

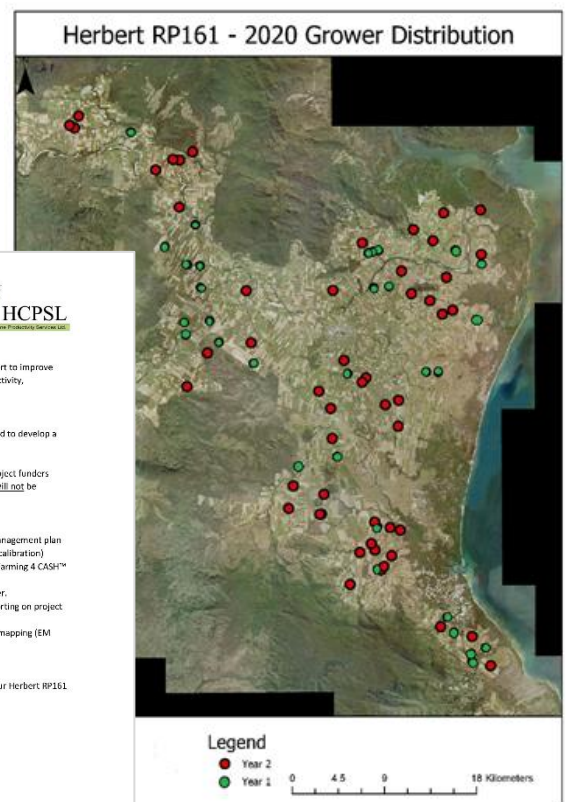
RP210 – Tailored nutrient and farm management solutions for the Herbert catchment area (Herbert RP161)


Milestone Report #7

Milestones	Outputs and other deliverables that make up this milestone	Milestone Key Performance Indicators	Submission date for outputs and deliverables	OGBR review of milestone (date)
Milestone 7 Engage and contract Year 2 grower intake for 50 farms.	Grower contracts	Growers - 50 farms contracted for Year 2	30 June 2020	31 July 2020

Engage and contract Year 2 grower intake for 50 farms.

- Growers from all 53 Year 1 farms (2019) were offered the opportunity to participate in the Yr 2 intake (2020) during their 'After' benchmarking interview for their Year 1 participation.
- During benchmarking interviews, extension staff notified growers that participation for a 2nd year would likely mean a reduction in applied N & P if they chose to participate.
- Growers from 51 farms subsequently agreed to sign up and participate in Yr 2 (2020)
- This meant that no 'new' growers were required to fill the Yr 2 intake.
- The 2 farms that opted not to participate for a 2nd year stated they did so primarily due to personal circumstance.





HCPSL
Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

Herbert RP161 Grower Participation Agreement

The Herbert RP161 project, through HCPSL, aims to work with growers in the Herbert to improve crop and nutrient management practices that will ultimately lead to positive productivity, profitability and environmental outcomes.

By signing this agreement, the grower accepts that they will:

- Participate in the project and provide HCPSL with the information they need to develop a crop and nutrient plan
- Pay a \$500 "buy-in" fee
- Allow HCPSL to include de-identified information in annual reporting to project funders (Please note: as discussed previously, your individual grower information will not be identified or presented without your permission)

HCPSL will:

- Provide resources to assist the grower in developing a crop and nutrient management plan
- Provide on-farm advice and assistance (including soil sampling, equipment calibration)
- Provide the opportunity for the grower to attend training and workshops (Farming 4 CASH™ - Crop and Soil Health, Google Earth-etc)
- Manage and store grower information in a confidential and a secure manner.
- Provide funders with de-identified information only for the purpose of reporting on project outcomes
- Provide a \$500 credit to each grower to be used for soil testing and/or soil mapping (EM mapping etc)

If you have any further questions regarding this agreement please contact one of our Herbert RP161 staff.
Adam Royle: 0417610446
Shannon O'Brien: 0490889383

Grower name: _____
Farm No./s: _____

Grower signature: _____ Date: / /

General Activity Updates

Soil Testing

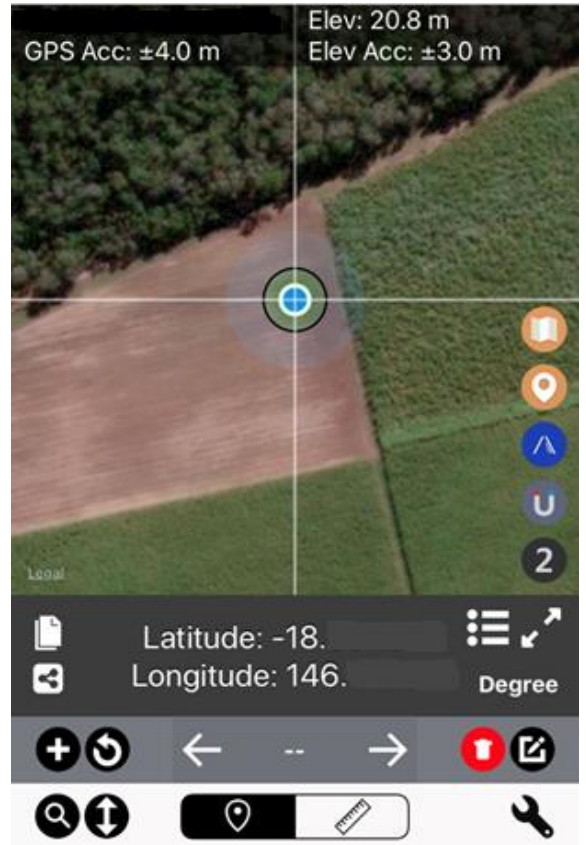
- Soil testing for Yr 2 and the new Yr 1 growers commenced in late 2019 with the bulk of the remaining growers completing soil testing before planting in May/June 2020.
- Soil testing will continue for a small number of project growers who are replanting or who choose to do follow-up testing to monitor or diagnose potential soil constraints
- HCPSL is currently investigating alternate soil sampling equipment than what is currently being used.

