Mackay Sugar crush finished on a bright note

It’s official. The Central Queensland crush is over for another year. This week Mackay Sugar announced the last of the mills had finished for the year while Plane Creek Mill finished on 25 November.

Mackay Area Committee Chairman, Joseph Borg, said on a positive note for growers all the Mackay Sugar crop had successfully been taken off.

“Finishing in the first week of December is not ideal and is a longer time frame than what growers would like,” Mr Borg said.

“However, given the circumstances – both the financial and physical condition of the mills – growers will be relieved the harvest has finished with no standover cane.

“In excess of 4.92 million tonnes have been crushed, exceeding the estimate in August of 4.82 million tonnes and up from last year’s crush of 4.67 million tonnes. Final figures are expected to be announced by Mackay Sugar next week.

“Thanks to the Nordzucker investment, we are looking forward to a better milling performance in 2020. We have already heard about progress on this front with an investment program for all three mills in place.

“Harvest weather was fine and dry which was a bonus in getting the crop off quickly and efficiently – and I might say, safely, which is a real bonus.

“It also meant that crushing CCS was up to a bit over 14 on average (final CCS still to be announced), compared with last year’s 14.33.”

Mr Borg said that all things considered, growers had a better year to look forward to next year.

“We have hopes that world sugar prices will rise, given recent forecasts that demand will outstrip supply.

“We are in the box seat when it comes to market demand with much of the growth forecast for South East Asia. We also have a solid market in Australia with people stilling turning to sugar to add a little sweetness to their lives.

“We only need some good solid rainfall now as the cherry on the cake. Good rain now will ensure the 2020 crop can get away. Ratoons and plant cane are behind where they should be but a solid soaking will pull that up.

“The ideal season for sugarcane in our region is from the middle of June to the first week in November. We are looking forward to achieving this in 2020 to ensure income on-farm can be maximised,” Mr Borg said.

ENDS

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