



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

New R&D investments by Sugar Research Australia

On 2 December 2024, Sugar Research Australia and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries announced \$32.6 million of new R&D projects, including \$5.5 million towards R&D aimed at optimising mill operations and delivering enhanced milling efficiency. This is a welcome first step in refocusing the sugar industry R&D agenda towards those issues that will progress both the growing and milling sectors.

On 15 November 2024, representatives from across the milling sector, including the ASMC, and the SRA held a workshop to explore opportunities in setting up an 'Advanced Sugar Manufacturing Centre of Excellence'. The stated aim of this exercise was to focus on R&D for sugar manufacturing, with a greater emphasis on technology transfer, development and commercialisation.

A white paper is being developed by the SRA for the milling sector to provide feedback on the viability and efficacy of the proposal.

Results of resolutions from Sugar Terminals Limited AGM announced

The results from the Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 20 November 2024 was delayed due to the requested involvement of scrutineers for the counting of the polls and validation of proxies associated with the various resolutions.

On 6 December 2024, STL announced the results of resolutions passed at its AGM. Results include:

- Paul Schembri was elected as a Grower Director.
- The selection of a new Independent Director was still in progress and yet to be announced.
- STL received a second strike against the adoption of its Remuneration Report, however, the Conditional Spill Resolution was not passed. The increase to the Maximum Aggregate Limit for the Directors' Remuneration Pool was passed.

At the AGM, STL noted their commitment to continue on the pathway of insourcing operations, with transition arrangements to be progressed to assume full responsibility for terminal operations from 1 July 2026.

Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association suggests the need to export

On 26 November 2024, the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) provided a presentation to the International Sugar Organisation Conference that suggested, amongst other things, the Indian Government had been requested to allow exports of two million tonnes of sugar, noting that it had currently ruled out quotas for sugar exports from India.

The unexpected entry of such quantities of sugar supply would be highly disruptive to global sugar markets, and the ASMC has reached out to the Australian Government and is reaching out to ISMA to get a more detailed understanding of developments.

IN THE MEDIA

Media release: Without a Biofuels Feedstock Strategy, Future Made in Brazil not Australia – 27 November 2024. ASMC calls for the need to establish a national feedstock strategy for biofuels, to ensure the right market frameworks and incentives to ensure a viable domestic supply chain.

See URL: <https://asmc.com.au/without-a-national-biofuels-feedstock-strategy-future-made-in-brazil-not-australia/>

Canegrowers secure crucial exemptions amid harvest delays – Northern Rivers Times, Bundaberg Today, 10 November 2024. Industry secures exemptions from transport curfews over the Christmas period.

See URL: <https://bundabergtoday.com.au/rural/2024/11/10/canegrowers-secures-vital-exemption-amid-harvest-delays/>

Sugar is too big to ignore this State Elections – Wet Tropics Times, 7 November 2024 – The Australian Sugar Milling Council and Canegrowers urge the incoming Queensland Government to focus on the opportunities within the Sugar Industry.

See URL: https://readnow.isentia.com/Temp/200636-1129533606/1024687284_20251107.pdf

Media release: Sugar millers welcome Mackay Regional Council decision to protect the cane supply – 1 November 2024 – The Australian Sugar Milling Council welcomed the decision by the Mackay Regional Council to protect land under cane and rejecting a proposal to convert cane land into industrial land for electricity infrastructure owned by Edify energy.

See URL: <https://asmc.com.au/sugar-millers-welcome-mackay-regional-council-decision-to-protect-the-cane-supply-1-november-2024/>

COMING UP...

- This will be the last ASMC Monthly Wrap for 2024. We will publish the next edition of the Wrap in February 2025.
- Please note that the ASMC will be having an office shutdown from Midday 24 December 2024, returning on the 6 January in 2025. We wish all our readers and stakeholders a happy holiday and look forward to re-engaging in 2025.

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