

Islander seeks sugar levy

A Mackay South Sea Islander chief is seeking a radical 20-year levy on the State's cane crop to compensate descendants of "slaves" used to establish the sugar industry.

Noah Sabbo, 78, of Beaconsfield, is seeking a two-cent levy for each tonne of cane crushed in Queensland for the next 20 seasons.

Last year's overall Queensland crop amounted to about 38 million tonnes — at two cents a tonne that's about \$760 000 a year or about \$15 million for the next 20 years. "It's just a one-off — it's a small price to pay for the forgotten people," he said yesterday.

The Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton)

24 Jun 1998, p3