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**Thursday, 28 July 2022**

Wilmar's eight mills are in full swing after a challenging start to the 2022 season.

A significant rain event at the beginning of this month put a stop to harvesting across all of our milling regions.

The Herbert was first to resume harvesting and crushing operations after a seven-day weather stop, while other regions were out for around two weeks.

The cane crop continues to cut above estimate across all regions, with the biggest percentage gain in the Plane Creek region.

We have revised our total crop estimate to **16.05 million tonnes** – an increase of 770,000 tonnes on the pre-season forecast.

The combination of a larger crop and lost time due to wet weather will put pressure on season finish dates, making it critical that all sectors work together to get the crop off.

## HERBERT

CCS this week	Tonnes to date	Per cent of total	Total HBT crop
11.90	888,500	19 per cent	4.7 million tonnes

- Both Herbert mills have settled into normal operations and loading has increased to full supply after the wet weather.
- Bin weights have improved on previous years. This is supporting higher crush rates and underpinning efforts to get the crop off.
- The Herbert crop is continuing to cut above estimate and has been revised upwards from 4.4 million tonnes to **4.7 million million tonnes** – an increase of 300,000 tonnes.

## BURDEKIN

CCS this week	Tonnes to date	Per cent of total	Total BKN crop
13.14	1.22M	15 per cent	8.15 million tonnes

- Harvesting and crushing operations resumed at all four mills last week, after a wet weather stop spanning more than two weeks. However, wet field conditions continue to pose challenges for both harvesting and milling operations.
- Electricity exports from Pioneer Mill's cogeneration plant have been suspended until bagasse stocks are replenished.
- The Burdekin crop has been revised upwards from 7.94 million tonnes to **8.15 million tonnes** – an increase of 210,000 tonnes.

## PROSERPINE

CCS this week	Tonnes to date	Per cent of total	Total PRO crop
13.45	121,100	7.12 per cent	1.7 million tonnes

- The factory has settled down after some start-up challenges following the wet weather event, and we plan to further increase the crush rate later this week.
- Bagasse stocks, which were under significant pressure, are now rising to more comfortable levels.
- The Proserpine crop has been revised upwards from 1.64 million tonnes to **1.7 million tonnes** – an increase of 60,000 tonnes.

## PLANE CREEK

CCS this week	Tonnes to date	Per cent of total	Total PCK crop
12.47	224,700	15 per cent	1.5 million tonnes

- The factory restarted well after the two-week rain stop and the crush rate is increasing as cane supply improves.
- Cane quality has been much better than expected, with no increase in mud loading to the factory despite wet field conditions.
- The Plane Creek crop continues to cut above estimate and has been revised upwards from 1.3 million tonnes to **1.5 million tonnes** – an increase of 15%.

## IN THE COMMUNITY





Footy fans were reminded to use their train brains when Wilmar Sugar took over Community Corner for the North Queensland Cowboys' home game against the Cronulla Sharks on 13 July.

The game was a great opportunity for Wilmar employees and our mascot, Sam, to engage with fans of all ages about cane train safety.

Free coloured hair spray and face painting were on offer at Community Corner, as well as a #useyourtrainbrain photo competition.

The event doubled as a charity fundraiser, with Victoria Mill employee Todd Cockburn representing Wilmar in the Toyota Hilux Kick at half time.

Todd showed off his sharp kicking skills to raise \$1,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities North Australia.

Best regards

**PAUL GIORDANI**

General Manager - Cane Supply and Grower Relations



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