



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Our ref: eA198878
Obj ID: A5783540
Receipt No: 17378235

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 Riverland Wine Industry Development Council between 21 March 2022 and 13 February 2023.”

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located five 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 Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to Riverland Wine dated 30/09/2022 encl letter re the <i>Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Riverland Wine Industry Fund) Regulations 2016</i>	3
2	Email from Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to Riverland Wine dated 17/01/2023 encl letter re the Riverland grape and wine sector	2
3	Email from Riverland Wine to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 27/10/2022 encl letter and attachment re position policy and visit to Riverland	4

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



4	Email from Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to Riverland Wine dated 12/12/2022 encl letter re oversupply of red wine grapes in Australia	3
5	Email from Riverland Wine to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 09/11/2022 re support for grape growers	3

The information removed from Document 3 is outside of the scope of your request.

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: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Friday, 30 September 2022 11:54 AM
To: eo@riverlandwine.com.au
Subject: eA198102/A5578859 - Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Riverland Wine Industry Fund) Regulations 2021
Attachments: eA198102 - Riverland Wine Industry Fund - Lyndall Rowe .pdf

OFFICIAL

MPIRD/MFI Ref: eA198102/A5578859

Dear Ms Rowe

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven regarding your application for the 2022-23 Riverland Wine 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.

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A5559711



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Ms Lyndall Rowe
Executive Officer
Riverland Wine
PO Box 444
LOXTON SA 5333

Email: eo@riverlandwine.com.au

Dear Ms Rowe

Thank you for your letter of 31 August 2022 requesting a payment for 2022-23 from the Riverland Wine Industry Fund, established by the *Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Riverland Wine Industry Fund) Regulations 2016*.

I accept the application from Riverland Wine as the body that, in my opinion, represents grape growers and winemakers who contribute to the Riverland Wine Industry Fund.

I am pleased to approve payment of up to \$790,000 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 Riverland grape growers and winemakers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. 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 Riverland Wine, ABN _____, acknowledge and accept the requirements specified in this Letter relating to payments from the Riverland Wine Industry Fund which are for the purposes prescribed in the *Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Riverland Wine Industry Fund) Regulations 2016* 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

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 3:26 PM
To: darren@oemcke.com
Cc: eo@riverlandwine.com.au
Subject: eA198638 - Correspondence from Minister Scriven to Dr Oemcke - 17.01.23
Attachments: eA198638 - Correspondence from Minister Scriven to Dr Oemcke - 17.01.23.pdf

OFFICIAL

Document ID: eA198638

Dear Dr Oemcke

Please see attached correspondence from Minister Scriven regarding the Riverland grape and wine sector.

Kind regards

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



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eA198638



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Dr Darren Oemcke
Independent Chairperson
Riverland Wine
PO Box 444
LOXTON SA 5333

darren@oemcke.com

Dear Dr Oemcke

I write to inform you of my decision to support the recovery and ongoing vitality of the Riverland grape and wine sector by providing \$100,000 (excluding GST) towards the development of an industry led blueprint to identify priority projects and actions to guide the sector over the next ten years.

It is envisaged the *Riverland Wine Industry Blueprint* will be delivered under the following principles:

- o Establishment of a high-level steering committee to provide governance and direction to the blueprint. This would include an independent chairperson jointly agreed by Riverland Wine and the SA Government.
- o Appointment of an independent consultant to drive discovery, engagement and creation of the blueprint.
- o Development of positioning papers for each part of the sector which will be used to inform the whole of supply chain engagement process which will include workshops, surveys and stakeholder meetings.
- o Launch at an industry event with relevant extension and promotion materials produced.

Jo Collins, Executive Director, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships will be in contact with you to develop a suitable agreement in relation to this new support.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Riverland grape and wine industry into the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Scriven'.

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

17 / 1 / 2023

cc Lyndall Rowe - eo@riverlandwine.com.au

Office of the
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



Out of scope



From: Lyndall Rowe <Eo@riverlandwine.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Scriven Office <Scriven.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Riverland Wine Position Policy and Invitation

Dear Minister Scriven,

I hope you are well.

We attach the Riverland Wine Policy Priority document for your consideration and also extend an invitation from our Independent Dr Chair Darren Oemcke.

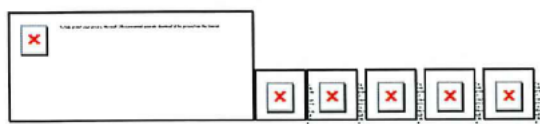
We draw to your attention that there is a \$5 million ask to be spread OVER 3 YEARS which could be split among a number of different programs and initiatives including co-investment by Riverland Wine and/or members to:

- Assist wineries to sell more wine in new and existing markets
- Support growers to transition to new product mixes

We look forward to your feedback and discussion.

