

# MONTHLY WRAP

July 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

### **Way forward on the crush for Mossman cane**

An agreement has been reached between Mossman cane growers, MSF Sugar and the Queensland Government to crush the estimated 300,000 tonnes of cane at MSF's Gordonvale facility for this season. The ASMC commends MSF, the Queensland Government and growers for coming to a sensible solution for this season's crush.

### **Renewables meets Queensland Parliament**

The ASMC has teamed up with Bioenergy Australia, Ampol, aviation and maritime industry representatives (amongst others) to meet with Queensland parliamentarians to highlight the opportunities and challenges for Queensland in biofuels. To date we have met with the member for Callide, Mr Bryson Head MP, member for Barron Rivers, Craig Crawford MP, member for Keppel, Ms Brittany Lauga MP, and member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP.

The ASMC highlighted the strong role the sector can play in biofuels with the right government incentives. Meetings will continue throughout July.

### **Raising sugar matters with the Australian Parliament**

On the week beginning 1 July 2024, the ASMC engaged with Federal parliamentarians and departments to highlight opportunities for sugar manufacturing in biofuels and the cogeneration of renewable electricity, a way forward on addressing the skills and workforce gap across the entire sugar industry, and promoting more R&D in the milling sector.

The ASMC met with the Honourable Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, provided a party room brief to Nationals parliamentarians from Queensland, met with the offices of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Skills and Training, and engaged with Queensland senators and MPs from across the political spectrum.

This was the last parliamentary sitting week before Federal Parliament adjourns for the winter break.

### **Parliamentary Committee proposes a sugar tax**

On 3 July, the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sports provided recommendations from hearings into the state of diabetes in Australia, recommending a levy on beverages with sugar-added content (amongst other recommendations), with the levy increasing as the sugar content increases.

The Coalition members from the Committee dissented against the recommendation, noting that the levy would have a disproportionate impact on those struggling with cost of living issues, while not being most effective on issues relating to diabetes.

The Federal Government will be required to respond to the Committee recommendations in due course, and the ASMC will continue to monitor the situation.

## **The expansion of the 'New Energy Apprenticeship' program**

On 1 July 2024, the Australian Government has expanded the eligibility of the New Energy Apprenticeship program to include a host of previously excluded apprenticeship classes.

The program provides financial support to the apprentice (up to \$10,000 over five years) and up to a \$5000 financial incentive to the relevant employer. Based on our discussion with Minister O'Connor's office, many apprenticeships within the sugar milling sector may be eligible.

For more information please see the following link [here](#).

## **IN THE MEDIA**

**Media release - [MSF Sugar comes to the rescue of Mossman canegrowers](#) - 19 June 2024**

**Cairns Post** – ASMC welcomes the efforts of MSF, the Queensland Government and Canegrowers in ensuring Mossman cane is crushed this season – 19 June 2024

**Media release: [Engagement on Renewable Energy Zones is not social license](#) – 24 June 2024**

**ABC News Radio AM Far North** – ASMC CEO spoke with Charlie McKillop on the progress of the crush, need for more government investment in cane rail infrastructure, and land use planning that promotes more land under cane – 25 June 2024

**Douglas Shire News** – ASMC CEO highlighted the need for more government investment in cane rail infrastructure to avoid more trucks on the road – 2 July 2024

## **COMING UP...**

**Federal Government consultations on transport and infrastructure sector decarbonisation**– The ASMC will provide a submission to this process noting our large freight transport task, and opportunities in the provision of biofuels. Discussion paper [here](#). Submissions are due by 26 July.

**Consultations on the Federal Government's 'Future Made in Australia' initiative** and its role in establishing a low carbon liquid fuel capability in Australia. The ASMC will provide a submission to this process, noting our sector's opportunities in biofuels. Discussion paper [here](#). Submissions are due by 12 July.