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SUGAR MANUFACTURERS TELL PARLIAMENTARY HEARING: BIOENERGY IS A GAME-CHANGER, GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY STRATEGY NEEDED.

Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) have told Queensland's Primary Industries and Resources Committee that bioenergy can secure the future of the sugar industry, and called for a coordinated government-industry approach to make it a reality.

Appearing before the committee today, ASM CEO Ash Salardini outlined how Queensland's sugar sector could power up to 500,000 homes with renewable electricity, supply 40% of Australia's aviation fuel needs, and establish world-leading manufacturing facilities - all while supporting more than 20,000 regional jobs.

"We have a unique opportunity to safeguard our industry's future from global price shocks, while turning Queensland's sugar industry into a renewable energy and fuel powerhouse," Mr Salardini said.

"With the right investments, we could add over 800 megawatts of baseload renewable electricity to the grid, and significantly lower energy prices for Queensland households."

"I don't know of too many other power plant options that provide baseload and renewable electricity capacity and supports 20,000 jobs."

"Perhaps more interestingly, Australia's defence forces need 400 million litres of fuel each year and they're based where the sugar industry is."

"We can kickstart biofuels production and protect national security by ensuring our defence forces have a reliable, Australian-made fuel supply."

However, ASM warned that without a clear, coordinated plan between industry and government, the opportunity could be lost to rising global competition.



“We can make sugar, we can make electricity, we can make biofuels - but the right combination must be guided by government as a strategic partner, to ensure we get the biggest economic bang for Queensland and the sugar industry.”

“Government-industry cooperation is critical to unlock the investments that will ensure Queensland captures the jobs, energy security and regional development this opportunity offers. A full parliamentary inquiry to identify a roadmap to capture these opportunities would be a great first step.”

“We thank Queensland’s Primary Industries and Resources Committee for putting this important issue on the political agenda,” Mr Salardini said.

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Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) is the peak industry body representing the nation's sugar manufacturing sector, contributing \$4.4 billion annually to the Australian economy and supporting more than 20,000 jobs in regional communities. ASM works closely with its members, industry stakeholders, and government to develop and advocate for policies that enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and long-term economic contribution of the sugar manufacturing sector. From the production of raw sugar, bio-based manufacturing and generation of renewable energy, the sugar manufacturing sector continues to support communities, create jobs, and foster a sustainable future for the industry, and the broader economy.