Warm regards
Lyndall

Lyndall Rowe
Executive Officer | Engagement Manager, Riverland Wine
Phone: 0407 305 623 | Office: 8584 5816
Email: eo@riverlandwine.com.au
PO Box 444 Loxton SA 5333 | 1801 Bookpurnong Road Loxton SA 5333



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25 October 2022

The Hon, Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Parliament House,
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Re: Invitation to visit the Riverland

Dear Minister Scriven,

The Riverland wine-producing region is incredibly important to the Australian wine industry in terms of scale, economic contribution, diversity, export value, technology and structural change and innovation. The region is facing some of the toughest market conditions in its history with lowered commercial red wine grape prices, full inventory and global transport disruptions severely impacting wine businesses and the broader economy in the region.

Riverland wine growers and wineries understand they must diversify markets and product mix. Focussing on greater product diversity, upskilling for market growth, and adopting new and environmental approaches to viticulture are crucial to the region's economic prosperity and community wellbeing.

In support of the Riverland region, we invite you and other representatives to tour the Riverland to gain insight into the severity of the crisis. The visit will open the opportunity discuss co-investment and short-term support to help our wine businesses transition through the next two years of trading.

The program will inform why current economic and biological conditions are not business as usual and, include a tour of the region's largest winery, a visit to a significant grape growing property and a luncheon with the region's key stakeholders.

In addition, Riverland Wine has commenced working with its partners on a local regional response to the proper removal of grapevine material and resting of vineyards that will assist biosecurity. Investment in R&D to fill the knowledge gaps of resting vineyards and, assisting winegrape growers with recovery and resilience is critical.

Could we please confirm your availability with our Executive Officer, Lyndall Rowe on 0407 305 623 or eo@riverlandwine.com.au on a date over next two months that works for you.

Riverland Wine appreciates your consideration of the issues facing the Riverland wine growing region and I would be pleased to discuss the details with you should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Oemcke", written in a cursive style.

Dr Darren Oemcke
Independent Chair
Riverland Wine

RIVERLAND WINE – A UNIQUE MAJOR WINE REGION



The Riverland wine-producing region is incredibly important to the Australian wine industry in terms of scale, economic contribution, diversity, export value, technology and structural change and innovation.

Riverland Wine also plays a major part in the success and growth of the South Australian wine industry and state economy is a significant contributor to the Food, Wine and Agribusiness Growth State Plan to grow the sector to \$23 billion by 2030.

Extending for 330 kilometres along the Murray River, it is the largest Australian wine region by size, volume of crush (31%), number of growers (936), and commercial wine grape varieties (85). The wine from the Riverland is exported to over 100 countries.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Riverland red wine commercial market is very different to other wine regions and is facing some of the toughest market conditions in its history. The negative impact of China tariffs and the supply challenges resulting in lower grape prices are severely impacting wine business and the broader economy in the region. No Shiraz or Cabernet grower is unaffected. An estimated 40% of Shiraz and Cabernet wine grapes produced in the region have no domestic or export market contracts and, prices for the remainder are commercially unsustainable. The region will be affected for 2-4 years.

Australian wine is temporarily uncompetitive in the global commercial wine market due to transport issues that have disproportionately affected Australia compared to our competitors just as we lost the China market. Shipping, inflation and On-costs continue to have a serious impact.



A SOLUTION

The Riverland Wine growers and wineries understand they must diversify markets and product mix.

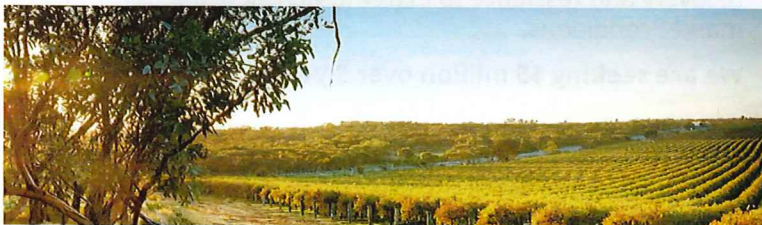
They have invested tens of millions of dollars of their own money in recent years in this regard.

Due to the major market challenges, they are now seeking co-investment to tailor wine export programs and to further improve adaptation of grape and wine production.

