



RIVERINA WINE INDUSTRY FORUM

Representing the Wine Grapes Marketing Board
and the Riverina Winemakers Association



MEDIA RELEASE

27 November 2008

RIVERINA WINE INDUSTRY DISCUSSES GRAPE OUTLOOK

Representatives of the Wine Grapes Marketing Board and Riverina Winemakers Association held a Riverina Wine Industry Forum meeting on Tuesday to discuss issues of mutual concern. The meeting was prompted by recent articles in the media in relation to the current and future market for wine and grapes.

The meeting agreed that where possible, future media announcements on the state of the grape and wine markets would be made jointly.

For the 2009 vintage, the forum agreed that Riverina region production could once again reach 300,000 tonnes, the same as in 2008 given good rainfall and full availability of irrigation water. The meeting however warned that a continuation of cool, humid conditions would increase the risk of disease and a possible loss of production. The meeting also expressed concern over the current high stocks of some varieties – Chardonnay in particular – and a general slowing down of markets due to the world economic crisis. The meeting noted the current forecast for the national crush is around 1.8million tonnes, similar to the 2008 harvest (of which it was estimated 61,000 tonnes were left unharvested). Depending upon how events unfold over the next two months, this level of production could see more grapes being left on vines or picked to the ground.

Wineries and growers are advised to communicate regularly in relation to intake requirement for the forthcoming vintage as each winery will have its own preferences in relation to markets.

END

ENQUIRIES:

Bruno Brombal Chairman
Wine Grapes Marketing Board
0429 630 465

Les Worland President
Riverina Winemakers Association
0429 623 982