



BUNDABERG SUGAR SERVICES LIMITED

ACN 109 261 092

Annual Report 2022/2023



Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The underpinning philosophy behind the formation of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited was the acknowledgement by Bundaberg Sugar and CANEGROWERS of the joint responsibility for ensuring the Bundaberg sugar industry's sustainability and the need to work together and to work smarter.

The objectives of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited are:

- to enhance the productivity of the sugar industry by increasing the quantity and improving the quality of cane produced by crops grown in the Bundaberg district;
- to achieve regional sustainability in the Bundaberg area through full utilisation of sugar industry capital;
- to provide suitable advice and help to members about:
 - the prevention, control and eradication of pest infestation and disease of cane or any other matter or thing that adversely affects the quantity or quality of crops of cane; and/or
 - the production and harvesting of cane;
- to help, and cooperate with, other bodies involved in preventing, controlling and eradicating pests in cane;
- to help, and cooperate with, other bodies involved in researching the production, harvesting, transport and processing of cane;
- to provide advice and information to members for the preservation and enhancement of the capacity of land to sustain crops of cane;
- to help minimise any damage to the environment that may be caused by activities of the sugar industry within our area.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited is a Public Company Limited by Guarantee, and is a not-for-profit Organisation whose funding is provided by a levy on grower members. Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited is controlled by a board of directors, two (2) of which are appointed by growers and two (2) appointed by the mill.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited has previously managed funding projects for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Employment & Training, Qld Department of Primary Industries, The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of State Development, Burnett Mary Regional Group and Sugar Research and Development Corporation.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited has experience in managing community based projects and has the necessary personnel, systems and procedures to provide the essential level of corporate governance, management, supervision and administration to direct projects.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited also provides direct and extension services such as:

- Approved seed cane for planting;
- Excellent, readily accessible advice;
- Help to identify and control cane pests and diseases;



Top row from left: Michael Cavallaro, Matthew Curtis, Ian Dart, Anna Attard
Bottom row from left: Michael Turner, Dale Holliss

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

We present the report for the financial year 2022/23.

During the past twelve months Michael Turner has been the only full-time employee. As flagged last year the one-eye sett (OES) propagation and pest and disease core programs undertaken by Michael Turner were prioritised as they are critical to our industry.

Michael has focussed his attention on needs based and member focussed programs which consist of the approved plants scheme, plant source inspections, approved seed distribution, pest and disease management and general extension.

Casuals have been employed to assist when required and more recently an understudy to Michael has been engaged.

On behalf of our members, we would like to acknowledge the service, assistance, and dedication that Michael Turner provides to Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited.

We have been able to identify and secure suitable nursery facilities on a long-term lease basis that will enable continued expansion of the one-eye sett propagation that has become the cornerstone of our industry. The expansion of this system will enable BSSL to produce even more high-quality seedlings on demand.



New greenhouse

The BSSL Board reaffirmed our policy with respect to how the BSSL/SRA relationship strategy operates.

This was communicated to SRA to assist them target areas of mutual interest in areas and programs and services that we cannot effectively deliver ourselves.

- We see potential for RSD and potentially YCS identification to be incorporated into the NIR analysis as cane goes through the mill. This may enable the cessation of costly and resource consuming surveys that do not cover all potential planting sources and have inherent inaccuracies.
- The breeding program, which we see as SRA core business, although we wish to see more concentration on areas such as breeding drought resistance. We would also like to see a review of the old varieties to ascertain attributes that might be of use in combatting YCS and soldier fly.

We would like to thank a wide range of sugar industry organisations, particularly Bundaberg Sugar Ltd and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd for their assistance in helping Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited to meet our objectives.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr Jason Eglington and Mr Roy Parfitt from SRA's variety development team for enabling and facilitating the use of the Bundaberg SRA facility to grow out extra orders of OES that we would otherwise not have been able to do.

