AUSTRALIAN Grape & Wine

FOR INDUSTRY, BY INDUSTRY

AUSTRALIAN Grape & Wine

Code Management Committee



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

September 2026

Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases

CODE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Anna Hooper
Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated
National Wine Centre
Cnr Botanic Rd & Hackney Rd
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 0427 685 077
Email: anna@agw.org.au

CODE SECRETARIAT

c/o The Accord Group
Level 2, 370 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9264 9506
Facsimile: (02) 9264 8268
Email: codesecretariat@accordgroup.com.au

Website: www.agw.org.au/industry-resources/the-code-of-conduct-for-australian-winegrape-purchases/

Contents

INTRODUCTION **4**

The Code of Conduct for Australian Winegrape Purchases 4

Secretariat to the Code 4

Code Management Committee 4

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2025-26 **6**

Secretariat's Report 6

Signatories to the Code 6

Acknowledgements 8

FINANCIAL REPORT Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the fifteenth 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 2025 to 30 June 2026.

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 release of the 2026 Annual Report of the Code Management Committee coincides with the sector's preparing for an imminent transition from this voluntary code to a Mandatory Code of Conduct for Winegrape Purchases, expected to commence on 1 January 2027. Following government decisions to address industry contracting practices through regulation, the Code Management Committee and the operational success of the voluntary Code served as an important reference point, with its existing clauses, particularly those governing winegrape quality assessment procedures, pricing transparency, and payment terms, providing a key resource to draw upon. Throughout 2026, the Committee has supported, and will continue to support, the process by providing practical input into the final code. Once the mandatory code is formally prescribed, the Committee will assess its ongoing role in supporting fair and equitable relationships between growers and winemakers and providing a dispute resolution process.

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 2025 until October 2026.

Code Management Committee

The Code is overseen and administered by the Code Management Committee appointed by a Sub-committee of the Board of Australian Grape & Wine. The Committee held two meetings throughout the period. 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 2026 was:

Members	Representing	Member type
Peter Hayes	Independent Chair	
Fiona Anderson	Treasury Wine Estates	Winemaker
Danielle Arnfield	Accolade Wines	Winemaker
Luke Edwards	Casella Family Wines	Winemaker
Ashley Keegan	Fabal Vineyards Pty Ltd	Grower
Richard Neagle	Veraise	Grower
Stuart Andrew	Winkie Heights Pty Ltd	Grower (resigned 25th March 2026)
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 acknowledged the significant contribution that long-standing Committee member, Jim Caddy, who passed away on 3rd May 2026 made to this Committee and to the Australian grape growing community more broadly. Jim's strong advocacy for better grower representation, availability of winegrape market information, pricing fairness and ensuring inland regions have due influence over national research priorities has been highly valued over many years. His considered pursuit of strong policy decisions, and his generous support for grape growers will be greatly missed.

The resignation of Stuart Andrew and the merger of Pernod Ricard and Accolade further reduced the number of members. Given the uncertainty about the future of this committee following the introduction of a mandatory code, there have not been any new appointments made as yet. The Committee acknowledges that there remains a grower vacancy to be filled for the purpose of maintaining the commitment for equal representation from both winemakers and grape 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.

2. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2025-26

Secretariat's Report

Enquiries

There has been one enquiry received during this period, which is three fewer than the number of enquiries received in the 2024-25 period.

Nature of Disputes

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

Requests for the Appointment of Independent Expert

There was one request for the appointment of an independent expert during this period, with the dispute relating to a rejection of grapes. The parties requested the Code Secretariat to make an appointment. The independent expert delivered a determination.

Signatories

During this period, we received 2 applications to become a signatory to the Code. There is currently a total of 85 signatories.

Comments

This period has seen a lower level of enquiry compared to previous years, but there has been engagement with the dispute resolution processes available. It is worth noting the involvement of representatives in the enquiry received, which is encouraging to see the uptake and use of the Code by such representatives.

The Accord Group
Code Secretariat
August 2026

Signatories to the Code

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
Hentley Farm Pty Ltd
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)
Sidewood Estate
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 Footstep

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.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2026

Accord Group Fee	$	5, 000
Total	**$**	**5, 000**