



Our ref: eA198876
Obj ID: A5783429
Receipt No: 17377803

The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Office of the Minister for Forest Industries on 13 February 2023 requesting access to the following:

“All correspondence between the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Wine Grape Council of South Australia between 21 March 2022 and 13 February 2023”

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located four documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email from the Wine and Grape Council of South Australia to PIRSA:Minister Scriven dated 31/03/2022 re congratulatory and update on pre-vintage key findings	1
1a	Attachment to Document 1 – WGCSA 2022 Pre-Vintage Survey Key Findings	8
2	Email from Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Wine Grape Council of South Australia dated 29/09/2022 encl letter re the Primary Industries Funding Schemes (SA Grape Growers Industry Fund) Regulations 2021	3

3	Letter from the Wine and Grape Council of South Australia to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 29/07/2022 re SA Grape Grower Industry Fund	1
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If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this internal review determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Rachael Colegate on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

23 / 3 / 2023

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Lisa Bennier <lisa@wgcsa.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 2:15 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Hello and a Quick Update from Wine Grape Council of SA
Attachments: WGCSA 2022 Pre-Vintage Survey Key Findings.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Scriven,

Congratulations on your appointment and a sincere thankyou for the phone message left on my mobile last week.

I too look forward to working with you and your office on behalf of SA independent Grape Growers and also as an active commodity member of Primary Producers SA.

I wanted to quickly share our pre-vintage grower survey 'key findings' that were distributed to our survey participants and PIRSA yesterday.

Grape Growers are unfortunately experiencing continuing market challenges, exasperated by the geopolitical issues with China and also the global transport challenges.

This follows drought, bushfires and some extreme weather conditions across several regions - many are doing it tough.

As indicated in the 'key findings' infographic, there are significant concerns around surplus Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon fruit, but much more importantly around the health and wellbeing of our members. This is a particularly worrying (and growing) area of concern and something we're working on addressing through our upcoming 12 part podcast : Healthy Minds, Healthy Vines along with some other potential projects.

Once you have time to settle in, have your team in place and we are through our 2022 vintage we would welcome an opportunity to meet.

All the very best, I genuinely look forward to working with you.

Cheers,



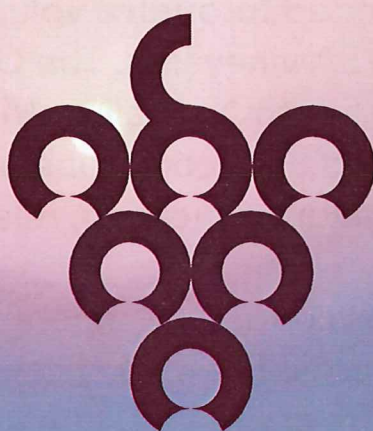
We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this email is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may be confidential or contain privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any perusal, use, distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error please immediately advise us by return email and delete the email without making a copy. **Please consider the environment before printing this email***

**KEY FINDINGS
OF THE
SA GRAPE
GROWERS
PRE-VINTAGE
SURVEY**

2022

**WINE
GRAPE
COUNCIL
SA**



Photographer: Lewis Potter, Adelaide Hills

OVERVIEW

The Wine Grape Council of SA (WGCSA) is the peak body for South Australian grapegrowers funded through a voluntary contribution paid on all winegrapes sold from SA vineyards. The Council's vision is for a prosperous and sustainable South Australian Wine Grape Industry where the livelihoods of Growers and their communities are enhanced through agricultural practices, innovation, education, relationships and culture.

In January 2022 a survey was conducted amongst growers with a view to understanding their concerns. The survey comprised of 18 questions dealing with issues ranging from vineyard holdings, contracts and anticipated sales to expected movements in price, financial difficulties, and impact on their personal health and wellbeing. Responses were received from grower members across more than 11 regions within South Australia.

