



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bundaberg Sugar Ltd
ABN 24 077 102 526

4 Gavin Street
Bundaberg Qld 4670

PO Box 500
Bundaberg Qld 4670

Tel: +61 (0)7 4150 8500

Fax: +61 (0)7 4150 8522

www.bundysugar.com.au

\$27 MILLION INVESTMENT

Bundaberg Sugar's mills and cane transport operations will get a \$27 million boost during 2017 / 2018.

General Manager, Operations David Pickering said a good 2016 crop with favourable sugar prices has meant an opportunity to invest into the business. The majority of equipment will be supplied by Bundaberg Walkers Engineering with other local suppliers also involved.

"We have \$20 million allocated to maintain and build on the reliability already achieved in our mills.

"A further \$7 million will be spent on capital upgrades which include new juice heaters at Millaquin, and for Bingera an Australia first falling-film tubed sugar juice evaporator. Falling-film evaporators allow advanced steam-saving concepts to be implemented for sugar production. This work will start now and be fully operational for the 2018 season," Mr Pickering said.

"Replacing the aged juice heaters at Millaquin will provide energy efficiency by using vapour instead of steam. The result is less steam therefore more bagasse produced for use as fuel in the non-crush.

"The No. 2 mill at Bingera is being converted to independent electric drives. Aging hydraulics and the steam turbine drive were beginning to be an issue so the work will improve reliability and steam efficiency.

"In conjunction with that, upgrading controls on the small alternator at Bingera will allow us to produce more excess bagasse in the crush for use in the non-crush and provide extra electricity required for the new electric mill drives," he said.

Fire-fighting projects are also underway for both Millaquin and Bingera mills.

In addition, cane transport will see some improvements with efficiency being the key driver. Loco Givelda will get a new diesel engine and the upgrade of the Manoo and White Shed Loops on the North side will result in a quicker turn-around of cane bins transported between farms and the mill.

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For further information please contact:

Maria McMahon, Bundaberg Sugar Media Officer on 0488 908 987