalition, Greens, One Nation and the Nick Xenophon Team all sided together to block the motion, along with independents Lucy Gichuhi and Jacqui Lambie.

Our next hurdle will be the scheduled review of the code of conduct regulation in approx 12 months' time but it will also provide opportunity to address any concerns, seek amendments and having the code passed as legislation. As they say, stay tuned and

watch this space.

I had the opportunity to recently attend the Burdekin Water Forum which focused on managing irrigated agriculture in Great Barrier Reef catchments. A wide variety of guest speakers presented from across a broad spectrum with a vested interest in North Qld including Dept of Natural Resources and Mines, Irrigation Aust., James Cook University, BOM, Farmacist, Rabobank, Dept of Environment & Heritage Protection, DAF, GBRMPA, Agritech Solutions and Lower Burdekin Water to name just a few. Guest speaker was Dr Anthony Turton a specialist in water-related risk mitigation from the University of the Free State South Africa.

Steve Attard, from Agritech Solutions provided an interesting insight into irrigation management and automation in sugar cane currently being undertaken in the Burdekin region with a Q & A session interviewing five progressive Burdekin farmers utilising different irrigation methods/practices. Methods employed by these growers included drip, a combination of automated drip & furrow in conjunction with recycling pit, automated gravity fed and lateral irrigator irrigation. Growers that have utilised automation of their irrigation practices, despite initial cost outlay, can see the long term benefit with savings in time, costs, fuel/travel as well as more efficient use of one of our most valuable resources, water. If anyone is interested in more information in relation to irrigation efficiency/scheduling/optimisation, soil moisture monitoring or energy efficiency please contact Steve



Attard on 0418 155 844.

You never know what's at your back door step. As part of the Burdekin Water Forum there was a field trip to a newly developed industry within the Burdekin shire. MBD Energy have completed Stage 1 of a hi-tech aquaculture project that will produce 25 tonnes per annum of dried biomass containing the highly prized Astaxanthin. This large-scale cultivation of the micro-algae, *Haematococcus pluvialis*, will enable extraction of this valuable product, Astaxanthin, widely used as a natural red colorant in food, such as farmed salmon/prawns and as a prized dietary supplement renowned for its antioxidant properties. The project, the first of its kind in Australia, brings together leading science innovation and investment to create a new industry for our region. The project has invested more than \$10m into the local economy and will deliver long term jobs to the Burdekin region. Further expansion is planned to see output increased to around 100 tonnes each year.



"Raceways" where paddle wheels circulate water in which the red algae is grown and harvested.



Cultivation tanks for release into raceways.

# QSL Update



## SUGAR

ICE 11 Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Oct-2017*	13.54	-0.75	14.58	13.01
Mar-2018	14.00	-0.85	15.20	13.72
May-2018	14.11	-0.92	15.26	13.90
Jul-2018	14.29	-0.99	15.40	14.08
Oct-2018	14.64	-1.04	15.72	14.46
BRL/USD	3.1883	-2.84%	3.1996	3.0800
Ethanol Parity	15.11			

Source: Bloomberg. Current as of 10.10.17 (\*Oct 17 at end of contract on 28.10.17)

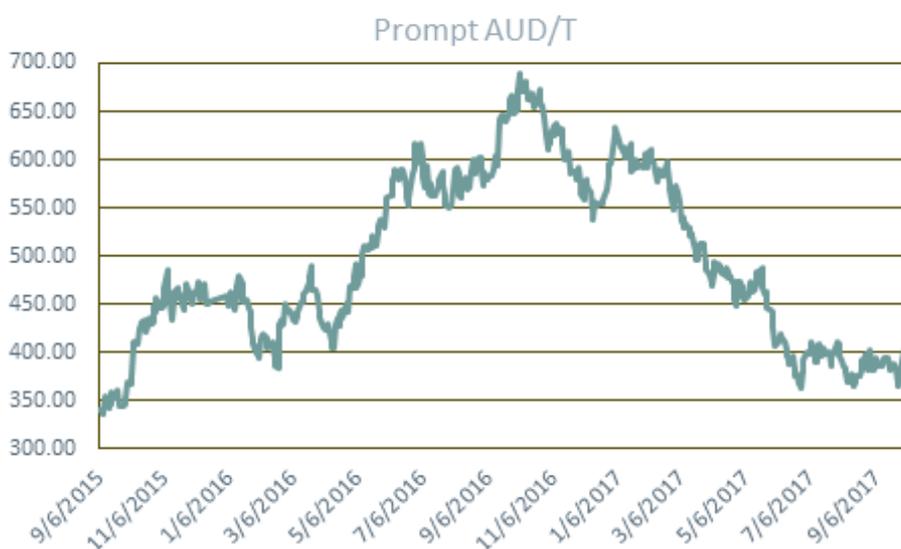


Dougall Lodge

### WHAT HAPPENED?

During early to mid-September we experienced a recovery for sugar prices in the lead up to the Oct 17 expiry. Speculators bought back futures contracts to close out their sold positions and some Brazilian buying activity took place to enable more ethanol production. We also finally felt a bit of weakness in the AUD/USD. The net impact was that towards the end of September the prompt prices poked back above A\$400/metric tonne (mt), and reached levels for the 2018 Season around A\$440/mt at the same time. Over the past few weeks since then the market has fallen away again, with sugar prices falling and the AUD/USD strengthening.

From a fundamental point of view there were several reasons for the sugar market to be supported during the month. Firstly, there were a succession of hurricanes that ripped through sugar-producing regions in the Caribbean and USA. The impact is still being assessed, but it provided a supportive sentiment for buying activity in a number of commodities. Secondly, as shown in the table above, ethanol parity in Brazil remains higher than sugar. Typically, sugar trades at a premium to ethanol due to the



delayed payment, so the current situation is expected to encourage a switch back from sugar to ethanol at some point and many analysts are sharing different scenarios for this which result in the current expectations for a global surplus to switch back to being closer to parity. The third fundamental reason is that Chinese smuggling demand is still very strong, which has led to record-high FOB (Free On Board) physical premiums for white sugar in the Asian region.

Balancing this relatively optimistic situation is the expected negative impact of growth in white sugar export availability from Pakistan and selling by producers coming from the new production recovery out of Europe and Thailand, India and China. The inability for Brazilian raw sugar to competitively access China and Indonesia due to tariff changes is also expected to weigh on the market.

The expiry of the Oct 17 contract was pretty



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tame compared to previous years, and there were no real surprises in the delivery volume of just over 1 million mt from South Brazil.

After continuing to buy back around 2 million mt of their sold positions sugar during September in the lead up to the Oct 17 expiry, the speculators have since piled back in, selling a massive 1.5 million mt back again over the past couple of weeks.

