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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Season ends on sugar high**

Wilmar has wrapped up the 2018 crush, producing more than two million tonnes of raw sugar across its eight mills.

General Manager Cane Supply and Grower Relations Paul Giordani said Wilmar's mills had processed 15.44 million tonnes of sugarcane in a season characterised by dry conditions and high sugar content.

"This has been one of the driest crushing seasons in years, with very little in-season rain in our Burdekin, Herbert, Proserpine and Plane Creek milling regions. This has resulted in a reduced crop but good sugar content."

Mr Giordani said all four regions had recorded above-budget CCS (Commercial Cane Sugar) levels this year.

"CCS is really the good news story for 2018," he said.

"Every region ended up with a season CCS around half a unit higher than earlier expectations, or even better.

"The Burdekin mills processed more than eight million tonnes of cane and finished with a season average of 15 units – giving it the highest CCS in the Australian sugar industry this year."

Mr Giordani said Wilmar's mills had produced about 2.22 million tonnes of raw sugar, most of which is destined for Asian markets.

Wilmar's crushing season came to a close about 4.15am on Friday (30 November) when the last bin of cane was tipped at Victoria Mill in the Herbert.

The Herbert mills processed 4.72 million tonnes of cane – only slightly down on the original estimate. The preliminary season CCS is 14.24 units.

Plane Creek Mill at Sarina processed 1.143 million tonnes of cane, with a season CCS of 14.70 units.

Proserpine Mill processed 1.561 million tonnes of cane. The season CCS was 14.95 units.

Mr Giordani said the November finish would allow work crews to get an early start on the extensive program of capital and maintenance work across the eight sites.

“It’s also good news for the growing sector as there’s more time to establish next year’s crop.”



*CAPTION: Production Superintendent Trevor Forde and Assistant Production Superintendent David Duffy watch the last sugar being transported to the storage bin at Wilmar’s Macknade Mill in the Herbert.*

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