

NEWS RELEASE

Burdekin crushing start date set

The Burdekin's 2016 crushing season is set to start in less than six weeks.

Wilmar Sugar's four mills will commence crushing on Tuesday 7 June.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager Steve Postma said the start date was agreed upon with grower representatives at a meeting today.

"In light of the district's improved crop estimate, all parties agreed it made sense to start the season in early June," Mr Postma said.

"There is an increased potential for a wetter-than-usual winter and we want to give all sectors the best opportunity to ensure all cane is harvested and crushed this season.

"We've allowed for about two weeks of wet weather delays in our modelling.

"Should that eventuate, the north-bank mills are likely to finish crushing in mid-November and Inkerman Mill will be a couple of weeks later, due to a strong crop on the south bank."

Mr Postma said the mills' capital and maintenance programs were developed to meet an early June start date and remained on schedule.

"Factory steam trials are planned to start from 23 May," he said.

The Burdekin mills are expected to crush about 8.3 million tonnes of cane this year.

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