



# HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

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7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Members,

## **RE: RESIGNATION OF LAWRENCE DI BELLA**

Regrettably, I write to inform all members, although I am sure many of you have already heard Lawrence Di Bella, the Manager of HCPSL, has tendered his resignation. Lawrence's last day as the Manager of HCPSL will be the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

For the last 12 years, under Lawrence's leadership HCPSL has delivered globally recognized scientifically based extension programs providing world-class agronomic advice and support to you, the sugar cane growers of the Herbert region. HCPSL's achievements in those 12 years are a proud reflection of Lawrence's dedication, commitment, expertise and passion in leading the HCPSL team. A few of these achievements include:

- Increasing the availability of approved seedcane from less than 1000 tonnes to over 4000 tonnes, in direct response to RSD concerns in the Herbert region.
- Delivery of Ratooning Variety Trials (RVT's) to supply additional data to the SRA plant breeding program, about variety performance in 30% of the Herbert region challenged by difficult soils and environments to grow sugar cane.
- Successfully leading and/or participating in Project NEMO, RP161, Project Catalyst and Project CaNE.
- HCPSL being recognised as a leader in feral pig management and control by successfully delivering Australia's second longest running community feral pig program.
- Being instrumental in assisting SRA identify and undertake research for Smut and YCS.
- Establishing innovative extension activities like the Herbert Walk and Talk Day.
- Directly being involved in R&D projects investigating innovative grower practices, enhanced release fertilizer technologies, registration of herbicides, precision agriculture and multi-species cover crops.
- HCPSL delivering variable rate amelioration plans to growers using Electromagnetic Mapping to develop soil management zones within their paddocks.

The HCPSL Board has started the recruitment process and can assure members we will endeavour to find a replacement for Lawrence of the same dedicated calibre to ensure we continue to provide the highest quality service to you all.

I hope you will all join with the HCPSL Board and Staff to extend our best wishes for the future, and warmest regards, to Lawrence, and his family for the service they have provided the Herbert sugar cane industry; as he will be sorely missed.

Kind regards

Peter Larsen  
HCPSL Chairperson