

9 September 2015

Mr Paul Evans
Chief Executive
Winemakers Federation of Australia
National Wine Centre
Botanic Road
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Paul



WFA TAX REFORM AGENDA

Following Executive consideration of the WFA/WGGA joint submission the NSWWIA advises that it supports the following core elements of the push for tax reform as follows:

1. Supports reform of access to the WET rebate by overseas entities to abolish preferential treatments where these occur in order to create a 'level playing field' for all rebate claimants regardless of nationality.
2. Supports the removal of WET rebate from bulk wine
3. That savings achieved from 1 and 2 above be reinvested towards industry re-structuring and the promotion of wine at the local, regional, national and international levels.
4. That WFA takes a lead role in the harmonisation of WET rebate eligibility across all States to removed current discrepancies in treatment.

The NSWWIA Executive Members also notes that WFA is the advocate for this reform and NSWWIA will refer all requests for public comment to WFA.

Yours sincerely


 Tom Ward
President



9 September 2015

To Whom It May Concern

Re WET REBATE DISCUSSION

The Queensland Wine Industry Association supports the joint submission of the Winemakers Federation of Australia and Wine Grape Growers of Australia to the WET Rebate Discussion.

The industry in Queensland is made up of a number of small producers selling the greatest percentage of wine produced from vineyards within the region through cellar door. These operations support tourism infrastructure and employment within rural regions. Removal of the rebate would affect the maintenance of profitability of many of these businesses.

We strongly support recommendations for reform that bring the application of the rebate to its original intent and those that suggest savings from reform being made available to AGWA for both export and domestic marketing programs and for R& D to strengthen and advance the industry.

Kind regards

Jim Barnes
Acting President



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

10 September 2015

Mr Paul Evans
Chief Executive
Winemakers' Federation of Australia
Industry Offices, National Wine Centre,
Botanic Road,
ADELAIDE SA 5000

By email: paulevans@wfa.org.au

Dear Paul,

Re: Wine Equalisation Tax Rebate – Discussion Paper

The South Australian Wine Industry Association (SAWIA) through its membership is taking a keen interest in the wine tax proposals developed by the wine industry over the last 12 months principally through the efforts of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA).

Since that time, the Federal Government has released a discussion paper on the wine equalisation tax rebate and SAWIA members are showing a great deal of interest and will be monitoring any developments.

SAWIA has consulted its members and following consideration of the member feedback will make a submission to The Treasury of the Australian Government.

Taking into consideration many of the issues canvassed in the discussion paper, SAWIA members are supportive of reforms to the wine equalisation tax rebate including:

- A return of the WET rebate to its original policy intent allowing for the continuation of support to wine businesses, employment, tourism and communities in wine regions.
- Members want unintended recipients of the WET rebate to cease receiving the rebate and examples of schemes specifically created to claim the WET rebate should be investigated and closed as necessary. In addition, if schemes are identified that are contrary to WET rebate laws, industry associations should be advised to assist respective memberships comply with the law.
- A phase out of the WET rebate on bulk, unbranded and unpackaged wine over a four year period at 25% per annum. Given there are views for and against such a proposal close monitoring after the first twelve months of operation should occur to assess if the change meets intended outcomes.
- Support changes to the New Zealand WET rebate scheme which would result in abolishing the legislated NZ rebate scheme but provide for WET rebate claims on the same operational conditions for all wine producers regardless of nationality.
- Support the introduction of a transitional measure to encourage consolidation, allowing a second rebate on a merger of two businesses (which are entitled to the rebate) to remain with the new entity but phased out at 25% per year over 4 years.

South Australian Wine Industry Association Incorporated

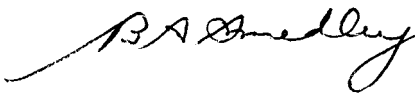
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- Support additional funding for market related programs (derived from WET rebate reform savings) for a finite period that can be applied to address wine market issues. SAWIA notes the industry is best placed to determine what programs should be undertaken to address specific markets issues. Industry involvement is crucial for success which includes any decision on which organisation is best placed to deliver the agreed activity.
- Where proposed reforms result in adverse impacts for either grape growing and / or winemaking businesses, there should be support provided for these businesses who genuinely are experiencing hardship as a result of transition measures.

