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NEWS RELEASE

Wilmar's Burdekin mills hit the halfway mark

The Burdekin is the first of Wilmar's milling regions to reach the halfway mark for the 2019 crush.

Regional Operations Manager Paul Turnbull said the Burdekin mills passed the milestone on this week and had crushed close to 4 million of the district's forecast 7.98 million tonne crop.

"We have manufactured about 570,000 tonnes of raw sugar so far this season.

"It has been a huge effort from our crews in the mills, workshops and locos so far and we're working hard to complete the crush in a safe and timely manner," Mr Turnbull said.

The region's largest mill, Invicta reached its halfway milestone today (*Thursday 29 August*).

Production Superintendent James Wallace said the Giru factory had crushed close to 1.5 million tonnes of cane since the season kicked off in June.

"It has been a good crushing season so far and the quality of cane coming into the mill has been good. We've also seen some good numbers around CCS, sugar recovery and sugar quality," Mr Wallace said.

"It is a positive result considering the wet weather in early July put a halt to crushing for around 10 days.

"The Invicta crew has really stepped up to get things back on track without a major safety incident."

Cane Supply and Growers Relations General Manager Paul Giordani has urged residents and visitors not to become complacent around cane rail crossings.

"It is important motorists, cyclists and pedestrians continue to use their train brain and stay clear of our locos," Mr Giordani said.

"Some motorists continue to speed through level crossings to try beat our trains, putting their lives and the lives of our loco crew at risk.

"That is why we are big supporters of events like Wednesday's Queensland Road Safety Week and Cane Train Safety celebrations in Ayr that get that cane train safety message out there," he said.

"Our team was there to spread the safety message just like we're continuing to do across schools, kindergartens and other community events in the region," he said.

Mr Giordani said there were still a few months left to the season and cane trains would continue to operate around clock 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We can't stress it enough: Use your train brain, stay clear of our cane rail corridor and always give way to cane trains," he said.

ENDS



Wilmar's Production Superintendent James Wallace at Invicta Mill, happy to have reached the halfway mark for the Burdekin's 2019 crushing season.

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