

2 May 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Start date announced for Burdekin crush

The Burdekin district's 2017 crushing season will start in the first week of June.

Representatives from Wilmar Sugar consulted with Burdekin district grower groups this morning (2 May) on proposed start dates, based on a pre-season crop estimate of 8.4 million tonnes.

Burdekin Cane Supply and Transport Manager Steve Postma said it was advised that Kalamia, Pioneer and Inkerman mills would commence crushing on Tuesday 6 June.

He said Invicta Mill would start crushing a week later on Tuesday 13 June.

Based on these start dates with time allowed for wet weather, it is expected that Inkerman Mill will finish crushing on 19 November. Kalamia, Pioneer and Invicta will finish on 23 November.

Mr Postma said some grower representatives noted that any proposed start dates were contingent on cane supply agreements (CSAs) being signed.

“We acknowledge the need for CSAs to be in place before we can start crushing growers’ cane and are optimistic this will occur,” he said.

“Meanwhile, it is important that we continue with the detailed planning that needs to take place in the lead up to the annual crush.”

Mr Postma said this year's crop was slightly down on last year's, with roughly the same area under cane.

He said last year's extended crushing season had reduced the amount of time available to complete planned maintenance season work at Wilmar Sugar's four Burdekin mills.

"We've had a shorter maintenance season this year, which has placed additional pressure on our employees to complete the pre-season maintenance and capital works programs.

"We'll be working overtime to make sure our mills are ready to crush cane on the dates advised."

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