

WHO IS VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA?

Vinehealth Australia is committed to preventing the spread of pests and diseases (in particular phylloxera) in South Australian vineyards.

Vinehealth Australia (formerly the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA) contributes to pest and disease management policies, provides information and tools for best practice operational biosecurity, and supports vital biosecurity research.

Vinehealth Australia (Vinehealth) is also a leader in grape and wine biosecurity knowledge in Australia. It provides an active voice in national biosecurity discussions, and is a champion for improved national policies and programs to ensure the containment of phylloxera and the prevention of other damaging pests and diseases that could impact on the livelihoods of vineyard owners.

Vinehealth's activities are funded through a mandatory levy paid by vineyard owners, based on their area of grapevines in the ground. Under the [Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act \(1995\)](#), all vineyards in South Australia of 0.5 hectares or more are required to be registered with Vinehealth Australia. The levy is a state tax and is collected through the Commissioner of Land Tax. Since 1997, this levy has been set at \$9.50 per hectare with a minimum of \$50.

“VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN A SILENT ACHIEVER AND PROTECTOR OF VITICULTURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA SINCE 1899, AND HAS PLAYED A MOST SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE ENVIABLE HIGH HEALTH REPUTATION OF AUSTRALIAN VITICULTURE.”

Linda Bowes, chair of Barossa Grape & Wine Association



The [Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act \(1995\)](#) provides the legislative foundation for Vinehealth Australia's powers and functions. Vinehealth Australia is responsible to the South Australian Parliament through the [Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries](#).

FUNCTIONS

Vinehealth is paid a contribution by every vineyard owner in the state to protect vineyards from pests and diseases. Vinehealth's functions include:

- Phylloxera and biosecurity education and awareness.
- Dissemination of best practice information and innovative tools.
- Active surveillance for phylloxera using remote sensing and GIS technologies.

- Translating results of scientific research into practical information that can be integrated into policy and practices.
- Maintaining and improving SA's vineyard register.
- Assisting Biosecurity SA with responses under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.
- Improvement and enforcement of SA Plant Quarantine Standards.
- Operation and maintenance of the phylloxera heat shed in Naracoorte.



- Leading a coordinated approach to phylloxera and biosecurity for the wine industry.

PROJECTS

Vinehealth Australia conducts and supports several important projects, including:

- DNA testing for early and accurate detection. This national project is working towards the development of an additional primary surveillance method for phylloxera that is accurate, sensitive and cost-effective, utilising the latest scientific detection methods.
- Project Boundary Rider. An

innovative biosecurity initiative of Vinehealth which seeks to evaluate the potential of geofencing software track vineyard boundary crossings – a first for the Australian wine industry.

- Coonawarra Rootstock Trial. This project will improve our understanding of rootstock performance and assist growers in choosing rootstocks, which vary in their resistance to phylloxera.
- Vineyard Register 2.0. A major



new biosecurity IT platform to replace the existing Vineyard Register, to improve capacity and capability to protect vineyards from pests and diseases.

TOOLS

Vinehealth Australia is a creator of important biosecurity tools such as checklists, protocols, factsheets and maps, including [farm-gate hygiene checklists](#) and [footwear and small hand tool disinfection protocol](#).

Vinehealth is also a creator of vital biosecurity related tools including the [Winegrape Biosecurity Quarantine Legislation Tool](#),

a simple online tool to help vineyard owners understand the legal requirements of moving selected vectors between selected locations within and between states. Vinehealth Australia's website also contains information on [exotic and endemic pests and diseases](#), as well as [up to date maps](#) of Phylloxera Management Zones, South Australia's Geographic Indications and fruit fly maps. A range of other books, brochures,



poster and stickers are also available from Vinehealth Australia, to aid in education and awareness of phylloxera and other biosecurity issues.

Responsibility for preventing the spread of pests and diseases between states and within states is a collective effort between industry and regulators. For information about all Vinehealth Australia activities visit www.vinehealth.com.au