



## Code Management Committee

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

September 2025

Code of Conduct for Australian  
Winegrape Purchases



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## INTRODUCTION

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This is the fourteenth Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases Annual Report prepared by the Code Management Committee (the Committee). This report covers the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

### The Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases

The Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases (The Code) was developed as a foundation for building relationships between growers and winemakers that are fair, equitable and mutually beneficial as well as to provide a quick and cost-effective dispute resolution process. The Code sets minimum standards relating to grape purchasing including quality assessment for the purpose of affecting price, alternative mechanisms for determining price and payment terms. Originally signed by representatives of the former Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) and Wine Grape Growers Australia (WGGA) on 19 December 2008, the Code is now administered by Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated. The Code has since been subject to a review and an amended version was released in November 2020. In conducting this review, the Committee adopted a number of recommendations from the ACCC's Winegrape Market Study released in September 2019 and made a commitment to encouraging greater uptake of the Code by winemakers. The committee also reviewed the Code in 2021.

August 2024 saw the announcement of an independent impact analysis of the grape and wine industry regulatory environment. The review, led by economist Dr Craig Emerson would examine regulatory options concerning fair trading, competitive relationships, contracting practices and risk allocation across the wine and grape market, including relationships with retailers. In parallel to that consultation, the Senate referred the Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee to undertake their own inquiry. The Code Management Committee wrote its own submissions, independent to that of Australian Grape & Wine, to both inquiries focusing on providing factual information about how the voluntary Code currently operates.

### Secretariat to the Code

The Committee appoints a Secretariat to the Code to provide secretariat services to the Code's administration and to which the Committee may delegate any of its powers or duties under the Code. The Accord Group was the appointed secretariat for the Australian Wine Industry Code from October 2024 until October 2025.

## Code Management Committee

The Code is overseen and administered by the Code Management Committee appointed by a Subcommittee of the Board of Australian Grape & Wine. The Committee held two meetings throughout the period. The Committee consists of eight members, an independent Chair, and is supported by a Secretariat. As of September 2019 the Committee operated under an amended Terms of Reference that requires it has equal representation from both winemakers and grape growers. Both Riverina and Murray Valley Wine regions were invited to have representatives attend each meeting as observers.

The composition of the Committee at 30 June 2025 was:

Members	Representing	Member type
Peter Hayes	Independent Chair	
Fiona Anderson	Treasury Wine Estates	Winemaker
Jim Caddy	Inland Wine Regions	Grower
Danielle Arnfield	Accolade Wines	Winemaker
Luke Edwards	Casella Family Wines	Winemaker
Georgie Johnston	Pernod Ricard	Winemaker
Ben Rose	Performance Viticulture	Grower (resignation effective August 2024)
Ashley Keegan	Fabal Vineyards Pty Ltd	Grower
Stuart Andrew	Winkie Heights Pty Ltd	Grower
Richard Neagle	Veraise	Grower (appointed September 2024)

### CMC Secretariat

Lee McLean	Australian Grape & Wine
Anna Hooper	Australian Grape & Wine

### Observers

Paul Derrico	Murray Valley Winegrowers'
Jeremy Cass	Riverina Winegrape Growers

The Committee's responsibilities include acting as the custodian of the Code, monitoring and assessing the Code's performance, improving the Code, facilitating resolution of disputes over winegrape prices and vineyard downgrades and rejections, and determining alleged breaches of the Code. It is required to produce an annual report to be published by 30 September each year containing:

- A description of the nature and number of disputes received;
- Any comments it wishes to make about conduct or trends in the industry;
- The number of Disputes notified to the Secretariat and/or resolved under the provisions of the Code;
- The number of Signatories who have breached the Code;
- A list all current signatories to the code and new signatories since the previous annual report.

In monitoring the Code, the Committee may recommend amendments to assist the Code's operation.



## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2024-25

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### Secretariat's Report

#### Enquiries

There have been four enquiries received during this period, which is three more than the one enquiry received in the 2023-24 period.

#### Nature of Disputes

The first enquiry was pre-empting a pricing dispute and related to the independent expert determination process under the Code should the grower require it. There was no further request for assistance after the initial enquiry.

The second enquiry was notification of a quality dispute which the parties jointly agreed to the appointment of an independent expert and led to the resolution of the matter.

The third enquiry was relating to a quality dispute. The grower issued a notice of dispute and later informed us that the parties had engaged in informal negotiation to resolve the dispute.

The final enquiry was an application for the appointment of an independent expert in relation to a quality dispute. The matter was resolved by way of the independent expert making a determination.

#### Requests for the Appointment of Independent Expert

There were two requests for the appointment of an independent expert during this period, both disputes relating to downgrade or rejection of grapes.

