

Sugarcane Bioenergy Inquiry 2025

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Email: [REDACTED]

27 October 2025

Mr Stephen Bennett MP

Member for Burnett (Chair)

Queensland Parliamentary Committee

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

BRISBANE QLD 4000

By Email: pirc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Bennett

RE: Inquiry into Sugarcane Bioenergy Opportunities in Queensland

Mio Ag and Co, welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Queensland Primary Industries and Resources Committee's inquiry into sugarcane bioenergy opportunities. As one of the larger family operated sugarcane farmers, we play a central role in the supply of sugarcane to the sector.

We support the diversification of the sugarcane industry toward bioenergy, biofuels, and byproducts, provided such opportunities deliver shared value to producers, regional communities and the broader economy.

About Mio Ag and Co

Mio Ag and Co, is a family owned and run property based in Clare North Queensland, operating a mixed farming enterprise, producing sugarcane, livestock, rotational crops, and operating harvesting and earthmoving works.

As a second-generation sugarcane enterprise, we manage 3000 hectares of which 2000 hectares is under sugarcane production, yielding approximately 150,000 tonnes of cane annually. Prior to recent succession, Mio Ag and associated family operations contributed approximately 1.6 percent of Australia's total sugarcane under production, we have generational interest in the success of the industry.

Position

- Queensland's sugar mills were originally established to process farmers' cane, not to operate as profit generators, separate from farmers. Over time, the ownership structures changed, creating an imbalance between mill and producer returns.
- The mill manufacturing sector must modernise, diversify and adapt beyond sugarcane crystal, if we are to remain efficient and embrace the many byproduct opportunities both domestically and value-add opportunities internationally.

- The production of biofuels and other bioenergy products would be a welcomed pathway for the Australia sugar industry.
- New manufacturing plants must consider mining-all-of group solutions, similar to operators in competitor nations, including capacity to process alternative feedstocks.
- If public taxpayer money is directed toward modernisation of the sugar manufacturing sector, it must also deliver direct and measurable benefits to farmers and communities who supply it.
- The government should consider **Australian-owned and operated consortium models**, incorporating local producers, community and regional investors as shareholders or benefit recipients, i.e., dividends, thereby ensuring domestic manufacturing sovereignty and fair value distribution.
- An investment in the sector, should consider re-location of mill manufacturing sites to feedstock production areas that offer strategic value and high-growth expansion opportunity, an e.g., the area between Clare and Dalbeg, Queensland.
- Locals report, the rail and infrastructure network servicing the sugar industry was partly paid by farmers and sold to the milling network for one dollar. This network built and designed for the purpose of sugarcane production remains (in spirit) for public benefit outcome of the sector, a better strategy to maximise this asset, in this way, should be given priority consideration.

For any questions about this submission please contact Enrico Mio on [REDACTED] or by email, [REDACTED].

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Enrico Mio
Chief Executive Officer
Mio Ag and Co Pty Ltd.