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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes wine industry taskforce

Australian Grape & Wine CEO, Mr Lee McLean has welcomed the formation of a viticulture and wine sector working group following a meeting of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Agriculture Ministers yesterday.

"Australian Grape & Wine has been encouraging a coordinated and collaborative approach to deal with the challenges our sector is facing and we are pleased Ministers have agreed to form this working group" said Mr McLean.

As noted in the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting Communique, *Ministers agreed to establish a viticulture and wine sector working group, comprising representatives of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, Wine Australia, Australian Grape and Wine and other relevant groups as agreed by the working group, to provide recommendations to Agriculture Ministers to address the challenges facing growers.*

"We know there are a number of regions experiencing acute financial pressure as a result of supply and demand imbalances, including the Riverland in South Australia, the Riverina in NSW, and the Murray Valley in Victoria, and it's pleasing the group will focus on ways we can work together to relieve these pressures, in these regions" said Mr McLean.

"Australian Grape & Wine has put a range of options to the Albanese Government ahead of the Federal Budget, including [proposals](#) to help rebalance supply, grow demand and boost regional tourism" said Mr McLean. "These proposals are all aimed at helping Australia's grape growers and winemakers to find a pathway through the current challenges towards a sustainable and more profitable future."

Ministers expect the working group to visit regions most impacted by the oversupply situation, with the group to report back by the end of April 2024. Following this, the group is expected to propose to Ministers actions to support improvement in the grape and wine sector and its long-term viability by July.

"The formation of this working group is a reflection of the strong working relationship Australian Grape & Wine has developed with the Australian Government" said Mr McLean. "We look forward to working with Ministers, officials and other industry representatives to drive a positive agenda in the best interests of grape and wine businesses."

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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.