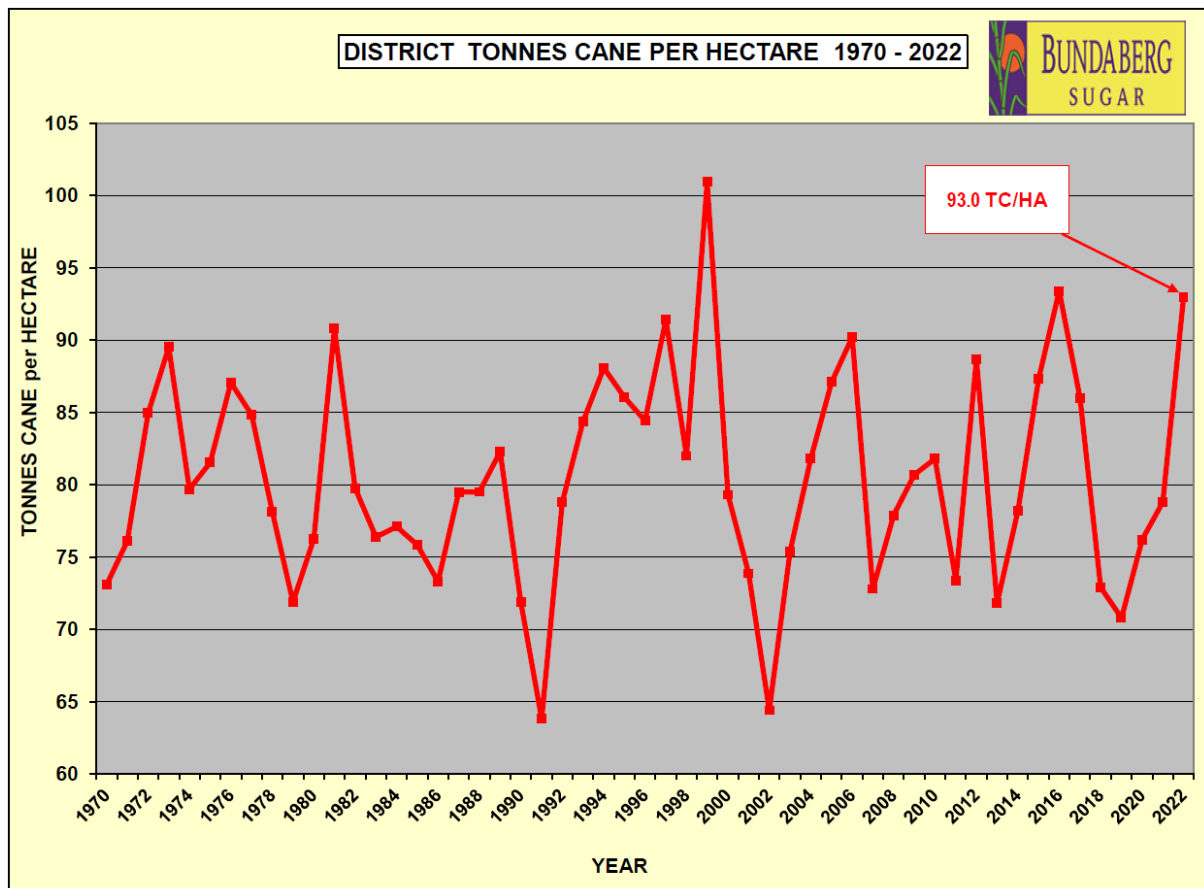
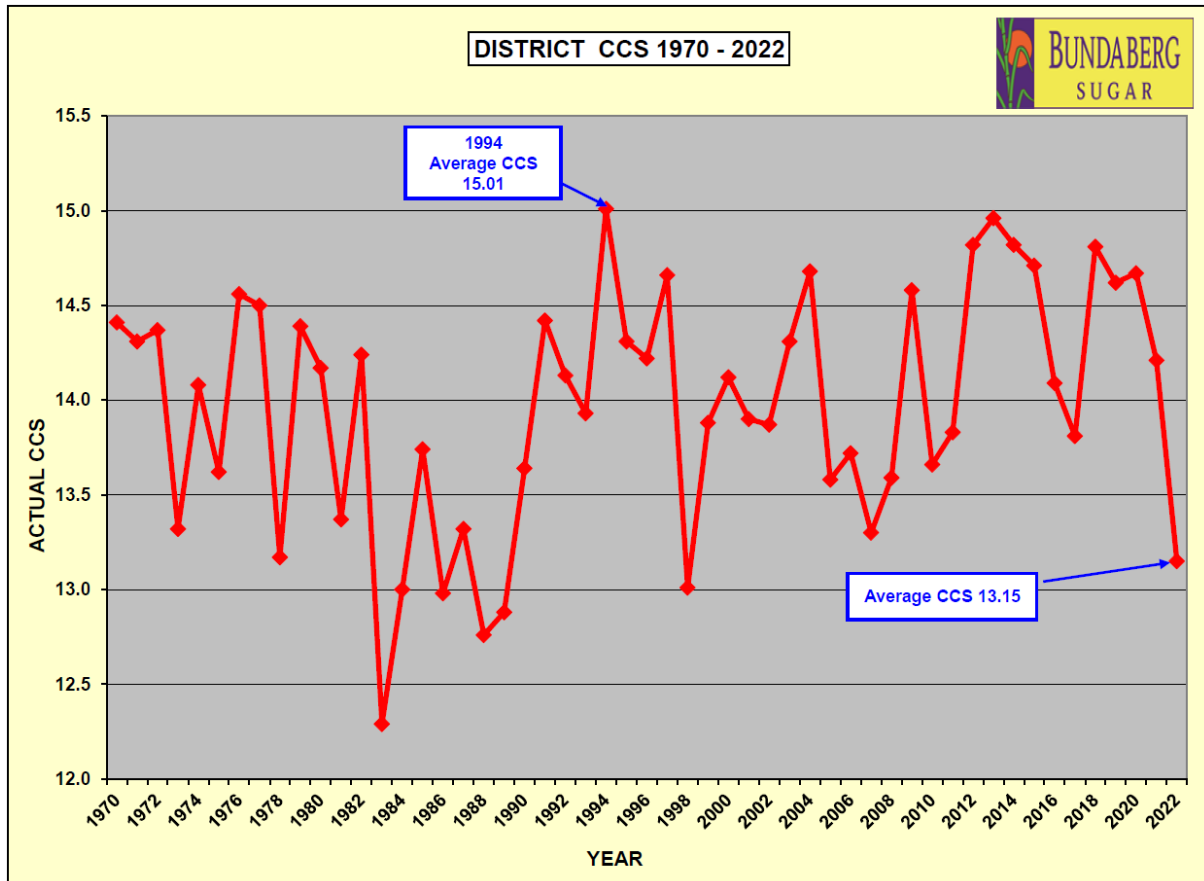
On behalf of the Board, we would also like to formally acknowledge our members who are the reason why Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited exists in the first place.

