

MONTHLY WRAP

June 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

Biosecurity Protection Levy rejected by the Senate

On 14 May, The Federal Senate rejected the proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy, that would have imposed a levy on agricultural commodities to ostensibly partially fund the biosecurity task. The rejection of the BPL will save our sector approximately \$1 million p.a., and more importantly, stop a framework that would have imposed a levy that would grow over time.

The ASMC worked hard to engage with all political parties, particularly the cross-bench, to highlight the negative impacts of the proposed BPL. The ASMC will maintain a watching brief on this matter.

Sugar Research Australia's independent review of performance

Sugar Research Australia has recently released its independent review of its performance. The Final Report, amongst other things, noted:

- the need for better engagement and connection with the sugar industry, with sentiment around engagement with milling stakeholders deteriorating most;
- better engagement and incorporation of stakeholder feedback into investment planning and SRA decision-making processes; and
- greater transparency on budget allocations for RD&E.

The ASMC is working with the SRA to develop formal and informal sector-wide engagement with the SRA on these matters, and tripartite industry, government and SRA forums to provide a holistic engagement process for all key SRA stakeholders.

The review can be found [here](#).

ASMC submission to the Reef Credit Scheme

The ASMC in its submission to Eco-Markets maintains its position that the Reef Credits Scheme remains problematic due to its singular focus on environmental pursuits and because the incentives are not aligned to current industry best practice approaches – especially for DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen) abatement in the sugar industry.

The ASMC would like to see the objectives of the Reef Credits scheme to explicitly acknowledge the need to optimise environmental and economic outcomes, and to align the Scheme to broader complementary approaches being taken by industry on sustainability.

The ASMC submission can be found [here](#).

Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap consultations

The Federal Government Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap is open for public consultation. The Roadmap currently sets out the potential pathways for transport and transport infrastructure to contribute to net zero by 2050. The Roadmap will be followed by an action plan that will develop the actions and policies that will be taken by government to support these potential pathways.

The ASMC will provide a submission to the consultations highlighting our potential role in the provision of sustainable biofuels, and the need for government incentives and regulatory support to kick-start this opportunity at scale.

The consultation process can be found [here](#).

Powerlink consultations on Queensland Renewable Energy Zones design and development

Powerlink has put forward a consultation paper, outlining its proposed plan in rolling out Renewable Energy Zones across Queensland. The proposed plan provides eight 'Insight Areas' covering issues including overall sentiment toward REZs, the development process, and engagement and social licence.

The ASMC will engage in this consultation process to note the importance of valuing the importance of land under cane, including accounting for the economic value of associated can infrastructure like cane rail.

The consultation paper can be found [here](#).

Sugar Research Australia carbon footprint calculator

Sugar Research Australia has joined other Australian Research and Development Corporations to simplify carbon accounting through the development of a standardised carbon calculation engine.

The Agricultural Innovation Australia's Environmental Accounting Platform (AIA EAP), once developed, will be a definitive carbon calculation engine for Australian commodities. It enables the calculation of a carbon footprint at a commodity, enterprise and whole of business level. The AIA EAP will assist in understanding the carbon footprint of growers and farming sector as a whole.

For more information click [here](#).

Safeguard Mechanism updated benchmarks for sustainable aviation fuel and biodiesel

The Safeguard Mechanism Rule was recently amended to include, among other things, the renewable diesel and renewable aviation kerosene production variables. The Department is releasing best practice (benchmark) emissions intensity values for these production variables. This may be of interest to stakeholders who are subject to the Safeguard Mechanism.

IN THE MEDIA

- **Media Release** – Reef Credit Scheme a missed opportunity to promote a balanced approach to sustainability, 13 May 2024

COMING UP...

- **Queensland State Budget** - The Queensland Budget will be delivered on 11 June 2024. The ASMC has sought government funding for transport infrastructure in cane growing regions, a joint industry-government approach in dealing with the sector's skills shortages, and government co-investment in the industry's decarbonisation journey.
- **Renewable Energy meets Qld Parliament** – In August, the ASMC will join other industry associations to meet with Queensland politicians from across the political spectrum to highlight the opportunities in bioenergy, and provide next steps on government actions to make these opportunities into reality.