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MEDIA STATEMENT

Sugar Industry to Increase Regional Job Opportunities While Reducing Emissions

Today, the Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) put forward a roadmap for biofuels and bioenergy that would underpin significant regional job opportunities while reducing emissions. The roadmap, submitted today to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's National Bioenergy Feedstock Strategy, outlines a transformative vision for Australia's sugar industry.

"Whether in Bundaberg, Tully, Mackay or Ingham, sugar manufacturers are laying the groundwork to transform these communities into national hubs for biofuels and bioenergy. With the right policy support, this roadmap will deliver thousands of regional jobs, strengthen fuel security, and help Australia meet its climate targets," said Mr Ash Salardini, CEO of the ASM.

The potential is noteworthy. The sugar industry can supply over 30% of Australia's domestic aviation fuel needs using sugar-derived biofuels, provide affordable biogas to regional manufacturers, and make steel production green by replacing coal use with biomass pellets made from bagasse and agricultural waste.

"Our industry can deliver both emissions reduction and regional jobs. More than 20,000 regional jobs depend on the sugar industry's diversification into biofuels and bioenergy. It is our pathway to long-term viability."

The sugar manufacturing sector is heartened by the bipartisan support for this agenda, with both a Federal Labor Government and a Queensland LNP Government clearly acknowledging the opportunities within the sugar industry to stand up this nascent industry.

"What we need now is action. We need co-investment in costly feasibility assessments that will ensure we have a pipeline of shovel ready projects once a market for biofuels has been established, we need co-investment in developing the supply chains that will serve the biofuels industry."

"We need an ambitious R&D agenda for advanced sugar manufacturing so we can adopt the latest and greatest technologies to continue to benefit from the economic dividends that sugar provides, while producing new products like biofuels, coal-replacement pellets, and biogas."

The time is now to secure the future of an industry that has contributed to the prosperity of regional Queensland for 150 years and has every intention to continue to do so for the next 150 years.

The contact for this matter is Ash Salardini – 0490785390 or a.salardini@sugarmanufacturers.org

The submission can be found here: https://sugarmanufacturers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/251106_ASM-submission-to-National-Bioenergy-Feedstock-Strategy_FINAL.pdf

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.