

3 June 2021

## **Burdekin mills gear up for 2021 crush**

Steam has been rising from the stacks at Wilmar's Burdekin mills in preparation for the start of crushing next Tuesday (*8 June*).

The four factories have been running steam trials over the past fortnight to commission boilers and other steam-driven plant before the first sugarcane goes up the belt for 2021.

Burdekin Regional Operations Manager Paul Turnbull said Kalamia Mill was running its second round of steam trials today (*Thursday*) to finalise commissioning of plant and equipment.

"We've done a huge amount of capital and maintenance work across the four sites since the end of last crush, and our crews should be very proud of what they've achieved.

"We're looking good for a Tuesday start of crush."

Invicta, Pioneer, Kalamia and Inkerman mills in the Burdekin will be the first in the Wilmar group to start the 2021 season.

With crushing just days away, cane trains are 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."

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.

Wilmar Sugar expects to process a total of 15.29 million tonnes of sugarcane across its eight mills this season.

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***Caption:*** Steam's on: Kalamia Mill Production Superintendent Chris Scovazzi and Operations Coordinator Mark Nicolaides at Wilmar's Kalamia Mill, where crews are running steam trials ahead of next week's start of crushing.