

Australian Grape and Wine Inc Communique

12-14 November 2024, Adelaide.

On Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14 November 2024, Australian Grape and Wine Inc (Australian Grape & Wine) held the following meetings in Adelaide:

- Tue 12 November 2024: Membership Committee meetings
Australian Grape & Wine’s Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Wed 13 November 2024: Australian Grape & Wine Board Meeting
- Thu 14 November 2024: Australian Grape & Wine Policy Forum.

Committee meetings

Australian Grape & Wine’s four membership committees discussed a broad range of industry and policy issues which were elevated to the Board for consideration. Furthermore, the membership committees elected new members and Board Directors. Details of who is on each of the membership committees can be found [here](#).

Australian Grape & Wine sincerely thanks outgoing committee members for their commitment to the sector.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Australian Grape & Wine hosted a range of industry representatives at its AGM. Those present were provided with an overview of Australia’s work across the 2023-24 year from the Chair (John Hart OAM), the CEO (Lee McLean) and the incoming Chair of the Audit Financial Security and Remuneration (AFSR) Committee (Ashley Keegan), who represented the outgoing AFSR Chair, Alister Purbrick.

In terms of formalities, Australian Grape & Wine’s financial statements for 2023-24 were unanimously approved, Perks were approved as Australian Grape & Wine’s auditors for the coming financial year and the minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

Those present also heard a report from the Chair of Wine Australia, Dr Michele Allan AO, about Wine Australia’s activities over the course of the financial year.

Board meeting

During the meeting, among other things, the Board:

- highlighted the importance of continuing to engage on alcohol and health policy issues, including through partner organisations such as DrinkWise, Alcohol Beverages Australia (ABA) and the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC);
- discussed AGW’s approach to the Australian Government in the lead up to the 2025 Federal Election, with a focus on advocating for funding to help improve the business and regulatory environment for all Australian grape and wine businesses. Fundamentally, the Board discussed the need for further investment in restoring balance to the supply and demand equation in the sector, noting, in particular, the importance of export development as a means to achieving this objective;
- discussed a range of competition-related matters, including the Competition Impact Analysis being led by Dr Craig Emerson, and the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee’s inquiry into the Australian Winegrape Purchases Code of Conduct. The Board noted the importance of both processes, encouraging industry to engage with Dr Emerson and the Senate Committee. Fundamentally, the Board



agreed that the objective of any such review should be driving greater prosperity right along the supply chain and to assess options to improve areas that stifle good commercial practices, and

- discussed a range of trade and market access related issues, including the relationship between trade and market access and the ESG demands of key customers. With this in mind, the Board noted the importance of actioning the Governance Review of the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (SWA) program to make sure it is fit for purpose for the future.

The Board remains deeply committed to working with the Australian Government, State Governments and other stakeholders such as Wine Australia to alleviate the significant pressures many in the industry are experiencing.

Australian Grape & Wine Policy Forum

The first Australian Grape & Wine Policy Forum brought together stakeholders from across various parts of the industry and the country. It provided an opportunity for participants to hear from each of Australian Grape & Wine's technical advisory committees, contribute to the short-term objectives of the One Grape & Wine Sector Plan and identify areas in which Australian Grape & Wine should be focusing its priorities in the year ahead.

The first iteration of the event was a useful exercise and we will take feedback from participants to drive its evolution into a more formal policy setting forum in the future.

Lee McLean

Chief Executive

29 November 2024