To Whom it Concerns,

My Business Word of Mouth Wines is located in Orange NSW. I believe that my small by industry standard model is a case in hand re these proposed changes to eligibility.

Having just 3 hectares of vineyard, I have a potential production of slightly more than 20 tonnes. This equates to around 1500 cases of wine.

Production at this level provides a viable business for my self but does not warrant the establishment of a winery, which even at a modest level could run into $150 - $200 K

In our region there are several contract winemaking businesses that provide this service, as there are for other primary production, such as fruit packing and juicing etc. Not all orchardists own packing facilities just as beef producers do not own abattoirs.

I own a registered brand and have run with this for 15 vintages I have been eligible to claim the WET rebate as a small producer for whom this was created originally. Under the new proposed criteria I may not be eligible.

The concerns raised by the industry about questionable practices and the extension of the rebate to NZ importers seems to have been totally overlooked.

Instead the government has offered a $50 million package and reduced the rebate by almost half for those that it was intended to support.

I would prefer that the assistance package was dropped and the threshold returned to $500 k and that the rebate only eligible to the sale of packaged and bottled and labelled wine of a registered trademark with either a winery or a cellar door.

Best Regards

Peter Gibson

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