

NICK DAMETTO
Member for Hinchinbrook



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hinchinbrook's sugarcane industry faces worker shortages

Katter's Australian Party (KAP) Deputy Leader and Hinchinbrook MP, Nick Dametto, is calling for experienced workers to relocate to Hinchinbrook for the sugarcane season as the industry faces challenges with worker shortages.

In 2020-21 it was estimated that Hinchinbrook's sugar manufacturing industry added \$402 million in value to the Queensland economy and provided 1756 full-time jobs.

The Hinchinbrook MP said that the dominant industry in the electorate was now facing dire worker shortages, which likely can be attributed to the impacts of COVID-19 and the subsequent lack of available backpackers.

"The worker shortage is crippling farmers across the entire agriculture and horticulture industries," Mr Dametto said.

"With favourable growing conditions, strong global sugar prices and an increase in total crop estimates, the sugarcane season is an enticing opportunity for job seekers.

"Whether it's working in the paddocks, driving machinery, analysing samples, transporting the cane or working behind the scenes, the sugarcane industry is extremely rewarding.

"The season usually runs from June to December and employees love the work-life balance these seasonal positions provide.

"You can make some great money while you're on shift and on your days off, you can explore Hinchinbrook's great outdoors.

"We are extremely lucky to have an abundance of National Parks, waterfalls, tropical islands, and iconic fishing destinations right on our doorstep."

The Hinchinbrook MP is encouraging Queenslanders' job seekers to migrate to Hinchinbrook to take advantage of employment opportunities in the sugarcane industry and is urging interested workers to contact Canegrowers via <https://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/employment/work-in-the-industry> for more information on vacant positions.

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Photo: State Member for Hinchinbrook and KAP Deputy Leader, Nick Dametto.

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