

Marian Mill – Proposed Bagasse and Mill Mud/Ash Storage Facility

Introduction

Mackay Sugar proposes to develop a bagasse and mill mud/ash storage facility adjacent to the existing Marian Sugar Mill by mid 2012. Mackay Sugar is committed to keeping the Marian community informed of the project and its progress, and conducts information sessions in Marian as the project progresses. An application to construct the facility has been lodged with Mackay Regional Council and is currently being assessed by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

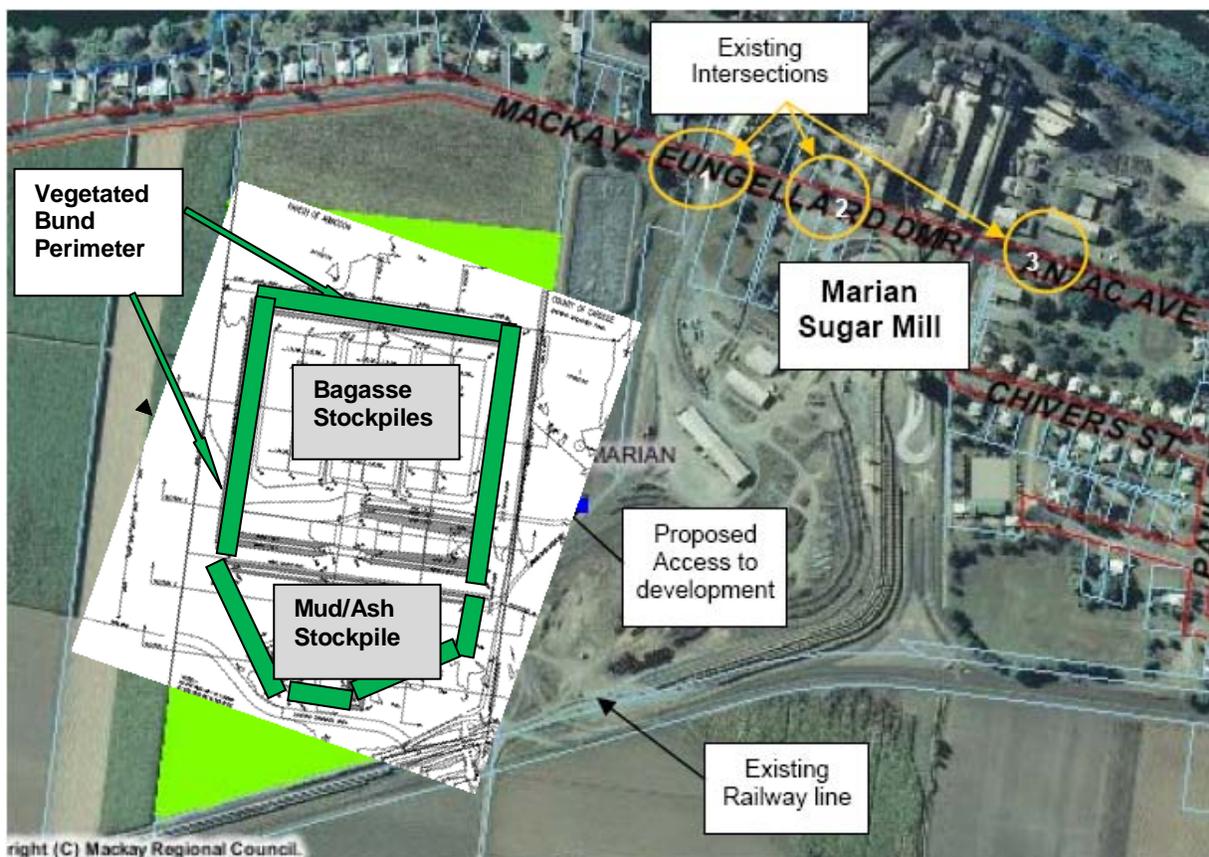
Bagasse, a fibrous matter that remains after sugarcane is crushed, is a biofuel used to power Mackay Sugar's milling operations. Mill mud is a residual mud and fibre removed from the cane juice, and ash is created from burning the bagasse fuel during the manufacturing process, both of which are reused and recycled for use within the agricultural sector as soil conditioners.

The facility will be used to store bagasse during the crush (May to November) and supply the bagasse to the future Racecourse Cogeneration Plant during the non-crush (December to April).

In designing the facility, Mackay Sugar has placed great importance on addressing potential environmental and community concerns. With the assistance of RPS (consultants), Mackay Sugar has conducted the appropriate environmental studies to ensure it meets Queensland planning regulations.

What is proposed?

The proposed activity comprises the placement, storage and removal of bagasse and filter mud/ash on a pad south west of the current Marian Mill, adjacent to the existing molasses bladder (see map below).



The facility will have the capacity to stockpile up to 42, 000 tonnes of bagasse during the crushing season. Transport of the bagasse is expected to be via one truck from the Marian Mill to the stockpile during the crush and from the stockpile to Racecourse Mill during the non-crush period.

The facility will also have the capacity to store and supply mill mud/ash to cane growers under the Department of Environment and Resource Management General Approval of a Resource for Beneficial Use – Sugar Mill By-Products. The storage of mud/ash is expected to only be undertaken in the event of prolonged wet weather during the crush, as wet weather prevents the immediate distribution and spreading of the beneficial product.

Why is the facility needed?

Mackay Sugar’s Marian and Farleigh mills stockpile and supply excess bagasse to the Racecourse Mill and its adjacent sugar refinery during the crushing period as fuel for the onsite boilers. With the construction of the new \$120 million Racecourse Cogeneration Plant (scheduled for commissioning in late 2012), the burning of the bagasse will become more efficient, with the ability to extend the use of bagasse during the non-crush, reduce the reliance on coal, and supply enough renewable energy for approximately 30 per cent of Mackay’s electricity needs.

Environmental management

Mackay Sugar is committed to responsible environmental management, and has developed the facility’s site plan in consultation with DERM and the Department of Transport, with the aim of delivering a project that has minimal impact on the Marian community.

Preliminary environmental studies to date have focussed on the facility’s potential environmental impacts, including noise, traffic, odour, dust, stockpile leachate and visual impact. Mackay Sugar will implement the following measures to address these potential impacts (as outlined below):

Environmental Element	Controls/Outcomes
Noise	Earthen bund wall around pad. Outcome: Minimise noise from site.
Traffic	Bagasse for Racecourse stored on Marian pad. Outcome: Reduced frequency of truck movements through town during the crush.
Odour	Tarping of bagasse stockpiles. Outcome: Minimise odour from stockpiles.
Dust	Tarping of bagasse stockpiles, water cart/sprinklers for unsealed roads. Outcome: Manage fugitive dust from stockpiles.
Stockpile Leachate	1 st flush stormwater pond connected to Marian Mill effluent system. Outcome: Only clean water released to the environment.
Visual Impact	Earthen bund wall and vegetation buffer. Outcome: Provide visual barrier.
Community Complaints	Community hotline Outcome: Maintain open communication with stakeholders

If you would like further information or would like to discuss this project further, please contact Mackay Sugar’s Communications department on 4953 8543.



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