Focussing on greater product diversity, upskilling for market growth and adopting new and environmental approaches to viticulture are crucial to the region's future economic prosperity and community wellbeing.

Riverland Wine is seeking short term support to manage inventory and help transition it through the next two years of trading.

Our two key priorities for the South / Federal Australian Government to consider are:



1

**Assist wineries to sell more wine
in new and existing markets**

2

**Support growers to transition to
new product mixes**

PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT

Greater export marketing to sell more wine in new markets

- Increased focus from the State Government through PIRSA and the Department of Trade and Investment to support Riverland Wine with sales and movement of red wine.
- Substantial financial support as a percentage of excise for the marketing and sale of Riverland wine to new markets with a focus on exports.

Regional producer and grower's support

Riverland Wine has commenced working with its partners on a local regional response. The region and the industry have invested millions of dollars and significant resources. To continue this investment and address the challenges, we are seeking new co-investment with the South Australian and/or Federal Governments to provide matching support to growers for some or all the following activities:



Financial support for growers to respond to challenging conditions.



Costs of not growing.



Enabling a faster recovery. No container cancellations.



Proper removal of grapevine material and resting of vineyards that will assist biosecurity.



Strategies to grow consumption domestically. Buy Australian Wine campaign.



Potential water buy-backs with transitional requirements.

We are also seeking investment in R&D to fill knowledge gaps of resting vineyards that has commenced but requires a more active process.

Improved market information to support wine transportation and sales

Riverland growers and producers are concerned about their ability to make effective decisions considering the uncertainty about freight.

We are seeking that the State Government provide information on the changing freight situation that provides at least monthly updates to the growers and producers of the region to increase their situational transparency and therefore effectiveness of decision making.

Financial support

Funding for winegrape growers to assist with the recovery and resilience to extremely challenging market conditions.

We are seeking \$5 million over 3 years.

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 1:57 PM
To: eo@riverlandwine.com.au
Cc: Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA)
Subject: eA198458 - Minister Scriven Correspondence
Attachments: eA198458 - Ms Lyndall Rowe - Riverland Wine - 12 December 2022.pdf

OFFICIAL

Document ID: eA198458

Dear Ms Rowe

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven dated 12 December 2022.

Kind regards

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



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eA198458



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Ms Lyndall Rowe
Executive Officer
Riverland Wine
1801 Bookpurnong Road
LOXTON SA 5333

Email: eo@riverlandwine.com.au

Dear Ms ~~Rowe~~ *Lyndall*,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2022 to the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP about the challenges faced by your members owing to the looming oversupply of red wine grapes in Australia.

I commend you for the support you are providing to your members, particularly the recent outlook workshops in Renmark and Waikerie. I learned firsthand when I visited the Riverland recently and met with yourself and representatives of the Riverland grape growers and wine makers of the many challenges the Riverland wine producers are facing with oversupply of red wine grapes and near record river levels approaching.

South Australian Government agencies are working closely with local government and relevant community groups and industry bodies to minimise the impact of the increased flows on residents, workers, businesses, primary producers and tourism with immediate priority given to protecting people, infrastructure and property.

Your members may be interested to know that River Murray primary producers are now able to apply for funding to assist with the costs associated with flood impacts to irrigation infrastructure and electricity supply. More information can be found at pir.sa.gov.au.

Regarding your request for assistance, I have recently written to my federal counterpart, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, to undertake discussions regarding a nationally consistent strategy to manage solutions for the oversupply issue and impacts on grape growers and winemakers. This is important as the oversupply is truly a national issue that requires a holistic approach from multiple state governments, the Commonwealth Government and national, state and regional industry bodies. Minister Watt has indicated that he will remain in contact with me as industry conditions evolve ahead of the 2023 vintage and welcomes suggested policy approaches.

We understand that your growers and winemakers are facing unprecedented challenges. The Family and Business Support mentor program and the Rural

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



Financial Counselling Service have been mobilised to provide support to impacted primary producers. I encourage you to continue to promote these services as we work towards a meaningful strategy to support the wine industry to return to a sustainable supply and demand balance.

I understand that a meeting with senior Departmental officers and Riverland Wine is taking place today. I am keen to ensure that my office alongside the Department of Primary Industries and Regions are in active discussions with Riverland Wine to address the issues being faced by grape growers in the Riverland region.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely



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

12 / 12 / 2022

Gonos, Anthea (PIRSA)

From: Lyndall Rowe <Eo@riverlandwine.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 November 2022 1:18 PM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Subject: Re: Riverland Wine Position Policy and Invitation
Attachments: Riverland Wine position pager 28 Oct.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Scriven,

It was fantastic to see the Premier visiting the Riverland yesterday. An appropriate package to provide support for those people who are affected by floods is needed and we appreciate the Premier's consideration on this.