Benchmarking for NMP

- Benchmarking for Yr 2 growers was completed as a process of their 'after' benchmarking following their year 1 participation.
- Benchmarking for all Yr 1 and Yr 2 have been completed

Communication

- Project grower Daryl Larsen and extension agronomist Adam Royle worked together to write an article for the SRA CaneConnection Winter Edition 2020 publication.
- The article focused primarily on what Daryl saw as the benefits of doing the Herbert RP161 project for him and his farm management.
- Thank you also goes to Brad Pfeffer from SRA for his assistance in putting the article together.



A ONE-STOP GUIDE TO WHOLE-FARM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

THROUGH THE HELP OF THE RP161 PROJECT AND HERBERT CANE PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES LIMITED, DARYL LARSEN IS SEEING BENEFITS TO HIS FARM AND OVERALL MANAGEMENT. BY ADAM ROYLE, HCPSL.

Originally a grazing property in the heart of the Herbert sugarcane growing region, the Larsen farming enterprise moved to sugarcane when Alan Larsen planted his first bilbies in 1990.

Fast forward a decade, the 19-year-old age of Daryl Larsen and Daryl Larsen took over the family business. He, Daryl's partner, Daryl, and Daryl's partner, Daryl, have now expanded the farming enterprise by upgrading to a new whole farm management project called CaneConnection (Herbert RP161).

Farming over 450 hectares comes with a substantial investment in fertiliser and soil science. For Daryl, this means a lot of time, effort, and money. It's also a lot of time, effort, and money. It's also a lot of time, effort, and money. It's also a lot of time, effort, and money.

"Soil testing has been a big part of my farm management for a while now. It's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing."



"In the past I used my soil tests to work out my fertiliser program and manage my crops. But since I've got past a few seasons, the blocks get mixed together. Having a whole-of-farm nutrient plan means I can now manage blocks individually if I need to. I now know what each block needs, how much it needs and when it needs it, and that's made a big difference to the way I manage my farm. It's also helped me understand which blocks could manage to be managed differently."

"I know a lot of the focus is on soil and nitrogen, but it's not just about that. It's about everything else that my crop needs to be able to better utilise the N and phosphate that I do apply."

"Soil science and nutrient management is a big part of my farm management. It's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing."

Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL) extension agronomist, Adam Royle, provides insights into the fertiliser application.

"Apart from knowing when to feed to order and when to feed to order, it's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing. It's important to know what you're doing."

"I know a lot of the focus is on soil and nitrogen, but it's not just about that. It's about everything else that my crop needs to be able to better utilise the N and phosphate that I do apply."

The RP161 project is funded by the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program and the Australian Government Reef Trust in partnership with HCPSL and SRA.

For more information contact: HCPSL: 07 4776 5400 Farmacist Mackay: 07 4559 7075 Farmacist Bundaberg: 07 4782 2300

HCPSL is a not-for-profit organisation that provides extension services to sugarcane growers. It is a joint venture between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government. HCPSL is a not-for-profit organisation that provides extension services to sugarcane growers. It is a joint venture between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

General Learnings & Observations

Year 2 Participation

- Through discussions with growers the primary reasons for the high take-up from Yr 1 to Yr 2 growers seems to be related to 5 main areas;
 - Regulations (grower is more comfortable knowing they are compliant)
 - Record keeping (all in one record keeping for nutrient applications)
 - Better management of nutrient applications (both macro & micronutrients)
 - Identification and management of soil constraints (strategically identify and better manage sodic, saline etc soil constraints)

Google Earth Workshop

- The google earth workshop provider recently notified project staff that due to changes associated with accessibility to open source data they can no longer offer the same workshop
- Staff are looking at alternate methods for growers interested in using this medium
- Staff are also investigating other options, such as small workshops for growers to learn how to use the HCPSL N & P Budget tracker tool.



2020 Nutrient Management Plans

- Project staff, along with HCPSL WTSIP extension staff, reviewed last year's NMP and subsequently made changes and improvements for 2020.
- While the primary change has been the addition of the N & P budget, other improvements/changes include;
 - a plastic sleeve for growers to store extra paperwork.
 - additional supporting documents, including weed management and legume fallow guides
 - additional record keeping information to meet compliance requirements
 - streamlined variety and disease management information, including the addition of the SRA Herbert district variety guide
- While staff felt it was important to maintain consistency in the NMPs, they also felt that it was important for each staff member to be able to make minor (typically format based) customisations to each of their plans (if necessary) in order to meet the individual needs of their respective growers.
- Examples of customisations may include;
 - additional maps (EM, NDVI etc)
 - information related to strategic soil sampling and variable rate ameliorant or fertiliser applications

