

MEDIA RELEASE

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FSC MILL PERFORMANCE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Fiji’s northern Labasa mill, has over the last 14 days, turned in its strongest performance this season. Labasa mill registered the largest improvement amongst the three sugar mills.

For the period from 22nd to 28th August, Labasa mill crushed an average of 4588 tonnes of cane a day, which was a significant 15% improvement compared to the 7 days prior. A daily average of 359 cane lorries and 322 rail carts were unloaded for the same period, which translated to a 15% and 29% increase respectively, compared to the previous 7 day period.

The improvements in the Labasa Mill have been attributed to the Mill management paying greater attention to crucial components of the sugar milling process. This greater focus has enhanced its monitoring of key areas.

FSC Chief Executive Officer Graham Clark says “we are pleased with Labasa’s continuing improvement but the mill is still capable of better and we look forward to further improvement”.

Rarawai Mill in Ba, consistently crushed over three thousand tonnes of cane per day over the last 14 days. For the period 15th to 21st August, the mill crushed a daily average of 3140 tonnes of cane which improved by 19% for the next 7 day period from 22nd to 28th August to 3736 tonnes of cane per day. Cane transported via rail improved by 3% from the previous 7 day period. Cane transported by cane lorries increased 22% for the week ending 28th August.



Above: FSC Chief Executive Officer Graham Clark at the Lautoka Mill

Clark says “we have commissioned two new pans at Rarawai and these are working well. Although the mill is still performing below its capacity, the week by week improvement is encouraging”.

Lautoka Mill has continued with its strong performance. The mill has consistently been outperforming last year’s results.

FSC Chief Executive Officer Graham Clark says “Lautoka is performing exceptionally well. Cane supply is also consistent, which is assisting with the good results for the mill”.

Over a 14 day period, Lautoka mill has increased the average tonnes of cane crushed per day by 3%. From 15th to 21st August, Lautoka mill crushed 4157 tonnes of cane per day. A total of 295 lorries and 199 rail carts per day were offloaded at the mill’s weigh-bridge. From 22nd to 28th August, the average daily crush increased to 4276 tonnes of cane. Cane transported to the mill per day was an average of 317 lorries and 213 rail carts, an improvement of 8% and 7% respectively, from the previous week.

FSC continues to be encouraged by the strong collaboration between industry stakeholders – cane growers, lorry operators and drivers and FSC. As the season progresses and ahead of spring rains, FSC has reminded growers the need to plant more cane, especially in fallow lands and also to consider ploughing out old ratoons.

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