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News release: Benefits to sugar cane industry

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NEWS RELEASE

No. 14/74

BENEFITS TO SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY

The Minister for Customs and Excise, Senator the Honourable Lionel Murphy, Q.C., and Dr Rex Patterson, Minister for Northern Development, today announced that action had been taken to permit the use of molasses spirit for the manufacture of vodka.

This should provide real benefits to the cane sugar industry.

Up to the present vodka could only be produced in Australia from grain spirit although vodka imported from overseas was not limited in this way. Following recent representations from the sugar industry this anomaly has now been removed.

The consumption of vodka in Australia has increased significantly, particularly over the last four years, and now represents more than two-thirds of the consumption of gin.

The Ministers stated that the change that has now been decided could have long term benefits to the sugar cane industry as it will open up a further outlet for alcohol manufacture from molasses.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

9 April 1974