### GOING FORWARD

The two opposing fundamental forces of excess white sugar in Europe/Pakistan and an improved crop outlook for Thailand, India and China versus the outlook for lower sugar production in Brazil due to the higher ethanol prices there are likely to keep the futures prices within a tight 13-15 c/lb range until either of these overpowers the other.

With the mixed outlook for fundamental news, the newly increased speculator sold positions could potentially move either way and exacerbate a move to either side. A sustained breach of the technical indicators on the upside or downside could trigger further speculative selling or buying.

With the long five-month period lead up to the next futures contract Mar 18 expiry period, it feels like from the current spot market level of around 14 c/lb being a mid-point, we could potentially see pricing activity on either side of this level to test both ends of the 13-15 c/lb range over the next few months.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Any USD strength (and corresponding Brazilian Real weakness) on the back of geopolitical issues could drive commodity markets down.

## QSL MARKET COST DRIVERS

MARKET COST DRIVERS	PROMPT (Oct 17) A\$/mt as at 10.10.17	2018 Season A\$/mt as at 10.10.17
Current Market	\$394.65	\$420.65
Sugar Fundamentals - Global exc. Brazil	●	●
Sugar Fundamentals - Brazil	●	●
Macro Issues/ Specs	●	●
AUD/USD	●	●

● Trend is more favourable to positive \$A/mt returns.

● Trend is neutral to \$A/mt returns.

● Trend is less favourable to \$A/mt returns.

### CURRENCY

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7996	392 pts	0.8125	0.7733

The AUD/USD continued to remain well supported above 0.8000 during most of September, even reaching up to over 0.8100 on the back of higher commodity prices and USA economic pressures and geopolitical uncertainty. However, in early October we finally experienced a sharp move back below 0.7800 with significant US dollar strength on the back of the much-anticipated Trump tax plan.

As expected, the RBA kept rates on hold during at 1.50% but speaking notes released after this suggested the RBA may be prepared to cut again if necessary. US data continues to print well. With a sustained media battle between the USA and North Korea around UN sanction packages, tensions have remained high and two missiles fired over Japan have prompted an early election there and calls for a stronger military capability.

### GOING FORWARD

The USD continues to be net sold and exposed to any speculative buybacks. The US equities market continues to hit record-high levels and given the outlook for a further rate cut in Australia and potential for upside in the USA, the AUD/USD is still poised for further correction downwards. Now that some of steam has blown off the USD strength, our view is a little more moderated than earlier but we continue to see a 0.7600-7900 range for the next month or so, barring any geopolitical events.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

As outlined above, any developments in USA politics and North Korean/Russian tensions would impact the AUD/USD.

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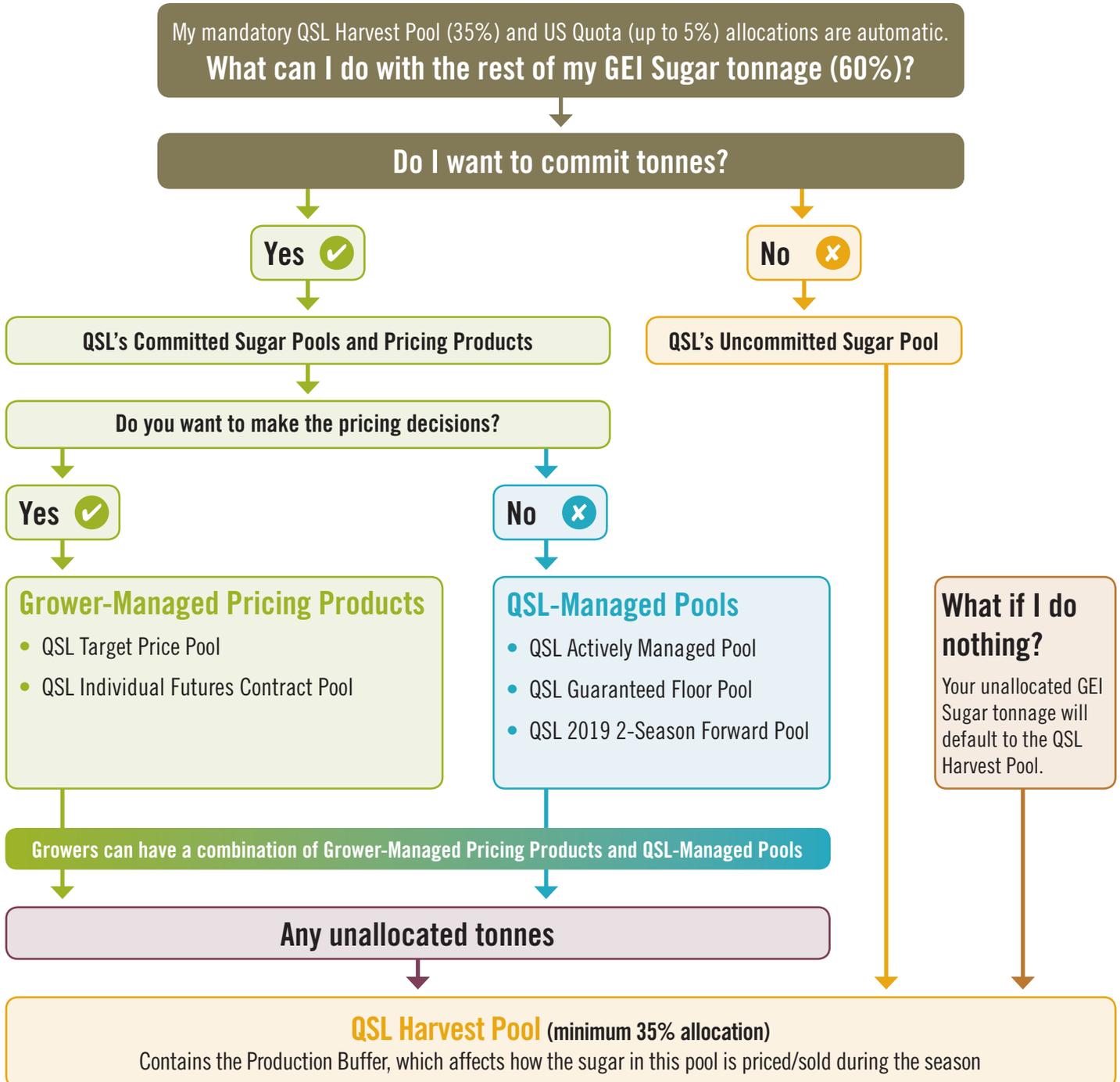
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# QSL PRICING OPTIONS FOR WILMAR GROWERS

2018 Season



## How do I submit my QSL-Managed Pool and Grower-Managed Pricing choices?

All QSL-Managed Pool and Grower-Managed Pricing nominations for Wilmar Sugar Growers must be submitted via the QSL Direct online grower portal. For more information, please refer to the QSL Grower Handbook for Wilmar Sugar Growers available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au).

