

## ENSURE YOUR REGISTRATION MATCHES YOUR USAGE

Growers need to ensure that when driving any farm machinery, such as tractors, trucks and grape harvesting equipment they are properly registered. It is your responsibility to have at all times the correct paperwork on hand and in the vehicle.

You need to have a "Certificate of Approved Operation" and carry a copy of the *NSW Class 1 Agricultural Vehicles (Notice) 2015 (No. 1)*. A copy of this notice can be obtained from the RMS or the Board. It is 42 pages in length.

If you are conducting business on our own properties you are required to have applied for conditional registration by completing an "Application for Conditional Registration" with the RMS. The law provides primary producers with a concessional registration rate. Growers are required to sign a "Declaration of Eligibility for a Registration Concession". In signing this document you declare that for the vehicle in question you are a primary producer as defined under the *Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1988*

The following extract from the Definitions within the Act.

**"primary producer"** means a person:

- (a) who cultivates or uses the person's own land or that of another for the person's own benefit:
  - (i) for the production of fruit, grain, flowers, vegetables, tobacco or farm or agricultural produce of any description, or

**"primary producer's vehicle"** means a motor vehicle (not being a motor vehicle which is used or let for hire):

- (a) which is owned by a primary producer and while on a road or road related area is used solely or principally
  - (i) for carting primary products that the or another primary producer has produced ...

The **KEY** matter in the above is the underlined section "not being a motor vehicle which is used or let for hire" if you are undertaking work for others you will need to have business registration or evidence to support that you are doing it for no compensation.

To apply for business registration you need to attend your local Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) with the paperwork for the vehicle(s) and pay the business rate. Please note that once you have completed working for others you can return the vehicle back to the normal conditional registration and you will receive a rebate on the balance of the funds in due course.

The Board is also trying to liaise with the Riverina Winemakers Association in relation to the intake policies of the various wineries in the region. Some wineries are proposing to again allow the 3% variation to the Gross Vehicle Mass.

It is important that growers note that the 3% local system is not accredited by the relevant authority. If you are using the 3% as a guide and your winery accepts the delivery you may still be fined by the RMS as being overloaded.

The Board has in the past attempted to obtain a 5% system similar to that which is in place for the grains industry. However the NSW Government is concerned that the behaviour of harvested winegrapes is vastly different to that of grains and therefore will require more consideration and possible trials.

Please note that the current Grain Harvest Management Scheme does not apply to all vehicles and transport trucks with the heaviest Gross Vehicle Mass do not have a 5% allowance - it is a reduced amount based on a system employed by the RMS. Please see the RMS website for further details as we understand many growers are also carting grain this season.

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## BOARD ACTIVITIES REPORT



### NSW Treasury Update

The Board as requested by the NSW Government wrote a submission to the NSW Treasurer stating the reasons why the Board needed to remain in operation despite their review of Board's and Committee's.

Our office received a notification of receipt of the submission but as yet no formal notification that the Board will not be closed by the review process.

If you are speaking with our local Member of Parliament The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education please feel free to raise this matter directly with him as it is likely the matter of your support or otherwise will be raised in Cabinet.

### Levy Return Update

The Office has made the payment of the first tranche of grower rebates. Growers were notified in September this year by the Board with correspondence that included a Delivery Summary Report and Rate Notice for the 2016 season along with a form that we asked growers to complete to enable the Board to make the returns via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

The Board is now seeking details from those growers that have not responded to our correspondence. The Board is seeking to return to growers an amount equivalent to \$1 per tonne on production that was charged \$3.90 per tonne this season. Thus bringing the effective rate down to \$2.90 for the season.

The Board has undertaken these payments in prior years but this year chose to do this electronically to make it far simpler and to reduce the high incidence of growers not cashing their cheques.

### Staffing Issues

Members are aware of the departure of our Industry Development Officer and Technical Officer. In a bid to refresh how this part of the business engages with the grower base the Board has created an Extension Officer position. After a series of interviews the Board can advise that it has recently appointed to the position Mr Brian Bortolin. Brian is a grower well known to many and will commence duties in the new year. Please welcome him to his new role.

### Hail Damage to Riverland and Murray Valley

Recent storms have impacted the tonnage this forthcoming season with hail ripping through parts of the South Australian Riverland taking out an approximate 40,000 tonnes of winegrapes and a possible 25,000 tonnes in the Murray Valley region.

