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AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MANUFACTURERS MEDIA RELEASE

QUEENSLAND FUEL SECURITY PLAN MUST INCLUDE ETHANOL

Today, the Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) welcomed the Crisafulli Government's *Queensland Fuel Security Plan* that aims to increase fuel refining and production capacity in Queensland.

"A central, cross-agency and coordinated fuel security plan is exactly what the doctor ordered, and sugar manufacturers commend the Crisafulli Government for taking a holistic approach to this fuel crisis," said Mr. Ash Salardini, CEO of the Australian Sugar Manufacturers.

Ethanol must be central to Queensland fuel security future, with the ability to provide solutions for securing fuel security in the short and long term.

"We can make 400 million litres of ethanol today in this country – that is an equivalent of 10 additional days of petrol for Australia. Not in five years, not in twelve months, but today."

"Less than half of ethanol production is being used for fuel, with 100 million litres of ethanol being exported. When politicians highlight securing an additional 100 million litres of fuel, they fail to mention there are ships taking the same amount out of Australia."

"This means every Queenslander and Australian is paying more for their petrol and putting extra dollars of profit into the pockets of the oil majors. Unlike other biofuels today, ethanol is more cost effective than its fossil fuel equivalent, saving consumers money."

In the long-term, the sugar industry can provide fuel security through the provision of ethanol blended petrol, sustainable aviation fuel and biodiesel.

"With the right demand-side measures, the sugar industry can provide 3-4 billion litres of biofuel, the equivalent of 25% of Australia's entire petrol needs."

Noting the centrality of the sugar industry for the economic well-being of regional Queensland communities, diversification into biofuels will secure the industry's future for the next 50 years. This requires Queensland Government investment and collaboration.

"We have a once in a generation liquid fuel crisis, we have a Queensland Premier who lives and breathes the sugar industry, and we have a sugar derived biofuel that is more than cost competitive with fossil fuels – it would be heartbreaking for sugar communities if the Queensland Government failed to capture the ethanol opportunities with both hands."



The ASM recommends the following urgent actions by the Queensland Government under the Fuel Security Plan:

- A minimum ethanol requirement for E10 fuel.
- Priority access for the sugar industry for biofuel expansion projects in Queensland, including ethanol, through the Sovereign Industry Development Fund.
- Commitment to \$7 million investment in a joint industry-government advanced sugar manufacturing R&D capability, with a focus on facilitating diversification opportunities through technology adoption.

“We have mills seriously considering investing in millions more litres of ethanol capacity in this country if there is any semblance of a commitment from a Federal or Queensland Government.”

“In times of crisis actions speak louder than words, and the time for governments to act is now.”

ENDS

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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.*