

2 June 2021

## **Cane trains on the move ahead of 2021 crush**

Cane trains are on the move in the Burdekin as Wilmar Sugar gears up for the start of crushing next week.

Wilmar's four Burdekin mills are on track to crush the first cane for 2021 next Tuesday (8 June).

But cane trains are already on the move and residents are being urged to use their train brains.

Burdekin Cane Supply Manager John Tait said locos were now starting to deliver empty bins to cane rail sidings across the region.

"It's really important that people approach level crossings with caution and look out for cane trains.

"We've had a few months without cane train activity and people naturally become complacent. With the crushing season now just days away, we're urging residents and visitors to switch their train brains back on."

Wilmar's Community Relations Manager Kylie Newman visited the Ayr Community Kindergarten this week to talk to students about why they should stay away from cane trains and never play on or near cane railway tracks.

"We really want our youngest community members to understand just how heavy cane trains are and how much time they take to stop," she said.

"A locomotive weighs about the same as a humpback whale and a cane bin is about the same weight as an elephant."

The kindergarten children watched a video about the sugar manufacturing process and were each given a plastic 'Wilmar' safety hat.

They also watched Wilmar's train brain song animation and a video reel of crashes and near hits from the 2020 season.

This year's Burdekin sugarcane crop is estimated at 7.97 million tonnes – similar to last year's total throughput of 7.91 million tonnes of cane.

**ENDS**

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***Caption:*** Wilmar's Community Relations Manager Kylie Newman spoke to children at the Ayr Community Kindergarten about the upcoming crush and the need to use their train brain. Pictured, from left, are Amaeya Grabs, Claire Cross, Kylie Newman, Jude Lawry and Nate Ryder. Seated at front is Daley Rasmussen.