



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **GWRDC and AWRI agree to develop new investment agreement**

The Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC) and the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) today agreed to develop a new investment agreement for research, development and extension (RD&E) for GWRDC's investment at AWRI.

'We will work closely to develop a new agreement that delivers RD&E for the Australian wine sector', said Mr Peter Dawson, Chair of AWRI, and the Hon Rory McEwen, Chair of GWRDC.

The new agreement will commence on 1 July 2013, following the conclusion of the current *GWRDC-AWRI Investment Agreement 2006-2013* on 30 June 2013.

The new agreement will be aligned with the GWRDC's *Strategic Research, Development and Extension Plan 2012-17* and will build on AWRI's acknowledged strength in wine science. It will build on the outcomes of the current agreement and the recommendations of the recent independent expert review into GWRDC's investment at AWRI.

Key findings from the independent expert review, released today, are that 'AWRI is highly respected both in Australia and overseas for the quality of its research' and 'the scientific and technical excellence of most activities was considered good to excellent'.

The independent expert review made a number of recommendations to provide for a focused 'sustainable research investment environment with full accountability that gives the wine sector best value for money under the current and likely future economic conditions'.

Review recommendations will be incorporated in the new agreement to improve management, oversight and accountability.

The independent expert review suggested there be closer interaction at board, executive and management level. Today's announcement follows a meeting between members of the GWRDC and AWRI Boards.

#### **For further information contact:**

Rae Blair, AWRI Communications Manager  
[rae.blair@awri.com.au](mailto:rae.blair@awri.com.au)  
0417 810 737

Jen Russell, GWRDC Communications Coordinator  
[jen@gwrdc.com.au](mailto:jen@gwrdc.com.au)  
08 8273 0500