Michael Cavallaro
Chairman

Matthew Curtis
Deputy Chairman

Anna Attard
Director

Ian Dart
Director



CORE PROGRAMS

APPROVED SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The approved Seed Production and Distribution program ensures that all Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited plots are sampled for RSD, planted with the selected varieties and routinely inspected. As a service to members inspection of plant sources on individual farms is carried out upon request. The approved seed production is our core business and it is critical that we maintain and where possible, modernise how this service is delivered.

Approved Plants Scheme

The usual preparations for plants distribution, including organising mailing of grower order forms, confirmation of orders, plot inspections, machinery hire, labour requirements and RSD testing of the plots were conducted. DNA samples were also taken on the varieties planted in the mother plot.

Three (3) general disease inspections were conducted at regular intervals during the year. No disease or other issues were detected during these inspections. The mother plot was chipped on a regular basis for weeds.

Plant Source Inspections

Twenty-nine (29) growers including Bundaberg Sugar requested plant source inspections and RSD tests on sources. No sources were identified with smut. Five (5) blocks returned a positive result of RSD. All growers were sent notification letters outlining the results.

Plot Planting

Mother plot

Spring 2022

The spring 2022 plot was planted on the 26th and 27th September. Varieties planted consist of Q138, Q183, Q208[Ⓢ], Q232[Ⓢ], Q238[Ⓢ], Q240[Ⓢ], Q242[Ⓢ], Q245[Ⓢ], Q247[Ⓢ], Q252[Ⓢ], KQ228[Ⓢ], SRA2[Ⓢ], SRA4[Ⓢ], SRA11[Ⓢ], SRA19[Ⓢ], SRA20[Ⓢ], SRA29[Ⓢ], SRAW33[Ⓢ], SRA34[Ⓢ], SRA38[Ⓢ], SRA39[Ⓢ], Q124, Q151 and Q188.

Autumn 2022

The autumn 2022 plot was planted on 2nd and 3rd May. Varieties planted consist of Q138, Q183, Q208[Ⓢ], Q232[Ⓢ], Q238[Ⓢ], Q240[Ⓢ], Q242[Ⓢ], Q245[Ⓢ], Q247[Ⓢ], Q252[Ⓢ], KQ228[Ⓢ], SRA2[Ⓢ], SRA4[Ⓢ], SRA11[Ⓢ], SRA19[Ⓢ], SRA20[Ⓢ], SRA29[Ⓢ], SRAW33[Ⓢ], SRA32[Ⓢ], SRA34[Ⓢ], SRA38[Ⓢ], SRA39[Ⓢ], Q124, Q151 and Q188.

All the planting sources for mother plot planting are derived from tissue culture to maintain integrity of the variety.

Approved Seed Distribution

One-eye setts

Bundaberg Sugar Services one-eye setts propagation program is the main source of purchasing approved seed cane by growers.

Breakdown of seedlings distributed to growers

Variety	Spring 2022	Autumn 2023
Q138	1,536	0
Q183	64	2,176
Q208 [Ⓢ]	1,536	4,416
Q232 [Ⓢ]	128	1,792
Q238 [Ⓢ]	0	2,912
Q240 [Ⓢ]	3,008	3,200
Q242 [Ⓢ]	0	64
Q245 [Ⓢ]	64	0
Q247 [Ⓢ]	0	480
Q252 [Ⓢ]	192	3,072
KQ228 [Ⓢ]	1,984	4,960
SRA 2 [Ⓢ]	320	0
SRA 4 [Ⓢ]	0	3,200
SRA11 [Ⓢ]	4,384	3,392
SRA 19 [Ⓢ]	2,336	3,200
SRA 20 [Ⓢ]	640	2,080
SRA 29 [Ⓢ]	12,160	3,360
SRAW33 [Ⓢ]	3,968	2,144

Since the inception of one-eye setts (2019) there has been a marked increase in the number of seedlings purchased by growers each year to the point where we have outgrown the current facility and are in the process of moving to a new facility.

Some growers are ordering enough seedlings to plant up to one (1) hectare of approved seed cane.

Spring 2022

The distribution of spring 2022 seedlings commenced on 16th August. Seventeen (17) growers collected 32,320 seedlings. There were no orders from Bundaberg Sugar farms.

Autumn 2022

The autumn 2022 distribution of seedlings commenced on 17th March. Twelve (12) growers including four (4) Bundaberg Sugar company farms collected 40,448 seedlings.

Grower seedling sales 2019-2023

Year	Autumn	Spring	Total
2019	0	9,440	9,440
2020	11,296	34,016	45,312
2021	18,976	27,573	46,549
2022	23,680	62,160	85,840
2023	40,448	49,728	90,176
Total	94,400	182,917	277,317



Planting one-eye setts (BSSL planter)

Seedling water wheel planter

Bundaberg Sugar Services have a dedicated seedling planter available for growers to borrow to plant their seedlings. The planter is delivered to their farm and collected once they are finished using it by Sugar Services staff. Fifteen (15) growers have taken up the option of using the planter rather than planting seedlings by hand.