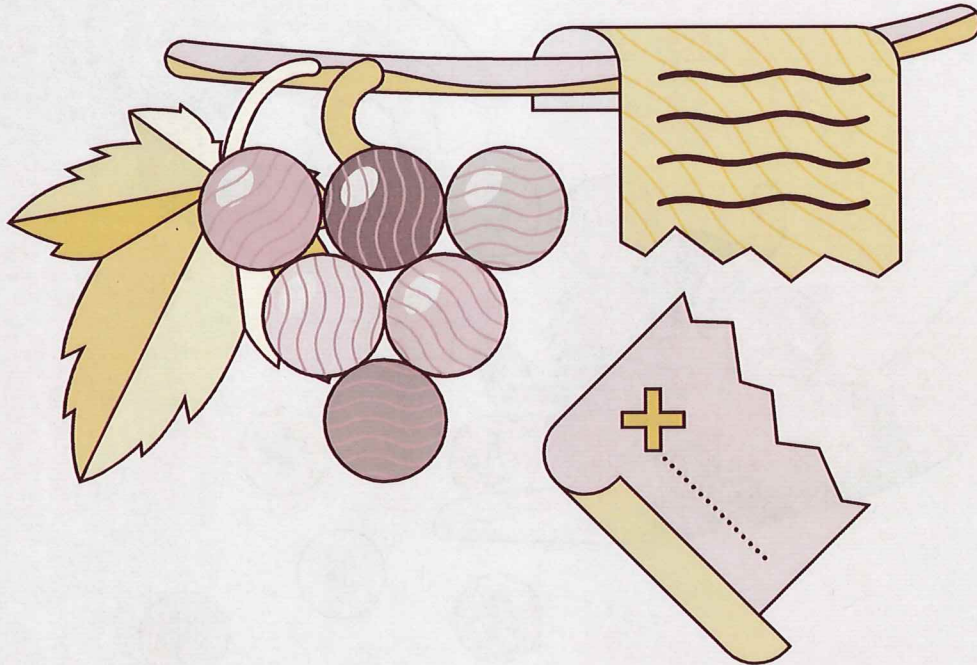
The purpose of this document is to show the key findings from the survey. Further details of the survey may be obtained by contacting Lisa Bennier, Business Manager WGCSA.

**LEVEL 1, INDUSTRY HOUSE
CNR BOTANIC & HACKNEY ROAD
ADELAIDE SA 5000
0419 039 508
ADMIN@WGCSA.COM.AU
WGCSA.COM.AU**



Finding 01

A significant reduction in contracts for the sale of grapes



Some Uncontracted

46%

of grape growers have fruit on vines that is currently not under contract for sale

No contract

10%

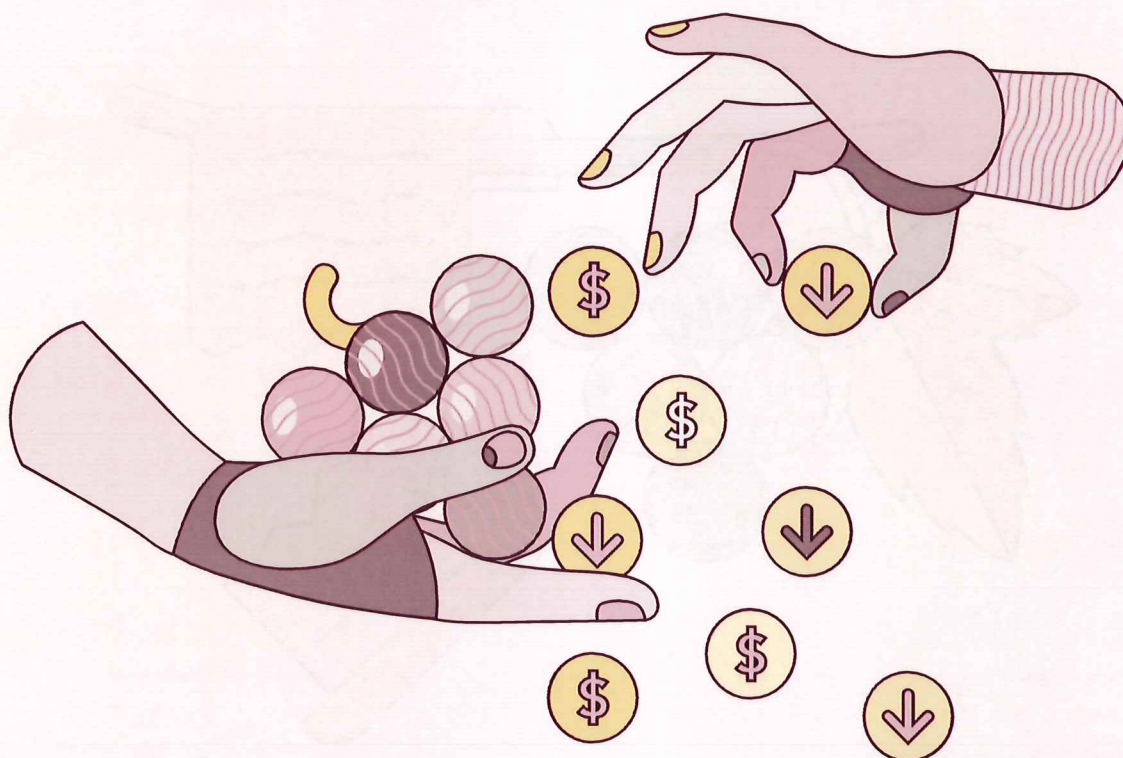
of grape growers have no contract of sale for grapes grown for the 2022 vintage

