



Get to know Industry Services

Industry Services is the new business unit at SRA whose purpose is to be the link between SRA and the industry – including growers, millers and service providers.

By bringing together specialist research skills with engagement expertise, the Industry Services team is focused on converting research and development investment into tangible benefits at the farm and mill.

The team will do this by building strong relationships across industry, developing an SRA-wide understanding of district level productivity gaps and risks, and applying existing research to generate productivity gains and manage risks to production.

The Industry Services team has been structured and staffed to achieve these outcomes.

Meet some of the team, including those who are new to SRA and those who have moved from other roles at SRA:



Executive Manager, Industry Services, Hywel Cook

Hywel leads the business unit to deliver relevant and valued industry services and achieve industry productivity targets. He has over 30 years' experience in the sugar industry across all aspects of production, both in Australia and overseas, including roles at MSF Sugar and Queensland Sugar Limited.

A centrepiece of the Industry Services business unit is the investment in five District Managers and a small number of support staff. This team will work closely with the resources of the business unit, and

across the rest of SRA, to develop and deliver district productivity improvement plans (in partnership with other providers).

The District Managers will build partnerships with local providers to synchronise activities and eliminate duplication. They will also work with internal and external scientific experts to drive local adoption of research and innovation outcomes.

SRA's District Managers are:



Southern Region + NSW and Rocky Point District Manager, Lisa Devereaux

Lisa has a diverse set of skills, from beekeeping and flying drones to business development and project management, all built on her knowledge and early work as a science researcher.

Her experience in grant funding and management of research projects will ensure that the requirements of the Southern, NSW and Rocky Point District are addressed through the development and implementation of the district productivity plan.

Central District Manager, Dylan Wedel

Dylan is a cane farmer with a passion for problem solving and innovation. His career has previously been centred around the coal mining industry where he held a variety of technical and operational roles where the focus was safety and productivity.

Dylan's background as an engineer has given him the skills to critically analyse and optimise systems for maximum profit. As District Manager, Dylan will be assisting the local industry to improve productivity and profitability.



Burdekin District Manager, Terry Granshaw

Terry is well known in the Burdekin region, having worked for Burdekin Productivity Services for the last six years. He grew up on the family farm at Dalbeg and has 25 plus years of experience in all aspects of sugarcane farming from planting, right through to contract harvesting.

Terry has experimented with different farming systems and harvesting procedures during that time. He is also well versed in farm data recording, GPS setup and use, irrigation and spray application practices.

**Herbert District Manager (and Agricultural Machinery Specialist),
Phil Patane**

As well as being the District Manager for the Herbert, Phil is SRA's Agricultural Machinery Specialist and has a strong focus on minimising harvesting losses, improving machine performance and increasing field efficiency. Phil graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from the University of Queensland. He has led several harvesting forums, demonstrations and large scale trials from Mossman to Harwood (NSW). Phil was the co-author of the SRA Harvest Best Practice manual and has authored and co-authored several ASSCT papers focusing on improving yield through harvesting practice change and machine modifications. Phil currently leads a project maximising cane recovery through development of a harvesting decision-support tool.



Far North District Manager, Gavin Rodman

Based at SRA's Meringa Station, Gavin has been the extension leader on a number of adoption-focussed projects, developed in response to local needs. Through Gavin's previous role as the Adoption Officer – Nutrient Management he was responsible for developing information and tools, providing training and support to growers and industry staff, and working with industry to increase the adoption of nutrient BMPs.

Supporting the District Managers are the District Delivery Officers: Paul Calcino (Far North) and Stephanie Roberts (Central) while the position is yet to be filled for the Herbert/Burdekin region.

Another key element of the Industry Services business unit is the Research Translation team, led by the Manager Translation Research, Barry Salter. A new role at SRA, and falling within this team, is the Environmental Sustainability Scientist whose responsibilities include providing expertise in input efficiencies and environmental sustainability, and delivery of related research outcomes.

Environmental Sustainability Scientist, Cathy Mylrea

Cathy has a strong agricultural background coupled with over 20 years' experience in the private sector. She has worked predominantly in natural resource management (NRM), with a strong focus on collaborative partnerships. Most recently she has been the Program Manager for Burnett Mary Regional Group where she provided oversight across a range of programs focused on NRM and sustainable agriculture for the region. She has extensive experience in securing grant funding and management of complex funding programs.



Cathy is based at SRA's Meringa Station.

Staff who deliver SRA's specialised research in relation to weed management, entomology, pathology and agronomy are also now part of the Translational Research team. This includes those with whom industry would already be familiar: Emilie Fillols (Weed Scientist), Pauline Lenancker (Entomologist) Rob Magarey (Pathologist), Kevin Powell (Entomology Leader), and Danielle Skocaj (Agronomist), as well as research project team members Julian Connellan (Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser Project Lead), Nader Sallam (Project Officer), and Matt Schembri (Project Officer Cane to Creek Mackay Whitsunday).

Also part of Industry Services, and delivering SRA's testing services, is a team of highly experienced scientists including Heidi du Clou (Manager Industry Services Operations), Peimaneh Lee-Steere (Organic Chemist), Chuong Ngo (Disease Diagnostic Leader) and Zofia Ostatek-Boczynski (Inorganic Chemist).

Providing support across Industry Services is a range of skilled technicians: Lucy Gibbs (Pathology Senior Technician), Laura MacGillycuddy (Pathology Senior Technician), Edwina Mills (Technician), Farzana Darain (Technician), Hank Xu (PhD Student), Glen Park (Technician), Skye Shervey (Technician) and James Oldacre (Technician)

The near-infrared (NIR) team of Steve Staunton (NIR Service Leader), Phil Lethbridge (NIR Developer), Andrew Lynch (NIR Chemist) and Joel Simpson (NIR Support Engineer), is also part of the Industry Services Business Unit.

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