



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Australian Grape and Wine Authority to drive the wine industry forward**

The wine sector has welcomed the passing of a Bill to establish a new Australian Grape and Wine Authority through the merger of the existing Wine Australia Corporation (WAC) and Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC) today.

“It is significant this important piece of legislation has had bipartisan support,” said Winemakers’ Federation President Tony D’Aloisio.

“We welcome the on-going recognition by the Parliament of the importance of the wine sector to the Australian economy, and we believe that the merging of the existing Wine Australia Corporation and Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation to form the Australian Grape and Wine Authority today to be a major step forward in focusing and aligning decision making on the future of the wine industry.”

Wine Grape Growers Australia (WGGA) and the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia (WFA) – the industry’s representative bodies – proposed the merger last year after a comprehensive consultation with stakeholders throughout the supply chain.

“Today’s passing of the Bill is the culmination of a considerable body of work undertaken by WFA and WGGA in partnership with departmental officials and it is a landmark development for the wine sector.”

Chair of WGGA, Vic Patrick said “Stakeholders have consistently told us they want better coordination and stronger accountability from our statutory authorities to more effectively and efficiently deliver Research and Development and marketing services to the industry.”

“The imperative now is to appoint a Chair, Board of Directors and Chief Executive to ensure that the new Authority will be able to deliver aligned industry strategic imperatives, marketing outcomes and foster innovation, as soon as it comes into force on 1 July 2014.”

#### **Further information:**

**Lawrie Stanford - 0417859282**

**Paul Evans (WFA) - 0404447190**