

22 April 2021

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Australia-Canada wine dispute settlement proves value of the WTO

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes today's announcement by the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Dan Tehan MP and the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP, that the Australian and Canadian Governments have settled the remaining measures in Australia's World Trade Organization (WTO) challenge to Canadian wine measures.

Under the finalised settlement, Canada has agreed to phase out the outstanding trade issues raised at the WTO for the discriminatory measures imposed by the province of Quebec.

Australian Grape & Wine's Chief Executive, Tony Battaglone, said "This is the last piece of the puzzle for Australia's WTO challenge of Canadian trading practices, resolving a range of discriminatory trading practices across British Columbia, Québec, Ontario and Nova Scotia."

"The Canadian wine export market is extremely important for Australian wine and it is vital that we work to harmonise trade as much as possible. The market is Australia's fourth largest wine export market, valued at more than \$190 million in 2020, and it's certainly a market in which we are pursuing further growth" he said.

"But we need to be able to compete on a level playing field, and this is why it's so important to have an independent umpire in the WTO. In this case, the rules-based system provided the opportunity for bilateral dialogue and led to a result which was fair to both Australian producers and their colleagues in Canada" said Mr Battaglone.

"We would like to acknowledge the great work of the Australian Government, and in particular the team at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who have worked tirelessly to resolve this issue."

- Ends -

**Media Contact: Lee McLean, 0418 998 749 / [lee@agw.org.au](mailto:lee@agw.org.au)**

**Media Contact: Ali Laslett, 0424 135 381 / [ali@agw.org.au](mailto:ali@agw.org.au)**

**Available for Interview: Tony Battaglone, Chief Executive – 0413 014 807 / [tony@agw.org.au](mailto:tony@agw.org.au)**

### 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.