



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Wines of Western Australia joins national campaign**

Wines of Western Australia (WoWA) has joined forces with the Winemakers' Federation of Australia to stop any moves to increase wine taxes and argue against a separate tax rebate scheme for New Zealand producers selling wine here.

The association joins the Wolf Blass Foundation and a growing number of leading winemakers and regional wine organisations who are taking a stand with the Federation against those pushing for wine tax increases such as highly profitable beer and spirits manufacturers and the public health lobby.

They also want the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate retained to support winemakers and their regional communities but reformed to abolish the separate NZ producer rebate. The savings from abolishing the NZ rebate could free up much needed funds to help promote Australian wine exports in key international markets.

Federation Chief Executive Paul Evans welcomed the support from the west.

“Support from WoWA shows the Australian Government that industry is united,” Mr Evans said.

“WoWA's support will go towards helping the Federation convince the Australian Government that the WET rebate must be reformed and to build an even stronger evidence base against any moves to increase wine taxation,” he said.

WoWA Chair Redmond Sweeny said: “It is important to note that this view is the result of an exhaustive consultation process WFA conducted throughout 2013-2014 with industry.

“WA is mostly populated with small winemakers, and we firmly believe our views were listened to and adopted into a balanced and sustainable position for all of industry to take forward.”

WoWA's support would be used to help fund the Federation's analysis of wine taxation and an advocacy campaign ahead of the 2015 Federal Budget and an expected national review of the tax system. Mr Evans said this work was well underway.

#### **About Wines of Western Australia**

*Wines of Western Australia provides a unified, influential voice to create opportunities for the fine wine regions of Western Australia. Working in partnership with national industry and government bodies, WoWA's aim is to strengthen Western Australia's position as an internationally-recognised regional fine wine producing state. WoWA provides stewardship of the industry to support Regional Associations as the custodians of their regional brand.*

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