



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mackay Sugar introduces Tablelands Cane Transport Action Plan

Mackay Sugar this week introduced an action plan to address community concerns associated with the transportation of Tablelands cane to Mossman Mill, with the plan announced at several community group meetings held in Julatten and Mt Molloy.

The Tablelands Cane Transport Action Plan is the result of a series of community meetings and Community Planning Workshops held last year and early this year, involving community representatives from Mt Molloy and Julatten, and representatives from Qube Logistics (Mossman Mill's transport supplier) Queensland Police, Department of Transport and Main Roads and local councils.

Mackay Sugar Communications Manager Lorelei van Dalen said the Tablelands Cane Transport Action Plan provides the Mt Molloy and Julatten residents a clear understanding of the initiatives Mackay Sugar and Qube Logistics are putting in place to address community concerns regarding safety, noise and environment.

"The Action Plan includes the installation of four cameras in all sugarcane truck cabs (monitoring driver behaviour and the driving environment); speed limit enforcement for sugarcane trucks; the installation of identification numbers and a complaints number on truck trailers; the establishment of truck and bus driver communication protocols; the enforcement of truck load restrictions; enhanced truck driver training, and a dedicated community safety awareness campaign.

"The full Tablelands Cane Transport Action Plan has been provided to Mt Molloy and Julatten residents at this week's meetings and via a letterbox drop, and will also be published in next week's local papers.

"Mackay Sugar and Qube Logistics have invested a lot of time and money into the development of the Action Plan because we want our transport operations to be as safe as possible for the community and our truck drivers.

"Together with Qube Logistics, we will continuously monitor our sugarcane transport operations throughout the crushing season, and we will also be encouraging community members to report any inappropriate activity that threatens the effectiveness of our Action Plan," Ms van Dalen.

Mackay Sugar will form a Community Reference Group to monitor community concerns associated with the sugarcane transport during the crushing season and will conduct an independent survey regarding the transport operations soon after the season concludes.

From early May, Tablelands cane will be transported via trucks to Cassowary Ramps (just south of Mossman) and then via train to Mossman Mill. The season is expected to conclude in November; unless it is delayed by wet weather.

Mossman Mill is expected to crush approximately 1.3 million tonnes of cane this coming season, with about 700,000 tonnes of Tablelands cane to be delivered to the mill during the crush and an estimated 600,000 tonnes of cane supplied from the region's coastal farms.

The Tablelands Cane Transport Action Plan is available on the Mackay Sugar website (under 'Fact Sheets') at www.mkysugar.com.au.

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