Significance of the finding:

Grapes that do not have a contract for sale will be released to the market at significantly discounted prices, often below the cost of growing the fruit. The reduction in buyers for grapes will put downward pressure on grape prices and income for growers. If growers cannot sell fruit, they will suffer significant annual losses as inputs for the current vintage have already been incurred over the growing season.

Finding 02

A Widespread Decrease in Pricing for Red Grapes



Reduced Income

Half Income Reduced

81%

of grape growers expect to receive a reduced income for red grapes compared to the previous vintage (2021)

28%

of grape growers expect a reduction of up to half of the income for red grapes compared to the previous vintage (2021)

Significance of the finding:

Reduced incomes create difficulties for growers to remain viable for future vintages and may force foreclosures and the need for exit strategies. The impact on the emotional well-being and mental health of growers has potential for significant social implications.

Finding 03

Average Red Grape Prices Offered to Growers



Shiraz

2021

\$1774 Tonne

2022

\$1558 Tonne

Cabernet

2021

\$1314 Tonne

2022

\$1028 Tonne

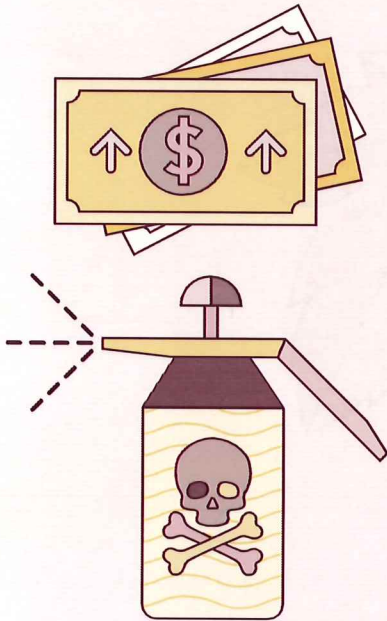
Significance of the finding:

Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes comprised 78.52% of the total grape crush in 2021 and comprise the bulk of the income received for grape growers from red grapes in South Australia. Based on the average crush*, the expected losses of income for Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon for 2022 are at least \$104,677,369 given 46% of growers still had some uncontracted fruit.

*Seven year average Shiraz 271,639 tonnes (Wine Australia). Seven year average Cabernet Sauvignon 161,800 (Wine Australia).

Finding 04

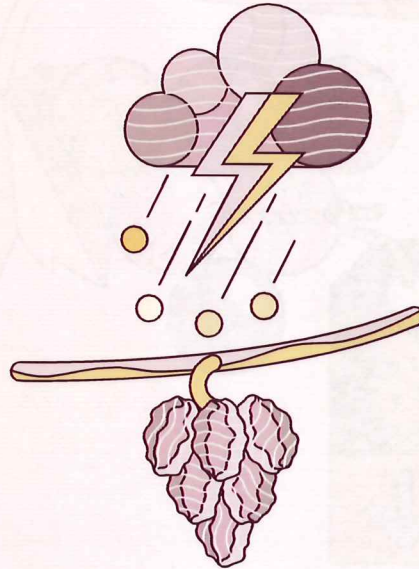
Biggest Issues for Grape Growers



Cost of Inputs

41%

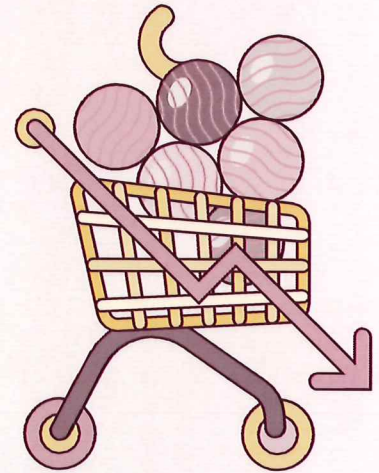
of grape growers state that they are experiencing difficulty with the rising costs of inputs (fertilisers, fungicides, mulch etc.) when compared to the previous two vintages



