

\$75M Green Power Station for Tableland Mill near Mareeba, QLD

MSF Sugar has announced that a \$75M green power station will be built at its Tableland Sugar Mill.



The power station will use bagasse to produce 24 megawatts of electricity – enough to power every house in the Tableland region.

MSF Sugar CEO, Mike Barry described the project as a significant confidence booster for both the region and the local sugar industry.

Mr Barry said: “This is the first of hopefully four green power stations to be built by MSF Sugar, with the others in the early stages of planning for construction at its sugar mills at Mulgrave near Cairns, South Johnstone near Innisfail and at Maryborough.

“The go-ahead for the remaining three green power stations will depend on the success of the Tableland project as well as stability in the relevant legislation. If all four green power stations are completed, it will equate to approximately 100 megawatts of renewable power generation capacity and a capital spend of around \$500 million.

“Building this renewable power station is the next step in our long term vision to transition our industry

towards producing a range of higher value products, moving away from mills that produce solely raw sugar.”

The project will create around 80 jobs during the construction phase, plus opportunities for local firms and contractors. Some \$40M – more than half the project cost – is expected to be spent on locally sourced labour and materials. Construction is expected to commence in May 2017 with completion planned for June 2018.

Mareeba Mayor Tom Gilmore described the development as a “considerable event” that would be a major boost for the economy.

The SRA Board toured the mill in August and received a briefing on the project from Mr Barry. The tour also included a visit to MSF’s farming operations and a run-down on their investment activities, and work on extension in the region.

The SRA Board regularly hold board meetings in regional locations, and this was their first opportunity to visit the Tableland region since the creation of SRA in 2013.



Photos: MSF has announced plans for a 24 megawatt power station at the Tableland mill.