The total losses represents an amount of less than 4% of the annual crush for Australia. While the full impact on the 2017 crush are not known at this stage as it is dependent on which varieties were impacted it is understood that the effects of the hail damage are likely to be felt into the 2018 season as a number of producers reported bud damage to vines.

### Strategic Planning Meeting

An excellent attendance at the meeting held Wednesday 30th November 2016 at the Yoogali Club. The Board welcomed the growers, their partners and spouses over an enjoyable meal followed by a presentation by the Board.

Growers not in attendance can contact the office should you require a copy of the draft minutes. The main outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

The Budget for the 2017 Year was adopted along with the Strategic Plan for 2017-2021. The statutory fees and charges were also set at \$3.90 per tonne for the 2017 financial year of the Board (January to December).

Many participants used the meeting as an opportunity to talk about both their future and that of the Board with a motion from the floor recommending that the Board consider how it may need to operate in the future without legislative backing by the Government. Such a move would see the need for an Association to be formed under a voluntary membership scheme.

Other growers raised their concerns that grape prices are in desperate need of a lift as the past 8 years have left many within industry financially crippled without any real opportunity to regain lost funds.

### Meetings in Canberra

The Board attended a meeting in Canberra with Senator Anne Ruston and the Chief of Staff of The Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer's office to relay its concerns that not enough was being done in relation to the WET Rebate that would impact of growers returns. The Senator assured us that growers returns were her concern also.

## MEDIA WATCH

### The New Supermarket Booze Barns Racing Each Other to the Bottom

**Cayla Dengate: Huffpot Australia 31/10/2016**

A few decades ago, the only wines you could buy under \$10 were Passion Pop and discount Spumante.

Today, Aldi spruiks an award-winning rose for \$4.99, Woolworths-owned Dan Murphy's sells a shiraz for \$2.99 and now Coles' newcomer Liquor Market is going with the slogan "low cost and so much more".

What's changed to allow an influx of cheap barn-style bottle shops?

McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth Executive Officer Julia Stafford told The Huffington Post Australia these barn-style discount liquor stores have had a profound effect on what we drink and how much.

"A few decades ago, people would go to the pub to have a few beers and that's how the majority of alcohol was sold," Stafford told HuffPost Australia.

"Today, 80 percent of alcohol is sold in the form of packaged liquor from a store. Of those stores, Coles and Woolworths combined have a 60 percent market share."

The trend of selling alcohol within or directly next to supermarkets came about via individual state and territory liquor licence approvals as opposed to any federal decision.

"The way alcohol is sold through liquor retailers makes a big impact on the community and I think often the liquor retailers fly under the radar a bit," Stafford said.

"We focus much more on pubs and clubs and on the street

in night time entertainment districts, but we should recognise the role of liquor retailers and the huge volume of alcohol being sold through them."

### Australia's bottle shop franchises

- Coles owns: Liquorland, Vintage Cellars, 1st Choice Liquor Superstore and Liquor Market
- Woolworths owns: Beer Wine Spirits (BWS), Cellarmasters, Dan Murphy's, Woolworths Liquor
- Aldi has in-house liquor stores
- IGA has in-house liquor stores
- Independently owned bottle shops include: Thirsty Camel, Bottle-O, Cellarbrations, Camperdown Cellars

Cheap alcohol might be desired by some consumers but Stafford said a year-long review of alcohol advertising found the cheapest advertised alcohol was cask wine at 19 cents per standard drink.

"The link between cheap alcohol and increased consumption and harm is well established," she said.

"Especially when it comes to wine, it's taxed based on its price, not its alcohol content."

Centre For Alcohol Policy Research research fellow Michael Livingston said there were policy options to curb super cheap alcohol.

"The first option is to fix the wine tax so it's taxed on its alcohol basis, not its cost," Livingston said.

"The other promising policy option that's worked in Canada is for the government to implement a set minimum price for a standard drink.

"Both these options have pretty good evidence that they'll lead to health improvements in Australia."

### How to get the wine you really want

#### A new oenological contraption comes with a palette for your palate

**Nov 2nd 2016 | Science and technology**

IT'S enough to make sommeliers splutter into their spittoons: a wine-blending machine that lets drinkers craft a glass specifically to their personal palate, rather than having to pick a tippie, possibly as a result of guesswork, from the range a restaurant or bar chooses to keep in its cellar.

