

# Monthly Wrap

May 2025

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR  
MANUFACTURERS



*The Monthly Wrap provides a snapshot to members, the sector and interested stakeholders of key policy, advocacy and industry activities impacting the sugar industry.*

## **Policy and Advocacy**

### **ALP wins landslide victory in Federal Elections**

The ALP Albanese Government was returned to power with a resounding victory, holding 94 of the 150 lower house seats, and 29 of the 76 Senate seats (with the defection of Senator Cox from the Greens). The implications of these results include:

- The Government not needing to negotiate with the crossbench to pass legislation through either the lower house or the Senate.
- Having to only negotiate with the Coalition or the Greens to pass legislation through the Senate.
- The inability of the Greens and the Coalition to team up to pass resolutions through the Senate on their own, with the defection of Senator Cox to the ALP.

The ASM looks forward to working with the re-elected Federal Government, particularly on matters of common interests including securing the skills and workforce our industry needs, ensuring that affordable, reliable and renewable electricity generation from sugar, has a pathway into energy markets, and leveraging the Future Made in Australia agenda to build a domestic biofuels capability in Queensland.

For more information on the ASM's policy priorities [Click Here](#)

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### **Rural Press Club Event on sugar and bioenergy sets an ambitious policy agenda**

On 15 May 2025, the ASM hosted a sold-out Rural Press Club event – The Future of Sugar and Bioenergy in Queensland. The event squarely put forward a new policy agenda for the Queensland Government, where the sugar industry can provide 500,000 homes worth of renewable baseload power, while putting downward pressure on energy prices, and supporting 20,000 jobs in regional communities.

Similarly, the opportunity in biofuels was put forward, with the sugar industry central to kickstarting a domestic biofuels capability in Queensland that can provide 30-40% of Australia's domestic aviation fuel needs and contribute to the liquid fuels security of the Australian Defence Forces.

The event highlighted that nearly every source of generation in the market has received significant government support, and that sugar cogeneration should be no different. The question for policymakers is whether they want to support a generation source that also supports 20,000 jobs or ones that may support a few hundred.

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### **Sugar production season underway**

The sugar production season is well and truly underway with most factories now processing cane, with the Burdekin mills kicking off production this week.

Despite significant headwinds during the maintenance period, including floods and natural disasters, the sugar manufacturing sector has managed to kick-off the season more or less on time.

The ASM wishes to thank the hardworking employees across all sugar manufacturers for putting in the hard yards to ensure that the production season stays on track despite the many challenges.

Find our Weekly Processing Statistics [Here](#)

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## **Tripartite meeting on sugar R&D**

On 30 April 2025, Australian Sugar Manufacturers and Canegrowers put forward to a Queensland Parliamentary Committee the need for a government-industry strategy to capture the opportunities sugar has in the bioenergy space.

The ASM met with the Federal Government, Sugar Research Australia and Canegrowers to discuss the way forward on the sugar industry R&D agenda. The key take-aways from industry were the need to focus efforts on factors that are closer to commercial use and the adoption of existing R&D in the growing sector. From a sugar manufacturing perspective, the ASM suggested a focus on the adoption of technologies and innovations from across the world, including from similar industrial focused sectors like oil and gas, and the adoption of AI to address critical skills, workforce, operational, compliance and safety challenges.

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## **Coming Up...**

- Queensland State Budget – 24 June 2025

## **In The Media**

1/05/25 Queensland Country Life, *ASM looks at biofuel deal with the defence sector*

1/05/25 Mackay and Whitsunday Life, *Innovation And Insight at the Heart of Sugar Cubed 2025*

15/05/25 Queensland Country Life, *Sugar and bioenergy on the agenda at Qld Rural Press Club lunch*

19/05/25 Queensland Country Life, *Big bioenergy potential is on the doorstep for Qld sugar*

22/05/25 NQ Register, *POWER PLAY - Sugar's electricity generation potential*

22/05/25 Queensland Country Life, *Cane's huge power potential*

27/05/25 Townsville Bulletin, *Australian Sugar Manufacturers say cane rail flaw needs fixing after flood disaster*

27/05/25 Northern Territory News, *Australian Sugar Manufacturers say cane rail flaw needs fixing after flood disaster*

27/05/25 Cairns Post, *Australian Sugar Manufacturers say cane rail flaw needs fixing after flood disaster*

28/05/25 Cairns Post, *Cane train fail sours profits*

28/05/25 Townsville Bulletin, *Cane train fail sours profits*

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