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MEDIA RELEASE

Australia and China WTO dispute resolution advances

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes today's announcement by the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, that panelists have been appointed to adjudicate Australia's challenge to the anti-dumping duties imposed on Australian bottled wine by China at the World Trade Organization.

Tony Battaglone, Chief Executive of Australian Grape & Wine said "This is the next step in the WTO's dispute resolution process. We were pleased by the cooperation between Chinese and Australian officials in moving quickly through this phase. We also understand that agreement was reached between Australia and China on the forward appeals process, in the absence of a functioning WTO Appellate Body, which is also positive."

"We understand that submissions will now be presented to the panel before a formal hearing later this year. We look forward to demonstrating to the world that Australia produces great wine and does so in a fair and transparent manner".

"We are grateful for the support of the Australian Government in defending the interests of Australian grape growers and winemakers through the established WTO systems for resolving our differences. We remain open to further discussions with China about how this issue can be resolved".

"The anti-dumping duties on Australian bottled wine have effectively stopped Australia's wine trade with China, to the detriment of our producers, Chinese consumers and Chinese owned businesses that relied on the trade." said Mr Battaglone

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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.