



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 rebranding to ‘Australian Sugar Manufacturers’

As you may be aware, the Australian Sugar Milling Council will be undergoing a rebrand and name change: **Australian Sugar Manufacturers**, to take effect on 17 March 2025. This change reflects the organisation’s evolving role in advancing a diverse and sustainable sugar manufacturing sector while reinforcing the sugar industry’s contribution to Australia’s economy and regional communities. The new name more accurately reflects the industry’s role in producing high-quality sugar products, bioenergy, and other bio-based goods. The rebrand aligns with the industry’s future direction and will strengthen the organisation’s ability to champion the value of sugar manufacturing in Australia.

Key things to know

- The transition to Australian Sugar Manufacturers will take effect on 17 March 2025, with updates to digital platforms and communications to follow.
 - Our new website will go live next week and can be found at URL: <https://sugarmanufacturers.org>
 - All existing ASMC email addresses will continue to work and will redirect the mail to our new email account.
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ASMC announces its Federal Budget priorities

On 3 February 2025, the ASMC put forward its priorities for the upcoming Federal Budget (to be handed down on 25 March 2025). Key priorities 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 10-15% from 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 details, see URL: <https://asmc.com.au/federal-budget-sugar-manufacturers-call-for-a-new-approach-to-industry-policy-in-the-wake-of-emerging-international-trade-uncertainty-3-february-2025/>

Progress being made on bioenergy feedstock strategy

Throughout 2024, the ASMC has been calling for a national bioenergy feedstock strategy to identify:

- The potential uses for feedstocks, including sugar-derived feedstock (bagasse, juice etc.).
- The supply chain requirements to connect feedstocks to markets.
- Market and regulatory incentives (supply-side incentives) to make investments in the biofuels supply chain and in the generation of electricity.

Since our advocacy several feedstock strategies have been announced:

- A national biofuels feedstock study sponsored by GrainCorp to report to the Jet Zero Council (government-led working group to establish an Australian biofuel capability).
- The *Feeding Australia* strategy announced on 26 February 2025 by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The strategy will include understanding the potential biofuels capabilities and vulnerabilities in Australia.
- The Queensland strategy on bioenergy (ASMC has been invited on the steering committee for this strategy).

The upcoming Federal Election

The Federal Government announced that it will hand down its Budget as scheduled on 25 March 2025. Thus, the Federal election cannot be called before this date. This in all likelihood indicates a May 2025 election date.

The ASMC is developing its election priorities for the sector and will release and promote these in due course.

IN THE MEDIA

Date	Media Outlet	Headline
7/03/2025	Bundaberg Today	Mill hosts bio-refinery study
6/03/2025	Newsport	Sugar industry welcomes Feeding Australia strategy
5/03/2025	Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC)	Sugar manufacturers welcome the plan to secure our food and bioenergy future
5/03/2025	ABC Southern Queensland, North West, Wide Bay, Western Qld, Sunshine Coast, Capricornia, Far North, North Queensland, Tropical North	ASMC welcomes Federal Government food and biofuels strategy
5/03/2025	ABC North Queensland, Wide Bay, Far North, Tropical North	Concerns on Indian sugar exports
4/03/2025	ABC Southern Queensland, North West, Wide Bay, Western Qld, Sunshine Coast, Capricornia, Far North, North Queensland, Tropical North	The need for a bioenergy feedstock strategy
28/02/2025	Townsville Bulletin	Impacts of floods on the milling sector
27/02/2025	Queensland Country Life	Fears for sugar prices as India 'disregards' rules
27/02/2025	North Queensland Register	Sugar price fears as India sells 1mt
27/02/2025	The Land	Sugar fears over India's export plan
26/02/2025	Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC)	The Australian Sugar Milling Council welcomes the use of domestic feedstocks in SAF production
26/02/2025	Grain Central	Policy key to secure future biofuel investment: EvokeAg
25/02/2025	ABC Southern Queensland, North West, Wide Bay, Western Qld, Sunshine Coast, Capricornia, Far North, North Queensland, Tropical North	Grade Separation of Cane Rail from Bruce Highway
25/02/2025	ABC North Queensland, Wide Bay, Far North, Tropical North	Grade Separation of Cane Rail from Bruce Highway & concerns on Indian sugar exports
25/02/2025	ABC North Queensland, Wide Bay, Far North, Tropical North	Grade Separation of Cane Rail from Bruce Highway & concerns on Indian sugar exports
21/02/2025	Queensland Country Life, Stock & journal, North Queensland Register	ASMC raises concerns on the resumption of India Sugar Exports
10/02/2025	Canegrowers Australia	Crushing end to the season

COMING UP...

- ASMC Safety Conference – 25-26 March 2025
- ASMC AGM and Board meeting – 27 March 2025

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