I also draw to your attention that the rising river levels and heavy rains in the Riverland is set to significantly compound ***the toughest ever market conditions Riverland wine growers are facing.***

An estimated 40% of Shiraz and Cabernet wine grapes produced in the region have no domestic or export market contracts and prices are commercially unsustainable. ***Winegrowers are at a crisis point.***

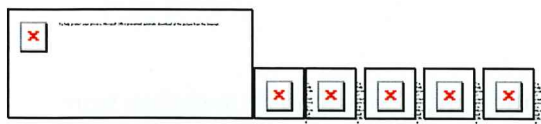
The negative impact of China tariffs and the supply challenges resulting in lower grape prices are already severely impacting wine business and the broader economy in the Riverland region.

We have requested that the Premier considers ***financial support for growers to respond to challenging conditions (\$750k to \$1m)*** and ***support to remove grapevine material and resting of vineyards that will assist biosecurity (\$750k - \$1m)*** in the Riverland support package that will be announced next week.

The Riverland Wine Position Policy is attached for further information.
 My contact details are below and, I am available to discuss at convenience.

Warm regards
 Lyndall

Lyndall Rowe
 Executive Officer | Engagement Manager, Riverland Wine
 Phone: 0407 305 623 | Office: 8584 5816
 Email: eo@riverlandwine.com.au
 PO Box 444 Loxton SA 5333 | 1801 Bookpurnong Road Loxton SA 5333



From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven <Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au>
Sent: 28 October 2022 12:10
To: Lyndall Rowe <Eo@riverlandwine.com.au>
Subject: RE: Riverland Wine Position Policy and Invitation

OFFICIAL

MPIRD/MFI Ref: eA198383

Dear Ms Rowe & Mr Oemcke

On behalf of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Minister for Forest Industries, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28 October 2022.

Your invitation is currently receiving consideration and a response will be forwarded to you at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

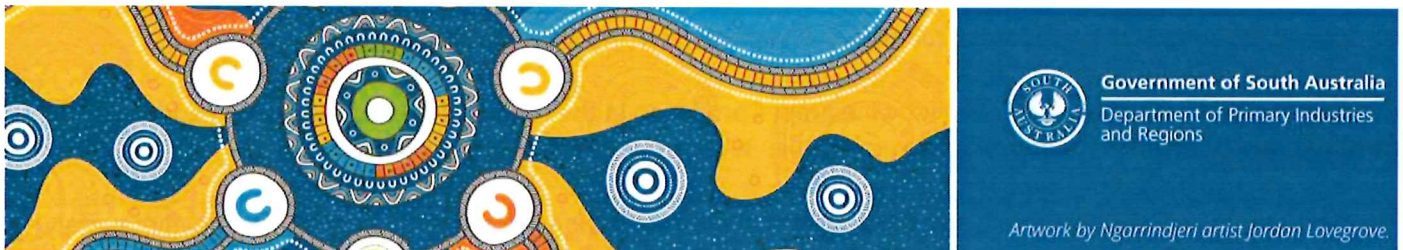
Minister for Forest Industries

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

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From: Lyndall Rowe <Eo@riverlandwine.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Scriven Office <Scriven.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Riverland Wine Position Policy and Invitation

Dear Minister Scriven,

I hope you are well.

We attach the Riverland Wine Policy Priority document for your consideration and also extend an invitation from our Independent Dr Chair Darren Oemcke.

We draw to your attention that there is a \$5 million ask to be spread OVER 3 YEARS which could be split among a number of different programs and initiatives including co-investment by Riverland Wine and/or members to:

- Assist wineries to sell more wine in new and existing markets
- Support growers to transition to new product mixes

We look forward to your feedback and discussion.

Warm regards

Lyndall

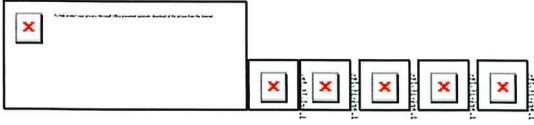
Lyndall Rowe

Executive Officer | Engagement Manager, Riverland Wine

Phone: 0407 305 623 | Office: 8584 5816

Email: eo@riverlandwine.com.au

PO Box 444 Loxton SA 5333 | 1801 Bookpurnong Road Loxton SA 5333



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