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MEDIA RELEASE

Wine and Timber promote sustainable approach to Penola Heavy Haulage Bypass

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) and the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) have joined forces in advocating an alternative route for a section of the proposed Penola Bypass and for its identification as a heavy haulage road, separating trucks from community and tourist traffic.

The two industry associations have written a joint letter to the Wattle Range Council outlining their concerns over the North West section of the road and have put forward options for an alternative route for the Council to consider.

Allan Hansard, NAFI Chief Executive Officer said: "Both our industries recognise the significance of heavy haulage demands and the need to accommodate the transport of goods along major highways.

"However, we are concerned that the proposed route will have a significant impact on local businesses and the community and we have asked the Council to reconsider their position."

Stephen Strachan, WFA Chief Executive, said that the route identified by the Council would have a detrimental effect on the world famous Coonawarra wine region.

"The current proposed North West section of the road cuts through a large section of prime vineyard land and will have a detrimental impact on a number of prominent wine industry landholders," Mr Strachan said.

"We are urging the Council to defer any decisions regarding the compulsory acquisition of land until a solution can be found which takes account of local vineyards, as well as the Penola community and the long term sustainability of this world renowned wine producing region."

Both industries are willing to work with the Council and the State and Federal Governments to look at options for the bypass and for solutions to other issues of mutual concern, in the long term best interests of the local community and the wine and timber industries.

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