Crop Losses

39%

of grape growers state that they are experiencing difficulty with crop losses due to weather events (frost, hail etc.) when compared to the previous two vintages



Inability to Sell

32%

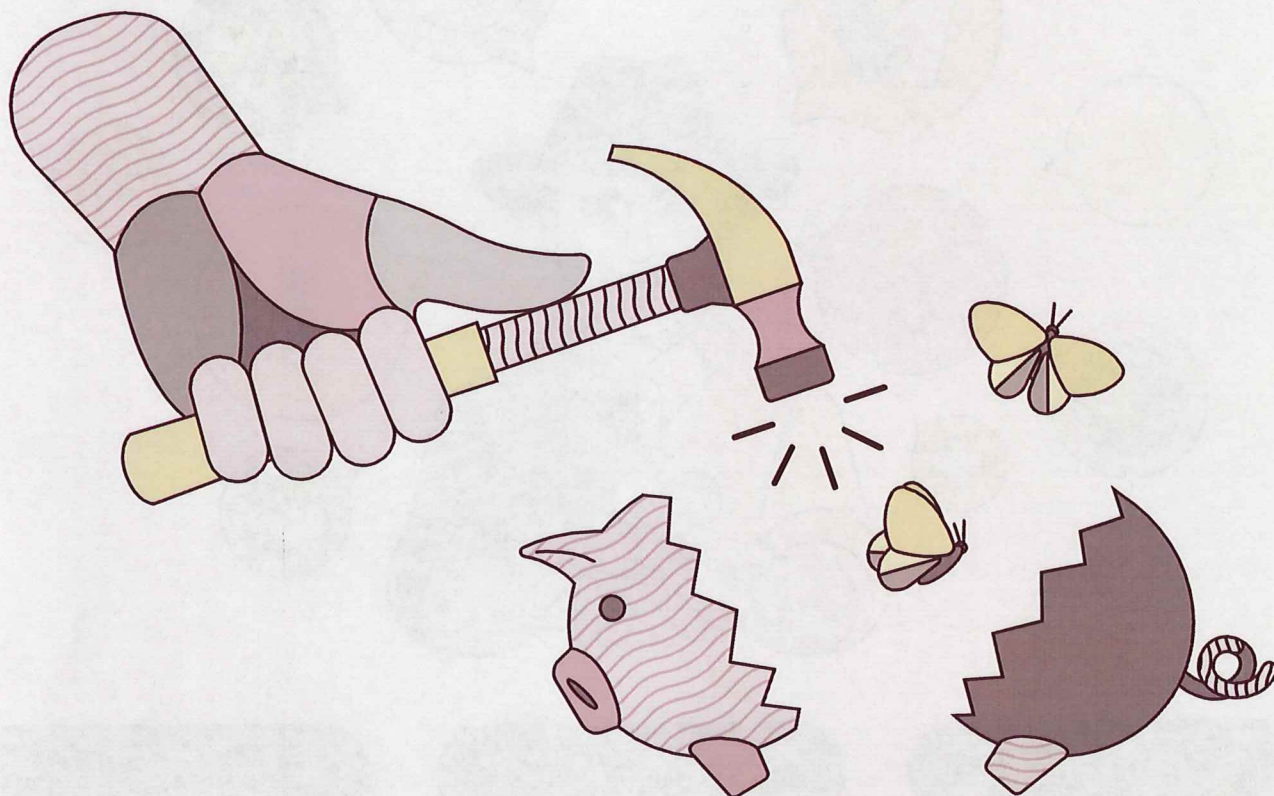
of grape growers state that they are experiencing difficulty with selling grapes when compared to the previous two vintages

Significance of the finding:

The convergent effect of the three biggest issues for grape growers; loss of income, reduced yield, higher input cost for the 2022 vintage has the potential to impact grape growers in a profoundly negative way.

Finding 05

Experiencing Financial Stress



19%

of grape growers are having or intend on having discussions with their Bank and/or Financial institution around financial difficulties as a result of the projected industry grape and wine surplus

Significance of the finding:

A significant number of grape growers in SA are, and will, require assistance from financial institutions to remain viable and the potential for bank foreclosure is rising.