This document contains information of a general or summary nature. Before making pricing decisions you should read the Pricing Pool Terms, which will be available on the QSL website. While all care is taken in the preparation of this document, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. It does not constitute financial product or investment advice, nor does it constitute a recommendation to invest in any of the pools described above or an offer or invitation with respect to any of the pools. 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 document.

# Wilmar – Monthly Pooling Report



Report values as at: 29-Sep-17  
Publication Date: 09-Oct-17

## 2017 Season Monthly Pool Price Report

Pricing Mechanisms	% of Estimated Marketing Tonnage	Gross Pool Price (AUD/Tonne Actual)	Allocation Account Amount (AUD/Tonne Actual)	Net Pool Price (AUD/Tonne Actual)	Net Pool Price (AUD/Tonne IPS)
US Quota Pool	2.5%	\$662.00	-\$6.58	\$655.42	\$632.18
Wilmar Managed Pool		\$424.57	\$1.13	\$425.70	\$410.61
Production Risk Pool*		\$398.26	\$3.72	\$401.98	\$387.73
Call Price/Target Price		N/A	\$1.71	N/A	N/A

IPS conversion factor : 1.03675

### \* Additional Information on Wilmar's Production Risk Pool

As of the 29th September Wilmar does not currently have a component which is required to be sold or priced in order to manage storage constraints in the sugar terminals and, at this stage, remains unpriced until tonnage in this pool begins being delivered into sugar terminals. This means the Gross Pool Price is currently a marked-to-market price reflecting the March 2018 and May 2018 ICE #11 futures positions, which is consistent with the expected sales program. If you would like to know more about Wilmar's Production Risk Pool and our pricing approach, please contact a member of the Grower Pricing Team.

Gross Pool Prices are an estimate based on the tonnes hedged and current market price (as at the last business day of the month) for unhedged tonnage. Allocation Account Amounts begin the season as estimates and are reviewed and updated on a monthly basis as actual premiums and costs are known.

## 2017 Season Advances Schedule

Default Advances	Status	Cash On Delivery (COD) Advances	Status*	Advances Finance Charge	
<b>Jun-17</b>	65%	Confirmed	<b>Jun-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Jul-17</b>	65%	Confirmed	<b>Jul-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Aug-17</b>	65%	Confirmed	<b>Aug-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Sep-17</b>	67.5%	Confirmed	<b>Sep-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Oct-17</b>	70%	Confirmed	<b>Oct-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Nov-17</b>	72.5%	Scheduled	<b>Nov-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Dec-17</b>	75%	Scheduled	<b>Dec-17</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Jan-18</b>	80%	Scheduled	<b>Jan-18</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Feb-18</b>	85%	Scheduled	<b>Feb-18</b>	90%	Confirmed
<b>Mar-18</b>	90%	Scheduled	<b>Mar-18</b>	90%	Scheduled
<b>Apr-18</b>	92.5%	Scheduled	<b>Apr-18</b>	92.5%	Scheduled
<b>May-18</b>	95%	Scheduled	<b>May-18</b>	95%	Scheduled
<b>Jun-18</b>	97.5%	Scheduled	<b>Jun-18</b>	97.5%	Scheduled
<b>Jul-18</b>	100%	Scheduled	<b>Jul-18</b>	100%	Scheduled

Advances Finance Charge	
<b>Advances Option</b>	<b>\$/t actual</b>
Default	-\$ 4.25
COD	-\$ 6.40

Advances Finance Charges begin the season as estimates and are reviewed and updated on a monthly basis.

\* COD IS AN ADVANCE RATE WHICH IS THE HIGHER OF EITHER 90%, OR THE ADVANCE RATE FOR THE DEFAULT ADVANCES OPTION

Wilmar has an Advances Finance Charge specific to each Advances Option to ensure growers are charged based on their own choice of Advances Options and are not being impacted by the choices of others. Growers participating in multiple Advances Options can find their individual Weighted Average Finance Charge in their Grower Pricing Summary Statement.

### Monthly Adjustments

On the third Thursday of each month, Wilmar will process a Season to Date adjustment payment run to take account of changes to an individual grower's Estimated Final Sugar Price and (when applicable) changes to the advances schedule %.

The following dates indicate the key decision points in relation to a relevant season. These dates may change during the 2018-2020 timeframe, in which case Wilmar will advise changes via the Website. The dates should be considered in conjunction with our Pricing Mechanism and Payment description sheets. Please refer to Wilmar's PPA for full details and terms.

Marketing Nomination Date		
2018	31.10.2017	This is the date by which a grower may nominate one or more of the GEI Marketers (which Wilmar has a GEI Sugar Sales Agreement with) for a relevant season.
2019	31.10.2018	
2020	31.10.2019	
Pricing Nomination Date		
2018	30.04.2018	This is the date by which a grower may make a nomination to Wilmar to allocate an amount of their PPA Sugar to a Wilmar Discretionary Pricing Mechanism for that relevant season.
2019	30.04.2019	
2020	30.04.2020	
Pre-season Payment Nomination Date		
2018	28.02.2018	This is the date by which a grower may elect to receive a Pre-season Payment for PPA Nominated Tonnage for that relevant season.
2019	28.02.2019	
2020	28.02.2020	
Advances Nomination Date		
2018	30.04.2018	This is the date by which a grower may elect to be paid under the Deferred Advances Option or the Cash on Delivery (COD) Advances Option for PPA Nominated Tonnage for that relevant season.
2019	30.04.2019	
2020	30.04.2020	
Pricing Completion Date		
2018	20.02.2019	This is the date by which Price Requests for Forward Pricing Mechanisms (Call Pricing and Target Pricing) must be fulfilled by Wilmar for a relevant season.
2019	20.02.2020	
2020	19.02.2021	

Reminders will be given to growers in the lead-up to all of the above dates.

## 2 POOLING AND PRICING MECHANISMS

Wilmar offers you a number of pooling and pricing alternatives which you can choose to participate in based on your price risk management strategy. The options fall into two categories:

### 1. Discretionary Pricing Mechanisms

- a) Forward Pricing
  - Target Pricing
  - Call Pricing
- b) Managed Pools

You can choose to nominate some of your PPA Sugar tonnes to one or all of the above Discretionary Pricing Mechanisms based on the allowable sugar Exposure Limit for a relevant season (as shown in section 3.1).

