

# A WIN FOR ACCREDITED GROWERS

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Smartcane BMP accreditation continues to be the gold standard for cane farmers wanting to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability while maintaining productivity and profitability.

The introduction of updated Reef Regulations, (commencing 1 December 2021), includes the requirement for cane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsundays to have a nitrogen and phosphorus budget prepared before they commence their 2022 fertiliser program. To understand what your requirements are, based on your Smartcane BMP accreditation status, please see the following basic breakdown.

# 1

## EXISTING ACCREDITED GROWERS

As Smartcane BMP standards have always been superior to reef regulations, there is little more you need to do to remain compliant with the new regulations. Having met the Smartcane BMP standards you are already assessing crop needs for all essential nutrients as well as identifying and addressing soil constraints. In addition, you already maintain the required farm maps, management zones (where required) and relevant records. This evidence has been verified through third party audit.

You'll now need to record the total amount of N&P you plan to apply and the actuals, once applied. The whole of farm allocation, based on soil test recommendations, must not be exceeded.

Submit N&P records in your Smartcane BMP Annual Review email.

*\*You do NOT need to have an N&P budget prepared and verified by an Authorised person*

*\*\*AND you will not be the target of government compliance audits*

# 2

## GROWERS SEEKING ACCREDITATION

(First accreditation audit occurring after 30 November 2021)

In addition to following the SIX EASY STEPS program, you will need an N&P budget prepared for the 2022 season – this requires the whole-farm amounts of N & P to be calculated by summing the individual block amounts of N & P that you plan to apply during 2022.

The budget must be prepared and verified by an appropriate person. Once accredited, you are no longer required to have the N&P budget verified by an appropriate person, and this applies for the duration of your accreditation. Your compliance will be verified as part of your Smartcane BMP accreditation 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit.

*\*you will not be the target of government compliance audits*

# 3

## NON-ACCREDITED GROWERS

As of 1 December 2021, you are required to adhere to the updated Reef Regulations, including the requirement to have prepared and verified, by an appropriate person, a farm N&P budget before you commence your 2022 fertiliser program. At any time, you may receive an on-farm assessment by a government officer to assess your compliance with the Reef Regulations.





*“When it comes to nutrient management, Smartcane BMP standards are well above regulations while offering flexibility through the implementation of SIX EASY STEPS and the 6ES toolbox”*



For further information, please visit the resources page of the Smartcane BMP website [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au)