



12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Extreme rate increases not only affect Bundaberg farmers

The extreme rate increases to Bundaberg farmers is beginning to flow through to Bundaberg small businesses. Northside Produce agency owners Brian and Jean Gordon who supply goods and services to the local Bundaberg community have already seen an impact to their clients and business. "Every dollar that is taken from a farmer is a dollar they don't spend in town" said Mr Gordon.

Tom Marland from Agforce and the Bundaberg Farmers Consortium said "Our local small businesses rely on our farmers to be viable and sustainable. Already we have had reports that business is down with some farmers having to deal with rate rises of 235% and many with rises over 100%".

"It would be difficult for anyone to come up with a 235% increase to any of their bills but to at a time when many farmers are in drought, still struggling with Covid-19 and just generally struggling to stay ahead is a cruel blow".

"We have support and petitions from over 30 local businesses across the region who understand that these rate rises are going to take out \$2.4 million dollars from the local economy every year." Said Mr Marland.

"The Council have been tone deaf to our requests for a review and for reason" said Mr Marland. "Now their decisions are starting to impact our local economy which will effect jobs, investment and growth."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. McLennan".

Peter McLennan  
Deputy Chairman  
CANEGROWERS Isis  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lyons".

Joe Lyons  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cayley".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Marland".

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