Vinfusion, as the machine in question is called, was launched this week by Cambridge Consultants, a technology company based in that British city. In

designing it the firm's researchers first undertook a study of the wines people buy in pubs, bars and restaurants. They found that most customers are stick-in-the-muds. Instead of sampling different regions, grape varieties and vintages, they tend to order the same plonk every time they go out.

Many of the survey's participants admitted reluctance to ask for advice—often because of the snobbery and mystique that (at least in Britain) surrounds wine drinking. This conservatism does not, however, lead to satisfaction. The survey, which polled 138 drinkers, found that 70% were regularly disappointed by the

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# WINE GRAPES MARKETING BOARD

wines they ordered. But it also found that the idea of having wines customised on the fly to individual tastes was appealing.

To design a machine to do this Sajith Wimalaratne and his colleagues at the firm had first to get past the arch language used by connoisseurs: “raspberry notes”, “elderflower aftertastes”, “prune flourishes” and so on. They therefore asked survey-participants which adjectives they would use. The most popular were “light”, “full bodied”, “dry”, “mellow”, “sweet”, “sharp” and “fiery”.

Armed with that information, and concentrating at first on reds, Mr Wimalaratne and the team analysed 20 wines to see which, both individually and in combination, best produced the flavours and aromas people wanted. They also matched these results to the popular descriptions. From their original 20 wines they picked four that act like the primary colours of a spectrum of viniferous flavours. Different combinations of this quartet yield something approaching the full range of gustatory hues. The wines in question are a pinot noir and a merlot from Chile, a shiraz from Australia, and, despite its whiteness, a French muscat. This latter they picked because it adds sweetness to a blend.

To create a new wine the customer manipulates three sliders on a touch screen attached to the machine. One moves between the extremes of “light” and “full-bodied”. A second runs from “soft”, via “mellow” to “fiery”. The third goes from “sweet” to “dry”. No confusing descriptions like “strawberry notes with a nutty aftertaste” are needed.

The desired glass is then mixed from tanks of each of the four primaries, hidden inside the machine’s plinth. The requisite quantities are pumped into a transparent cone-shaped mixing vessel on top of the plinth. Added air bubbles ensure a good, swirling mix and flashing light-emitting diodes add a suitably theatrical display.



Traditionalists may be appalled by all this, but they should not be. In Mr Wimalaratne’s mind, the Vinfusion system is doing something little different in principle from the blending of grape varieties that goes on in many vineyards, to produce wines more interesting than those based on a single variety. Moreover, if Vinfusion works as intended, it will let people experiment with viniferous flavours in a way which is currently impossible and which lets them discover what really appeals. A decent sommelier ought then to be able to recommend wines vinified in the conventional way that will taste similar.

In the longer run, recording and collating the requests made to a group of Vinfusion machines might even help restaurants and bars stock bottles that people will like, rather than merely tolerating. And if all this happens, the snobbery and mystique surrounding wine—whether blended in the vineyard or the restaurant—may disappear for good. <http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21709491-new-oenological-contraption-comes-palette-your-palate-how-get>

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT INQUIRY

The Australia Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman has been conducting an Inquiry titled “Payment Times and Practices Inquiry” in partnership with the Small Business Commissioners in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, and in association with the Council of Small Business Australia (COSBOA) and the Australian Institute of Credit Management (AICM).

Input will be sought from state and territory governments and authorities, along with other relevant stakeholder groups in addition to businesses large and small.

This is the Ombudsman’s first self-initiated inquiry and will culminate in the presentation of a final report to the Minister for Small Business, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, in March 2017. The Board is seeking mandatory payment terms across the wine industry.

## Wine community Christmas present: WET Rebate update.

Source: *Grapegrower and Winemaker 2nd DEC 2016*

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has announced a revised WET rebate and eligibility package, providing clarity before Vintage 2017 begins. The previously announced cut to the cap from \$500,000 down to \$290,000 will be revised to \$350,000 with an additional top up grant of \$100,000 also set to be introduced.

