

**Submission to Agriculture and Environment Committee on  
Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015.**

19 July 2015

Dear Committee Members.

As a third generation Burdekin Shire canegrower of a small but productive farm in the Home Hill area I support the above Amendment Act for the following reasons.

1. I wish to be able to choose the marketer of my sugar
2. I wish the government to intervene to protect my rights in this regard
3. I do not trust the miller to share profit fairly if they are not made to do so
4. I do want access to an independent marketer, such as QSL, and Wilmar has not agreed with this
5. I will not have confidence to expand if this longstanding marketing choice is denied

This lack of "Real Choice in Marketing" is the central issue in recent dealings with Wilmar.

Wilmar continues to exert its monopoly position by absolutely refusing to allow competition from other sugar cane marketing bodies, such as QSL, to market Grower Economic Interest sugar.

A recent statement by the Canegrowers Chairman neatly sums up how the miller power monopoly is sustained.

"The majority of growers are tied to supplying their closest mill because sugarcane is perishable and starts to dry up as soon as the cane is harvested. Other areas are simply too far away, leaving the vast majority of growers unable to negotiate a better competitive position with a neighbouring miller."

I support the Amendment Act for the sake and destiny of current and future generations of family-based cane growing businesses to have some protection against exertion of monopoly miller power.

Yours Sincerely.

*K. J. Cross*

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