There have been no major issues with the planter. Two D-shackles were replaced on the seat rails.



BSSL seedling planter in trailer



New greenhouse



Potted one-eye sett seedlings

PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Pest and disease management remains a vital function of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited who carry out farm inspection and interpretation of specific pest or disease incidence at the request of grower members.

One of our objectives is to provide suitable advice and help to the members about the prevention, control and eradication of pest infection and disease of cane or any other matter or thing that adversely affects the quantity and quality of crops of cane and/or the production and harvesting of cane.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS)

The 2022/23 season observations identified there was some YCS present throughout the Bundaberg district, but not to the same extent as previous seasons. Some of these blocks identified were in previous seasons observations.

Ratoon Stunting Disease

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) remains a major disease facing the Bundaberg district.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited conducts annual surveys across the district to identify the extent of this disease and promotes the regular use of recommended hygiene measures to manage this disease.

RSD testing of the mother plot at Clayton Road was conducted with forty-six (46) samples collected using the new method of bulking stalks from a block or individual variety and sending the sample to SRA Brisbane for analysis. Samples are collected every ten (10) metres in the mother plot. All samples returned a negative result.

Machinery Inspections

There were no requests for machinery inspections in the last twelve (12) months. Any inspections requested are directed to the relevant authorised person at the Biosecurity office (DAF) Bundaberg.

Planting, Pest & Disease Data Collection

Due to other work commitments a small number of grower members were surveyed including Bundaberg Sugar farms across the Bundaberg mill area.

Information collected includes where approved seed cane was planted, row spacings, GPS planted or block just marked out by GPS, break crop rotation (soybean, peanut, smallcrops), pest or disease problems (e.g., cane grubs area affected, tonnes loss) irrigation type, fertiliser/insecticide use.

This information gives us an idea of what is going on around the district and where we need to tackle a pest, disease, or nutrient situation.

	No. of Samples Collected	Doubtful Samples	Positive Blocks
Approved Seed Plots	46	0	0
Grower Plant Source / RSD Survey	162	0	5
Total Samples	219	0	5

IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE

Drain Cleaner

Two (2) growers used the Bundaberg Sugar Services Drain Cleaner to clean underground soakage lines.



EXTENSION

EXTENSION SUPPORT

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited provides support to members in an effort to reduce the impact of rising costs on farm productivity and to enhance the future economic viability of the Bundaberg sugarcane industry.

During the past twelve (12) months a range of grower requests were investigated and, depending on the problem identified, appropriate control measures were recommended. There was a range of requests involved:

Pest

- Pink Earthpearl, Rhypardi beetle, cane grubs

Disease

- Yellow Canopy Syndrome, RSD test plant source, smut in SRA20^{db} and SRA29^{db}



Pink Margarodids (Earthpearl)

Tissue culture seedlings

- The only tissue culture seedlings ordered were for the mother plot by BSSL

One-eye sett seedlings

- Information on seedlings
- Planting distance/tray

- Spare seedlings available
- Late order for seedling availability
- Planter availability

Soil testing

- Nutrient, Pachymetra

Other general requests

- plant source inspections
- variety identification/ information
- drain cleaner
- Slow ratooning
- Iron deficiency
- Smut (SRA20^{db}, SRA29^{db})

Grower requested nutrient requests

During the past twelve (12) months, several growers have taken advantage of the service provided by BSSL. Thirty-four (34) blocks were sampled to determine the current nutrient status and requirements for plant and ratoon crops.

Growers are provided with a nutrient management plan when receiving their results.



During the 2022/23 year there were 34 soil tests representing 16 growers.

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS

Sugar Industry Dinner 2022 Season Awards

WR and AJ Baldry were announced as the District Champion at the Annual Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards held at The Bundaberg Multiplex on Friday, 24 March 2023.

