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AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MANUFACTURERS MEDIA RELEASE

GOVERNMENT PULLS THE LEVER ON DIRTY FUEL AND NEGLECTS AUSTRALIA'S ETHANOL SOLUTION

Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) is calling on the Federal Government to urgently engage with the domestic ethanol industry, warning that Australia is failing to use an immediate, home-grown solution to strengthen national fuel security.

Australia already has just under 370 million litres of ethanol production capacity, yet government has failed to meaningfully engage with the sector on how this capability can support Australia's fuel security.

ASM has stated that Australian ethanol producers have under-utilised manufacturing capacity and with the right policy settings, additional ethanol fuel supply is readily available.

At a time when the Federal Government is making decisions affecting fuel standards and supply chains, ASM has highlighted that ethanol continues to be overlooked despite being cleaner, domestically produced and ready to scale at a national level.

Australian Sugar Manufacturers Chief Executive Officer, Ash Salardini said the industry is ready now, but government action is lagging. "Australia already has nearly 370 million litres of ethanol production capacity, yet the government hasn't come to us to discuss what role this sector can play in strengthening Australia's fuel security," Mr Salardini said.

"Facilities like Dalby previously produced around 100 million litres annually, but years of policy uncertainty have meant that potential has been left sitting idle."

"We also know that the Sarina facility will be offline for over seven weeks, resulting in 10% of capacity being underutilised. With the right national policy framework, the industry could be operating at full strength."

Australian Sugar Manufacturers Chief Executive Officer, Ash Salardini said ethanol represents a practical, immediate and cleaner solution to strengthen Australia's fuel supply. The scare campaigns of yesterday around the dangers of ethanol blended fuel needs to be hit on the head, noting this type of scaremongering is jeopardising our fuel security.

"If insurance companies or others want to try and undermine the facts about ethanol, that's on them. The reality is that our sector is part of the solution to Australia's national fuel security."



“The government needs to start having serious conversations with industry about ethanol and national fuel policy. Australian Sugar Manufacturers stands ready to be part of the solution, but government needs to act now.”

Wilmar Sugar and Renewables General Manager Operations, James Wallace said the sugar manufacturing sector is capable of supporting Australia’s fuel supply if policy certainty is provided by the Federal Government.

“Australia has the infrastructure and capability to produce more ethanol domestically, but industry needs consistent national policy settings to unlock that investment and capacity,” Mr Wallace said.

“With the right policy framework, ethanol can play a meaningful role in supporting Australia’s fuel security while delivering cleaner fuel options for motorists. The Australian sugar manufacturing sector stands ready to be a part of the national solution.”

Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers, Peter Blanshard said ethanol-blended fuels deliver real benefits for motorists.

“Ethanol enriched fuel is clean and works. We could help the average Australian motorist by cleaning their engine and using cheaper fuel at the bowser that has better long-term effects on their vehicle,” Mr Blanshard said.

“E10 capability could easily be identified through government websites so motorists can check whether their vehicle can use the fuel. The Federal and State Governments need to come to the table and invest in this”.

“The Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers is backing Australian Sugar Manufacturers calls for a national ethanol mandate and is urging the Federal Government to introduce a mandate to strengthen Australia’s national fuel security.”

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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.*