VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA



2020/21 Performance at a glance

Throughout 2020/21 we have continued our sharp and successful focus on protecting the South Australian grape and wine industry from pest impact. In March 2021 we officially launched our new <u>Vinehealth Australia Strategic Agenda 2021 to 2026</u>. Our new plan identifies five priority areas essential to making the industry more resilient and future focused.

With the release of our <u>2020/21 Annual Report</u> (including audited financial statements), this document provides an insight into our work over the last year to help protect your vineyards.



PRIORITY AREA 1:

SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE GRAPE AND WINE SUPPLY CHAIN

- Prototype design of fit-for-purpose disposable shoe cover delivered with UniSA. Commercialisation options are now being explored.
- Development of a new 'Biosecurity for vineyard contractors and their customers' training package completed. Delivery of this training to industry is planned for 2022.
- Completed stage 1 of a project to quantify grapevine rootstock supply and demand and identify key factors that influence the grafted vine supply chain.
- Led a collaborative consortium of five Australian parties to develop and submit a response to Wine Australia's Request for Proposal on best practice management of grapevine viruses in Australia. This bid was unsuccessful.
- Operation of the heat shed at Naracoorte to enable disinfestation of machinery and equipment moving into and out of the Limestone Coast from other SA regions.
- Ongoing management of the Coonawarra rootstock trial and annual activity report delivered. This work was completed in partnership with Coonawarra Vignerons and Treasury Wine Estates.
- Strengthened relationship with the South Australian Vine Improvement Association, with the aim to support the delivery of high health propagation material to industry.

PRIORITY AREA 2: PEST IMPACTS MINIMISED

- Provided advice and support to PIRSA to respond to 16 plant pest biosecurity incidents.
- Provided significant biosecurity expertise and response support to PIRSA for the Riverland and Adelaide metropolitan fruit fly outbreaks. Created 51 maps and three Fruit Fly Biosecurity Bulletins for the wine industry containing critical information growers and winemakers needed to ensure a smooth vintage.
- A new comprehensive Phylloxera Response Plan for South Australia drafted in partnership with PIRSA.

PRIORITY AREA 3: REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT SHAPED

- Continued to advocate for the development of a National Phylloxera Management Strategy to ensure the grape and wine industry is protected from further phylloxera spread through a robust national system.
- Undertook a comprehensive review of Agriculture Victoria's draft three-year phylloxera research report, with the intent to identify and extend relevant findings to industry.
- Assisted industry and government by responding to a 120% increase in the number of quarantine-related enquiries, with these requests representing greater than 50% of incoming service request enquiries to Vinehealth.
- Completed a comprehensive review of Agriculture Victoria's Mornington Peninsula Phylloxera re-zoning interim report, and provided Vinehealth's position to PIRSA and the Wine Biosecurity Committee.

PRIORITY AREA 4: STRONGER TOGETHER

- Continued to lead the conversation about wine biosecurity in Australia through news articles, feature articles, videos and case studies in the media and on our website.
- Responded to general biosecurity enquiries from industry and other stakeholders, with a 36% increase as compared to 2019/20.
- · Active member of key biosecurity committees and working groups at regional, State and national level.
- Provided aggregated, deidentified data on SA vineyards for inclusion in the 2021 SA Winegrape Crush Survey.
- Continued to support vineyard owners, regional associations and the Department for Environment and Water during the autumn prescribed burns season in the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Region.
- Supported PIRSA to identify vineyards potentially impacted by 3 bushfires during 2020/21 period.

PRIORITY AREA 5:

A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

- Continued to maintain the State's unique Register of vineyard plantings. This core asset is used by Vinehealth for all preparedness, prevention and response activities.
- Management of levy collection and recovery system.
- Developed a proposal for industry consultation on new rules and rates for contributions payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, to ensure adequate funding for Vinehealth to perform its statutory functions.
- Completed the Discovery Phase for a new Digital Biosecurity Platform (DBP) to replace the current Register, with the DBP now ready for build pending funding.
- Continued to liaise with the Minister, PIRSA and industry on the development of a new Biosecurity Act for the State, and the link with Vinehealth's governing Act.

Click here to view Vinehealth Australia's full 2020-21 Annual Report, including audited financial statements.