



Media Release

For immediate release

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Bundaberg Mills to start crush early

Excellent growing conditions in the region have brought the cane crushing season at the Bundaberg mills to an earlier start on June 9.

Bundaberg Sugar general manager of operations, David Pickering said due to the size of the cane crop and after discussions with Bundaberg Canegrowers, the crushing start date for Millaquin is set for June 9 with Bingera mill crushing growers cane from June 15.

“Bingera Mill is commencing a week later to enable more growth in the crop after the fire at the mill last year delayed the start date of crushing. Bingera Mill will commission new powerhouse controls from the June 9.

“The favourable growing conditions have resulted in a crop increase from 1.56 million tonnes last year to an estimate of over 1.75 million tonnes for this year. If the predicted warmer winter is realised the crop is likely to continue to grow during the season,” he said.

In preparation for the 2015 crushing season an extensive \$14 million maintenance program is well underway at both Millaquin and Bingera mills.

Mr Pickering said in addition to the boiler, crushing mill and process maintenance, there are a number of capital upgrade projects.

“Projects at Millaquin include upgrade of the large process cooling pumps to larger drives and associated 11,000 volt distribution; an extra vacuum pump and converting a large pan to run on vapour instead of steam to enable a consistent higher crushing rate during warmer weather.

“Bingera mill is installing a wire rope coupling to drive Number 1 mill to better accommodate a wide range of cane type, and for more stable operation new controls for the 11,000 volt alternator are underway,” Mr Pickering said.

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