

NEWS RELEASE

Rain disrupts crushing plans

Widespread rain has halted crushing at Plane Creek Mill and further delayed the planned start to Proserpine Mill's crushing season.

Some parts of the Proserpine district received more than 160mm of rain on Sunday, while Plane Creek totals reached up to 100mm.

Wilmar Sugar Cane Supply and Grower Relations General Manager Paul Giordani said crushing was unlikely to resume at Plane Creek Mill before the end of this week, at the earliest.

"The mill stopped crushing about 3pm on Sunday," he said.

"A small amount of cane was harvested on Sunday morning, before the rain arrived.

"Ground conditions are very wet and it will be several days before harvesting can restart."

Proserpine Mill's season has been delayed at least another week, with an exact start date uncertain.

"There have been significant falls recorded across the Proserpine district," Mr Giordani said.

"Ground conditions were already damp in some areas from earlier rain.

“We are hopeful the mill may be able to start early next week but it’s too soon to know at this point.

“We will regularly review the potential for harvesting in both regions, in consultation with growers and harvesting contractors.”

Plane Creek Mill commenced crushing on Thursday 16 June – two days later than planned, due to wet weather.

Proserpine Mill was originally due to start crushing on 14 June.

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.”

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