



April 2019

GMO Moratorium Review

GPO Box 44

Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

Via Email: GMOMoratoriumReview@dpiw.tas.gov.au

RE: Submission to GMO Moratorium Review

Wine Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Tasmanian Government's Review of the GMO Moratorium. **Wine Tasmania supports retention of the Tasmanian Moratorium on the use of GMOs** and reaffirms its stated policy in the 2012 review that no genetically modified organisms are to be used in the production of Tasmanian wine.

Tasmanian Wine Sector

The Tasmanian wine sector conservatively contributes more than \$115M to the state's economy, encompassing agriculture (vineyards), manufacturing (wineries) and tourism (cellar door and wine tourism expenditure by inbound visitors). This places the Tasmanian wine sector in the state's top ten sectors, directly supporting 2,063 Full Time Equivalent positions, which represents 10% of total employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Tasmania¹.

The Tasmanian wine sector is leading the country's wine regions in terms of positioning, value and reputation, with demand continuing to outstrip supply. The focus by Tasmanian wine producers on quality, innovation and collaboration, supported by Wine Tasmania's market-led approach, has resulted in widespread recognition of Tasmania's wine globally. This recognition has led to some of the highest prices in the country being secured for Tasmania's wines and wine grapes, ensuring that Tasmanian wines continue to be in strong demand, and resulting in increased visitation to Tasmania and its cellar doors. Importantly, this interest is encouraging ongoing investment and growth by both new entrants and existing Tasmanian wine businesses.

Tasmania has 160 individual licensed wine producers throughout the state, with vineyards covering more than 2,000 hectares. The Tasmanian wine sector continues to be an important and growing contributor to trade and the economy, regional employment, tourism and the overall Tasmanian brand.

GMO Moratorium

In accordance with national regulations, Tasmanian wine is sourced from vineyards in Tasmania, sold and branded as Tasmanian. Approximately 40% of Tasmania's wine is sold in the state (including to tourists), 55% is sold interstate and 5% is exported. National law (*Wine Australia Regulations 2018*² and *Australian Grape and Wine Genetically Modified Organisms Policy*³) sets requirements for growing grapes and making wine, including in Tasmania. It does not permit any GMOs to be utilised in the growing or making of wine.

¹ *Wine Tasmania Economic Contribution of the Tasmanian Wine Sector, April 2018* -

[http://winetasmania.com.au/resources/downloads/Release - Tasmanian wine sector economic impact FINAL.pdf](http://winetasmania.com.au/resources/downloads/Release_-_Tasmanian_wine_sector_economic_impact_FINAL.pdf)

² *Wine Australia Regulations 2018* - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L00286>

³ *Australian Grape & Wine Genetically Modified Organisms Policy* - <https://www.wfa.org.au/policy-and-issues/biosecurity-environment-and-sustainability/genetically-modified-organisms/>

Wine Tasmania does not know of any Tasmanian wine being marketed as GMO-free, as this is law and therefore implied.

Wine Tasmania does not believe that any market opportunities have been gained or lost as a direct result of Tasmania's GMO moratorium, as no Australian wine is permitted to use GMOs and it is therefore implied.

Tasmanian wine sales are growing across Australia, and in export markets. Demand has been very strong and continues to grow based on quality and reputation. If the GMO moratorium was to be lifted, there would not be any direct impact on Tasmanian wine businesses, who would still not be permitted to use GMOs in growing grapes or making wine, as per the Wine Australia regulations referenced above.

However, the broader reputation of Tasmania is a key factor in the interest in Tasmanian wine, and the GMO moratorium is seen as a complementary aspect of the state's overall reputation and brand. Indirectly, the Tasmanian brand may be impacted in particular markets and this may have a flow-on effect on Tasmanian wines sales.

The moratorium has not impacted on wine research in Tasmania, as local research is focused on delivering outcomes that have real and immediate benefits to the Tasmanian wine sector. Areas of current research include yield stabilisation, sparkling yeast work, processing improvements and terroir in Pinot Noir. This research does not require the moratorium to be lifted, nor is there any research proposed or needed that would require the moratorium to be lifted.

It was noted from the 2013 Review⁴ that the awareness and promotion of Tasmania's GMO-free status was limited, and that the "freedom from GMOs is one of a range of second-tier attributes consumers consider when purchasing products". Wine Tasmania notes there may be benefits for individual sectors / products and the Tasmanian brand more broadly, if Tasmania's GMO-free status was more widely promoted.

Wine Tasmania

Wine Tasmania is the peak body representing Tasmania's wine producers, with a focus on promoting Tasmania as a benchmark wine region of world renown. Wine Tasmania voluntary membership represents more than 98% of Tasmanian wine production, with 104 state-wide producer members and 54 associated member businesses. All activities undertaken by the industry body are designed to generate value for our members, in line with Wine Tasmania's Strategic Plan.

Yours sincerely,



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Chief Executive

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⁴ *DPIPWE Review of the moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Tasmania 2013 -*
https://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/Documents/Final%20Report_v.final_16-12-13.pdf