



# TOM VENNING MP

## Member for Grey



### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **LONG OVERDUE, BUT A WIN FOR SA WINE INDUSTRY**

After strong advocacy from the community, stakeholders, and Federal Member for Grey Tom Venning MP, the South Australian Government has announced a \$109 million support package for the wine industry.

This package is a positive step for an industry already dealing with oversupply, falling grape prices and declining global wine consumption.

Mr Venning has been working directly with the Federal Government on behalf of growers and winemakers, recently meeting with Senator Anne Ruston and Trade Minister Don Farrell to raise challenges facing the sector, including water security and the Container Deposit Scheme.

"South Australia's wine industry is world-renowned, and this package will provide long overdue support to growers, winemakers and regional communities," Mr Venning said.

"Growers have been telling us for some time that they are in serious trouble. I recently sat down with growers and winemakers in the Clare Valley, and they were very clear about the pressures they are facing.

"When a grower is struggling to find a buyer for their grapes, that pressure doesn't stop with them. It flows through to wineries, cellar doors, local businesses and the communities that depend on visitors coming to the region.

"They should not have had to wait until the situation became this serious before seeing meaningful government action.

"The Federal Government needs to work alongside state and territory governments to deliver a nationally consistent level of support so grape growers and winemakers across Australia aren't left behind.

"The two-year interest-free period will give growers some much needed breathing space, but what happens after that? A 7.2 per cent interest rate looks much more like a commercial rate than genuine concessional support.

"I will continue to advocate for greater CDS harmonisation across Australia and for the wine industry to receive the support it needs to remain viable, competitive and sustainable into the future.

"I am looking forward to meeting with Federal Minister for Environment Murray Watt to discuss this."

**END**

#### **Media Contacts**

Joanna Tucker: 0459 942 506

Scout Carmichael: 0422 206 023