

# WINE GRAPES MARKETING BOARD

For the City of Griffith and the local government areas of  
Leeton, Carrathool and Murrumbidgee



## MEDIA RELEASE

5 September 2008

### WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS TO HELP RIVERINA GRAPEGROWERS SURVIVE

The Wine Grapes Marketing Board wishes to advise of a regional workshop aimed at helping Riverina grapegrowers manage their water through the upcoming 2008/09 season.

The Water & Vine – Managing the Challenge workshop will be held at the Gemini Function Centre, Griffith on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The Water & Vine training workshops have been developed to assist Murray Darling Basin grapegrowers survive what is expected to be one of the toughest summers in Australia's history. The workshops form part of a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Irrigation Industries Workshop Program.

The free workshop will be delivered twice on the day to all interested growers. The morning delivery starts with breakfast at 8.30 am and will finish with lunch, with the second session starting at 1.30pm and concluding with drinks at approximately 5.30pm. Grape growers need only attend either the morning or afternoon session.

The presentation of the workshop will be by The Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC). The first module will look at water allocation scenarios for 2008-2009 based on climate change data from the CSIRO and the second module will present the processes used to make water allocation decisions in the Murray Darling Basin.

Growers will get an overview of how the Murray Darling Basin system functions and gain an insight into key factors that influence the announcement of water allocations in each region including permanent and temporary water trade. Information about what influences the water market will also be discussed

The third module will provide detailed information about managing the conversion from furrow, overhead or under-vine irrigation to drip irrigation. Growers will learn when is the best time to convert, the economics of conversion, how to conduct routine maintenance and cleaning of the drip system and how to approach scheduling irrigation under the new system.

The fourth module will provide the latest information on the link between irrigation inputs and wine grape productivity, including influences on berry/wine quality.

GWRDC Water & Vine Project Manager Mark Krstic said the program acknowledged that many growers in irrigated regions faced an uncertain future due to the extended drought and reduced River Murray flows.

"Our role is to help growers make decisions about how they can manage their way through this crisis and remain viable," he said.

"Growers need to know more about the exact water they need, how to access additional irrigation water and understand more about the allocation decision-making process."

Newly appointed Industry Development Officer, Kristy Bartrop stated that "a unique part of the program will be engaging regional Grower Liaison Officers, viticultural consultants and agribusiness advisers across the entire Riverina in an Innovators Network that will assist in disseminating information to growers, the network will be provided with free resources and the latest knowledge about drought management to help growers with critical viticultural and business management decisions".

Those who wish to attend either the Growers session on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, or the Innovators session on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, must register for the workshop online at <http://www.asvo.com.au/water-and-vine/> or by contacting Christina Ursini on 0438 803 385.

END

**ENQUIRIES:**

MEDIA ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE RIVERINA WORKSHOPS. TO DISCUSS PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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