If you choose to allow Wilmar to manage your production risk in the Production Risk Pool (see section 4.2 below), Wilmar has a maximum allowable limit of 70% of a grower's estimated PPA Sugar for the current season and lower limits for further forward seasons. This means you cannot allocate more than 70% of your estimated PPA Sugar to Forward Pricing Mechanisms or Managed Pools for the current season.

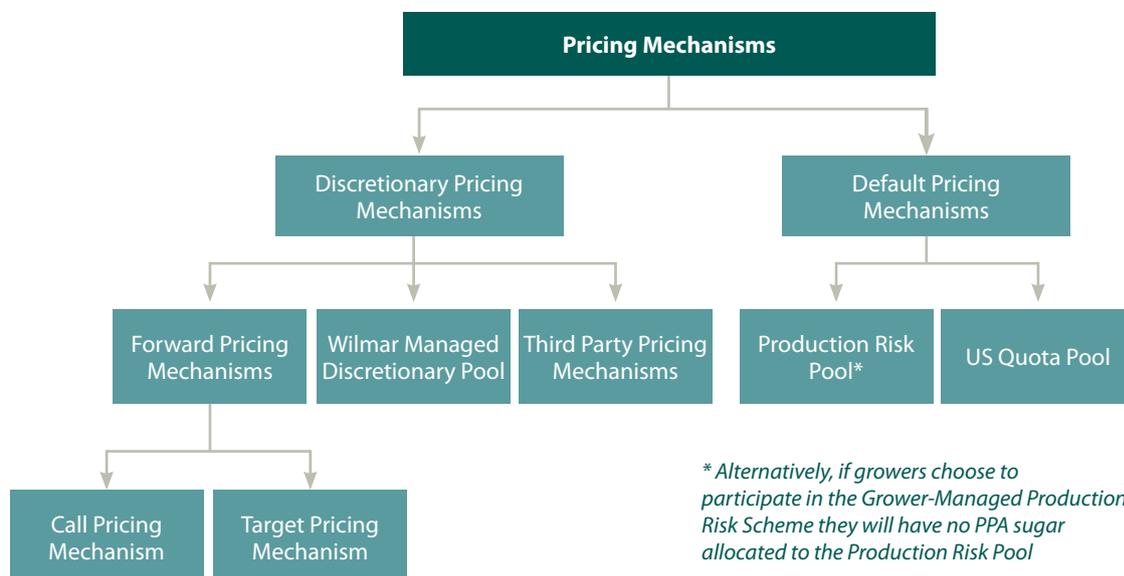
- c) Grower-Managed Production Risk Scheme
  - Target Pricing
  - Call Pricing

For the 2018 season, if you prefer to manage your entire production risk, you might instead participate in the Grower-Managed Production Risk Scheme where you will be able to manage 100% of your Estimated PPA Sugar for the current season using Call or Target

Pricing Mechanisms. Growers who choose to participate in the Grower-Managed Production Risk Scheme will not participate in the Production Risk Pool, however will still receive their eligible portion of US Quota.

2. Default Pricing Mechanisms
- a) US Quota
  - b) Production Risk Pool

Growers do not make a nomination to allocate PPA Sugar to these Default Pricing Mechanisms. All growers will share in the US Quota. Your remaining PPA Sugar will be allocated to the Production Risk Pool based on that portion not allocated to US Quota or Discretionary Pricing Mechanisms.



We have outlined these options in more detail in later sections of this Guide and you can find further information via our Pricing description sheets on the Website, Wilmar’s PPA or by contacting a member of the Grower Pricing Team.

## 2.1 COMPARISON TABLE – POOLING AND PRICING MECHANISMS

	Discretionary Pricing Mechanisms			Default Pricing Mechanisms	
	Call Pricing	Target Pricing	Wilmar Managed Pool	US Quota	Production Risk Pool
<b>Objective</b>	Grower manages sugar price exposure via AUD/tonne Price Requests	Grower manages sugar price exposure via AUD/tonne Price Requests	Pool managed by Wilmar, with the pool manager having a high level of discretion	Potentially secure higher returns for sales to the USA domestic market under its quota system	Manages seasonal variability in the actual quantity of cane produced by growers and supplied to Wilmar
<b>Nomination Period for 2018 Season</b>	01.07.2016 – 30.04.2018	01.07.2016 – 30.04.2018	01.03.2018 – 30.04.2018	N/A	N/A
<b>Pricing Period for 2018 Season</b>	01.07.2016 – 20.02.2019	01.07.2016 – 20.02.2019	01.05.2018 – 30.04.2019	From the Marketing Nomination Date to 30 June 2019	From the Marketing Nomination Date to 30 June 2019
<b>Grower’s Minimum Tonnage Commitment</b>	304.82 tonnes PPA Sugar	10 tonnes PPA Sugar	10 tonnes PPA Sugar	2-5% production	N/A
<b>Advances Options Available</b>	Prepayment Deferred COD Default	Prepayment Deferred COD Default	Prepayment Deferred Default	Prepayment Deferred Default	Prepayment Deferred Default
<b>Washout Calculations</b>	Versus prevailing market price	Versus prevailing market price	Based on the impact upon the Pool Price	N/A	N/A

KCGO's Chairman, Robert Malaponte and KCGO Director, Robert Zandonadi travelled to Canberra on the 15th October with a small group of lobbying delegates from Burdekin District Cane Growers (comprising of representatives from Kalamia, Pioneer and Invicta collectives) to again canvas politicians to vote against the disallowance of the Sugar Code of Conduct. On the 17th October, the disallowance motion of the Sugar Code of Conduct made by Senator David Leyonhjelm was rejected

with a vote of 37 – 18 in a parliament sitting. A successful motion that has pleased the BDCG collective which has worked tirelessly to protect farmer's choice since Wilmar's announcement of becoming a marketer of sugar.

Kalamia Cane Growers would like to take the opportunity to thank various political parties for their support and guidance throughout the fight to protect the Sugar Code of Conduct status within government.



*Robert Malaponte and Laurance Dal Santo with Senator Barry O'Sullivan and George Christensen*



George Christensen celebrating the win to preserve the Sugar Code of Conduct with ICGO Director, Laurance Dal Santo and KCGO Chairman, Robert Malaponte.









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# Sweet Industry News

## SUGAR CODE OF CONDUCT SURVIVES SENATE CHOP

Pat Griffiths and Matt Coughlan – [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au). 17th October 2017

A motion from Liberal Democrats senator David Leyonhjelm to scrap the federal government's code of conduct for the sugar industry has been defeated.

A crossbench senator's effort to strike down a federal government code of conduct for the sugar industry has been defeated in the Senate.

