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## MEDIA RELEASE

### QUEENSLAND CONSUMERS TO PAY MORE UNDER EXPANDED CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Australian Grape & Wine CEO Lee McLean has strongly condemned the Queensland Government's decision to expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to include wine bottles. The government's plan will do nothing to increase glass recycling but slug Australia's winemakers \$20 million a year – rising to \$100 million if other states follow suit.

"Make no mistake, Queenslanders will pay more for wine under the Palaszczuk Government.

"This will not lead to a discernable increase in recycling, and it will not lead to a more circular economy. What it will lead to is an increase in the cost of wine at every pub, club, restaurant and bottle shop in Queensland and an increase in carbon emissions.

"This is a bad outcome that could not come at a worse time for our industry. Australia's grape growers and winemakers are doing it tough. In recent years we have faced challenges of fires, smoke, hail, frost, poor fruit set, COVID-19 and the loss of our biggest export market. What we need from the government is support, not another kick in the guts.

"This government has engaged in a sham consultation with a pre-determined outcome. They do not understand business and they have no idea of the administrative burden of implementing such a change at such short notice. They do not appreciate the impacts this will have on not just Queensland businesses, but businesses across the country.

"Queenslanders aren't stupid, they know this is nothing more than a superficial attempt by this government to increase their environmental credentials in the lead up to an election. The Palaszczuk Government must release a comprehensive cost benefit analysis that will show what this policy will cost and whether it will lead to a meaningful increase in glass recycling" Mr McLean concluded.

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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.