



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mackay Sugar launches cane land expansion incentives

Mackay Sugar this week launched its 2014 cane expansion incentive schemes, providing local sugarcane growers and landowners a financial boost to encourage more cane land development.

The company's 2014 Secure the Future pricing scheme provides growers and landowners with the security of fixed pricing at \$470 per tonne IPS for the planting of new land over four seasons and the Plant Loan Scheme provides an interest free loan of \$2,500 for every hectare (ha) of new land planted, with the loan repayable over three seasons. New land under the Plant Loan Scheme is defined as 'land that has been out of cane for at least two seasons'.

Also eligible for these packages are existing farms that have a current yield of 20 per cent below the zone average and that have had a clear change in management via a sale, lease or other acceptable documented changes.

Mackay Sugar has been offering growers and landowners planting incentive schemes for a number of years as part of its strategic plan to grow its cane supply area.

In the past two years, the Secure the Future and Plant Loan schemes have facilitated 1,086 ha of cane land being added to the Mackay cane supply network.

Mackay Sugar Chairman Andrew Cappello said he expects the 2014 schemes will again see a boost in cane supply over the coming seasons, with many existing growers and expanding growers set to snap up the planting incentives.

"Our cane supply area has reduced by about 10,000 ha in Mackay since the peak 10 years ago, but in recent years we have been clawing this back and we see these incentive schemes as essential tools to assist us in securing our cane supply for the future, which will enable us to produce more sugar," Mr Cappello said.

Mackay Sugar offers various other schemes aimed at making it easier for landowners to enter the sugar industry, with Cane Development personnel also able to assist first-time growers with the set-up of their own cane farm. Landowners unable to farm can also lease their land to Mackay Sugar.

Interested growers and landowners within the Mackay area should contact Mackay Sugar Cane Development Manager David Armstrong on (07) 4953 8588 for further information. Alternatively, details regarding cane development initiatives are also available via the Mackay Sugar website at www.mkysugar.com.au.

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