Government of South Australia

PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (trading as VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA)

2024-25 Annual Report

PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (trading as VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA)

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To:

Hon. Clare Scriven (MLC)

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Minister for Forest Industries

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *(insert relevant acts and regulations)* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the PHYLLOXERA AND GRAPE INDUSTRY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (trading as VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA) by:

Dianne Davidson AM

Presiding Member/ Chair of the Vinehealth Australia Board

Date 10 July 2025 Signature

From the Chief Executive

The 2024–25 year has been one of change and renewal for Vinehealth Australia (Vinehealth). The departure of the Acting CEO, the appointment of new Board members, and the commencement of a new Chief Executive in August 2024 has brought fresh perspectives to the organisation. While ensuring that the requirements of the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act, 1995* continue to be upheld, Vinehealth Australia has taken the opportunity to reflect on how we deliver our work—to ensure that our activities are aligned with the needs of those the Act was designed to protect.

This year, Vinehealth placed a strong emphasis on reconnecting with industry across the state. The team visited the Limestone Coast, Clare Valley, Langhorne Creek, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale and Riverland wine regions. These visits were invaluable—not only to share who we are and what we do, but to listen. Training was delivered, regional data shared from the Vinehealth Australia Vineyard Register was shared and industry meetings focused on biosecurity were held. Being in the regions enabled Vinehealth to better understand local challenges and identify how to best support the industry and also the different regional needs and perspectives.

Vinehealth Australia continued to work closely with PIRSA to strengthen South Australia's preparedness for a phylloxera incursion, including updating the Phylloxera Outbreak Management Plan. Vinehealth also contributed to national discussions on phylloxera management and biosecurity protocols, ensuring South Australia's voice remains strong in shaping national policy.

The Biosecurity Bill was passed on 6 February 2025 and pleasingly had minimal impact on the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act, 1995.*

The Vinehealth Australia Vineyard Register remains a critical asset not only for Vinehealth Australia but for the South Australian wine industry, and this year we advanced planning for its upgrade. The team assessed the scope, cost, and funding options for a modernised platform that will better serve industry, government, and Vinehealth's operational needs into the future.

Vinehealth maintained our focus on proactive communication and education, issuing timely alerts and updates on biosecurity risks, including Queensland Fruit Fly outbreaks and tourism-related events. The team also continued to manage the Naracoorte Heat Shed, the only publicly available heat shed in the state, ensuring it remains a reliable and effective tool for machinery disinfestation for industry to protect the State from the threat of phylloxera.

Vinehealth also released a new series of fact sheets focused on key learnings on phylloxera in the Yarra Valley. These resources are designed to support vineyard owners and industry stakeholders in strengthening their own biosecurity practices through real-world insights and the feedback received on these to date has been very positive. If you haven't done so, we encourage you to read these.

In December 2024, Vinehealth Australia proudly celebrated its 125th anniversary—marking over a century of dedication to protecting the South Australian wine industry. As part of this milestone, the organisation launched the inaugural Biosecurity Champion Award to recognise individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment to biosecurity in their businesses.

It is a privilege to lead this organisation and to work alongside a dedicated and capable team. I am grateful to the Vinehealth Australia Board for their insights and strategic guidance, and to all our industry partners and biosecurity champions and to the team at Vinehealth.

Looking ahead, Vinehealth prepare to undertake a strategic review to shape our next five-year plan. The team will also deliver phylloxera preparedness exercises with industry later in 2025. Essential upgrades to the Naracoorte Heat Shed are planned to ensure this remains South Australia's publicly accessible dry heat treatment facility. The team will continue to investigate pathways to upgrade the Vinehealth Vineyard Register to ensure it remains a robust and future-ready tool for biosecurity management.

