

Australian Sugar Milling Council

Monthly Wrap

May 2024



The ASMC Monthly Wrap provides a snapshot to members, the sector and interested stakeholders of key policy, advocacy and industry activities impacting the sugar industry.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Update on the proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy (BPL)

The Biosecurity Protection Levy legislation, seeking a direct industry funding contribution for biosecurity, was sent to a Senate Committee for further review.

The ASMC is opposed to the BPL and joined with the National Farmers' Federation and other industry representative groups to call on the cross-bench to send the proposal to Senate Committee for further review.

On 23 April 2024, committee hearings were held, with the Greens and Coalition committee members being highly critical of the BPL. Cross-bench senators, including Senator Pocock, have also registered their concerns with the proposed BPL.

The ASMC was not invited to provide evidence at the hearing. The ASMC submission can be found [here](#).

Sugar manufacturer's position on the Electricity & Energy Sector Decarbonisation Plan

In its submission to the Federal Government's Electricity & Energy Sector Decarbonisation Plan, the ASMC presented opportunities within our sector to provide synchronous renewable electricity via cogeneration, and outlined our ability to provide enough biofuels to service 8% of Australia's domestic aviation energy needs.

The ASMC submission also highlighted the need for electricity market incentives, including access to the Capacity Investment Scheme for non-scheduled generators, and the need for policy measures like biofuels mandates to realise these significant opportunities.

Our submission can be found [here](#).

ASMC retains position on the ACCC Agriculture Consultative Committee

The ASMC has again been appointed to the ACCC Agriculture Consultative Committee, which provides feedback to the ACCC and Federal Government on competition issues with primary production supply chains. Membership of this Committee will ensure that sugar manufacturers will have a voice on competition issues, including codes of conduct. Other members include Canegrowers, AgForce and the

National Farmers' Federation. The new committee is scheduled to meet for the first time in June.

ASMC submits proposal to the Qld Bioenergy Fund

The ASMC has worked with members to put forward a joint application to the Qld Bioenergy Fund for government co-contribution for projects that will progress the sector's opportunities in cogeneration. These include further works to establish the viability of pelletisation of bagasse for use in cogeneration and the identification of suitable market incentives to encourage further investment in cogeneration. An additional project will examine the regulatory and operational risks associated with cogeneration.

The ASMC thanks members for working collaboratively to put forward a proposal that will share resources and attract government funding to create sector level benefits.

The Qld Bioenergy Fund was established after successful lobbying by the ASMC.

Update on uncovered loads & NHVR compliance/enforcement

ASMC has continued to work closely with CANEGROWERS as part of a dedicated Task Group during recent weeks to assist in industry preparations for the change in enforcement of heavy vehicle laws in Queensland from the State Department of Transport and Main Roads to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

The change has caused a level of concern that many of the systems used to haul harvested sugarcane on roads in Queensland sugar regions may not be generally compliant with the national heavy vehicle regulations in terms of the potential for spillage of cane to occur during transport.

Latest developments are that the NHVR has made its Northern Region Director available to join the Task Group with the current focus being on communications with the harvesting sector ahead of the crush start next month.

The major question being raised by operators is whether the loads of harvested cane being transported on roads need to be covered to comply with the law. The current message from the task group is that if a vehicle carting cane is not covered and not spilling cane then there will be no enforcement action for inadequate load restraint. However, if a vehicle carting cane is spilling cane, then the load restraint is inadequate and enforcement action could follow.

IN THE MEDIA

ABC Regional Radio Drive Show (11 April) – ASMC CEO, Ash Salardini, provided an overview of the significant opportunities in sugar manufacturing for cogeneration and biofuels production, opportunities that will be central to government's net-zero ambitions.

Triple M and HIT News Radio (11 April) – ASMC CEO, Ash Salardini, highlighted the opportunities in renewable energy for sugar manufacturing and the importance of sugar mills to regional communities and economies in the wake of the Mossman Mill closure.

COMING UP...

The Federal Budget – The Federal Budget will be handed down on 14 May. The ASMC pre-budget submission can be found [here](#)

Renewable Energy meets Qld Parliament – Bioenergy Australia is planning to organise a set of engagements between relevant industry associations and Queensland parliamentarians to promote opportunities in biofuels and the need for government action to establish viable markets. The ASMC will meet with Bioenergy Australia and other industry associations in late May to scope out this engagement.

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