Finding 06

Grape Grower Sentiment



Overall Mindset

Very Concerned

Health & Wellbeing

48%

of grape growers have feelings of concern regarding the circumstances surrounding the 2022 vintage

25%

of grape growers are very concerned regarding the circumstances surrounding the 2022 vintage

19%

of grape growers are concerned or very concerned regarding the state of their overall health and well-being

Significance of the finding:

The pressures of farming, together with its isolation, mean that farmers are more likely to experience depression and anxiety than other people. Rural farming communities are at greater risk of suicide than most other Australians.

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Friday, 30 September 2022 11:52 AM
To: lisa@wgcsa.com.au
Subject: eA198102/A5578859 - Primary Industry Funding Schemes (SA Grape Growers Industry Fund) Regulations 2021
Attachments: eA198102 - SA Grape Growers Industry Funds - Ms L Bennier .pdf

OFFICIAL

MPIRD/MFI Ref: eA198102/A5578859

Dear Ms Bennier

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven regarding your application for the 2022-23 SA Grape Growers Industry Fund.

If you could please sign the attached acknowledgement and return to ben.timmis2@sa.gov.au.

Kindest regards
Anthea

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Minister for Forest Industries

Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

A5578859



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Ms Lisa Bennier
Business Manager
The Wine Grape Council of South Australia Incorporated
Level 1, Industry House
Cnr Botanic & Hackney Road
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Email: lisa@wgcsa.com.au

Dear Ms Bennier *Lisa,*

Thank you for your letter of 29 July 2022 requesting a payment for 2022-23 from the SA Grape Growers Industry Fund, established by the *Primary Industry Funding Schemes (SA Grape Growers Industry Fund) Regulations 2021*.

I accept the application from the Wine Grape Council of South Australia Incorporated as the body that, in my opinion, represents grape growers and winemakers who contribute to the SA Grape Growers Industry Fund.

I am pleased to approve payment of up to \$650,000 for the purposes outlined in your operational plan, which are consistent with the regulations. Payments will be made in instalments and are subject to sufficient funds being available at the time of each payment.

At the end of the financial year please provide a statement of acquittal demonstrating the payment has been fully expended and a report on the activities undertaken.

Please also sign the attached acknowledgement and return to Ben Timmis, who can be contacted by telephone on 8429 0663 or email ben.timmis2@sa.gov.au.

I look forward to seeing these funds applied for the benefit of South Australian grape growers.

Yours sincerely

Clare Scriven

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

29/9 / 2022

Att: Acknowledgement of letter

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LETTER

I _____, authorised officer, for and on behalf of the
The Wine Grape Council of South Australia Incorporated, ABN 15 358 317 535,
acknowledge and accept the requirements specified in this letter relating to payments
from the SA Grape Growers Industry Fund which are for the purposes prescribed in the
*Primary Industry Funding Schemes (SA Grape Growers Industry Fund) Regulations
2021* and the associated fund management plan.

Signature _____

Print full name _____

Position/Office _____

Date / /

Signed in the presence of:

Witness signature _____

Print full name _____

Date / /

Please sign and email this page to ben.timmis2@sa.gov.au



Industry House, National Wine Centre, Cnr Botanic & Hackney Rd, Adelaide SA 5000

The Hon Claire Scriven MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

29th July 2022

Dear Minister,
SA GRAPE GROWER INDUSTRY FUND

The Wine Grape Council of SA is the peak body for South Australian Grape Growers. The council provides grape growers with a voice on commercial, agri-business, viticultural, and environmental matters in industry, government and public debate. It also develops strategies, shares information and resources along with funding projects that support the future growth and success of wine grape growers in SA.

I am writing on behalf of the Wine Grape Council of South Australia to present our application for this current financial year and to request our initial 60% tranche payment of \$390,000 from the SA Grape Growers Industry Fund for the 2022-23 year.

The application and budget have been developed in consultation with the WGCSA Board, who are members of the SA Grape Grower Industry Fund and represent all grower members who contribute to the Fund. It is consistent with our new Strategic Plan and the agreed Management Plan which specifies the objectives for which the fund was established.

This application requests a total annual payment of \$650,000
This application has been passed by the rules of the Wine Grape Council of South Australia and will be ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the association on 22nd October 2022.

Once again thank for your support of this worthwhile industry initiative.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark purple ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bennier".

Lisa Bennier
Business Manager
p - 0419 039 508
e - lisa@wgcsa.com.au
w - www.wgcsa.com.au

We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present, and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.