

14 May 2021

Newly upgraded loco on show at mill tour

The rebuilt Kilrie loco was a key point of interest for the growers, grower collective representatives and agronomists who attended Wilmar Sugar's pre-season tour of Pioneer Mill.

Invicta Mill's Kilrie is one of four 40-tonne locos to come off the production line at Pioneer Mill's loco workshop this year, following rebuilds from the chassis up.

Wilmar's Burdekin Regional Operations Manager Paul Turnbull, Burdekin Regional Work Execution Manager Glenn Brock and Pioneer Mill Production Superintendent Tyrone Small hosted the information session and tour on Wednesday 12 May.

Mr Turnbull reviewed last year's factory performance for Pioneer and Inkerman mills and outlined the work that had been done to address the major causes of lost time.

He also spoke about the new capital projects, including Pioneer Mill's new No. 2 boiler economiser and Inkerman Mill's new bagasse conveyor.

Mr Brock gave participants an overview of Wilmar's strategy of bringing large-scale manufacturing back in-house, and the flow-on effects for local skills and jobs.

He said Wilmar's Burdekin workshop was the central hub for major manufacturing projects across the business. The Burdekin team had built the major components for Victoria Mill's \$10.6 million evaporator and Proserpine Mill's \$6.1 million pan, which are being commissioned ahead of this year's crush.

He said the team had rebuilt four locos ahead of this year's crush: Invicta's Kilrie and Rita Island locos, and Victoria Mill's Jourama and Cairns locos.

Each loco got a \$1.7 million upgrade that includes a new cabin, engine, transmission, reversing box, electrical upgrade and remote shunting unit. Wilmar's Integrated Work Management (IWM) team completed all of the work in-house.

He said the upgrades were part of a 10-year strategy to upgrade the company's entire loco fleet. So far, 15 of Wilmar's 40-tonne locos have been rebuilt.



Burdekin Regional Operations Manager Paul Turnbull with Canegrowers Burdekin General Manager Greg Watson at the Pioneer Mill loco workshop.



Pioneer Mill Production Superintendent Tyrone Small (left) leads the tour through the factory.



Work Execution Manager Glenn Brock (left) with grower Peter Farr and son Brendan Farr.



Canegrowers Burdekin Director Glenn Betteridge and Wilmar's Burdekin Regional Work Execution Manager Glenn Brock at the tour.