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MEDIA RELEASE

Winemakers' Federation of Australia welcomes more progress on trade

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) welcomes the conclusion of formal negotiations on the Australia-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement.

Australia is the world's 5th largest wine exporting nation, with around 60 per cent of our national production exported to overseas markets each year.

"I congratulate the government for its work in bringing negotiations on the Australia-Hong Kong FTA to a conclusion" said WFA Chief Executive, Tony Battaglene.

"Once in-force, this FTA will provide certainty of market access for Australian wine exporters in the Hong Kong market" said Mr Battaglene.

WFA is committed to supporting the Australian Government's efforts to drive trade and investment by pursuing high quality and comprehensive FTAs, and regional trade agreements, like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP-11).

"Like TPP-11, the Australia-Hong Kong FTA will address technical barriers to market access for wine and spirits. This is great news for Australian winemakers" said Mr Battaglene.

"WFA has worked with the Australian Government and overseas partners to encourage the inclusion of specific arrangements to tackle non-tariff barriers for wine in FTA negotiations, as it is often these technical barriers that present the greatest cost and uncertainty for exporters".

"I congratulate the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, and his team for reaching this milestone, and I welcome the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to pursuing better market access for Australia's wine producers", said Mr Battaglene.

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