



MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's wine industry welcomes draft legislation to reform WET rebate

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA), today, welcomed the release of the exposure draft legislation to reform the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate.

'The Australian wine industry, a significant contributor to the Australian economy, employing thousands of Australians in regional and rural communities, has fought long and hard for reform of the WET rebate eligibility criteria. The WET reforms announced last year have gone a long way to restoring integrity in the tax system, and once implemented will allow this very important sector to continue to grow and deliver benefits to rural and regional Australia', said Tony Battaglene, WFA Chief Executive.

WFA will now study the draft legislation closely and work with the government to iron out any potential issues.

'We are delighted the government has recognised the importance of the wine sector to Australia. The WET legislation recognises the unique and valuable role the wine sector plays in the Australian economy. The legislative changes improve the integrity of the system and are vital to the success of the wine sector and its profitability. Our contribution to regional Australia and exports through wine producers who build brands, invest in regional communities and create local jobs is significant. Once implemented the legislative changes will put an end to uncertainty and put the industry in a stronger long-term position,' Tony Battaglene, WFA CEO said.

The bedding down of these changes, along with the new \$100,000 Wine Tourism and Cellar Door grant, and the \$50 million Export and Regional Support Package, will ensure that the Australian wine industry continues to deliver economic and social benefits in their regions.

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