

NEWS RELEASE

Burdekin crushing completed

The Burdekin's crushing season has wrapped up for another year.

Inkerman Mill was the last of the district's four sugar mills to finish its season, crushing its final cane just after 8pm on Thursday (12 November). Harvesting was finalised earlier that day.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager Steve Postma said the Burdekin mills crushed a combined total of 8.278 million tonnes of cane for the season – about 210,000 tonnes more than last year.

“Given the very dry conditions the crop held up surprisingly well against our original estimate,” Mr Postma said.

“After going the entire season with almost no rain it was unfortunate the storms didn't hold off for the final days of harvesting at Inkerman.

“While most of the milling area was unaffected, a small amount of cane in the Leichardt area was unable to be harvested due to wet ground conditions.”

Mr Postma said, overall, it had been a smooth crushing season.

“There are always opportunities to improve but, generally, the mills performed very well,” he said.

“The absence of rain meant it was a very busy season for all sectors.

“We thank all growers, harvesting contractors and our employees for their efforts.”

Unfortunately, the season was, once again, marred by a number of cane train safety incidents.

“We were lucky no one was more seriously injured in the three separate collisions which occurred in August,” Mr Postma said.

“Fortunately, no other crashes happened after that spate of incidents.

“We also had some serious near hits, including one involving a school bus.

“It’s an area of concern for us every season and we will continue to look at new ways to make people aware of the need to always give way to cane trains.”

Mr Postma said the mills would now turn their attention to capital and maintenance ahead of the 2016 season.

Another large program of work is planned, including a new stack for Inkerman Mill.

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

17 November 2015