



MEDIA RELEASE

24 October 2017

Handshakes are out as new legislation comes in

With 2018 vintage just around the corner, the release of the 2017 Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct (the Code) Annual Report is a timely reminder of the need for winemakers and grape growers to ensure their contracts up to date.

The report is available at www.wineindustrycode.org and reports the activity under the Code for 2016-17. The Code provides a common framework for grape supply contracts between grape growers and winemakers.

Tony Battaglione, Chief Executive of the Winemakers Federation of Australia said, "It's great to see that the Code is effective and can resolve commercial disputes without recourse to expensive and divisive legal action. We recognise that there is work to be done in growing membership and understanding of the Code and we encourage all winemakers to become signatories".

Andrew Weeks, Chief Executive of Australian Vignerons said "Recent changes to WET legislation, have highlighted the need for written contracts between grape growers and winemakers. We urge all members of the industry to consider recognition of the Code within their contracts".

Tony Battaglione went on to say. "The WET changes mean that in order to be eligible to claim the WET rebate, ownership of the grapes will need to be verified through some form of written agreement.

In November 2017, WFA will be running WET rebate seminars with guest speakers from The Australian Taxation Office and Wine Australia to inform industry of the implications of these changes."

For more information on your local WET Rebate Seminar visit the WFA website [here](#) or contact your State Wine Industry Association.

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