



Bundaberg Sugar Industry Renewable Energy Project

Adapting Renewable Energy Concepts to Irrigated Sugarcane Production at Bundaberg

The purpose of the project is to trial solar pumping options in a sugarcane farming situation

Irrigation energy use is based on seasonal crop needs and the area of cropping land to be irrigated



Energy cost is a major factor impacting on farm productivity and economic viability

Evaluation and demonstration of new energy technologies will help over come barriers to adoption

Well informed irrigators and financiers will have greater confidence to invest in new energy efficient systems

Irrigation is essential to sugarcane production at Bundaberg

The project goals are:

Develop a solar based alternative energy option with the capability of delivering a comparable irrigation supply to the established distribution systems



Provide irrigators with a cost benefit analysis to assist with decision making and procurement of finance for installation of new energy efficient irrigation systems



The brief for this project is to develop and trial the economic potential of a blended solar/grid pumping system

Energy use per ML of water pumped through travelling high pressure gun systems (water winch) is higher than other methods used in the Bundaberg region



Travelling gun high pressure irrigation systems are widely used at Bundaberg

This solar pumping trial will be conducted on a winch irrigated sugarcane farm over 3 years

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Bundaberg Sugarcane growers who operate travelling big gun (water winch) irrigators are invited to indicate if they have an interest in participating in this project.

The project will equip one pumping site at the farm of a Bundaberg sugarcane supplier with the necessary equipment to conduct the trial.

Trial equipment to be supplied may include:

- Solar Panels;
- Motor and pump;
- Electronic drive and control equipment.

The project plan is to install the trial equipment and commence the program by July 2017.

The selected grower will be required to enter into a cooperation agreement for the term of trial (3 years).

The selected grower will be required to contribute a nominal amount to the capital cost of the equipment and it is envisaged that the facility remain in place at the end of the project.

Closing date for EOI's - 5.00 pm May 19th 2017

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