



Wine Tasmania Response to the Discussion Paper Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act

Wine Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide the following input to the review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act. The wine sector is directly and significantly impacted by a changing climate and therefore has a direct interest in the Climate Change Act. Comments have been made in this submission on those areas specifically impacting on Tasmania's wine producers, and Wine Tasmania is open to continuing dialogue on these and other relevant areas.

About the Tasmanian Wine Sector

The Tasmanian wine sector conservatively contributes around \$200M¹ annually to the state's economy through agriculture (vineyards) and manufacturing (wineries), plus its contribution to wine tourism through regional cellar doors and wine tourism expenditure. This places the Tasmanian wine sector in the state's top ten contributing sectors, with the sector continuing to experience strong growth in each of these areas. It directly supports 2,063 Full Time Equivalent positions, which represents 10% of total employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Tasmania².

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 184 individual licensed wine producers throughout the state, with around 230 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.

Climate change and wine

Climate is a critical determinant on the quality and style of wine produced from a specific parcel of land. Cooler climates, particularly those located closer to the poles, produce wines that tend to be more refined, elegant and of higher quality.

This can be seen from the comparison of Growing Season Mean Temperatures of wine regions from around the world below³:

¹ *Tasmanian Agri-Food ScoreCard 2018/19*

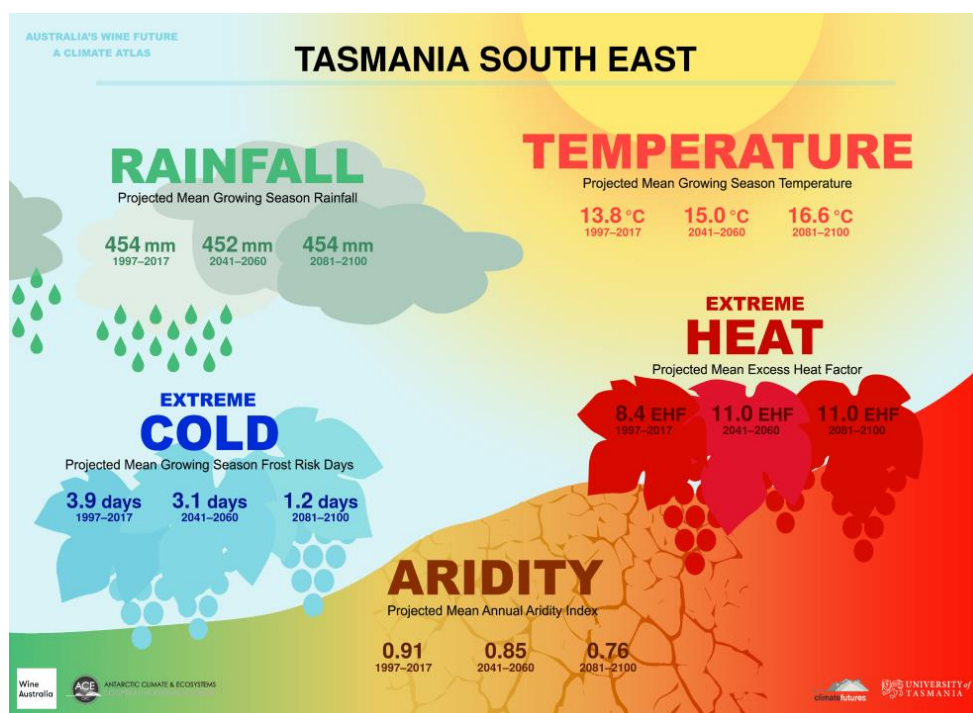
² *Economic impact of the Tasmanian wine sector 2018, Professor John Mangan, University of Queensland*

³ *Viticulture and Environment, John Gladstones, 1992*

| Location | Temperature (°C) | Average \$/tonne ⁴ (where available) |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Bushy Park, Tasmania | 14.4 | \$3,037 |
| Reims, France (Champagne) | 14.7 | |
| Hobart, Tasmania | 14.8 | \$3,037 |
| Blenheim, New Zealand | 15.2 | |
| Dijon, France (Burgundy) | 15.4 | |
| Launceston, Tasmania | 15.5 | \$3,037 |
| Yarra Valley, Vic | 15.9 | \$2,141 |
| Coonawarra, SA | 16.5 | \$1,723 |
| Mornington, Vic | 16.8 | \$3,766 |
| Margaret River, WA | 17.6 | \$1,599 |
| Clare, SA | 18.4 | \$1,800 |
| Lisbon, Portugal | 19.6 | |
| Griffith, NSW | 20.8 | \$618 |
| Swan Valley, WA | 21.3 | \$855 |
| Narrabri, NSW | 23.6 | |

A small temperature increase of just two degrees significantly changes the growing conditions of a wine region, applying pressure on its traditional wine styles and quality. It will also make some warmer areas too hot to grow grapes. Wine grapes are the “canary in the coal mine”⁵, and the sector is more susceptible to climate change risk than other forms of agriculture.

