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PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO SUGAR REGIONS SIGNALS A DEFINING MOMENT FOR A BIOENERGY & BIOFUELS BOOM IN QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into bioenergy from sugar is set to visit sugar manufacturing facilities near Mackay and Townsville this week, kicking off a process that could be a defining moment in the development of Queensland's biofuels and bioenergy sector.

The site visits, led by the Queensland Parliament Primary Industries and Resources Committee, will showcase the immense potential of sugar manufacturing to power a cleaner, more resilient energy future for Queensland.

"This isn't just a tour—it's the beginning of a transformation," said Mr Ash Salardini, CEO of Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM). "The regions in and around Mackay, the Burdekin, Ingham and Townsville are uniquely positioned to lead Queensland's bioenergy revolution."

"With the right policy settings and investment, these communities can become hubs for renewable electricity, low carbon liquid fuel, while maintaining Queensland's position as a global power in sugar production."

"More importantly, a biofuels and bioenergy agenda will help maintain and grow the more than 20,000 jobs the sugar industry supports. I don't know too many other power generators or solar farms that can support 20,000 jobs."

The inquiry, backed by the Queensland Government and chaired by Mr Stephen Bennett MP, will explore how sugar manufacturing can be leveraged to expand bioenergy production, including renewable baseload electricity and advanced biofuels.

"With targeted support, the sugar industry can generate enough renewable electricity to power half a million homes and produce biofuels that meet more than 30% of Australia's domestic aviation fuel needs," Mr Salardini said.

A successful bioenergy agenda will not only strengthen regional economies but also secure long-term investment in manufacturing infrastructure, making large-scale investments in the sugar industry viable.

"Modernising our sugar mills will make them among the most efficient in the world, securing international competitiveness for decades to come," Mr Salardini added. "And with Defence assets co-located in Northern Queensland, biofuels from sugar can also play a critical role in national fuel security."



ASM commends the Queensland Government, Minister Tony Perrett, and the Committee members for recognising the strategic importance of bioenergy and initiating this timely inquiry.

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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.*