Liberal Democrats senator David Leyonhjelm opposed a mechanism within the code allowing independent arbitration to resolve deadlocks in negotiations between growers and their collectives.

Despite the support of Labor, a disallowance motion was defeated 37 votes to 18 on Tuesday after One Nation and the Greens sided with the government.

Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said the code would guarantee growers choice in marketers.

"The coalition introduced the sugar code to give Australia's canegrowers certainty that they would be able to negotiate contracts with mills and marketers in a fair environment," Mr Joyce said in a statement.

"The code provides for pre-contract arbitration where mill owners and marketers and canegrowers and millers cannot reach agreement."

Opposition agriculture spokesman Joel Fitzgibbon said the code would have a chilling effect on industry and cost jobs.

While Labor was part of the Senate inquiry that found unanimous support for a mandatory code, the party believes there had been inadequate consultation.

"I'd be having roundtables with all of



the players," Mr Fitzgibbon told AAP on Tuesday.

"That's the way it should be done in sugar."

As Senator Leyonhjelm's optimism about having the support to scrap the code evaporated, he slammed the Greens and One Nation for "jumping into bed" with the Nationals.

"The anti-business, foreigner-fearing Greens and One Nation are more alike than either wants to admit," he told parliament.

Senator Leyonhjelm has argued the code was anti-free trade and restricted the rights of growers to sell sugar as they want.

Canegrowers, the sugar industry's peak lobby group, campaigned against Senator Leyonhjelm's motion and invited him to Queensland for consultations.

"I hope Mr Leyonhjelm, who has put this forward, has got a complete understanding of what's getting put forward here," Burdekin cane farmer and lobbyist Alan Parker told AAP.

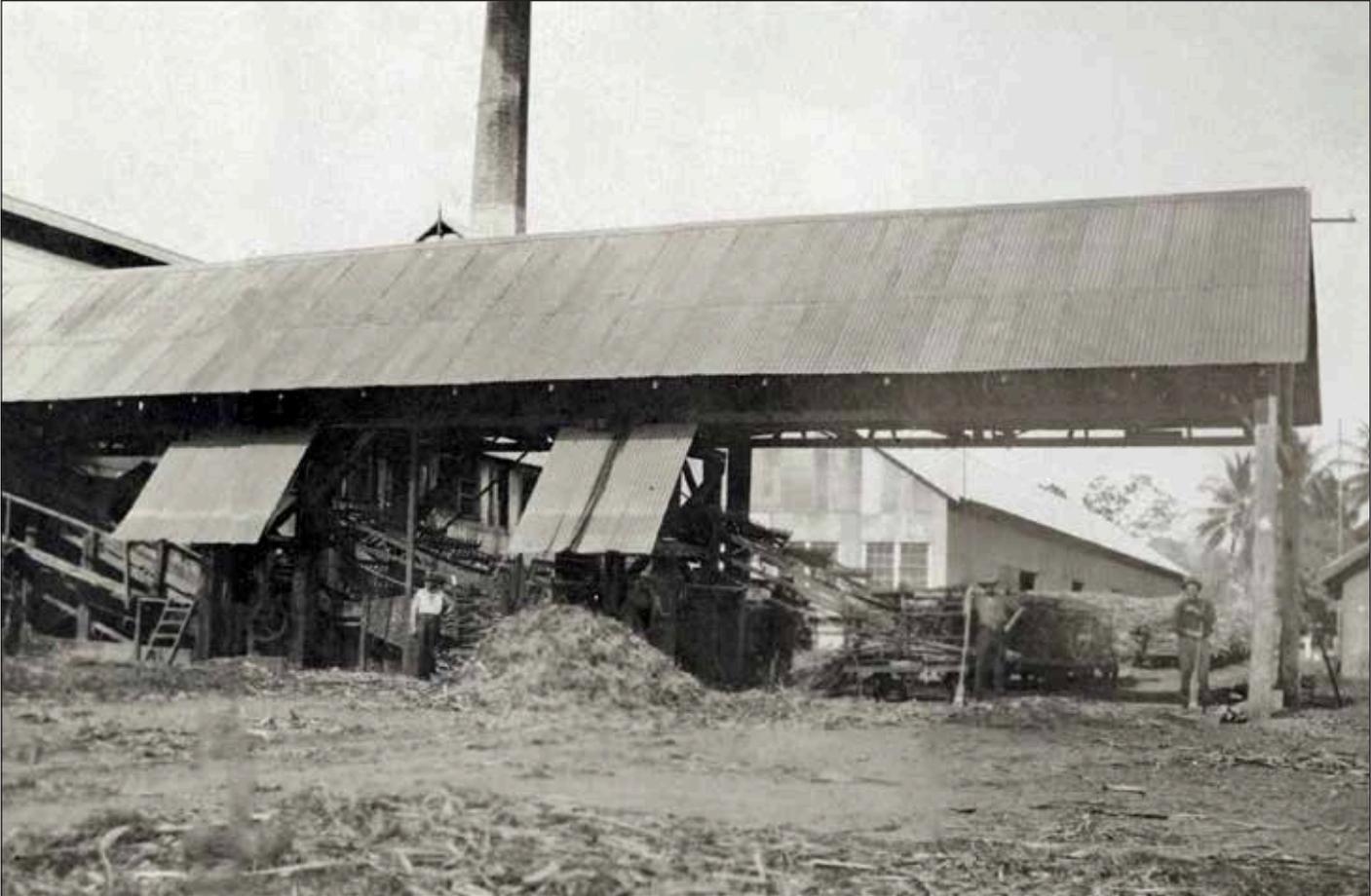
Earlier, Senator Leyonhjelm attempted to postpone his own motion until November 13 but didn't have enough crossbench support.

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Sweet Memories



Canecutters - 1909



Pioneer Mill carrier

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JUNE 1951



BACK ROW— G. R. McCOMISKIE, H. G. SMITH, C. C. J. EALES, D. G. BUTTERWORTH, L. P. CASPANEY, F. T. HAYLES, A. L. JONES, A. J. GIST, D. H. LOGAN, R. H. KENT, F. T. BROWN.

MIDDLE ROW— C. G. WALKER, R. L. WIGHT, D. C. PALMER, S. H. M. HAWKINS, J. E. CASPANEY, T. G. WHALLEY, N. H. WINN, T. K. O'SULLIVAN, E. A. BURNS, H. P. SMART.