This shift in climate is further described in the Australia’s Wine Future: A Climate Atlas⁶, where, for example, Tasmania’s South East is modelled to be warmer and drier over the coming years:



⁴ Wine Australia's 2020 vintage report - <https://www.wineaustralia.com/market-insights/national-vintage-report>

⁵ 'Wine is like the canary in the coal mine' for climate change - <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/wine-is-like-the-canary-in-the-coal-mine-for-climate-change-20200129-p53vrm.html>

⁶ Australia's Wine Future: A Climate Atlas - <https://www.wineaustralia.com/climate-atlas>

Based on this modelling, the future Tasmanian wine sector will be in a climate similar to Coonawarra in South Australia, losing its current cool climate advantage.

There is no scientific doubt that the increase in CO₂ emissions has led and will continue to lead to climate change. As stated in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: *“Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems”*⁷.

Continuing human-induced carbon emissions present a significant risk to the future viability of the Tasmanian wine sector.

The Climate Change Act Review and Climate Action Plan

Wine Tasmania encourages the Tasmanian Government, in partnership with the broader community, to take an ambitious and leadership position on reducing emissions, including through the Climate Change Act and Climate Action Plan.

Tasmania is already carbon neutral⁸, and future targets for reducing emissions therefore need to be carbon neutral at a minimum, or carbon positive to improve on this existing achievement. Targets - high level and interim - should also be set in partnership with key sectors, who own responsibility for their own emissions.

In addition to reducing emissions through efficiencies, infrastructure investments and technology, there is a key opportunity for Tasmania to increase its local carbon sinks which have enabled our current net zero status, predominately through change forestry land usage. The Tasmanian Government can facilitate greater access and investment in a Tasmanian-based carbon market, which is currently limited. Direct investment into carbon offset projects based in Tasmania would support the Tasmanian economy as well as the state’s leadership and branding position.

The Tasmanian wine sector’s response to climate change

The Tasmanian wine sector necessarily takes a proactive approach in planning for a changing climate. This includes through:

- Preparing for changes in pest and disease risk, particularly the increasing risk of Downy Mildew
- Biosecurity preparedness and planning, such as for fruit fly and Phylloxera
- Mitigating increased frost risks
- Preparing for drought, including access to secure water
- Varietal selection for new plantings and choosing varieties more suitable for warmer climate
- Site selection - investment in new areas for viticulture that were previously considered too marginal / cool

Tasmania’s own best management practice program, VinØ⁹ (“vin zero”), helps wine producers measure, improve and report on their management practices. This program was designed to be a practical tool and help members communicate their management practices and credentials.

⁷ IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2014 - www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

⁸ Tasmania’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2020 - www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/473761/TCCO_Fact_Sheet_-_Greenhouse_Gas_Accounts_2020.pdf

⁹ VinØ Tasmania Program - <http://winetasmania.com.au/vinzero>

Included in this program is a module on carbon emissions which provides tools and calculators to help producers understand how their practices affect the global climate. Through the participation of this program members can assess their needs and put in place management practices that can help their business bottom line, and the environment.

Wine Tasmania, in conjunction with the Tasmanian Government, is also actively involved in a project with the sector to investigate the possibility of becoming the world's first wine region to be carbon neutral in entirety, through a process of modelling and reducing emissions and offsetting excess emissions.

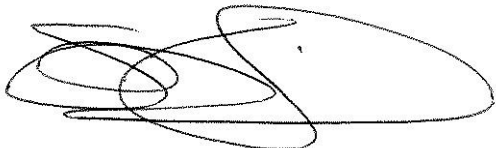
The serious impact of a changing climate on the Tasmanian wine sector has warranted this initiative. If successful, this will not only lead the way in sustainability, it will also be integrated into the Tasmanian wine sector's brand and promotion.

About Wine Tasmania

Wine Tasmania is the peak representative body for Tasmanian wine producers, assisting them to be recognised as world leaders in the sustainable production of premium cool climate wine. Wine Tasmania's voluntary membership represents more than 98% of Tasmanian wine production, with 112 state-wide producer members and 104 associated members/businesses. All activities undertaken by the wine sector body are designed to generate value for its members. Wine Tasmania's Strategic Plan further outlines details of its role and is available at www.winetasmania.com.au/about.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any further details.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheralee Davies', enclosed within a large, irregular oval shape.

Sheralee Davies
Chief Executive

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