

MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS
MACKAY

5 April, 2022

CANEGROWERS Mackay encourages ag workers to come try Mackay for 2022 Crush

THERE are few winters more glorious than in the coastal tropics of Mackay-Whitsunday, and this year CANEGROWERS Mackay is encouraging ag workers to come try Mackay and work the 2022 Crush.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg said haulout drivers would be in high demand across the sugar cane harvest, which runs from June to December each year.

“While we are actively developing our local workforce, we know that we need to reach outside the region,” Mr Borg said.

“We know that our harvest dovetails quite well with the cotton harvest, so we are very keen to see workers from that sector make the journey to Queensland’s Central Coast.

“It offers the opportunity to create year-round work for seasonal agricultural workers.”

CANEGROWERS Mackay, in collaboration with Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN), has been on the front foot. The organisations have been following a range of novel approaches for their grower members to meet an expected labour shortfall in 2022. That’s included reaching out to backpackers, grey nomads and more. Like many ag sectors, the cane industry has been challenged with labour issues during the pandemic.

“COVID 19 state border closures have had their impact over the past several years: workers who would travel into Queensland for the harvest were unable to come, and perhaps have found work in other areas as the pandemic has worn on,” Mr Borg said.

“While those closures have lifted, we now need to reach out and attract new workers to come to Mackay-Whitsunday for the crush.”

“In the Mackay region, only a ‘C’ Class driver’s license is required to operate haulout tractors, however if you have a HR license to drive a truck there is also great opportunity.”

Four mills operate across the Mackay and Plane Creek Growing districts, harvesting over 6.5 million tonnes in 2021: it is one of Australia’s largest growing regions by footprint of hectare under cane.

Mr Borg said there was much about the Mackay region that was attractive, beyond great job prospects.

“Our region is the quieter gem sitting beside our well-known festive neighbour, the Whitsundays,” he said.

“Mackay has great fishing, diving and snorkelling, mountain hiking and biking, stunning National Parks Like Cape Hillsborough and Eungella. And it’s just a 90-minute zip along the highway to Airlie Beach.”

People interested in trying Mackay can post Work Wanted ads free on the CANEGROWERS Mackay jobs board and also see what is available in the positions vacant area, at www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au/farmers-notice-board .