

Plane Creek Mill Update



JUNE 2018

LOOKING AHEAD – the 2018 crush



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We have reached the end of a big maintenance season, which has seen more than \$16 million invested in capital and maintenance projects at Wilmar Sugar's Plane Creek Mill.

With the start of crushing just days away, the focus now is on finalising maintenance installations and conducting trials to ensure our new and upgraded equipment runs smoothly.

In the last four weeks we have seen the successful completion of our major boiler projects, being the No. 2 boiler screen tube, rear convection bank row and rear wall replacement as well as half a convection bank replacement in the No. 1 boiler. These works have been completed on time and on budget, and both boilers have been commissioned successfully.

I'd like to commend our Plane Creek workforce for completing such a large body of work safely and in a compressed timeframe.

We have seen a large number of new people to our industry this crush and I am sure it is the same in the harvesting sector. I urge all members of our local sugar industry to stay focused on safety as we move into the crushing season and to "watch your mate" as these new employees become familiar with our safety systems and processes.

While the operations team prepares for the crush, our asset management team is already focusing on next year's maintenance season strategy.

This includes finalising capital work design and doing pre-construction work ahead of the 2019 maintenance period.

Funding has been approved for the continuation of our bin fleet renewal program, with the manufacture of 175 bins commencing now. This work is done in-house and our bin shop team fabricates 10 new bins per week.

With a starting fleet larger than last year,

2018 CRUSH AT A GLANCE	
Crop estimate	1.23 million tonnes
Start date	14 June 2018
Estimated end date	3 November 2018
Wet weather allowance	10 days
Average CCS (budget)	14.40
Availability	86%

we will begin to realise the benefits of this program in terms of bin delivery time and mill throughputs.

On a final note, I'd like to wish all sectors of the industry good luck as we start processing this year's crop.

I look forward to a safe and successful season.

Plane Creek Mill – 2018 maintenance season projects



Major loco upgrade

The Carmila loco has had a major overhaul that includes a new engine, drive train and cooling system, along with a fresh coat of paint and cabin upgrade to align with the Wilmar group standard. Carmila's control system (pictured) and remote shunting unit system have also been upgraded. Costing **\$900,000**, the project is expected to improve reliability of the Plane Creek rolling stock. Carmila will hit the rails a few days after the start of crushing.

Boiler upgrade

Plane Creek Mill's No. 2 boiler has undergone a total of **\$1.87 million** in upgrades this maintenance season. This includes **\$1.25 million** to replace thin tubes in the boiler's screen wall and install a bullnose to improve gas flow (pictured, inset). About **\$628,000** was spent to replace a row of convection bank tubes and remove asbestos from the boiler's rear wall. The upgrades will increase the boiler's steam capacity and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.



Sugar conveyor gallery

A large span of Plane Creek Mill's sugar conveyor gallery has been replaced at a cost of **\$700,000**. More than 50 metres of the gallery, which carries raw sugar from the dryer to the bulk storage bin, were removed at the end of the 2017 crush. New steel has been installed to ensure the structural integrity of this critical infrastructure. This replaces the most difficult-to-access sections of the conveyor, which will be completely renewed in the coming years through staged replacements.

Intermediate carrier

Plane Creek Mill's No. 1 mill intermediate carrier has been the focus of a range of upgrades this year. A new drive train (pictured), rakes, head and tail sprockets, and runners have been installed at a cost of **\$344,000**. Issues with the No. 1 intermediate carrier caused a number of stops during the 2017 crush. The new drive is a standardised design being used across the Wilmar group and is expected to deliver greater reliability for the milling train.



Sugar screw

The main sugar screw that transfers sugar from the fugal stations to the sugar driers has been replaced at a cost of **\$85,000**. The old sugar screw had reached end of life and was responsible for two factory stops last year. The new sugar screw will improve reliability at the final stage of the sugar production process. It will also be able to handle a higher sugar rate as a result of the staged replacement of the fugal station over the next five years.

Cane rail network

About **\$450,000** has been spent upgrading a high-use siding at Cliftonville on Eversleigh Road (pictured). Work included relaying 500m of main line, refurbishing turnouts and switches and reconfiguring the siding layout. Civil work was also carried out to improve drainage. On the maintenance front, thousands of rusted fasteners were replaced between Shannons Flat and Westhill siding to reduce the risk of derailments.

