

Australian Sugar Milling Council

Monthly Wrap

Qld State Election Edition 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

ASMC launches its election priorities

The ASMC has announced its key priorities for the upcoming Queensland state elections, emphasising the critical role of sugar in the state's economy and the potential to secure the future prosperity of regional Queensland communities through smart investments now.

The sugar industry currently supports over 20,000 jobs and contributes \$4.4 billion to the economy annually. We are Queensland's second-largest agricultural export, and with the right government investments, we have huge growth opportunities in fields like bioenergy.

To maintain our jobs and economic contribution and capture the new opportunities available to us, we need smart investments in our sector and industry today.

Key Election Priorities include:

- **Target 34 Taskforce:** Establishing a government-industry taskforce to increase the annual cane supply to 34 million tonnes.
Why? To maintain the 20,000 jobs sugar supports and capture the new jobs in the bio-economy, the sugar supply chain requires a larger supply of reliable cane.
 - **Cane Rail Fund:** Securing an initial \$1.2 million for feasibility studies to optimise and maintain Queensland's cane railways.
Why? Cane rail is responsible for moving Queensland's second largest freight task, easing the pressure off already stretched regional roads. The Government must step up to ensure the continued reliability and safety of this network.
 - **Centre for Advanced Sugar Manufacturing:** Investing \$2.5 million over four years to establish a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Sugar Manufacturing, focusing on cutting-edge R&D and commercialisation opportunities.
 - Research dollars and talent for advanced manufacturing is monopolised by Sydney and Melbourne. If we want good paying manufacturing jobs, establishing an advanced sugar manufacturing R&D hub will help us attract the best and brightest to grow the manufacturing base across Queensland.
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- [Sugar Career Start Program](#): Allocating \$1.7 million over three years to address workforce and skills shortages, ensuring the industry has the talent pipeline needed for future growth.
Why? Unlike other sectors, sugar manufacturing draws on its local community for the bulk of its workforce. We need a holistic plan to ensure we attract the best of the best and train up our local workforce not just for today, but for the jobs of the future.

The detailed ASMC election priorities can be found at URL: <https://asmc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/STATE-ELECTION-PRIORITIES-DOCUMENT-Final.pdf>

Growers and millers unite – Sugar is too big to ignore!

Leaders from the Australian Sugar Milling Council and Canegrowers met on 11 October to send a clear message to the incoming Queensland Government – Sugar is too big to ignore!

CEOs, Chairs and members from the ASMC and Canegrowers met to chart a path for industry growth, including focusing on measures to improve mill viability, reliability and the availability and accessibility of the cane supply.

Noting that the challenges and opportunities will go well past any election cycle, both organisations agreed to continue the industry leaders' dialogue.

Advocacy win – ASMC secures funding for growing Queensland's bioenergy capacity

On 30 September, the Queensland Government announced funding for ASMC's \$660,000 project for renewable energy feasibility work in Queensland sugar mills. The project is the first step to potential investments in regional Queensland for more sugar mill cogeneration capacity, with the potential for up to one gigawatt of installed capacity.

IN THE MEDIA*

ASMC launches Queensland State Election priorities

- Channel 7 (Bundaberg, Wide Bay, Townsville, Mackay, Cairns) – 9 October 2024
- Star 101.9 FM – 10 October 2024

Funding for the ASMC's \$660,000 project on expansion of renewable cogeneration of electricity.

- [Channel 7](#) (Bundaberg Wide Bay, Townsville, Mackay, Cairns) – 1 October 2024
- [Radio 4KZ](#) – 1 October 2024
- [Gladstone Today](#) – 3 October 2024
- [Wet Tropics Times](#) – 3 October 2024

The need for a national biofuels feedstock strategy

- [Northern River Times](#) – 5 September 2024
 - [Grain Central](#) – 2 September 2024
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COMING UP...

Queensland State Elections to be held on 26 October 2024.

** Up to and including 10 October 2024*

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