

## ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS AND COMPLIANCE

The company responded to most concerns raised by affected stakeholders, mainly from surrounding communities. There were no serious incidents or non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with applicable environmental regulations registered during the year under review. The established community liaison forums between Tongaat Hulett and interested parties continue to address environmentally-related complaints.

There were no Level 2 or 3 environmental incidents nor complaints recorded in the year (2015/16: 2 Level 2 Incidents; 0 Level 3 Incidents). A total of 425 Level 1 incidents were recorded (2015/16: 416) while 142 Level 1 complaints were registered and attended to (2015/16: 92). Most Level 1 incidents were related to vandal fires (in sugarcane fields) and illegal dumping incidents perpetrated by unidentified members of the public. There were also incidents/complaints of dust, environmental noise and effluent smell particularly at Maidstone mill. At Starch operations, Level 1 environmental odour complaints were recorded related to nuisance odour often experienced during plant start-up or stoppages.

Operational processes were adjusted to improve odour emanating from production processes. At Tongaat Hulett Sugar Maidstone mill, purging of the system with lime and keeping to irrigation times reduced the odour complaints but these were also weather dependent. Environmental noise at the

same operation was caused by malfunctioning of equipment, which was repaired. The impact of dust from all operations is monitored through dust fall out processes. The plan that was previously committed to refurbishing feed dryers at Tongaat Hulett Starch Kliprivier mill was completed in July 2016 and optimisation of dryer operation after installation was also completed.

## INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) has provided independent third-party assurance over selected sustainability content of the 2017 Integrated Annual Report. The assurance was conducted in line with the AccountAbility AA1000 Assurance Standard (Revised, 2008) (Type I Moderate level). The engagement was conducted using the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles Standard (2008) criteria and those of the GRI Standards Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. For the detailed assurance statement refer to:

[www.tonga.com/2017/ermassurance.pdf](http://www.tonga.com/2017/ermassurance.pdf)

