

30 October 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

Statement on European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations

Statement by Australian Grape & Wine Chief Executive, Lee McLean (Osaka, Japan)

We commend the resolve of Trade Minister Don Farrell in walking away from a free trade deal that was not in the best interests of Australian prosecco producers.

The Government has made the right decision.

We are fully supportive of the Australian Government's decision to step away from ongoing negotiations rather than accept a deal that is not in the interest of Australian prosecco producers or the broader agricultural sector.

Any outcome that sought to reduce our existing market access would be detrimental to our burgeoning prosecco industry and contrary to the intent of a free trade agreement which seeks to increase market access and remove trade barriers. Australian prosecco producers just want to retain the right to use "prosecco" as a grape variety in both our domestic and international markets.

We commend the unwavering efforts of Minister Farrell, Minister Watt, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the experienced team of negotiators from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who have tirelessly dedicated themselves to these negotiations. We encourage their continued dialogue with the EU to seek a mutually beneficial solution that will enhance opportunities for both European and Australian markets.

- Ends -

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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.