



MEDIA RELEASE

14 June 2017

Lautoka Mill Update

FSC management, in consultation with Lautoka senior mill management this morning confirmed an extended mill shutdown from 14 June. We expect the Lautoka Mill to recommence crushing cane by 10 am on Thursday 15th June 2017.

The reason for this unscheduled shut down is to allow enough time for the team at Lautoka Mill to fully assess and repair the damage caused to the diffuser and its scrapper drum by the rubber tyre that was found wedged inside the machine yesterday. The damage is more extensive than originally reported, and FSC believes that it is best to stop now and have the damage fixed, rather than limp through the issues that this situation has created.

FSC is consulting with affected Lorry drivers and the Lorry Association to divert up to 30 lorries that are queued at the Lautoka Mill, to our Rarawai Mill. The choice has been left to the lorry drivers, and FSC will compensate for the cartage from Lautoka Mill yard to Rarawai. Once the issues in the Mill are rectified, 700 fully loaded rail trucks will be used to test the Mill before further lorry loads will be accepted.

FSC Management and Lautoka Mill staff are committed to working around the clock to ensure that necessary works are completed alongside any other work that is required to be done, so that these intermittent stoppages are reduced. Besides this, FSC Management has commenced an investigation as to how the rubber tyre could have ended up in the Diffuser. FSC expects to get on top of these issues very soon and apologises to all parties that have been affected by this.

ENDS

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