



Producers of Natural Food Fibre and Energy

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MEDIA RELEASE

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A PROPOSED energy park involving sites for electricity and ethanol production has been hailed as a golden opportunity for locals by BIG Co-operative CEO Jim Collins.

The BIG Co-op has been working hand in hand with south-east Queensland group Renewable Energy Australia for the development of at least four sites across the Burdekin to produce electricity and ethanol.

The electricity plants would produce up to 7.5 MW while the ethanol plants would produce alcohol for fuel and food.

It is anticipated the first electricity plant would be up and running by the end of 2007.

“This is a great opportunity for local sugar cane growers as well as the whole community,” Mr Collins said.

“Cane growers are at a point where they need to start competing in a commercial world and this energy park would certainly get the ball rolling.

“Growers are set to benefit in a huge way from this energy park.

“Diversifying the market and niche business options include diesel batching, plastics, mouth wash, antiseptics, rum and even sweets to China,” Mr Collins said.

Mr Collins said as well growers who supplied to the energy park would have a shorter season and would off-set some of the risks currently involved in growing cane.

Mr Collins said the proposed park was not yet a certainty and needed grower support to ensure its development and success.

He said while the Co-op was keen to see the energy park come together it would not happen without solid involvement from the grass-roots level.

“If growers want the full financial advantages of energy production – now is the time for them to act.”

Media Comment

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