

NEWS RELEASE

Rain disrupts crushing

Rain has halted crushing at the Burdekin's four mills and further delayed the planned start to the Herbert region's crushing season.

Falls of between 50-90mm were recorded across the Burdekin on Sunday.

Wilmar Sugar Cane Supply and Grower Relations General Manager Paul Giordani said it would be more than a week before the mills resumed operations.

"Ground conditions are very wet," he said.

"Even with the sunny conditions forecast for the rest of this week, harvesting is unlikely to resume before mid-next week, at the earliest."

The rain was also widespread in the Herbert region, with up to 80mm recorded in northern parts of the district and up to 30mm recorded to the south.

"Unfortunately, the southern areas were where we were predominantly expecting to source cane to enable Victoria Mill to start crushing tomorrow (21 June)," Mr Giordani said.

"As such, the start date has been deferred again.

"We hope to start crushing at Victoria Mill later this week.

“Both mills are ready to go and we will start Victoria Mill as soon as sufficient cane supply is available.”

Macknade Mill will not be brought online until more than 20,000 tonnes of cane can be secured across the district each day.

Victoria Mill was originally expected to start crushing on 14 June, with Macknade to start on 21 June.

The Burdekin mills commenced crushing on 7 June and have crushed about 500,000 tonnes of cane for the season.

Mr Giordani said Wilmar Sugar allowed for some wet weather disruptions in its season modelling.

“However, it is always a concern to use up a significant portion of that wet weather allocation so early in the season,” he said.

“It’s particularly concerning this year, given the weather outlook for the next few months.

“We need to ensure our mills safely crush as much cane as possible when sufficient supply is available.”

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

20 June 2016