



HERBERT RIVER EXPRESS COLUMN

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For immediate release

Concerns over *60 Minutes* program on sugar

A recent episode of *60 Minutes* made severe allegations against sugar as part of our modern diet. The allegations are a serious threat to the Australian sugar industry, one of the cornerstones of Queensland's economy.

Unjustified assertions about sugar were made suggesting it was toxic to the human body. I strongly support the sugar industry and the Queenslanders working in it. I strongly deny on their behalf, that sugar is a toxic substance.

As with all industries, the confidence of consumers is critical to the ongoing viability of your business. The *60 Minutes* program was an unacceptable treatment of one of North Queensland's most important industries.

It was irresponsible for *60 Minutes* to broadcast the scaremongering claims of an American academic who claimed sugar was harmful to humans. This type of sensationalist reporting has no regard for the impact it may have on others.

Thankfully, leading scientists and dieticians have been quick to discredit these claims. Sugar should be consumed as any other food should – as part of a balanced diet. Over consumption of anything can cause ill health.

We all know sugar should be consumed in moderation as part of a balanced diet. However, to claim sugar is a toxic substance is outrageous. As we in North Queensland know, sugar is a completely natural substance.

The sugar industry is a vital part of our local community. It is a major export earner and employer in Queensland. I hope all Queenslanders will reject this misinformation and support our sugar industry.

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Member for Hinchinbrook

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