



BURDEKIN SUGAR

ENHANCED EXTENSION COORDINATION

| **Summary**



**Queensland
Government**

FUNDED THROUGH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
REEF WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

ENHANCED EXTENSION COORDINATION IN GBR PROJECT



The **Enhanced Extension Coordination in GBR Project** is operating in six GBR Natural Resource Management regions in Queensland. The Burdekin Sugar Regional Extension Coordinator is delivering the project in partnership with the Burdekin Cane Extension Group (BCEG) to improve extension services supporting the cane industry in the Lower Burdekin.

SOME KEY PROJECT OUTCOMES:



- Enhanced communication, coordination and planning
- A Community of Practice to coordinate extension delivery
- A framework to co-design and implement effective collaboration
- Empowering local decision making
- Improving extension officers' skills and capacity
- New ways of working together

BENEFITS...

FOR GROWERS:

- ✓ Enhanced delivery of extension services
- ✓ More coordinated and effective support for growers
- ✓ Better access to improved information and highly skilled extension officers
- ✓ Opportunities for Peer to Peer grower groups



Did you know funds have already supported seven projects in the Burdekin including the Lower Burdekin Irrigation Extension Action Plan

FOR EXTENSION STAFF:

- ✓ Connection to regional extension networks
- ✓ Up-to-date information on project work, funding programs and opportunities to collaborate with colleagues
- ✓ Opportunities to be part of decision-making and coordinated program design
- ✓ Access to training and professional development opportunities and specialised expertise

