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MEDIA RELEASE

Stability in agriculture is welcomed for wine sector's road to recovery

The peak industry body for the Australian wine sector, Australian Grape & Wine welcomes the appointment of the Hon David Littleproud MP, as Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management.

The Australian wine sector has suffered a double blow throughout the bushfire crisis, with a loss of crops from bushfires and smoke damage, and an associated downturn in tourism numbers in wine regions across the country.

Australian Grape & Wine chief executive, Mr Tony Battaglione said "We welcome today's announcement that Minister Littleproud will resume oversight of the agriculture portfolio. His appointment provides stability for the wine sector as we move towards the road to recovery".

"The wine sector, rural and regional Australia remains open for business and we look forward to working with Minister Littleproud to provide relief, boost profitability and build resilience into our great sector".

"I would also like to express my gratitude to outgoing Agriculture Minister, Senator Bridget McKenzie, who has worked closely with us during the bushfire crisis" said Mr Battaglione.

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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.