CANEGROWERS

BURDEKIN

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18 July 2025

Mr Stephen Bennett MP
Chair
Primary Industries and Resources Committee
Member for Burnett
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Bennett,

RE: Inquiry into Sugarcane Bioenergy Opportunities in Queensland

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Limited (CBL) is a member based not for profit grower collective which represents the interests of 200 cane growers in the Burdekin district. CBL would like to express our support of the submission made by Mr Simon Yim, CEO of SKY Renewables, to the Committee's inquiry into sugarcane bioenergy opportunities.

CBL is a respected, active, and trusted voice for our members, with a strong track record of advocating for the sustainability of our local industry, supported by evidence-based policy development and innovation.

The Burdekin is the largest single cane-growing district in Queensland. Our growers are acutely aware of the urgent need to diversify income streams, improve the sustainability of agricultural practices, and strengthen the long-term economic future of our communities. SKY Renewables' Project Lion offers an opportunity to diversify revenue for our members.

By converting tops and trash, currently a low-value waste product, into high-value bioenergy exports, SKY Renewables' Project Lion proposal will gain our members access to a new market, while preserving our traditional sugar output. Growers will be able to supplement their income without compromising land, labour, or existing mill supply. Project Lion could also be a catalyst for the eventual phasing out of cane burning in favour of more sustainable harvesting techniques.

SKY Renewables has shown genuine commitment to working alongside our members and growers across the district since 2018, with a significant proportion already engaged in the project's development. Their proposal reflects not only technical feasibility and global demand, but also an understanding of our local realities and aspirations.

CBL trusts the Committee will recognise the value of Mr Yim's project and encourages the Queensland Government and the Parliament to pursue policy that encourages innovative, grower-led initiatives to flourish in regions like the Burdekin. Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Betteridge
Chair
CANEGROWERS Burdekin Limited