The revised eligibility criteria for claiming the WET rebate will become ownership of at least 85 per cent of the grapes at the crusher. The cap changes will also be deferred until 1 July 2018, but revised eligibility criteria will be brought forward to this date. There will also be a new mandatory process to ensure the tax liability has been incurred before the rebate is claimed.

### Key changes to the Government's eligibility criteria to protect the integrity of the WET Rebate scheme:

- Eligible producers must own 85% of the grapes at the crusher used to make the wine, and maintain ownership throughout the wine making process;
- The Rebate is limited to branded packaged wine, in a container not exceeding 5L and branded with a registered trademark for domestic retail sale; and
- The Rebate claims must be better linked to the WET being paid.

### The new eligibility criteria will apply from 1 July 2018.

Currently, the WET imposes a 29 per cent tax on wine products, separate to the GST, and the capped rebate is available to wine businesses that create growth and jobs in rural and regional Australia.

Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, said the package of changes reflects the requests from the grape and wine community "almost to the last decimal point".

"This is a real demonstration that if people can sit down, consult and listen... you can get to a position where everyone agrees," Ruston said. "There are lots of things we can do to improve the industry by getting the policy settings right.

"This is a fantastic result and we should use it as an example of what we can achieve."

Both the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) and individual wineries have welcomed the news. "The wine industry has fought long and hard for reform of the WET rebate eligibility criteria. The consultation process driven by Minister Ruston demonstrated the Government's willingness to listen to industry concerns and deliver a positive outcome," said Tony Battaglione, WFA chief executive officer. "Today's decision will put an end to uncertainty and put the industry in a stronger long-term position. "Growers and winemakers can now start the 2017 vintage with clarity about the WET Rebate. We congratulate the Government on their efforts and look forward to working with them to support our great sector."

Definitive plans for the \$100,000 grant will not be finalised before additional consultation, with plenty of time available before the July 2018 start date. "The focus will be on rewarding those who've made significant investments in their region," Ruston said.

Battaglione said the return of integrity to the WET rebate has been the main consideration for the WFA and the measures announced deliver on that need. "An outcome of a cap at \$350,000, combined with the acceptance of industry's eligibility definitions, and the \$100,000 grant scheme, is significantly better than the Budget 2016 outcomes and provides a platform for future growth. The revised eligibility criteria also strengthens the industry by recognising alternative business models including emerging winemakers who are making their start," Battaglione said. "WFA is very pleased that the Government has reconsidered its decision to reduce the WET rebate cap to \$290,000, today announcing it will maintain the cap at \$350,000. This rebate is critical to rural and regional communities and jobs, as well as future investment and growth.

"The announcement of the \$100,000 grant scheme, focusing on investment at the cellar door and supporting regional growth is also a very positive outcome for small and medium winemakers and reflects industry calls for a re-focus of investment at the local level. "Critically, the deferral of the rebate reduction to 1 July 2018 will allow the industry more time to adjust."

**Helen Strachan, Pernod Ricard Winemakers Legal and Corporate Affairs director:**

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"These reforms are a necessary first step in WET reform, and will go a long way toward addressing the distortionary impacts of the current rebate. We support a continuing focus on growing export demand for premium Australian wine, and are pleased that the Government has maintained its additional funding to Wine Australia."

In a joint statement from Treasury Wine Estates and Pernod Ricard Winemakers, the companies acknowledged "the significant work undertaken by the Australian Government, particularly Ministers Kelly O'Dwyer and Anne Ruston, in engaging with the wine industry to find practical solutions to the industry's concerns about the operation of the Rebate".

## **Tom Ward, NSW Wine Industry Association president:**

"The changes announced are a very positive outcome for small and medium winemakers and reflects industry calls for a re-focus of investment at the local level. Critically, the deferral of the rebate reduction to 1 July 2018 will allow the industry more time to adjust. The announcement of a grant scheme focusing on cellar doors is also seen as a positive step and we look forward to working with Government to ensure industry continues to benefit."

Ward also praised the role played by Senator Anne Ruston in driving the consultation process. "This is a complex issue with the potential to harm the industry." Mr Ward said. "The announcement today is a good compromise and mitigates the overall impact of the changes on those wineries with investment in cellar Door. Wineries can now go into the 2017 vintage with a higher degree of certainty and confidence."