Should you require any clarification please contact me.

Yours faithfully,



BRIAN SMEDLEY
Chief Executive



September 2015

Paul Evans
Chief Executive Officer
Winemakers' Federation of Australia
PO Box 2414
KENT TOWN SA 5071

Dear Paul,

This letter is to confirm Wine Tasmania's position on the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate, in line with its response to the Australian Government's WET Rebate discussion paper.

Wine Tasmania confirms its support for retaining the value-based system of taxation on wine, together with the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate, and only in conjunction with the rebate.

Wine Tasmania further confirms its support to reform the rebate to return it to its original intent of supporting small, regional wine producers, through removing the rebate from bulk, unpackaged, unbranded and private label wine. Additionally, we support removal of the WET rebate from foreign producers, whilst noting overarching trade agreements and requirements.

It is Wine Tasmania's position that significant change, reduction or removal of the WET rebate cannot be considered separately to the overall structure of wine tax.

Reforming and returning the WET rebate to its original intent through these changes, would also support the Australian wine sector's market-led approach to improve the sector's performance through promotion of our fine, branded wines.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sheralee Davies', written over a horizontal line.

Sheralee Davies
Chief Executive Officer

10 September 2015

Paul Evans
Chief Executive
Winemakers' Federation of Australia
PO Box 2414
Kent Town SA 5071

Via: paulevans@wfa.org.au

Dear Paul,

Re: Endorsement of Winemakers' Federation of Australia position on WET Rebate
I am writing to express Wine Victoria's support for the reform measures contained in the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) submission on the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) Rebate, specifically:

- Ensuring the WET Rebate is returned to its original intent of support for smaller Australian winemakers located in regional Australia;
- The introduction of measures to prevent the inappropriate access and abuse of the rebate system by Australian and offshore producers;
- Retention of the WET Rebate for branded wine because it continues to deliver on the original policy intent of long-term benefits to industry and tourism in regional Australia;
- Review of the access conditions to the Rebate, including foreign entities such as New Zealand producers, to ensure policy integrity and a competitive domestic environment.

Wine Victoria also endorses WFA's position to phase out the WET Rebate on bulk and unbranded wine over four years with the condition that work on the definition of 'bulk' and 'unbranded' wine is undertaken as part of the broader consultation process with industry.

Wine Victoria supports WFA's submission to the WET Rebate Discussion Paper along these lines, noting the condition outlined above.

If you wish to discuss these matters further, please don't hesitate to contact Wine Victoria Executive Officer Rachael Sweeney on 0422 067 858 or secretariat@winevictoria.org.au.

I look forward to working with you further on matters of importance to the wine industry.

Kind regards,



Damien Sheehan
Chair – Wine Victoria



Paul Evans
Chief Executive

9th Sept. 2015

Winemakers' Federation of Australia

Dear Paul,

Re: Winemakers' Federation of Australia - Tax Campaign

Our state wide consultation process with our industry stakeholders is now complete. I can confirm that Wines of WA strongly supports the WFA/WGGA response to the WET Rebate Discussion Paper.

We support the strategy proposed by the WFA to request that the revenue recovered by the ATO through the proposed integrity reforms outlined in the response should be reinvested back into the Australian wine industry. We agree that this investment should be used to restore AGWA's (Wine Australia's) core operational budget to a level that will sustain effective market development activities for the benefit of all wine producers. This will come at a time that enables the wine sector to capitalise on the recent Free Trade Agreements with Japan, Korea and pending China. In addition the weakening Australian dollar allows producers to kick start our wine exports to growing markets such as the USA which will assist in creating demand for our production and restore profitability and investment to create a sustainable industry that supports regional employment and communities in many regions of Australia.

Wines of WA has also submitted a response to the Discussion Paper. In this, we confirm our alignment with the WFA/WGGA response to all questions posed in the paper. We have provided additional information specific to WA producers where we feel this adds further weight to the Australian wine industry's position on amendments to the WET.

Kind regards,

Larry Jorgensen

Chief Executive Officer

Wines of Western Australia

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