In the first matter, the parties had agreed to jointly appoint an expert who delivered a determination and resolved the dispute.

In the second matter, the parties could not agree on the appointment of an expert and requested the Code Secretariat to make an appointment. The independent expert delivered a determination and resolved the dispute.

#### Comments

This period has seen a higher level of enquiry compared to previous years, but also more engagement with the dispute resolution processes available. It is evident from the enquiries during this period that the support and knowledge of parties' representatives has increased uptake of Code processes. The resolution of several disputes using the Code processes has been positive.

#### The Accord Group

Code Secretariat  
August 2025

## Signatories to the Code

During this period, there were 10 new applications from wine producers to become signatories. 2024 a reconciliation was done of signatories bringing the total number of signatories to 78 when wineries owned by Randall Wine Group, Pinnacle Drinks or Paragon Estates are counted only once.

Accolade Wines  
All Saints Estate Pty Ltd  
Angove Family Winemakers  
Australia Food and Beverage Group Pty Ltd  
Australian Vintage Ltd  
d'Arenberg Pty Ltd  
Balancing Heart Vineyard  
Balnaves Vineyard Services Pty Ltd t/as Balnaves of Coonawarra  
Berton Vineyards  
Bird in Hand  
Bleasdale Vineyards Pty Ltd  
Brown Brothers Milawa Vineyard Pty Ltd  
Calabria Family Wines Pty Ltd  
Campbells Wines Pty Ltd  
Cape Jaffa Wines  
Casella Wines Pty Ltd t/as Casella Family Brands  
Cheviot Wine Group  
Colbinabbin Estate Vineyard Management Pty Ltd  
Constellation Australia Ltd  
Coonawarra Jack Winery Pty Ltd  
Cumulus Wines Pty Ltd  
Difabio Estate Wines Pty Ltd  
Domaine Chandon Australia Pty Ltd  
Dorrien Winemaking (Pinnacle Drinks)  
Down To Earth  
Eagle Bay Brewing Co  
Eden Road Wine Company t/as Eden Road Wines  
Feathertop Winery  
First Creek Wines  
Fleurieu Vintners Pty Ltd t/as Boar's Rock (now Randall Wine Group)  
Four Winds Vineyard  
Fowles Wine  
Fox Gordon Pty Ltd  
Gemtree Vineyards (now Randall Wine Group)  
Green Door Wines  
Growers Wine Group  
Gundog Estate  
Hayes Family Wines  
Heartland Wines Pty Ltd  
Henry Holmes Wines Pty Ltd  
Henschke  
Hill River Estate Wines (formerly Ramco Wine Group)  
J & M Innes Pty Ltd (Ottelia)  
Jeir Creek Wines

Kirrihill Wines Pty Ltd  
La Kooki Wines (Margaret River Wine Solutions)  
Lark Hill Wine Co  
Limestone Coast Wines Pty Ltd  
Montalto  
Nashdale Lane Wines  
Oakridge Wines Pty Ltd (Paragon Wine Estates)  
Obelisk Wine Co  
Paradigm Hill  
Pernod Ricard Winemakers  
Pipers Brook Vineyard  
Rathbone Wine Group Pty Ltd  
Red 5 Family Wines  
Rusden Wines  
Samarkan Pastoral Co Pty Ltd t/as Coombe Farm  
SA Wine Co.  
Seppeltsfield Wines Pty Ltd (now Randall Wine Group)  
Serafino Wines  
Shaw and Smith Pty Ltd  
Shaw Family Vintners Wines (now Randall Wine Group)  
Shingleback Wine Pty Ltd (Pinnacle Drinks)  
Sirromet Wines  
Smallwater Estate  
Tahbilk Pty Ltd on behalf of The Tahbilk Group  
TarraWarra Estate Pty Ltd  
Tinja Pastoral / Lowe Family Wine Co  
Tinlins Wines Pty Ltd (now Randall Wine Group)  
Treasury Wine Estates  
Trentham Estate  
Tyrrell's Vineyards Pty Ltd  
Vasse Felix and Idée Fixe  
Veraise  
Vineyard 28  
Voyager Estate (WA) Pty Ltd  
Wicks Estate Wines Pty Ltd  
Wirra Wirra Vineyards  
Yalumba Wine Company  
Zilzie Wines Pty Ltd  
Zonte's Foostep

## Acknowledgements

The Code Management Committee members would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation throughout the year of:

- The Accord Group,
- Independent Experts,
- Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated, and
- Observers from Murray Valley Winegrowers and Riverina Winegrape Growers.



## Financial Report

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### **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2025**

Accord Group Fee	\$	5, 000
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>5, 000</u></b>
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