**WA Senator Dean Smith** said the original proposal would have been hugely damaging. "This is a win for smaller, premium producers who will be expected to drive export opportunities provided by Australia's new export trade agreements," Smith said. "The Government's decision will be a much fairer deal that will protect jobs and grow economic opportunities across regional WA."

## **ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE WET REBATE**

The rebate was originally intended to assist smaller producers to remain in business, so that diversity in wine styles is maintained and to secure the positive economic impact of wine enterprises in regional

communities. The Explanatory Memorandum to the relevant legislation that introduced the current producer rebate system in 2004 stated, "Around 90% of wine producers will be able to fully offset their WET liability by accessing the new rebate. In particular, small wine producers in rural and regional Australia will benefit significantly..." As summarised by the Australian National Audit Office, the rebate was introduced "in recognition of the substantial financial hardship being faced by small rural and regional wineries and aimed to support their viability and consequent capacity to generate employment and wealth in local communities."

## **WET REFORM TIMELINE**

- Wine Equalisation Tax rebate reform was set to be rolled out as part of the 2015 Federal Budget;
- At that stage, the case for reforms had been agreed to by the WFA, Wine Grape Growers Australia (now Australian Vignerons), Wines of Western Australia, South Australian Wine Industry Association, Wine Tasmania, Wine Victoria, the New South Wales Wine Association and Queensland Wine Industry Association, as well as regions including The Riverland, Riverina and Murray Valley.
- Former Senator Sean Edwards, who is involved in winemaking in the Clare Valley, asked his then Coalition colleagues to reject the united position on reform:
- The reform package was cast aside at the 11th hour;
- Behind the scenes a hastily-organised delegation of industry leaders met with Assistant Treasurer Frydenberg in Canberra but were unable to prevent the budget backflip;
- Reforms were then considered as part of a broader Federal Government tax review;
- Changes to eligibility and reductions in the rebate cap, were then announced with the 2016 Budget;
- The industry was not impressed, with the WFA and WGGGA (now Australian Vignerons) releasing a joint statement spoke out against the reforms;
- Senator Anne Ruston led another Federal Government consultation process following the 2016 Budget announcement – which culminated in the announcement of a revised package on 2 Dec 2016.

## VINE WATCH FOR GROWERS

Growers can access important information in relation to viticultural matters from the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The newsletter was launched in 2014 and provides fortnightly updates and fact sheets that can assist growers in their production.

When first released the NSW Government stated that the wine industry will be more informed with the release of the specially targeted newsletter. DPI Leader Viticulture Mr Greg Dunn said the VineWatch Newsletter will provide wine and grape growers with timely and relevant information during the growing season regarding pest and disease, vine lifecycle and seasonal impacts, seasonal outlook, workshops and other viticulture activities.

To register for the VineWatch Newsletter please go to the following website:

<http://nsw.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=59ba43482b8c913efe7355823&id=d179b42dac>

Other relevant information regarding the grape industry: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/grapes>

### Need Help?

If you cannot work out how to subscribe please call into the Board office and discuss or call us during normal office hours and we can subscribe you over the phone.

## GRAPE PRICING FOR 2017

As presented to growers at the Strategic Planning and Budget meeting held 30th November 2016 at the Yoogali Club the price of grapes should reflect current market conditions and trends.

The table below is from September 2015. Downloaded from the Ciatti Australia website. **The price column is price per litre in Australian dollars.**

The price rises should be evident in the following:

- Chardonnay
- Sauvignon Blanc
- Pinot Gris
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Merlot
- Muscat and both dry white and red varieties.

Vintage	Variety	Price	Trend	Vintage	Variety	Price	Trend
NV	Dry White	0.45 – 0.65	↔	NV	Dry Red	0.60 – 0.75	↔
2015	Chardonnay	0.65 – 0.75	↔	2015	Cabernet Sauvignon	0.75 – 0.95	↔
2015	Sauvignon Blanc	0.85 – 1.00	↔	2015	Merlot	0.70 – 0.90	↔
2015	NZ Marlborough SB	NZ 5.25 – 6.00	↑	2015	Shiraz	0.75 – 0.95	↔
2015	Pinot Gris	1.10 – 1.30	↔	2015	Muscat	0.70 – 0.90	↔

Evidence below shows that the price of bulk wine is moving upward. The information from Ciatti the worlds largest broker of bulk wines September 2016 report below shows increases across all varieties.

