

New Chairman for the Australian Sugar Milling Council

Mr Quinton Hildebrand has been elected to the position of Chairman of the Australian Sugar Milling Council following the resignation of Mr Mark Day who has taken up an international based position. Mr Hildebrand is the Chief Executive Officer of Mackay Sugar, Australia's second largest raw sugar producer.

Mr Hildebrand's election to Chairmanship of the Milling Council comes at an interesting time for the sugar industry as it emerges from the challenges of the past two years of extreme weather and disappointing crops. With the world price for sugar still at relatively high levels, Mr Hildebrand remains optimistic that the Australian industry can rebound quickly.

"In general, growers across the industry have re-established their crops with large areas being planted in the past year. Apart from the Burdekin area, where a very large crop is being harvested and processed this year, sugar mills have been underutilised during the past two seasons and we are looking forward to the cycle changing in 2012," said Mr Hildebrand.

He said that his optimism for the future of the Australian sugar sector brought with it a range of challenges and opportunities, with the Milling Council concentrating policy and advocacy efforts around 4 key issues.

"Our major focus areas are across land under cane and cane supply; carbon policy and the interaction with renewable energy; continuing efforts around trade and market access; and industrial relations and ongoing workplace health and safety efforts", Mr Hildebrand said.

"In addition, the Milling Council will continue to offer a range of direct value add benefits to our members such as assistance with government reporting requirements, group purchasing operations and information and training needs."

An immediate priority for the Milling Council working with the Canegrowers organisation is leading a comprehensive review of the industry research structures and funding under the banner of the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance.

"This exercise will lead to a reinvigoration of our world- leading industry research to ensure that it continues to underpin the success of the Australian sugar industry," said Mr Hildebrand.

Mr Hildebrand said that he was looking forward to working with his fellow ASMC Directors to ensure a continuation of the common advocacy and policy response to matters that impact the sugar industry.

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Quinton Hildebrand

Quinton Hildebrand's experience of the sugar industry spans 18 years and a number of disciplines.

Commencing as an economist with the South African Canegrowers Association, Quinton then moved to Tate and Lyle and took on strategic planning roles within Africa and Europe.

There followed a further 7 years when Quinton held marketing roles, firstly heading up the South African Sugar Association export single desk, followed by one year in the domestic marketing operations of Ilovo Sugar.

In 2008, Quinton moved his family to Australia where he assumed the duties of Chief Executive Officer with Mackay Sugar Limited in Queensland. Quinton is a Director of Sugar Australia and the New Zealand Sugar Company and has also, by rotation, served as Chairman of the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance.

Australian Sugar Milling Council

The Australian Sugar Milling Council is a voluntary organisation, established in 1987 to represent Australian raw sugar mill owners. The Milling Council is the peak policy forum for mill owners and has as its mission:

To drive a profitable and sustainable sugar industry through:

- Dynamic industry leadership;
- Strong and effective advocacy; and
- Creating new opportunities.

The Milling Council works with its members, other industry organisations and government to develop and promote policies that enhance the commercial development of the sugar industry in Australia.