Director of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Mr Michael Cavallaro congratulated Wayne and Andrea Baldry whose Bundaberg farm took out the top award of the night – Formatt Machinery's District Champion with a three-year average of 16.83 tonnes of sugar per hectare.

Representatives from all sectors of the industry and their business associates gathered to hear the awards announced and to celebrate some great productivity outcomes in spite of the weather and other challenges experienced during the 2022 crushing season.

Chairman of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, Mr Mark Pressler, took the opportunity to acknowledge the continued support of local sponsors of the awards and encouraged growers to continue to do business with these local service providers.

Dale Holliss, Project Officer of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd, was recognised for his Contribution to Productivity for his tireless efforts to achieve significant costs saving to growers by identifying the need to reduce the cost of electricity, and, after considerable research, identified areas that required change and began to push back against these excessive costs to enable irrigators to cost effectively apply water to their crops. Dale has been instrumental in the introduction and availability of Tariffs 33 and 34 and most recently the announcement of a Solar Soak tariff.

Heather Best, Cane Analysis Auditor for Bundaberg CANEGROWERS was awarded for her Service to Industry, first completing a Cane Testers course in 1966 and being posted to Mulgrave Mill at Gordonvale. Heather began working at Millaquin Mill when her family returned to Bundaberg and undertook further study to become an auditor for the new NIR system installed at Millaquin where Heather still enjoys her role as a Cane Analysis Auditor.



Heather and Frank Best.

Well known Bundaberg entertainer Mark Lavender entertained guests with his tailored performance providing a fitting end to a night of celebration.



Russell Zunker accepts the Cane Growing Excellence award from Matthew Curtis.

A total of 18 Award winners were announced in 14 categories.

ANNUAL BUNDABERG SUGAR INDUSTRY AWARDS

J & R MCCracken HIGHEST ACTUAL CCS SAMPLES

RC & Mrs MA Rehbein - 17.40 CCS

CHESHIRE MACHINERY HARVESTING CONTRACTOR AWARD FOR BEST HARVESTING EFFICIENCY AND MOST RELIABLE PERFORMANCE

M & D Ford Harvesting Group

WILSON'S INDUSTRIAL SALES AWARD FOR THE BEST FARM PRESENTATION FOR HARVESTING

Cayley Nominees Pty Ltd (No 2)

QSL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO PRODUCTIVITY

Dale Holliss

NUFARM AWARD FOR SERVICE TO INDUSTRY

Heather Best

SUNWATER AWARD FOR YOUNG INDUSTRY ACHIEVER

Michael Cavallaro

ERGON ENERGY INSPIRING FEMALE LEADER AWARD

Anna Attard

INCITEC PIVOT CANE GROWING EXCELLENCE AWARD – TWO DIVISIONS:

Up to and including 60 ha

RJ & Mrs JE Zunker

Greater than 60 ha - Incitec Pivot

IMEK Rasmussen Pty Ltd (No 1)

RDO EQUIPMENT AWARD FOR % CLOSEST ESTIMATE TO ACTUAL TONNAGE

MT Galea

SUNFAM AWARD FOR HIGHEST TONNES SUGAR PER HARVESTED HECTARE

RL & Mrs MR Lines

BUNDABERG DISTILLING CO AWARDS FOR HIGH SUGAR PRODUCERS

Redtrail Pty Ltd 16.84 ts/ha

SA Algeo 16.24 ts/ha

Relmay Pty Ltd 16.10 ts/ha

MG Greaves 16.04 ts/ha

BJ & MK Holloway 15.94 ts/ha

WATERFIND AWARD FOR MOST SUSTAINABLE YIELD FOR THE PAST 3 SEASONS

Akers Farms Pty Ltd (No 3)

FORMATT MACHINERY DISTRICT CHAMPION

WR & AJ Baldry (No 1)



Bob Baldry accepts the District Champion Award from Michael Cavallaro.



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