FRONT ROW— G. S. KITSON, M. E. DAVIS, E. POWELL, D. W. LILLEY, J. W. INVERARITY, J. BATSTONE, J. W. J. LAIDLAW, O. S. DAILL, F. E. M. CLARKSON

*KCGO Member, Mr Sandy Wight supplied this photo. Sandy's father, Skipper Wight is in the middle row, second from the left. Kalamia Mill Staff photo - 1951*



*Hunting Party, Home Hill area early 1920's*



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**Alison Treston**  
0407 473 062

[alison.treston@achmea.com.au](mailto:alison.treston@achmea.com.au)



# MEMBERS INFORMATION

## NOTICE BOARD

### Reminder to KCGO Members

The daily loadings, sugar price and fuel price is posted to the Kalagro website for KCGO members to view each day for the benefit of keeping in touch of the crushing season and Kalagro fuel savings. Kalagro Fuel Prices have been giving great savings to our current customers.

To maintain our special fuel prices, a minimum of 2000 Litres is required to place an order.

Throughout the Crushing season, Puma (Kalagro's Supplier) will be delivering daily on week days - Monday to Friday.

A reminder that to place orders, please ring: Kalamia Cane Growers office - ph 07 47831312. Kalagro customer's cannot ring direct to Puma and receive the Kalagro discounted rate.

### SMARTCANE ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Smart Cane Accreditation can be completed at Burdekin Productivity Services with local representative, Terry Granshaw - mobile 0437 553 149, email tgranshaw@bps.net.au. Terry regularly holds Smartcane BMP self-assessment workshops as an initial introduction as well as one-on-one interaction with a grower for the three required modules to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Smartcane BMP is funded by the QLD Government with no cost to growers to undertake the course. Bonsucro accreditation requires further modules to be completed in addition to that for Smartcane.

Please Note: As an incentive for Growers to undertake Smartcane BMP adoption and Bonsucro accreditation, Wilmar makes available a per tonne incentive payment (capped at 25,000 tonne).

Please refer to Collective CSA (Cane Supply Agreement)  
- Page 77 - 78 for additional information.

# Sweet Industry News

## AMBITIOUS SUGAR TARGET DRIVES FIRST USE OF DNA TO DOUBLE CLONE PERFORMANCE

*ABC Rural, By Renee Cluff*

Sugar Research Australia will for the first time use DNA in its breeding program to help meet what it is describing as an ambitious target to improve the performance of new varieties.

Breeding program leader Dr Jason Eglinton said over the next seven years the organisation is aiming to achieve large gains in areas such as yield size, disease resistance and sugar content.

"We're looking for our elite clones that reach the last stages of testing to be on average two per cent better than the clones that were there the previous year," he said.

The goal was set in response to feedback from industry which called for the research organisation to help deliver higher profits and growth.

"It is an ambitious and tough target. If we're sitting at something less than 0.8 per cent now, our new initiatives are looking at a 2.5-fold increase in our productivity," Dr Eglinton said.

"Even if the industry only captures half of that, it would be one per cent annual productivity growth."

One per cent growth would raise the value of the \$2 billion industry by about \$20 million annually.

"If we look at the recent record in terms of industry productivity it's very flat," Dr Eglinton said.

"If we can be driving growth that's the direction we want to go. The breeding program and new varieties really do need to make a significant contribution to that."

DNA-based seedling selection

For the first time, researchers will apply DNA-based selection to seedlings to ensure



*Dr Jason Eglinton says meeting the targets could raise the value of the \$2 billion industry by about \$20 million annually.*



*Under the new program, seedlings will be genetically profiled before they go into the field.*

An advertisement for G&G Ag Contracting. The background is a sugarcane field. On the right, there is a circular inset image of a blue tractor with a red implement. The text is overlaid on the image.

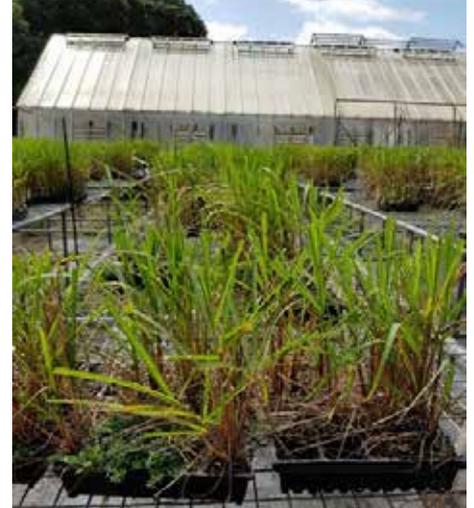
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**BILLET PLANTING**  
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*Reliable & Quality Service*

# Sweet Industry News

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*New pathology techniques will screen new varieties for diseases such as smut, as seen on this plant, at an earlier stage.*



*DNA will be used for the first time to select seedlings suitable for field trials.*

only the cream of the crop make it to the field trial stage.

Dr Eglinton said because sugar has a very large and complex genome it has not been easy to develop genetic screening which has been used in grain crops such as canola, wheat and barley for several years. "It's time now for sugar cane to get on board with that technology and use it in our routine variety development, Dr Eglinton said.

"We will test the genetic profile of seedlings before they go into the field with the objective of finding those that are susceptible to smut or pachymetra [diseases] and never letting them see the light of day."

Pathology screening for diseases will also now occur earlier.

Until now, the technique used to determine disease ratings has been expensive and suited only to the late stage of the breeding

program, but scientists will now use a lower precision screening tool to weed out disease-susceptible varieties before yield trials begin.

"It won't be used to build on that rating that farmers receive but to make sure that the clones that progress into yield trials are as far as they can be free of serious defects in terms of their disease resistance profile," said Dr Eglinton.

"That means that all the clones that are in an advanced trial are contenders for release.

"We're not losing half of them because they're too susceptible to smut, or we want higher levels of pachymetra resistance, it's really a profitability shoot-out and they're all contenders."

Better sugar content testing

A new Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIR) tool will allow sugar volumes levels to be

interpreted more accurately.

NIR is able to determine the composition of fibre, moisture and Commercial Cane Sugar (CCS) in a stalk.

Until now, it has not been foolproof because of variations in moisture relative to plant maturity.

"In our standard measurement of CCS, if we are comparing two clones and one has a higher moisture content than the other we can perceive that to be a difference in CCS, when it's not. It's just that one is more mature than the other. So we want to remove that confounding effect," said Dr Eglinton.

Sugar Research Australia spent more than 40 per cent of its \$35 million budget on the plant breeding program in 2016-17.

The changes will cost an additional \$4 million over the next seven years.

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Australia

## BETTER SUGARCANE VARIETIES FOR GROWERS AND MILLERS – TARGETING TWO PERCENT ANNUAL GAIN

By *brad.pfeffer*

Sugarcane growers and millers will be the beneficiaries of significant enhancements to the way Australian sugarcane varieties are created.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is the lead organisation that develops new cane varieties and has just announced these new enhancements to its process for creating sugarcane varieties, which will target improved profitability for sugarcane growers and millers.

