7 Oct 2016

WINE EQUALIZATION TAX

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Mount Barker Wine Producers had 20 + members 10 years ago and Now we have 8 members. The struggle to be a viable business has seen many businesses sell and move on and vineyards pulled out. The struggle is real.

Further losses to the wine industry will only see more business become unviable. The WET tax was always a tax the wine industry could not afford. The rebate was brought in to protect wine business such as the many wine businesses we have in the Mount Barker and surrounding regions. The wine industry provides many jobs and economic opportunities to rural areas and I could name many stats of wine export figures, tourism figures and stats, employment and the other important information that this industry brings to our country. I am sure you have heard them all.

Many of our members are vineyards who get their wine contract made. This is not unusual in our industry. Under the current suggested requirements to be eligible for the WET Rebate they would not be eligible. If these wine businesses cannot access the rebate I fear many of them will struggle to survive and it will further weaken our wine industry and the community of Mt Barker WA at a local and state level.

Please reconsider the eligibility process to include winemakers who own vineyards and make wine at contract facilities.

Kind Regards

Kim Tyrer

President of the Mount Barker Wine Producers.