

## Condong Project Update

### BACKGROUND

This newsletter provides ongoing updates on activities in the Condong community related to the Sunshine Electricity renewable energy co-generation project.

The co-generation projects at both the Condong and Broadwater sugar mills have been developed by Sunshine Electricity, a joint venture of the NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative and Delta Electricity.

Sunshine Electricity will be one of Australia's largest renewable electricity generators and will make a substantial contribution to Australia's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The Condong co-generation plant will benefit our community by:

- Generating renewable energy by using bagasse as fuel
- Improving air quality in the Tweed Valley through reduction of pre harvest and post harvest cane fires
- Enhancing the viability of the NSW sugar industry
- Creating economic activity and jobs
- Replacing the old boiler equipment at Condong Mill with modern and cleaner operating boilers
- Generating renewable electricity to supply the equivalent of 50% of the Tweed Valley's annual electricity requirements.

### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Due to some unforeseen delays in plant construction and testing, the anticipated completion date for the plant will no longer be late 2007, but early 2008.

At this time, the commissioning phase has commenced, which means individual plant items such as safety systems, fuel handling systems and all plant components will be tested to ensure all systems and processes are functioning properly.

During August the co-generation plant started receiving treated effluent from the Murwillumbah sewerage treatment plant.

Treated effluent, which is currently discharged into the low flowing Rous River is being recycled as water for the boiler and for plant cooling at the Condong co-generation plant. Any water that is not required will then be returned to the Tweed River.

While the amount so far is relatively small it will gradually increase over the coming months.

### THE PROJECT:

- Will generate renewable electricity for sale to the public which will be sufficient for 50% of the Tweed Valley's annual electricity requirements.
- Will use cane leaves currently burnt off in the paddock as fuel, thus phasing out cane fires and "black snow" ash fallout.
- Will replace the old boiler equipment at Condong Mill with modern and cleaner operating boilers.
- Will reuse treated effluent from Tweed Shire.

### CONTACT

For further information please contact the DES/CBH Information and Noise Complaint Line on 6672 6079 during office hours and 0428 523 396 after hours.

# Condong Sugar Mill co-generation project

## MILL ACTIVITIES

The crushing season started in July after a number of delays in commissioning new mill equipment. It is expected that the old boilers will be in operation at least until late 2007 while the new co-generation plant is being tested.

The new equipment in the mill itself was installed prior to this season to ensure plant efficiency:

- Larger aluminium bins have replaced the old bin fleet to ensure efficiency of transportation. The new bins, now one and a half times larger, have also been fitted with tarpaulin so no leaf material is lost during transport.
- A new feeding station has been built to allow the mill to receive and handle whole cane as opposed to burnt cane. The receive tip is now also larger so the larger bins can fully discharge the harvest.
- The crushing mills have been fitted with electric drives to improve efficiencies in steam use.
- Old evaporators have been replaced with larger evaporator units to improve steam economies.

Despite this being their last year of operation, the old boiler dust emission control equipment has been given a full overhaul.

The plan is to commence harvesting and processing 'whole cane' (cane billets, trash and tops) as soon as the new conveyors are available for use. This will mean that cane fires will be systematically phased out.

Excess bagasse is now also being stockpiled for off-season use. The material will be covered as the stockpile is built to minimise dust and to keep the fuel dry. At present the bagasse is being transported by trucks to the stockpile but it will eventually be via the overland conveyor.

## ROAD WORKS

In the coming months it is expected that road works will be done on Clothiers Creek Road near the intersection with Tweed Valley Way.

The works involve the widening of Clothiers Creek Road to provide a turning lane into the fuel stockpile area.

Our aim at all times is to minimise any inconvenience to local residents. We appreciate your ongoing co-operation and patience.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NSW

The Federal Government's mandatory renewable energy target (MRET) places an obligation on retailers and large users of electricity to proportionally source increasing volumes of renewable energy.

The target is 9,500 GWh (gigawatt hour) by 2010, then continuing at that level until 2021. At this stage there are no plans in the Federal Renewable Energy Act for extension beyond 2021.

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) are created under the Federal scheme by accredited renewable energy generators using eligible fuels. RECs can be surrendered by liable parties to satisfy an obligation in the previous calendar year, or stored for use in later years, thus a trading market for RECs has emerged.

Public comment on draft legislation is currently being considered by the NSW government to introduce a new and additional renewable energy certification scheme (Renewable Energy Bill 2007), from 1 January 2008 and until 1 January 2031.

The proposed scheme will introduce NSW Renewable Energy Targets (NRET) in a similar manner to the Federal scheme and will allow eligible renewable energy projects, such as Condong, to continue the generation of RECs beyond 2021.

## ABOUT THE SUNSHINE ELECTRICITY JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS

The New South Wales Sugar Milling Co-operative is owned by about 600 grower members from across the north coast. The Co-operative operates three mills and a refinery and employs more than 400 local staff. NSW Sugar's products are sold into the wholesale and retail markets under the Sunshine Sugar brand.

Delta Electricity is a State-owned electricity generator which operates in two regions, the Central Coast and Western. Delta produces around 12% of the electricity needed by consumers in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. It is recognised nationally as supplying electricity safely, efficiently and at a competitive price, and its environment management procedures are in line with environmental best practice.

## FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

Greg Petersen, Operations Manager, Condong Mill,  
02 6670 1700