



Friday, October 24, 2014

MEDIA STATEMENT

Agriculture liberalisation a must for the TPP

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations in Canberra over the weekend are an opportunity for the wine sector and the Australian Winemakers' Federation urged those around the table to aim high.

Joining the call by agri-food producer and processor groups from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Federation said trade liberalisation for wine was important for the region.

Federation International Affairs General Manager Tony Battaglione said the negotiations were an opportunity to enhance producer profitability in the region and benefit consumers.

"The TPP negotiations can resolve wine sector specific issues as well as provide cross-sectoral benefit for agriculture as a whole and we would urge negotiators to grab these opportunities with both hands," Mr Battaglione said.

"The promised TPP agreement has the potential to free up trade across the region and the benefits that will flow as a direct result will go into the rural and regional communities that are the lifeblood of the Australian wine industry.

"An area that must stay high on the agenda is the elimination of tariffs for wine across all parties.

"The Australian wine sector is right behind the government's trade strategy and, while we recognise trade negotiations are often difficult and invariably protracted, progress can and should be made this weekend by the Trade Ministers.

"If we can finalise the TPP and follow that up with a successful China-Australia Free Trade Agreement, the Australian wine industry will receive a welcome boost.

"We wish our negotiators luck this weekend and over the coming months and we will continue to support them as and where we can."

The TPP is being negotiated between 12 Pacific Rim Countries: the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

Media Contact: Alexia Deegan - 0400 767 490, alexia@wfa.org.au