



The Australian Wine  
Research Institute

## Election of directors of The Australian Wine Research Institute Limited (AWRI) by levy payers

### Background

The [AWRI's Constitution](#) provides that there will be not fewer than seven nor more than eleven directors on the AWRI Board. Six of those directors are nominated and/or elected by organisations that pay the *Wine Grapes Levy* (levy payers), divided into three categories:

- **Small levy payers** (levy payers who crush up to 2,000 tonnes of winegrapes per annum)
- **Medium levy payers** (levy payers who crush between 2,001 and 50,000 tonnes of winegrapes per annum)
- **Large levy payers** are levy payers who crush more than 50,000 tonnes of winegrapes per annum.

The levy payer vacancies on the Board are to be filled by the appointment of a maximum of two directors per levy payer category, totalling six levy payer directors.

Clause 25.5 (c) of the AWRI Constitution states:

For the avoidance of doubt, persons nominated by either Small, Medium or Large Levy Payers are not to be construed as representing the particular interests of that classification but to facilitate a mix of Directors across the classifications.

This document provides a brief summary of the process for levy payers to elect directors to the Board of the AWRI.

### Returning Officer

The directors of the AWRI will appoint the Returning Officer when the term of any levy payer-elected director is coming to an end. The Returning Officer will:

- call for nominations in the category/ies where a vacancy(ies) have arisen
- determine if an election is necessary
- if an election is necessary, conduct that election.

## Nomination process

A call for nominations will be made by various means including, notification placed on the AWRI website, through the AWRI's eBulletin or eNews service and by notifying state and regional industry associations. The nomination period will be at least twenty-one days. A levy payer can only propose or second a nomination for a director in relation to the category to which it belongs, and can only propose or second one nomination in total.

The nominee is not required to be a levy payer; however, the nominee, proposer and seconder must all declare that the nominee is a person who possesses the necessary skills, expertise and experience to satisfy Clause 25.3 of the [AWRI Constitution](#).

Once the nomination period has closed, the Returning Officer will inspect the nominations received and determine if an election is required (i.e. if more than the required number of candidates are nominated in a particular category).

If only the required number of candidates for a category have been nominated, the Returning Officer will declare them duly elected and will advise the Chair of the AWRI Board of the result.

If more candidates are nominated for a category than there are vacancies, the Returning Officer will conduct an election for that category.

## Election

If an election is required in a particular category, the Returning Officer will conduct the election

An election will be advertised by notification placed on the AWRI website, through the AWRI's eBulletin or eNews service and by notifying state and regional industry associations. Details of the names of the candidates, the category in which they are standing, the closing date of the election and the method of voting will be included in all notifications.

The election will be conducted electronically in such a way as to ensure the details of votes cast by any particular levy payer are kept confidential. The election will be open for voting for at least 10 business days. Only levy payers in the category for which an election is being conducted will be entitled to vote and each levy payer will be required to declare they belong to the specific category prior to voting.

Results from the electronic voting will be provided to the Returning Officer who will notify the Chair of the AWRI Board of the result and the number of votes received by each candidate.

In the unlikely event of a tie, the Returning Officer would decide which candidate(s) would be elected by lot. Election results will be communicated to levy payers.

## Contact

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