



## Sugar Industry Reform Program 2004

### INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT GROUP AND REGIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS

The Australian Government acknowledges the critical role of industry and communities in determining their own priorities and activities and will provide up to \$8 million over four years to establish and operate the following elements:

#### Sugar Industry Oversight Group

The Australian Government will establish a new Sugar Industry Oversight Group. This Group will oversee progress on the implementation of sugar industry reform, including the refinement of reform priorities, development of a strategic industry vision and alignment of regional plans with that vision.

This Group will be appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and will also provide advice to the Minister on Regional and Community Projects.

#### Regional Advisory Groups

The Minister will appoint Regional Advisory Groups in the sugar producing regions, to foster a regional approach to industry activities and reform. In appointing these groups, the Government will ensure that existing regional industry initiatives are built upon and augmented.

Regional Advisory Groups will consist of local sugar industry and community representatives (eg from the local Area Consultative Committee) and will be responsible for identifying the key challenges facing the sugar industry and the most appropriate solutions which reflect the unique circumstances of each region.

The Groups will also examine areas such as farm practice improvement, farm aggregation, mill aggregation, diversification, alternatives to sugar cane, capacity building, business planning, environmental management, and infrastructure development.

These Groups will also contribute to the assessment process of Regional and Community Projects, ensuring that projects put forward to the Industry Oversight Group are aligned with regional plans.

#### Sugar Executive Officers

The Australian Government has Sugar Executive Officers in the sugar producing regions in Queensland, to work with local stakeholders on industry reform activities. Sugar Executive Officers will also provide an important support role for Regional Advisory Groups.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on [fcb@daff.gov.au](mailto:fcb@daff.gov.au)