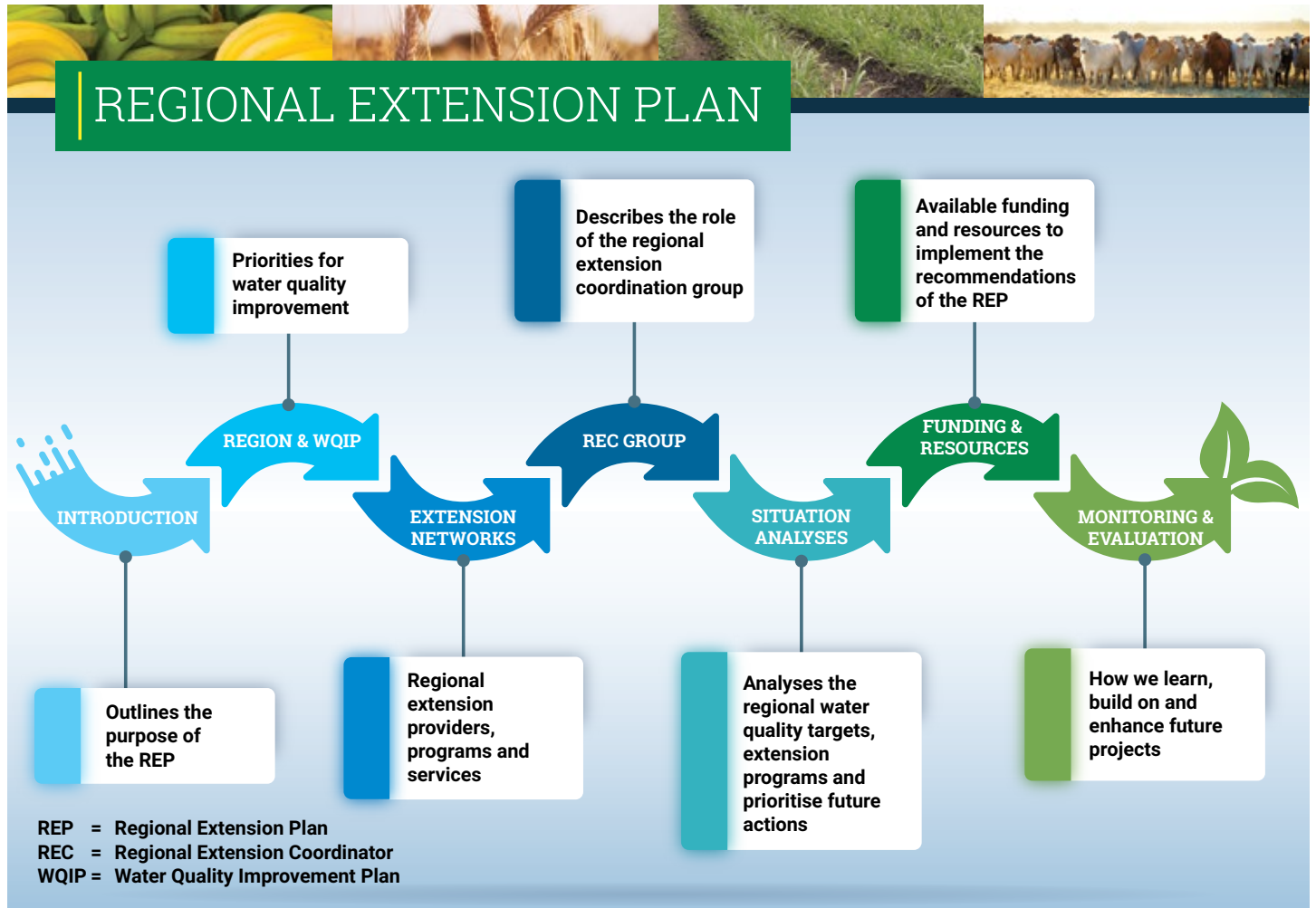


Did you know funds have already supported six training workshops for Extension Officers including Soil Health

REGIONAL EXTENSION PLAN

A Regional Extension Plan (REP) for Burdekin Sugar was developed to improve coordination and collaboration in the Lower Burdekin extension network and more efficiently target delivery of agronomic extension advice to sugarcane growers.

A collaborative approach will enhance local capacity and ensure sugarcane growers can easily access information, technology and technical support. This enables growers to make informed decisions around optimal farming practices to improve water quality and profitability of the sugarcane sector.



THE LOWER BURDEKIN EXTENSION NETWORK

Sugar producers have access to a wide range of extension providers including industry organisations, private consultants, agri-businesses, NRM organisations and government agencies. These organisations and bodies comprise the Lower Burdekin extension network.

The Burdekin Sugar Regional Extension Coordinator has developed a collaborative and coordinated approach to extension delivery in the Burdekin

through the Burdekin Cane Extension Group (BCEG).

This group includes partner organisations that either provide extension advice or manage water quality projects. The BCEG recognises that by working collectively together they can better service the needs of growers and help them to improve farming practices, profitability and demonstrate associated benefits to water quality.

BURDEKIN CANE EXTENSION GROUP

- AgriTech Solutions
- Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee (BBIFMAC)
- BRIA Irrigators Ltd
- Burdekin Productivity Services
- Canegrowers Burdekin Ltd
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Farmacist
- NQ Dry Tropics
- Sugar Research Australia
- Wilmar Sugar

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE LOWER BURDEKIN

All decisions on projects are made locally through a collaborative approach by extension providers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR:

- ✓ A collaborative approach to improving irrigation efficiency in the Lower Burdekin
- ✓ Access to innovative practices, ideas and technology from other regions
- ✓ Women in the sugar industry are empowered to tackle the challenges they may encounter in the future
- ✓ New ways to address water quality through innovations



BBIFMAC staff member analysing water in a sugar cane paddock.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

The Training Development Manager is providing training and capacity building to local extension providers by identifying and delivering regional needs and providing subsidies for participants on completion of courses.

Training for extension staff has included: facilitation and communication skills, irrigation management, soil health and social science.

To find out more about the Burdekin Sugar Regional Extension Plan and extension networks, please contact Terri Buono, the Burdekin Sugar Regional Extension Coordinator based at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Townsville.

Terri.Buono@daf.qld.gov.au or phone 3330 4509.

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