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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Biosecurity boost for Tasmania's wine industry

Tasmanian wines are highly regarded not only around Australia but around the world and it is crucial that we support the industry as it continues to grow.

I am pleased to announce that the industry will now benefit from a \$50,000 grant from Biosecurity Tasmania for enhanced biosecurity preparedness.

Wine Tasmania will receive the grant to implement a biosecurity emergency response program with a focus on controlling the potential problem of phylloxera, an unwanted insect not currently in Tasmania that feeds on the roots of grapevines with infestations eventually causing them to die.

The grant program complements Biosecurity Tasmania's strategy to keep Tasmania free from unwanted pests and diseases and includes detailed information for the wine tourism sector on how best to deal with them.

It also includes vineyard signage, educational videos, workshops and scenario planning to help growers and members of the public understand the importance of biosecurity.

Wine continues to play a key role in Tasmania's agri-food sector, with a farm gate value of \$49 million for wine grapes and a processed and packed value of \$143 million in 2018-19.

The Tasmanian wine brand is strong and there are a lot of very engaged and supportive Tasmanian wine consumers, both in Tasmania and interstate, who have shown their strong support by seeking out and buying wines directly from their favourite producers.

I thank Wine Tasmania and Biosecurity Tasmania for the vital work they are doing to ensure Tasmanian wine continues to tantalise taste buds around the world.