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MEDIA RELEASE

Winemakers welcome new Agriculture Minister

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) warmly welcomes the announcement today that Mr David Littleproud MP, will be appointed as the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

WFA Chief Executive Tony Battaglione said Mr Littleproud had an extensive knowledge of the wine industry from his close association with growers and producers in his own electorate that includes the growing and vibrant Granite Belt region in Queensland. Mr Littleproud has also been an effective and genuine backer of the industry on national issues.

"Mr Littleproud will be a strong supporter of the Australian wine industry and an excellent advocate for Australia's agricultural industries. We look forward to working with him to continue to bring prosperity and sustainability to the Australian wine industry and its rural and regional communities," Mr Battaglione said.

"We also wish to acknowledge the sincere commitment and dedication of Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce to the wine industry as he leaves the Agriculture portfolio. We congratulate him on his new role as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and look forward to working with him to deliver vital infrastructure needs to rural and regional communities.

Tony Battaglione said that Mr Littleproud could expect excellent support and experience from Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, who has led the Australian wine industry through critical reforms in 2017, and is now spearheading important export and tourism growth strategies for the industry.

"We're delighted with this new Ministerial team that will lead Australian agricultural industries into 2018. We also congratulate Mr John McVeigh on his appointment as Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, as well as Senator Bridget McKenzie to drive Regional Communications, and believe that rural and regional Australia will be well-served by these outstanding representatives."

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Media Contact: Alison Laslett – 0424 135 381