



## Media Release

### **National feedstock strategy needed for Australia to be a power in biofuels**

The Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) has highlighted the need for a national feedstock strategy if Australia is genuine about developing a domestic capability in biofuels.

“We support Australia’s biofuels ambition, as sugar can provide close to 10% of Australia’s sustainable aviation fuel needs through the use of sugar byproducts alone, and a significant portion of the market if we utilise cane juice,” said ASMC CEO, Ash Salardini.

“This means we get all the economic benefits of sugar production, including the 20,000 jobs it creates, and the new opportunities in low carbon biofuels.”

In its submission to the Federal Government consultation on unlocking Australia’s low carbon liquid fuel opportunities, ASMC says that to date, governments have focused on generating demand for biofuels and promoting novel technologies to streamline the production process. The assumption has been that feedstock will simply be available for use in biofuels – a dangerous assumption.

“I think people have forgotten about the ‘bio’ in biofuels and this means availability of feedstock. Whether it is the bagasse from sugar or recycled cooking oils and fats, you need biomass to make biofuels,” Mr. Salardini said.

“Proponents have suggested we have enough feedstock to produce 60% of Australia’s sustainable aviation fuel needs. This is a nice sounding number, but it is really testing the boundary between optimism and foolhardiness.”

“Most feedstock is low weight by volume, and low value by weight – so it is not viable to transport it long distances if at all.”

“By far the biggest impediment to a stable source of feedstock is the shrinking amount of land available for agricultural production. Australia’s land use planning provisions devalue good quality agricultural land, leading to land being given away for urban development, industrial uses and renewable energy zones.”

To overcome these challenges, ASMC is calling for the establishment of a national biofuels feedstock strategy to take a holistic approach to the availability, storage and transport of feedstock, colocation of production processes with available feedstock, and to ensure land-use planning provisions account for the value of land that creates food, fuel and fibre in Australia.

“The current approach to biofuels really puts the cart before the horse – it is akin to opening up a restaurant without food.”

Please contact Ash Salardini, Chief Executive Officer on 0490 785 390 for more information

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***About the Australian Sugar Milling Council:*** *The Australian Sugar Milling Council is the peak industry body for the Australian sugar milling sector – contributing \$4 billion annually to the Australian economy and supporting more than 20,000 jobs. Our mission is to be the influential voice for positive change in the Australian sugar industry through leadership, advocating for the implementation of sensible public policy, and engendering productive government and industry collaboration. The ASMC works with its members, industry stakeholders, other industry representatives and government to develop and promote policies that enhance the sustainability, viability and economic contribution of the sugar industry in Australia.*