References: [http://www.ciatti.com/sites/default/files/september\\_2016\\_ciatti\\_world\\_report\\_pricing.pdf](http://www.ciatti.com/sites/default/files/september_2016_ciatti_world_report_pricing.pdf)  
[http://www.ciatti.com/sites/default/files/september\\_2015\\_ciatti\\_world\\_report\\_pricing\\_0.pdf](http://www.ciatti.com/sites/default/files/september_2015_ciatti_world_report_pricing_0.pdf)

### Australia: Current Market Pricing (AUD/litre unless otherwise stated)

Vintage	Variety	Price	Trend	Vintage	Variety	Price	Trend
NV	Dry White	0.60 – 0.75	↔	NV	Dry Red	0.75 – 0.90	↔
2016	Chardonnay	0.85 – 1.00	↔	2016	Cabernet Sauvignon	1.00 – 1.15	↔
2016	Sauvignon Blanc	0.90 – 1.05	↔	2016	Merlot	0.95 – 1.10	↔
2016	NZ Marlborough SB	NZD3.20 – 4.00	↔	2016	Shiraz	1.00 – 1.15	↔
2016	Pinot Gris	1.20 – 1.35	↑	2016	Muscat	0.75 – 0.90	↔

## AUSTRALIAN VIGNERONS - WHAT IS NEXT

Australian Vignerons (AV), formerly known as Wine Grape Growers Australia (WGGA) are planning to come to the region at some stage to discuss with the Wine Grapes Marketing Board (WGMB) how we could be members of this new national body. The WGMB invited them in January 2017 and now await a response from their Board as to the suitability of the date.

The WGMB has been written to by AV advising it of the changes in the membership structure and how the organisation now plans to operate. Previously as WGGA the Board had one vote and under our funding agreement with the body we could take an observer to meetings, generally the CEO would attend with the WGGA delegate whom at the time was a member of the WGMB.

The correspondence the WGMB received stated that the change to the WGGA constitution is more than a change of brand, it is a change in membership, focus and structure to allow for greater collaboration and stability in wine industry advocacy.

What is being proposed is that member organisations such as the Wine Grapes Marketing Board would pay to be part of a growers council of the AV. The AV council would meet a number of times per year to set the strategic direction of a Board. The AV Board would be appointed by the Council on a skills basis as defined in the constitution. The Board would then meet regularly to work on the matters defined by the Council.

Voting at the Council is an area that the Wine Grapes Marketing Board (WGMB) needs to be mindful of as the number of votes you receive is based on a draft matrix of the number of members you have and the amount of dollars you are able to put to the new organisation. The

current proposed formula that has been provided to the WGMB is that for it to join the minimum membership fee is \$10,000 which will give the WGMB 1 vote and based on our membership of 325 growers we would receive a further 3 votes (4 in total). Whereas South Australia could get 6 votes for their membership alone regardless of the amount they paid. Based on past years they may pay into the body up to \$125,000 which would provide them with a further 6 votes (12 in total).

Voting would be held on the strategic direction of the Board and the appointment of its members. At this stage there hasn't been a call for industry participants to put their hand up for a position but we envisage that this will occur in time. The AV Board's skills based appointees would need to be available for meetings that are likely to be held predominately in Adelaide. There may be a payment for members of the AV Board.

According to AV recent media they have already received strong interest and support from South Australia and Western Australia associations but in terms of monetary contributions we are not aware at time of writing. The WGMB notes that the NSW Wine Industry Association (NSWWIA) has agreed not to provide any funding to this newly formed body. The NSWWIA is a state based body that looks after matters relating to winemakers growers in this state and have national involvement with the Winemakers Federation of Australia. The NSWWIA previously appointed members the WGGA from the rest of NSW and the Riverina - this was under the prior constitution of the WGGA. The new constitution no longer provides for such appointments to the peak body. We understand that individual growers are no longer able to join the national body as individuals.

## OFFICE CLOSURE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board will be closed for the Christmas and New Year period. The office will formally close on 23rd December 2016 and reopen on

Tuesday 3rd January 2017. The Board and staff would like to wish all growers a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

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Economic and commercial matters referred to in this Update are of a general nature only and are based on the Board's interpretation and opinion of current economic and market conditions and should not be relied upon in place of appropriate professional advice.

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