“SRA has set the ambitious goal of delivering a 2 percent improvement in annual genetic gain for new sugarcane varieties,” said SRA CEO, Mr Neil Fisher.

“To put that goal into context, the global average gain for wheat breeding is 1 percent per annum, and the global average for sugarcane is less than 1 percent.

“But we have set this 2 percent target based on feedback from the industry that new varieties must continue to offer meaningful improvements and improve profitability for our grower and miller investors.”

Mr Fisher said this process will be led by

Key Focus Area Leader, Dr Jason Eglinton, who is one of Australia’s leading plant breeders and was recently appointed at SRA. Dr Eglinton reviewed the current breeding program and the SRA Board has endorsed his recommendations for a series of enhancements.

These include:

- » Reducing the number of parent plants and crosses that are used to create new varieties. This will allow an increase in the size of high leverage (high value) populations of plants, but reduce the total number of populations;
- » Decreasing the proportion of original seedlings with defective traits by using modern breeding tools such as molecular markers;
- » Increasing variety trial precision;
- » Applying earlier screening for smut and Pachymetra;
- » More precisely select for sugar content by measuring sugarcane maturity;
- » Piloting fast-track selection schemes including the use of tissue culture in place of traditional propagation;

- » Using wild relatives of sugarcane to focus on challenging traits with the first target being ratoon crop performance;
- » Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of research engagement and adoption; and
- » Establishing lead indicators as the basis for performance measures and developing a dashboard appropriate for regular management and Board reporting.

Mr Fisher said that this represented a significant investment of an additional \$4 million over the next seven years, which reinforced the development of new commercial varieties as the single largest investment that SRA makes on behalf of investors.

“By setting the 2 percent goal, and defining a clear strategy to target that goal, we are laying the foundation for ongoing improvement in the breeding program, ultimately leading to a more sustainable Australian sugarcane industry and more profitable growers and millers.”

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## 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT OUTLINES SRA'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has released a comprehensive report on its performance for the 2016/17 financial year, with this publication explaining how SRA has delivered return on investment for its industry and government investors.

In releasing the new 2016/17 Performance Report, SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that SRA was committed to keeping all investors, research partners, collaborators and other stakeholders informed regarding the value that is provided by SRA.

"Our annual Performance Report details the achievements of SRA and how they align to our Annual Operational Plans and our five-year Strategic Plan," Mr Fisher said. "We continue to enhance this annual publication with more robust, quantifiable and meaningful data that articulates how SRA is creating impacts and outcomes for sugarcane growers and millers."

For example, the Performance Report outlines that in the last year the harvesters of

14 sugarcane harvesting groups have been optimised in line with SRA's harvesting best practice recommendations, increasing shared industry value through reduced sugar loss.

Another example from 2016/17 includes the SRA diagnostics laboratories analysing over 1000 pachymetra, 150 nematode, and 20,000 ratoon stunting disease samples to support industry pest and disease management and limit these diseases' impact on profitability.

SRA is also delivering sustainability outcomes through innovative research and adoption projects that are creating water quality outcomes through improved nutrient management and nutrient efficiency.

This includes innovative research such as the incorporation of climate forecasting into decision tools to improve tactical on-farm application of nutrients and to reduce nutrient losses.

"Our Performance Report aligns with the conclusion of our first Strategic Plan, and we look forward to continuing to report on our outcomes and impacts against our new Strategic Plan for 2017/18 to 2021/22."

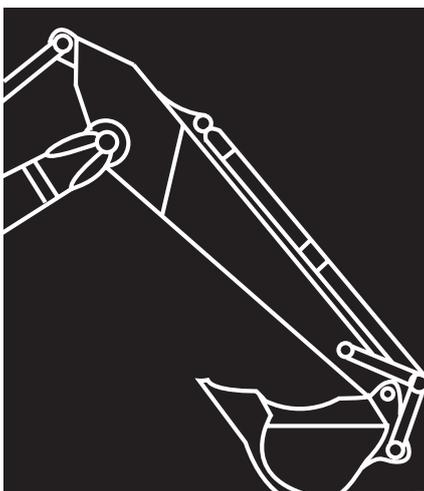
SRA is the industry-owned company for research, development and adoption for the Australian sugarcane industry.

"SRA has listened to our investors and their need for us to demonstrate how we are providing value," Mr Fisher said. "Our new Strategic Plan has set this out with the four goals of: driving profitability; improving sustainability; enhancing capability; and strengthening organisational excellence.

"The bottom line is that our grower and miller investors want more dollars in their back pocket.

"Our Performance Report is one tool we use to communicate how SRA is delivering for our investors against these overarching goals."

The Performance Report is available on the SRA website here.



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# Sweet Time Out

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?

A: Because it's pointless!

Q: What do you get when you cross a fish and an elephant?

A: Swimming trunks.

Q: What did the banana say to the doctor?

A: "I'm not peeling well."

## WORD OF THE MONTH

astrobleme

noun [as-truh-bleem]

an erosional scar on the earth's surface, produced by the impact of cosmic body, as a meteorite or asteroid.



*'Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.'*

STEVE JOBS



## DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know a group of geese is called a gaggle
- » Did you know if you filled a matchbox with gold it could be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court
- » Did you know women blink twice as much as men
- » Did you know your head contains 22 bones



## STRAWBERRY AND MERINGUE CHEESECAKE

### INGREDIENTS

- » 200g sweet biscuits (such as Arnott's Nice)
- » 100g Flora with Butter, melted
- » 5 teaspoon powdered gelatine
- » 1/4 cup boiling water
- » 750g cream cheese, at room temperature
- » 1 cup caster sugar
- » 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- » 300ml Coles brand thickened cream, whipped
- » 3/4 cup strawberry jam
- » 4 Coles small meringues, roughly chopped
- » 1 cup Coles Brand thickened cream, whipped
- » 250g strawberries, hulled and halved lengthways
- » 1 passionfruit, halved, pulp and seeds reserved

### METHOD

**Step 1:** Grease and line the base of a 23cm spring-form pan with baking paper. Meanwhile, break biscuits into large pieces and place in a food processor. Process until finely chopped. Add butter and process until well combined. Press the biscuit mixture into the base of prepared pan. Chill for 30 minutes.

