

A slight amendment:

As part of the Senate Hearing on the Inquiry into the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill, the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) was asked to provide statistics on overall employment in the Australian sugar industry. ASMC has compiled as accurate and current information as possible on direct employment in the industry by canvassing its members, NSW Sugar Milling Co-Operative, CANEGROWERS, and industry service organizations and researchers.

ASMC has also projected construction employment figures based on potential co-generation expansion and efficiency projects under an expanded RET scheme.

ASMC's current (conservative) estimate of direct employment in the sugar industry, including Mill Operations, Cane Transport, Harvesting, Growing, Bulk Sugar Terminals, Marketing, Industry Representation, and direct industry research is 16,480. This is a revised figure from the 2001 census information given the reduced number of farming and mill entities.

Indirect employment flowing from economic contribution by the sugar industry can generally be estimated by using a multiplier of 4.

If the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill proceeds as proposed, the sugar industry has identified potential co-generation expansion projects of a scale outlined in the map tabled at the Senate Hearing. Construction of these potential projects would yield in excess of 2000 new construction jobs throughout regional Queensland and Northern NSW, with an additional multiplier effect in terms of contribution to regional economies.

I trust this information is of value to the members of the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

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