

For immediate release



Wine industry embracing opportunities in a changing climate

Australian grapegrowers and winemakers will be able to build more sustainable businesses in the face of changing economic and climatic conditions, thanks to a new program to be launched today by the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI).

Senior members of the wine industry will gather at the program launch at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide to hear the latest information from climate experts and learn from experiences of industry practitioners leading the way in climate adaptation.

The program 'Building resilience and sustainability in the grape and wine sector', which is funded by the Australian Government, will deliver tailored resources and face-to-face workshops to the wine industry, focusing on climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, carbon storage and the Carbon Farming Initiative/Emissions Reduction Fund. Grapegrowers and winemakers with questions about climate adaptation will be able to contact the program team at the AWRI to gain up-to-date advice and assistance.

Managing Director of the AWRI, Dr Dan Johnson, said "The AWRI is very pleased to provide a central point of contact for the wine industry in the important area of climate adaptation, bringing together the latest policy information, research outcomes and advice."

Keynote speaker, Prof. Will Steffen from the Climate Council, who will present an overview of climate change and the wine industry said "Grapegrowers and winemakers are already feeling the effects of a changing climate – understanding the risks of a changing climate will help the industry not only minimise the impacts but also grab potential opportunities."

Additional speakers at the launch event will include: Prof. Snow Barlow, University of Melbourne; Darren Ray, Bureau of Meteorology, Phil Cohn, RAMP Carbon, Dr Lilly Lim-Camacho, CSIRO, Louisa Rose, Yalumba, Damien Griffante, Winemakers Federation of Australia, and Dr Mardi Longbottom, project leader from the AWRI. Topics covered will include tools for forecasting extreme weather events, an update on the collaborative project to develop the Australian Grape and Wine Carbon Calculator, industry examples of adaptation and a summary of current research.

For more information, contact Ella Robinson, Communication Manager, AWRI on 08 8313 6600, 0402 402 121 or ella.robinson@awri.com.au.

The Australian Wine Research Institute is the Australian grape and wine industry's own research organisation. It supports a sustainable and successful grape and wine industry through world class research, practical solutions and knowledge transfer.

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