

19 June 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes the Australian Government's decision to pursue case with the WTO

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes the announcement today 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 Government will initiate the dispute settlement process at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in response to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce's decision to impose duties on Australian wine imports in March 2021.

"We believe the Australian Government's decision to initiate this process is the right call for Australia's grape and wine businesses" said Tony Battaglione, Chief Executive of Australian Grape & Wine.

"As an export-focused industry, Australia's grape growers and winemakers have benefited enormously from the rules-based international trading system, with the WTO at its core. In taking this decision, the Australian Government is demonstrating its commitment to Australia's grape and wine businesses and respecting the rules-based international trading system."

"We have been consistent in our position that Australian producers have not dumped wine on the Chinese market, nor received trade-distorting subsidies. We believe the Australian Government's decision to ask the WTO to undertake an independent assessment of the facts is the right course to take."

"While this process is underway, we'll keep working with grape growers, winemakers and the Australian Government, to diversify our export markets and strengthen relationships as much as possible with all trading partners, including China" said Mr Battaglione.

– Ends –

Available for Interview: Tony Battaglione, Chief Executive – 0413 014 807 / 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.