

23 August 2019

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Wilmar opens its mills to Mackay region growers**

Wilmar Sugar Australia kicked off its 2019 round of grower tours this week, hosting more than 75 growers at its Plane Creek and Proserpine sugar mills.

Mackay Regional Operations Manager Craig Muddle said the tours were an opportunity for growers to see the mills in crushing mode and see where the magic happens.

“A few of the growers hadn’t been through the factory before and they enjoyed seeing the whole manufacturing process – from bins of cane coming into the tippler through to raw sugar travelling up the belt and into storage.

“Some growers who had been in the industry for decades got a new appreciation of what was involved in processing cane into sugar.

“We also got some positive feedback about the tours and our milling performance from growers.”

Mr Muddle said numbers were up on last year and it was pleasing to see such a good turnout.

“We hosted 41 growers at Plane Creek Mill on Tuesday afternoon and 35 at Proserpine on Wednesday,” he said.

The tours were followed by food and refreshments, giving growers and millers the chance to socialise.

Plane Creek Cane Supply Manager John Tait said growers were generally happy with how the mill had been running this season.

“It was great to be able to sit down as an industry and reflect on some of the challenges we had at the start of the season and where we’re at now,” Mr Tait said.

“The rain caused issues at the beginning, but we’re well and truly making up for lost time. We are crushing consistently and are seeing some good throughput.”

Plane Creek Mill has processed more than 520,000 tonnes of cane so far this season – about 40 per cent of this year’s 1.28 million tonne crop.

Proserpine Cane Supply Manager Tony Marino said Proserpine Mill had also experienced a slow start to the season due to rain, but was now making up for lost time.

He said the mill had now processed more than 500,000 tonnes of cane – about one-third of this year’s 1.58 million tonne crop.

“We’ve invested a lot of money in Proserpine Mill and growers are seeing the improvements in performance and reliability.”

Wilmar will host grower tours at its Herbert and Burdekin mills next month.

## **ENDS**

*Media contact: Leanne Oliveri 0447 791 226*



*More than 40 growers attended Wilmar’s Plane Creek Mill tour this week.*



*Proserpine Mill Production Superintendent Damien Kelly (right) with grower Danny Lawrence chat after the Wilmar tour.*



*Proserpine district grower Dennis Madeo checks out the sugar fugalling process at Wilmar's Proserpine Mill.*



*Proserpine Mill Production Superintendent Damien Kelly (back) shows growers a mill mud being loaded. Mill mud is returned to farms to be used as a soil ameliorant and nutrient source for sugarcane.*