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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australian Grape & Wine Announces New CEO

On behalf of the Board of Australian Grape & Wine, I am pleased to announce that Mr Lee McLean will be the next Chief Executive Officer of the representative body for the Australian wine industry.

An extensive international search was conducted over the first quarter of the financial year. This search revealed a substantial and very high-quality field of applicants. The Board is grateful to all of the applicants for their interest in this important role.

Lee has an extensive background in the Public Service, in both the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Agriculture. He has most recently been the General Manager, Government Relations and External Affairs for Australian Grape & Wine.

'Lee has demonstrated the past achievements and the vision that is required to take Australian Grape & Wine to the next level of evolution' said John Hart, Chair of Australian Grape & Wine. 'Given the challenges the Australian wine industry currently faces, the Board has set Australian Grape & Wine the mandate to be the most inclusive and effective advocacy body it can be. It is our belief that Lee McLean is the best CEO to drive that outcome for the industry'.

'It is a great honour to be appointed as CEO of Australian Grape & Wine and I look forward to working Australia's world-leading grape growers and winemakers to help drive a positive agenda for the sector in the years to come' said Lee McLean, CEO Designate of Australian Grape & Wine. 'As an early priority, I am keen to listen carefully to our members, understand the challenges and opportunities, and make sure our team is focusing on the issues that matter most to grape and wine businesses.'

'We are looking forward to Lee being able to take on the CEO role in the near term to ensure an effective transition from our current CEO, Mr Tony Battaglione. We thank Tony for his great service to the organisation and the industry over many years', continued John Hart.

**For further information contact, John Hart OAM, Chair, Australian Grape & Wine on 0407 554 878 or Lee McLean, CEO Designate, Australian Grape & Wine on 0418 998 749.**

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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.