



7th August 2023

Harvest underway for Project CaNE's 'Clear As Mud' demonstration sites

Last month Project CaNE staff assisted harvesting contractors with the first Clear As Mud demo site harvest for 2023. This site is the first of several to be harvested across the Herbert district.

The Clear As Mud program, offers growers the opportunity to assess the benefits of mill by-product applications on their farm. Project staff will work with growers, and their harvesting contractors, to assess productivity and profitability relating to the use of these products.

Hawkins Creek grower, Jeff Cantamessa provides insight into his experience using mill by-products under the Clear As Mud Program;



“What we’ve found is that we’ve got a block which we just planted this year, and it had mud ash at first ratoon. At every other time we have gone to plant it, we’ve had to put a lot of lime and a lot of magnesium. This year, after we did the soil sample, it came back that we didn’t need to put lime. And that’s a cost saving.”

In order to assess productivity and profitability, Project CaNE staff and partners will work with growers to conduct soil nutrient assessments (soil sampling before & after mill by-product application), crop nutrient assessment (leaf sampling), CCS & yield results, economic assessments and water quality comparison assessments.

Above: Project CaNE staff and contractor harvest the first Clear As Mud demonstration site for 2023.

Left: Jeff Cantamessa inspects the Clear As Mud demo site on his Hawkins Creek farm.

Lower Herbert grower, Andrew Irvin comments on Project CaNE, what it's helping him to achieve on his farm, and how mill by-products have offered benefits on his farm;

"Looking after the farms soil health is very important, I have seen in my lifetime the degradation here through not as much knowledge... The information that we are getting back out of Project CaNE is helping us to understand the soil better".

"The block behind us had a low organic content of about 0.6. To put mud and ash in there became an important factor to get the cane to utilize the fertilizer correctly and get the most out of the farm".

Demonstration sites will continue to be harvested and once complete the Project CaNE team are looking forward to working with their partners to collate, analysing and present the results to Herbert growers.



Above: Andrew Irvin discusses using mill-by products on his farm.

Want to know more about the Clear As Mud program? Watch interviews with Jeff and Andrew here: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe3wKEp3h0clc3ClzALjdJekvXtO2A3WH>



Unloading sugarcane for processing at Victoria Mill during the first Clear As Mud demonstration site harvest for 2023.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & ADVICE CONTACT HCPSL

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