

The history of Cane Pest + Disease Control Boards in Queensland Brian Egan

Pests and diseases caused problems in the Australian sugar industry since the 1870s. This is the story of *why* 'Pest Boards' were needed; *how* they were developed by BSES, the Government and sugar industry in a cooperative effort into a successful and world-leading control scheme; how yield losses were greatly reduced and overall productivity improved.

About the author

Brian Egan



Brian Egan was a BSES Senior Pathologist at the Sugar Experiment Station at Gordonvale, and worked with Boards in North Queensland and the Burdekin on disease control campaigns for 15 years from 1956

to 1971. He then spent 1972 and 1973 in Bundaberg to take control of the Fiji Disease Control Campaign which was spiralling out of control. This required close liaison over the next 10 years with all Boards in South and Central Queensland, and development of a new strategy to cope with this exploding epidemic. In January 1974 he was transferred to Brisbane and appointed to the new BSES position of Coordinator of Cane Pest and Disease Control Boards, and became a member of all Boards. He remained Coordinator for 15 years until 1989, had an intimate knowledge of how Boards functioned, and developed a good rapport with many Board members and staff.

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