

Australian Sugar Milling Council

Monthly Wrap

January 2025



THE ASMC MONTHLY WRAP

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The Australian Sugar Milling Council (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

North Queensland facing profound extreme weather events

North Queensland is facing significant extreme weather events, with floods or flood warnings up and down the coast from the Far North to the South of Mackay.

On behalf of the Australian Sugar Milling Council, our thoughts are with milling communities, growers and the public of North Queensland who are navigating this difficult moment.

The ASMC puts forward a growth agenda in its Federal Pre-Budget Submission

The ASMC has released its 2025-26 Federal Pre-Budget Submission, highlighting the crucial role that sugar manufacturing can play in addressing key national challenges. The submission underscores the need for more proactive industry policy in response to emerging global uncertainty as international trade rules come under pressure, including recent decisions by the Indian Government to resume sugar exports despite World Trade Organisation (WTO) rulings.

Key recommendations include:

- **Establishment of a National Bioenergy Feedstock Strategy** to ensure our energy future is made in Australia, from Australian feedstocks – this is more than an economic imperative, it is a matter of national security.
- Incentives to **expand sugar's baseload renewable electricity cogeneration capacity** that can reduce Queensland's wholesale electricity prices by between 10% and 15% from current forward projections.
- **Developing an indigenous biofuels supply chain in Northern Australia** to support Australian Defence capabilities, securing both national and fuel security.
- **The Cane Rail Fund:** Investing in critical infrastructure, including cane rail and level crossing upgrades, to remove landside chokepoints that have compromised our productivity and international competitiveness.
- **Establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Advanced Sugar Manufacturing and AI** that will provide the R&D and technology transfer capabilities that will ensure Australian sugar

manufacturing is equipped to capture the opportunities presented to us in an everchanging global market.

For more information see: <https://asmc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Pre-Budget-Submission-Final-v1-.pdf>

Indian sugar exports a growing concern for a rule based international trading system

On 20 January 2025, the Indian Government's announced resumption of exports of up to one-million tonnes of raw sugar, ignoring previous WTO rulings against its prohibited supports for sugar exports. The ASMC is very concerned with this development and has:

- Sought that the Federal Government make direct representations to the Indian Government on Australian industry concerns.
- Asked that the Government further work with like-minded countries, like Brazil, to raise concerns in the appropriate World Trade Organisation forums.
- Contacted associations in sugar exporting countries to ensure a multilateral approach in ensuring that India abides by WTO rulings.

We will keep you updated on developments on this issue.

The ACCC provides Sugar Terminals Limited customers with authorisation to collectively bargain

On 30 January 2025, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation to collectively bargain with Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) lodged by customers, including members of the ASMC, granting an authorisation for up to five years.

In its submission to the ACCC, the ASMC supported the application, agreeing that an authorisation to collectively bargain with STL will have public benefits in the form of increased market transparency, and also supported the proposed authorisation term of 5 years.

The ACCC has sought feedback from interested parties on the draft determination by 21 February 2025 and will make a final authorisation thereafter.

The preliminary findings can be found here: <https://www.accc.gov.au/public-registers/authorisations-and-notifications-registers/authorisations-register/wilmar-sugar-trading-pty-ltd-ors>

Funding to upgrade the Bruce Highway

On 6 January 2025, the Federal Government committed an additional \$7.2 billion to upgrade and fix the Bruce Highway in Queensland, to bring it up to a minimum three-star safety rating. As an industry body representing members up and down the Queensland coast, the ASMC has welcomed the Federal Government announcement.

The ASMC has sought that the upgrade project be leveraged to undertake grade separation of cane railways and arterial roads, like the Bruce Highway, removing 13 level crossing in and around Ingham and Mackay.

For more details see: <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/7-2-billion-new-funding-australian-government-fix-bruce-highway>

The ASMC Safety Conference to be held on the 25th and 26th March in Mackay

The ASMC Safety Conference will be held on the 25th and 26th of March in Mackay. Delegate nominations are still open, for further information including brochures and agenda, please contact asmc@asmc.com.au.

ASMC IN THE MEDIA

Date	Media Outlet	Program/Section Name	Headline
2/01/2025	Seven Qld (syndicated)	Seven Local News	Canegrower concerns on delayed crush
7/01/2025	WIN Qld (syndicated)	WIN News North Queensland	Central Queensland sugar cane farmers claim a delay in mill crushing is hitting them hard in the pocket.
14/01/2025	Newspost	Other	Many canegrowers miss out on this year's harvest
14/01/2025	WEB Burdekin Life	Other	Crush cost farmers \$83m
16/01/2025	Radio 4KZ	12:08 Rural Northern News	ASMC welcomed reports of increases in the value of raw sugar exports to the United Kingdom.
16/01/2025	Mackay and Whitsunday Life	Other	Mackay Region 2024 Crush Comes To An End
16/01/2025	The Australian	Online	Sugar cane farmer hopes crushed as mills falter amid high prices
17/01/2025	The Australian	General News	Farmers' hopes crushed by faltering mills
17/01/2025	ABC Qld (syndicated)	Country Hour (Qld)	ASMC welcomed reports of increases in the value of raw sugar exports to the United Kingdom.
21/01/2025	Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC)	Other	Raw sugar export values improve through Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement
21/01/2025	Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC)	Other	India's resumption of sugar exports risks global market disruption
21/01/2025	ABC Queensland (syndicated)	Country Hour (Qld)	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports
21/01/2025	Newspost	Other	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports
22/01/2025	ABC Qld (syndicated)	Rural Report	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports
22/01/2025	Seven Qld (syndicated)	Seven Local News	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports
24/01/2025	River 1467	06:30 Local News	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports
24/01/2025	3WM, 3SH, Gold 1242, 3NE, 3HA,3CS	Country Today AM	Australian concerns on the resumption of Indian sugar exports

COMING UP ...

- ASMC Trade Committee to be held on 26 February 2025.