

# VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA 2019: A SNAPSHOT

Vinehealth Australia is the expert in wine biosecurity. We empower all members of the supply chain to safeguard vines against pest and disease threats, in particular phylloxera.

This document provides a snapshot our activities and results from May 2018 to April 2019. It was a year of great progress, and we are pleased to share highlights with you.

But there is still much to be done. Priorities for the 2019/2020 financial year include development of a robust SA Phylloxera Incursion Response Strategy, finalising the review of SA's Plant Quarantine Standard, initiating the development of a holistic national phylloxera management strategy, developing more practical solutions for growers to assist the adoption of farm-gate hygiene practices and progressing the transition to a modern Digital Biosecurity Platform.

## WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

### COMMUNICATION



**56 ARTICLES**

#### ARTICLES

- 56 featured articles on pest threats and our activities
- 50 weekly biosecurity tips in Daily Wine News and social media
- 11 monthly e-news issues with open rate of almost 40%
- 5 biosecurity alerts to warn of immediate threats



#### FACT SHEETS

We continued to develop important practical fact sheets for industry including a Seasonal Workers Fact Sheet focused on biosecurity which we translated into Vietnamese, Urdu, Hindi, Thai and Dari. These and other handy fact sheets are on the Vinehealth Australia website.



#### NEW BIOSECURITY SIGNS

- 209 Wine Tourism Biosecurity signs were sold
- 298 Farm-gate Biosecurity Signs were sold

# EDUCATION



## WINE TOURISM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

- 120 cellar door staff were trained.
- 527 training kits were supplied across SA.
- 135 bus tour operators were educated.
- Instagram Influencers event to educate influencers about keeping vines healthy.



## REGIONS AND COUNCILS

We met with 26 local councils, regional development groups, wine industry associations and tourism groups in SA to discuss wine industry biosecurity.



## PRESENTATIONS

22 formal presentations to raise biosecurity awareness in SA and nationally.

# RESPONSE



## GRAPEVINE PINOT GRIS VIRUS

We led a project titled 'A comprehensive review of Grapevine Pinot Gris virus (GPGV), including recommendations for future research, development and extension work in Australia.' We extended the outcomes to the nursery and vine improvement sector nationally prior to the 2019 propagation season.



## QUARANTINE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

We responded to five quarantine-related incidents and continued to support Biosecurity SA in ensuring compliance against SA's Plant Quarantine Standard and investigating and resolving matters raised.



## FRUIT FLY

We played a key role during the Loxton fruit fly outbreak, communicating with the wine industry and carriers about fruit movement conditions, including making direct calls to vineyard owners in the quarantine zones.

# PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION



## SIMULATIONS

We created and delivered a Phylloxera Outbreak Simulation in partnership with a large winery. This simulation delivered intelligence for the new South Australian Phylloxera Incursion Response Strategy currently being developed.



## PHYLLOXERA INCURSION RESPONSE STRATEGY

A new Phylloxera Incursion Response Strategy is being created, to build the resilience of the South Australian wine industry when facing a phylloxera incursion, both during the incursion and 12 months post-incursion.



## PQS REVIEW

We undertook a full review of the phylloxera-related Conditions in the SA Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS) and proposed a suite of changes to industry, aimed at strengthening state borders. As part of this, 39 stakeholder meetings were held across 10 SA regions.



## COONAWARRA ROOTSTOCK TRIAL

During vintage 2019, we hosted a second field walk of the trial site. This year, grapes were hand harvested in sufficient quantity for duplicate, small lot wines to be made for the first time. This trial is in partnership between Coonawarra Grape and Wine Inc and Treasury Wine Estates.



## SURVEILLANCE FOR VINE DECLINE

Secure funding is being sought to implement a new pilot surveillance plan for phylloxera in South Australia, utilising aerial imagery and multiple in-field detection methods.



## STATE BORDER SIGNAGE

Vinehealth Australia organised the design and installation of nine large biosecurity signs at key border locations. Funded by PIRSA, the signs highlight the strict quarantine requirements associated with the entry of phylloxera risk items into the state, such as vineyard machinery, equipment, soil and grapes.



## MAINTAINING THE VINEYARD REGISTER

Pursuant to Section 19 of the Act, Vinehealth Australia maintains a Register of people who own vineyards comprising 0.5 hectares or more of planted vines. The Register contains owner details, parcel and land titles information, vineyard area, variety, rootstock and age of vines. During 2018-19, Vinehealth Australia continued to manage information in the Register to ensure its accuracy, privacy and currency. New imagery for the Limestone Coast was incorporated.



## VINEYARD REGISTER USES

Through the vineyard register, Vinehealth Australia produced buffer zone maps for the Loxton fruit fly outbreak to assist in identifying registered vineyard owners and wineries. We also produced buffer zone maps for prescribed burns in the Adelaide Hills and contacted all registered vineyard owners inside these zones when burns were planned to avoid smoke taint issues.



## A NEW DIGITAL BIOSECURITY PLATFORM

Vinehealth Australia continues to progress the implementation of its Digital Biosecurity Strategy. Key to this is the development of a geospatial and temporal data-based Digital Biosecurity Platform to replace Vinehealth Australia's existing Vineyard Register.

## OTHER KEY WORK

**Enquiry line:** We provided timely assistance to 206 service requests in the financial year, up 44% compared to the previous year.

**Phylloxera prevention:** Vinehealth Australia kept industry abreast of three further phylloxera detections in the Yarra Valley in early 2019. We've encouraged vineyard owners to undertake active preparedness and prevention activities to combat the spread and establishment of phylloxera.

**Science translated for industry:** We reviewed published research which revealed the need for the current 40°C heat treatment for machinery and equipment to be increased in duration from 2 hours to 3 hours to achieve 100% mortality across key endemic phylloxera strains. This was amended in SA's PQS.

**Management of biosecurity nationally:** We continue to work closely with Australian Grape & Wine Inc, Wine Australia, South Australian Wine Industry Association and others to develop a national biosecurity strategy that will guide coordinated biosecurity activities for the wine industry.

*Information based on the Vinehealth Australia 2018/19 Annual Report. [Click here to read the full report.](#)*

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

Vinehealth Australia's income from contributions (levy) has remained relatively static at around \$740,000 per annum since 2007 due to insignificant changes in hectares planted and no changes to the rate of vineyard owner contributions (levy) in that time (\$9.50 per hectare with a \$50 minimum).

Due to increased costs of business combined with heightened biosecurity threats to manage, a deficit budget of \$169,017 was recorded in 2018/19, resulting in an 8% reduction in total equity to \$1,887,619 in 2018/19. Full audited financial statements can be found in Vinehealth Australia's 2018/19 Annual Report.