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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Grape & Wine welcomes $109 million SA Wine Industry Transition and Growth Package, repeats call for national response

Australian Grape & Wine has welcomed the South Australian Government's $109 million support package for the state's grape and wine sector and called on the Australian Government to work with their state government counterparts to match the commitment nationally.

Australian Grape & Wine Chief Executive Lee McLean congratulated Premier Peter Malinauskas for recognising the significant challenges facing grape growers and winemakers and responding with practical support.

"This is a significant and very welcome commitment to an industry undergoing an incredibly difficult period of structural adjustment," Mr McLean said.

"The package includes $100 million in government-backed loans to support vineyard transition, $1 million in vineyard transition and diversification support for growers, $2 million to develop solutions for the disposal of CCA-treated timber posts, and $500,000 to develop industry-led solutions to address surplus wine inventories.

"It also includes an additional $5 million to extend and expand the Global Wine Growth Program for two years, a $675,000 advertising campaign to promote South Australian food and wine, and the appointment of a new Wine Industry Coordinator to work with industry and government through the transition.

"These are practical measures that respond directly to challenges Australian Grape & Wine has been raising with governments, including through our Federal Pre-Budget Submission.

"South Australia produces around half of Australia's winegrapes and half of our bottled wine, so this investment will make a real difference.

"But the challenges facing our sector do not stop at the South Australian border. The other half of Australia's grape growers and winemakers are facing many of the same pressures and are equally deserving of support.

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"We are calling on the Australian Government to work with their state government counterparts to match South Australia's commitment and ensure equivalent support is available to grape growers and winemakers across the country.

"Premier Malinauskas has demonstrated strong leadership and a genuine willingness to work with industry on practical solutions. We congratulate the Premier and his Government on this important investment in the future of the Australian wine sector."

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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.