

7 June 2021

Growers tour Victoria Mill ahead of 2021 crush

Herbert cane growers got to see Victoria Mill's new \$10.6 million evaporator up close during a pre-season tour of the factory.

Herbert Regional Operations Manager Adam Douglas said the new evaporator was the biggest capital project for the Wilmar group of mills this year, as well as the largest fabrication project ever undertaken in-house.

"The project involved replacing two smaller evaporators with a single larger vessel to help increase rate and throughput at Victoria Mill," Mr Douglas said.

"It's been a mammoth project. Everything – from the engineering through to fabrication and installation – was done in-house, utilising skilled resources across our Herbert, Burdekin and Plane Creek workshops.

"Our local workforce should be particularly proud of their efforts in installing the new evaporator and completing the pre-commissioning work ahead of the 2021 crush."

Mr Douglas said the recent grower tour was an opportunity to showcase the new evaporator, as well as other major works completed during the maintenance season.

He said the two Herbert mills were on track to start crushing next Tuesday (*15 June*).

"Both factories have completed steam trials to commission the boilers and steam-driven plant before the first sugarcane goes up the belt.

"Victoria Mill will run a few additional days of cogeneration from Friday to export electricity to the grid, and to fully commission the factory in preparation for the start of crushing."

This year's Herbert crop is estimated at 4.38 million tonnes of sugarcane – slightly up on last year's total throughput of 4.25 million tonnes.

With crushing just days away, cane trains are on the move and residents are being urged to use their train brains.

Herbert Cane Supply Manager Lindsay Wheeler said locos were beginning to deliver empty bins to cane rail sidings across the region.

He urged locals and visitors to approach level crossings with caution and look out for cane trains.

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(PHOTOS NEXT PAGE)



Bruno Morelli, Lex Exelby Herbert Work Execution Superintendent Scott Costabeber and Tony Crisafulli at the Victoria Mill tour.



Pete Milanovic, Jared Casanovas, Herbert Regional Operations Manager Adam Douglas and Damien Morelli at the barbecue following the grower tour.



Major Project Execution Superintendent Wes Seri shows growers some of the new pipework at the Victoria Mill evaporator station.