



## PRESS RELEASE

### **RSD prevention in the Herbert in relation to HCPSL Approved Seed plots.**

RSD is one of Australia's major sugarcane diseases, which causes significant economic losses, but has no external symptoms. RSD is spread through diseased planting material, on machinery and poorly managed fallows, which have infected volunteers. Good farm hygiene can greatly reduce the risk. Never assume that your neighbours cane is clean, because it may be infected.

Cane knives, harvesters, plant cutters, planters and stool splitters should all be routinely sterilised between blocks on the same farm and between farms. Also remember to dispose of the fungicide dip before sterilising your planter.

SRA today (25/6/2017) put out a press release stating that RSD detections have been found to be on the rise in 2018. The SRA article states that the disease is being found in commercial sugarcane crops and in nursery cane. The article refers to grower managed nursery blocks and not blocks managed by Productivity Services groups.

In the Herbert, there has been **no detects of RSD have been found in HCPSL Approved Seed plots and nursery;** to date. Growers can be reassured that HCPSL is required to operate under strict operating procedures set down by SRA Pathologists and its own management, for all its plots.

The detection of RSD in commercial cane in the Herbert is not higher than previous years; however, growers are being asked not to be complacent.

Stringent hygiene is essential to ensure that planting material is not infected with the disease. **Growers are urged to purchase RSD-free planting material from HCPSL or hot water treat their own cane.**

Growers can obtain Approved "clean" seed from HCPSL in 3 different ways:

- Purchase cane from one of HCPSL's Approved Seed plots
- Long hot water treat cane at the HCPSL hot water treatment tanks at Victoria Mill
- Purchase tissue cultured cane from HCPSL.

Growers are urged to contact the HCPSL office (phone- 47761808) to arrange for a HCPSL Officer to come out to check planting material for RSD or to arrange to obtain Approved "clean" seed for your farm.

**When was the last time you obtained Approved "clean" seed for your farm?**