

NEWS RELEASE

Victoria Mill crush delayed

Rain has disrupted the start to the Herbert region's 2015 crushing season.

While Macknade Mill is still expected to start crushing today, Victoria Mill is unlikely to fire up before Thursday.

Wilmar Sugar Operations General Manager Mike McLeod said only about 10,000 tonnes of cane was expected to be harvested across the district today, with a similar total likely tomorrow.

"We expect Macknade Mill to start crushing this afternoon," he said.

"Provided the weather improves, we hope to have one side at Victoria Mill going some time on Thursday."

The decision to delay Victoria Mill's start was made this morning, in consultation with Canegrowers representatives.

"Like us, growers and harvesting contractors are keen to get going but many areas are just too wet," he said.

"Most of the harvesting is happening in southern parts of the region, which have received less rain."

After a very dry wet season, the district has received regular showers in the past few weeks.

“Up until Monday, we were still optimistic we would have enough cane to get both factories started today,” Mr McLeod said.

“Unfortunately, rain received on Monday afternoon and overnight left ground conditions too wet for many harvesting groups.

“We will continue to review the situation and will start Victoria Mill as soon as we have enough cane supply.”

The Herbert mills are expected to crush about four million tonnes of cane this year.

ISSUED BY : Wilmar Sugar Australia Limited
CONTACT : Kylie Newman (Community Relations Manager)
DURING OFFICE HOURS : (07) 4722 1958 or 0409 272 794
EMAIL : kylie.newman@wilmar.com.au

23 June 2015