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NEWS RELEASE

Mill's new mud filter lifted into place

Two massive mud filters have been lifted through a temporary opening in Victoria Mill's roof, bringing the \$6.5 million project to its final stages of installation.

Herbert Regional Asset Manager Tienie van Blerk said the first mud filter was lifted into place last Thursday (5 July) and the second was lifted in the next day.

"Each filter weighs about 25 tonnes each, and the rigging gear used for the lift weighs an extra three tonnes," Mr van Blerk said.

"The filters had to be lifted about 30 metres into the air, at a radius of 42 metres, through a temporary opening in the factory's roof."

A 400-tonne crane was brought in to complete both lifts safely.

Once commissioned, the two new mud filters will boost the site's mud filtering capabilities by almost 50 per cent. This will reduce sugar loss in mud when the factory is experiencing high mud loadings.

"A lot of work was done during the maintenance season to prepare for the filter installation; removing a decommissioned juice clarifier to make room inside the factory, building new foundations and walkways, and upgrading the filter station's electrical switch room," Mr van Blerk said.

"Our team is currently working to complete the final installation of pipework, filter walkway platforms and the electrical wiring.

"Both of the mud filters were designed by Jord International and manufactured by Wulguru Group in Townsville.

"The filters were transported up to Ingham on a special low-loader trailer, which was brought up from the Gold Coast for this job.

"It was the only trailer capable of handling the weight of the filter while also being low enough to the ground to enable the filter to fit under the bridge on the highway at Yabulu."

PHOTOS:



CAPTION: A 400-tonne crane is used to lift the first of Victoria Mill's two new mud filters in through a temporary opening in the factory's roof.



CAPTION: The first mud filter is lowered onto its foundations inside the factory.



CAPTION: Wilmar Sugar Operations Coordinator Wes Seri (left) is part of the team managing the project.