

NICK DAMETTO
Member for Hinchinbrook



MEDIA RELEASE

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District anticipates season end

HERBERT River District cane harvesting crews are powering towards the end of the 2019 crushing season as trying conditions give way to a clean run to the finish line.

With Wilmar's Victoria and Macknade mills expected to finish up on November 23rd, Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto praised the resilience of the farming community after a tough start to the year with a prolonged wet season damaging crops.

"It's been a difficult year for growers that have been challenged by the weather and fluctuations on the world market. Some farmers have had to make the difficult decision whether or not to plant this year because of the wet season and now we are all praying for rain. Despite all that they continue to keep forging on," he said.

"To the week ending November 16, there was about 4 million tonnes of cane crushed between both mills."

Meanwhile Commercial Cane Sugar levels have remained steady, closing the week of November 9 out at 13.8 units.

This season's crop forecast was 4.04 million tonnes, with both mills having processed 4.72 million tonnes of cane last year.

"Cane remains our number one industry in Hinchinbrook. Simply put, when you've got a good crop and a decent sugar price the whole town benefits. If our farmers are doing well, the butcher does well, the mechanic does well and even the hairdresser does well. It's a fact that for every \$1 of economic activity in sugarcane production, an additional \$6.40 in economic benefit is seen elsewhere in the Queensland economy," he said.

"The Ingham and Ayr regions ride on the back of the sugar industry. The sugar industry value chain supports nearly one in three jobs. That's why I will continue to defend our farmers against Brisbane centric politicians in the south east. Our sugar growing towns depend on it. While economic diversification should always be pursued, agriculture will always be the heart and soul of Hinchinbrook.

"I would like to wish everyone in our region a safe final week of the season. Once again, farmers, harvesting crews, loco crews and millers have worked together to pull off another crushing season. Thank you to everyone involved with special mention of the partners, wives and mothers that

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support our men in the paddock. Without you they wouldn't be able to sustain the long hours asked of them on the job."

—ENDS—

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Photo caption

Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto has congratulated all involved on another successful cane crushing season.

Media Enquiries

Michael Serenc – 0423 108 848