



MEDIA STATEMENT

Industry can re-set without the politics

The Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) says with the events of the past 48 hours it is now time for the industry to get on with business and get away from the politics.

ASMC CEO Dominic Nolan said “The Milling Council members were highly appreciative that the LNP Bill to further regulate the industry was defeated in the Queensland Parliament on Wednesday night.

“If the Bill had passed and QSL and Wilmar were forced into arbitration, we know it would have dragged out the negotiations by months at the very least.

“Growers, mill workers and regional communities can’t afford political interference leading to artificial delays in establishing contractual arrangements and exacerbating the uncertainty.

“The defeat of the Bill provided some clear air to allow high level agreement to be reached between QSL and Wilmar on the few remaining issues and move into contracting and documentation.

“From a broader perspective, the industry now has the opportunity to focus on positive growth and development thanks to the stance of the Queensland Government and the support of the independents Rob Pyne, Billy Gordon and the Speaker Peter Wellington.”

“It has always been the view of Milling Council members that political intervention in our industry was slowly but surely re-establishing regulation that was taking incentive away for innovation and undermining the essential relationship between growers and mills,” said Mr Nolan.

“The industry needs to come together and of its own volition establish a clear commercial pathway to the future for all stakeholders.

“The Milling Council and its members will now work hard to do whatever is needed to lift the veil of uncertainty that has been in place during this long running, politically fed saga for the 8,500 growers, mill workers, their families, and the regional communities that rely on the jobs and commerce of the sugarcane growing and milling businesses.”

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