

November 2023

Committee Meetings, Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting Communique

Committee Meetings

The four membership committees of Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated (Australian Grape & Wine): Vignerons; Small Winemakers; Medium Winemakers; and Large Winemakers, met in Adelaide on Tuesday 14 November 2023. Committee elections were held, with committee membership comprised of a broad range of representatives from business sizes, states and regions – including inland regions. The Committees and the Board also re-affirmed its commitment to build on AGW's objectives to strengthen regional and gender diversity. A list of committee members can be found [here](#).

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Life Members Ceremony

Following the Committee Meetings, Australian Grape & Wine held its AGM. The AGM presented an opportunity to highlight the key activities undertaken by Australian Grape & Wine over the course of 2022-23, including those initiatives to strengthen our political advocacy agenda and address issues of oversupply and grow opportunities for grape growers and winemakers at home and abroad.

We note the financial reports were presented and approved by those in attendance, and the auditor, Perks, was reappointed to audit Australian Grape & Wine's financials for year ending 30 June 2024.

In addition to the formalities of the AGM, Australian Grape & Wine also honoured Ms Di Davidson AM and Mr Bruce Tyrrell AM as Life Members of the Australian Wine Industry. Both Ms Davidson and Mr Tyrrell are very worthy recipients, and we congratulate them on their awards.

Board Meeting

The Board of Australian Grape & Wine met on Wednesday 15 November 2023, in Adelaide. The Board farewelled Mr Ed Swift from the Board and thanked him for his significant contribution to the Australian wine industry over a number of years. It also welcomed Ms Anna Fisher, of the Small Winemakers Committee, onto the board. A list of all Board Members can be found [here](#).

During the meeting, among other things, the Board:

- noted the first steps of a review of governance arrangements of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia had been taken, with a Terms of Reference document agreed between Australian Grape & Wine, the Australian Wine Research Institute and Wine Australia.
- supported a timeframe and approach to reviewing of Australia's levies system, which will be completed by the end of 2024.
- considered further options to challenge container deposit schemes in jurisdictions across Australia.
- was provided with an update on a range of trade and market issues, including those relating to China, the European Union and the various projects falling under the organisation's ATMAC grant.
- heard presentations from: the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, the Hon Bruce Billson; and the Chief Executive of DrinkWise Australia, Simon Strahan.

The next Board meeting will be held virtually in February 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee McLean".

Lee McLean

Chief Executive