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AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MANUFACTURERS MEDIA RELEASE

QUEENSLAND MUST ACT ON FUEL SECURITY – SUGAR HAS THE ANSWER

Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) is calling on the Queensland Government to take immediate and decisive action to unlock the full potential of ethanol, warning that without stronger policy settings Queensland risks falling behind in fuel security, regional development and emissions reductions.

ASM Chief Executive Officer, Ash Salardini said the Queensland sugar industry is ready to play a central role in strengthening the state's fuel resilience, but requires clear and ambitious government leadership to do so.

"The Crisafulli Government is uniquely positioned to lead the nation in ethanol production. Unfortunately, policy ambition from the government does not match the scale of opportunity in front of us."

"The Queensland Government's recent announcement regarding exploration activity in the Taroom Trough is a positive signal that regional industry and energy security remain important priorities. However, it must be part of a broader, coordinated energy strategy that includes utilisation of existing ethanol capacity, and spurs investment in new expanded capacity in the long-term".

Australian Sugar Manufacturers have identified that ethanol represents an immediate, scalable and locally produced solution to one of Australia's most pressing strategic vulnerabilities – its reliance on imported liquid fuels.

"Australia has enough ethanol that can provide Australia with 10 additional days of petrol supply, however, more than half of the capacity is being used for non-fuel purposes. This is simply unacceptable."

"Queensland remains heavily dependent on overseas fuel supplies. This exposes us to global market shocks, geopolitical instability and supply chain disruptions. Ethanol can change the long-term equation. With the right incentives we can make billions of litres of ethanol in Queensland".

"Ethanol is produced here, from Queensland grown sugarcane. Queensland can once again be the envy of the rest of the nation and fully sustain itself", said Mr Salardini.

ASM noted that the sugar industry already underpins thousands of jobs across regional Queensland and has the capacity to expand ethanol production significantly, delivering both strategic and economic benefits.

"With the right policy settings from the Queensland Government we can increase domestic fuel production, create regional employment, reduce emissions intensity and create new revenue streams for Queensland's sugar industry".

Australian Sugar Manufacturers is urging the Queensland Government to take the following actions as a matter of priority:

- Strengthen and expand the state's ethanol mandate to drive increased domestic production and uptake – the current 4% mandate is only creating around 2.5% demand for ethanol and this needs to be addressed urgently.
- Provide long-term policy certainty to unlock further investment in biofuels infrastructure.



- Develop and release a comprehensive Queensland ethanol and biofuels strategy aligned with fuel security objectives.
- Partner with Queensland's sugar manufacturing sector to accelerate shovel-ready ethanol related projects.
- Position Queensland as the national leader in fuel security through coordinated policy platforms, infrastructure and market development.

“The time for incremental change has passed. If Queensland is serious about fuel security, regional jobs and practical emissions reduction, ethanol must be front and centre of the Government’s energy and industry agenda”.

Australian Sugar Manufacturers stands ready to work in partnership with the Queensland Government to deliver a clear, actionable ethanol roadmap that positions the state’s sugar industry as a cornerstone of Australia’s fuel security future.

“This is a nation building opportunity. From paddock to pump, Queensland’s sugar industry can drive a cleaner, stronger and more self-reliant fuel future”.

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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.