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MEDIA RELEASE

The rules based trading system will help drive the post COVID-19 global economic recovery

Australian Grape & Wine welcomed [this week's announcement](#), from Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, that Australia and 15 other members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have agreed to establish an interim arrangement to bring appeals and solve trade disputes.

The WTO's trade dispute functions had been in limbo since December 2019 as the United States continued to block the appointment of new member to the Appellate Body which considers trade dispute appeals. Without new appointments to the Appellate Body there was effectively no appeals process, meaning existing WTO trade disputes would not have a mechanism for completion.

This interim arrangement provides a path around the impasse and was agreed between WTO members; Australia Brazil; Canada; China; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; and Uruguay.

"It's great to see the Australian Government and its trading partners, even during these difficult times, working to establish innovative ways of ensuring trade and the WTO process can continue in the interests of fair and collaborative trade" Tony Battaglene, Chief Executive of Australian Grape & Wine said.

"COVID-19 has placed great stress on the world trading system, but it is trade that will provide the springboard for Australia's recovery. For a smaller nation like Australia, the WTO's rules base system and its trade dispute mechanisms are vital."

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About Australian Grape and Wine Inc

Australian Grape and Wine Inc is the national association of grape and wine producers. We address issues across the supply-chain that impact on the profitability and sustainability of the sector. We lead and advocate public policy that enhances the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy Australian wine in moderation.

Australian Grape & Wine is recognised as a representative organisation for winegrape and wine producers under the Wine Australia Act 2013, and is incorporated under the SA Associations Incorporation Act 1985. We work in partnership with the Australian Government to develop and implement policy that is in the best interests of winegrape growers and winemakers across Australia.