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AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MANUFACTURERS MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MANUFACTURERS CALLS FOR A NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE TO UNLOCK ETHANOL PRODUCTION AND STRENGTHEN FUEL SECURITY

Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) is calling on the Federal Government to convene a national roundtable with the sugar and grains industries to develop a coordinated pathway to expand domestic ethanol production and strengthen Australia's national fuel security.

ASM Chief Executive Officer, Ash Salardini said Australia has an immediate opportunity to leverage existing manufacturing capacity to increase the availability of ethanol for fuel use and mitigate our exposure to global fuel supply shocks.

"Australia already has the feedstock, infrastructure and technical capability to significantly increase ethanol production, but we need a clear and coordinated policy framework to unlock investment," said Mr Salardini.

"The ethanol industry has enough ethanol to provide just under 3% of Australia's annual petrol demand right now, making us a solution to the current fuel shock."

"As a matter of urgency, we are calling on the Federal Government to implement a national ethanol mandate, so that we can start leveraging one of our few solutions to the current fuel crisis.

"A national roundtable would bring together government and industry to identify practical steps to expand domestic ethanol capacity and ensure Australia is better prepared for future disruptions to national fuel supply."

Mr Salardini said a stronger domestic biofuels sector would complement broader fuel security initiatives while supporting regional manufacturing.

"The sugar manufacturing sector is ready to play a greater role in strengthening Australia's fuel resilience, but investment from the Federal Government is critical," he said.

"We are calling for a constructive discussion between government, the sugar and grains industries on the role ethanol and broader biofuels can play in supporting Australia's long-term fuel security and emissions reduction objectives."

ASM said the Federal Government's \$1.1 billion Cleaner Fuels Program presents an opportunity to support investment in domestic ethanol production capability and associated infrastructure.

"Strategic use of the Federal Government's Cleaner Fuels Program can help build the additional ethanol capacity required to safeguard Australia from future global supply shocks, ensuring that ethanol, biodiesel and sustainable aviation fuel can plug any holes left by future fuel supply disruptions," Mr Salardini said.



“Australia should not overlook practical, lower-cost opportunities to strengthen fuel security using domestic feedstocks and existing industrial capability.”

Australian Sugar Manufacturers has reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively with government and industry stakeholders to ensure policy settings support investment, innovation and regional economic growth.

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ASM Media Contact

Josip Vidakovic

j.vidakovic@sugarmanufacturers.org.au

0423 359 827

***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.*