**Step 2:** Pour boiling water into a heatproof bowl, sprinkle with gelatine and stir until dissolved. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

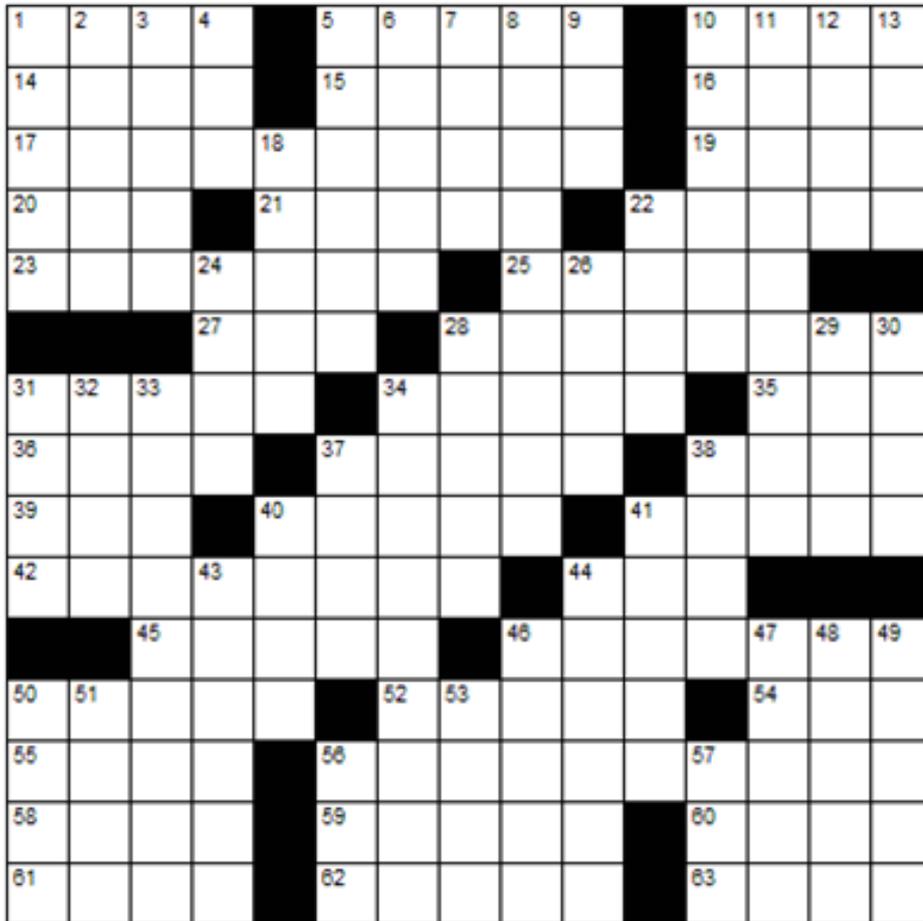
**Step 3:** Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Beat in the cooled gelatine mixture. Fold in cream and swirl through strawberry jam. Spoon filling over prepared base and smooth over top. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

**Step 4:** To serve: Transfer cheesecake to a serving plate. Pile meringue chunks, strawberries and passionfruit on top, slice and serve.

# Sweet Time Out

## CLASSIFIEDS

FREE FOR MEMBERS  
TO ADVERTISE



### ACROSS

1. Catch
5. Leered
10. Breezed through
14. Daughter of Zeus and Demeter
15. Balderdash
16. Constellation bear
17. Eclipse
19. Optimistic
20. A Buddhist temple
21. Mortise and \_\_\_\_
22. Models
23. Upwind
25. Belonging to you
27. S
28. Friendly
31. Ancient unit of dry measure
34. Wild Asian dog
35. Consume
36. Objective
37. Devout
38. Mother
39. Governor (abbrev.)
40. Spirits
41. Lure
42. Shepherd
44. Not many

45. Way to go
46. Transportation by air
50. Washbowl
52. Stories
54. Prefix meaning "Modern"
55. Distinctive flair
56. Instigator
58. Religious offshoot
59. Group of eight
60. A jaunty rhythm
61. Sounds of disapproval
62. S S S S
63. Untidyness

### DOWN

1. Frown with displeasure
2. Exploded stars
3. Mountain crest
4. Needlefish
5. Not these or those
6. Opulent
7. Adriatic resort
8. Name derived from a person
9. Morning moisture
10. Dawn goddess
11. A horizontal beam
12. Being
13. Not nights

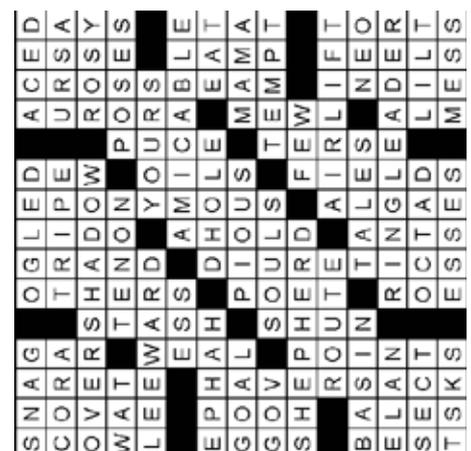
18. Hiding place
22. Brownish purple
24. Welt
26. Anagram of "Silo"
28. A grasp of something
29. Lantern
30. French for "State"
31. Hens make them
32. Milne bear
33. Backpack
34. Water pills
37. He writes in verse
38. Whimper
40. Cold-shoulder
41. Brusque
43. Scoring units
44. Meadows
46. Seaweed
47. An independent film company
48. Experiences
49. Wrongs
50. Finest
51. Beers
53. Picnic insects
56. Caviar
57. A high alpine meadow

### FOR SALE

- » CW45 UD, 3 bin tipper for seed cane. VGC – Ph 0417622956
- » 24 Plate, blue line discs. Ph. 0418 987 099
- » Nissan UD tip truck. Ph 0418987099
- » 6 sets of double disc cuttaway assembly. Ph 0428 821 233
- » Double row stubble shaver, 4 furrow blade plough Ph: 0419 733 185
- » 8600 Ford tricycle tractor. Tricycle implements optional. Ph: 0409635434 or 0407826270
- » International 2650 Haulout trucks x2. Variety of farm equipment. Dual go-cart carrier. All in good working order. Ph: 0438 720 178
- » Kleverland 3 Blade reversible plough. Ph: 0429 077 608
- » 28 Plate heavy duty wheel offset. Ph after hours: 4782 5291
- » Leader 8 wheeler truck with Inkerman rails. Ph after hours: 4782 5291
- » Fiat 80-66 tractor, 300L Front tank, High clearance 32 inch. \$16,000 neg. Ph 0427 735 305
- » 185 Massey Ferguson Tractor, Good Condition, 600L Front Tank. \$7,000 neg. Ph 0427 735 305
- » 2009 - Ford Falcon XR6 FG Auto 176397 KLM \$10,500. Ph 0428711714

### WANTED TO BUY

- » 12 to 14 foot roller Ph: 0431351073
- » Single Row PTO Stubble Shaver Ph 4782 4151





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