

Australian Sugar Milling Council

Monthly Wrap

Queensland Budget Edition



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.

THE QUEENSLAND BUDGET

The Queensland Budget provided only a handful of new initiatives that may be of benefit to the sugar industry. The ASMC will use the upcoming Queensland elections to urge all political parties to understand the economic and jobs benefits and opportunities within our sector and the need to invest in:

- developing skills and workforce within the sugar supply chain;
- R&D to enhance advanced manufacturing practices to sugar;
- progressing the sugar manufacturing sector's bioenergy opportunities; and
- improvements in freight transport and infrastructure, noting that the movement of cane is one of the largest freight tasks in Queensland.

Over \$800m to upgrade dams in cane growing regions

The Budget allocated \$811m for previously announced upgrades of the Burdekin Falls Dam and Paradise Dam, providing more than 150,000 restored and/or additional megalitres of water for irrigation and urban use.

\$20 million over four years for agricultural industry workforce and skills development

\$20 million was allocated from the Backing Bush Communities Fund to develop the skills and workforce within agricultural supply chains. \$8m have been earmarked to AgForce and the Queensland Farmers Federation to establish a registered training organisation. The ASMC will seek details on this funding, noting critical skills and workforce issues across sugar supply chains.

\$26 billion over four years for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

This announcement is largely a restatement of existing projects across the state in pumped hydro, grid scale battery storage and transmission lines. The package also includes the \$4m Bioenergy Fund, that provides our sector with matched grant funding for feasibility and pre-feasibility studies for the development of biofuels and electricity cogeneration. The ASMC welcomed the announcement of the Fund, and we and members have applied for grants through this funding stream.

NEXT STEPS

- Throughout July and August, the ASMC will team up with other industries, including energy providers, airlines and the freight industry, to undertake a series of engagements with Queensland parliamentarians – *Renewables meets Queensland Parliament*. We will use this as an opportunity to progress the sector's diversification agenda with respect to the provision of renewable electricity and biofuels.
- The ASMC is developing its election platform that will highlight the opportunities, challenges and required government actions to maintain the significant economic and jobs opportunities in sugar manufacturing and new opportunities in the bio-economy. Once developed, we will engage with parliamentarians and the media to push this agenda forward.

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