Dr Samantha Scarratt

Chief Executive

Vinehealth Australia

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

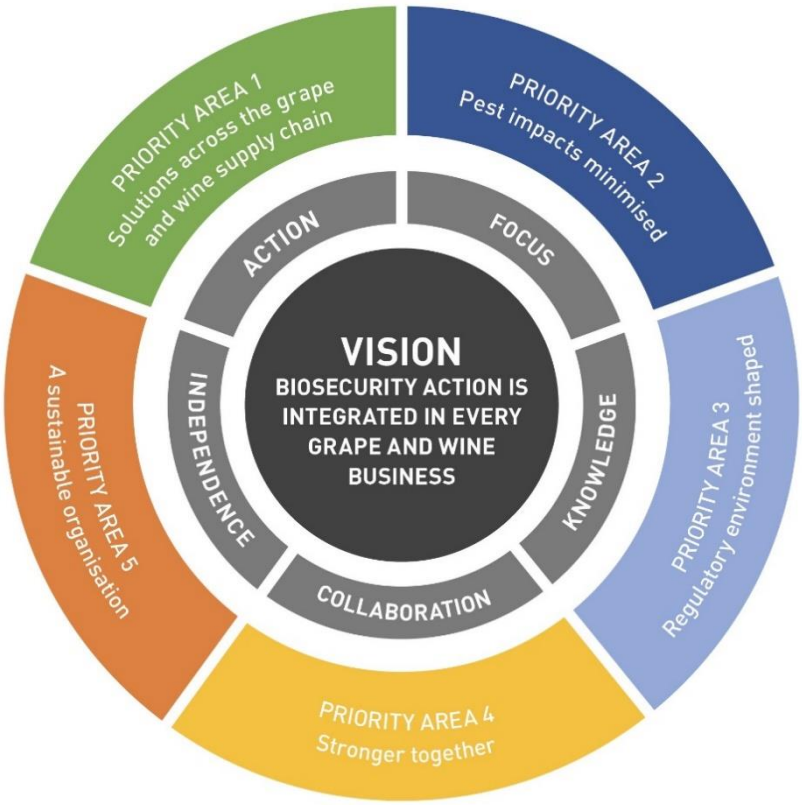
Our Purpose	To foster a profitable, sustainable, and reputable grape and wine industry, by working alongside growers, winemakers, propagation specialists and government to protect vines from biosecurity risk and to advance vine health. As stated in the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* (Act), Vinehealth Australia's role is: 'To provide for the protection of vineyards from disease and to assist and support the grape industry in South Australia.'
Our Vision	Biosecurity action is integrated in every grape and wine business.
Our Values	Our values drive behaviour and deliver benefits to the grape and wine industry: **Knowledge** Pursuing new knowledge to empower evidence-based decision making by industry and government. **Action** Completing targeted, high impact biosecurity activities that deliver measurable change in biosecurity practices by industry, government, and other priority stakeholders. **Collaboration** Partnering with grape and wine businesses, government, researchers, and industry bodies to drive accountability for biosecurity and to leverage resources. **Focus** Investing in biosecurity initiatives that support the state's growth agenda and the industry's enviable reputation for quality and heritage. **Independence** Honouring our status as an independent statutory authority, as defined by our governing Act, and working to create enduring value for industry through ongoing strategic review and performance monitoring.
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	**Legislative functions:** • Ten primary functions: 1. to identify and assess — a. the relative threat to the State's vineyards posed by phylloxera and other diseases; and

	b. the risk of spreading diseases through the movement of machinery, equipment, vines, and other vectors into and within the State; 2. to develop policies in relation to — a. appropriate restrictions on or conditions for the movement of machinery, equipment, vines, and other vectors into and within the State to prevent the spread of disease; and b. the quarantine of vines that are or may be affected by disease; and c. appropriate measures for the control of outbreaks of disease in the State; 3. to develop plans for the eradication of disease in the State's vineyards; 4. to support and encourage the conduct and evaluation of research into — a. disease resistance and tolerance of rootstocks and scions; and b. diseases that affect or may affect vines, and any matter relating to such diseases, including their control; 5. to publish the results of relevant research; 6. to promote awareness of the dangers of disease (as defined in the Act) among the public and people involved in grape growing or winemaking; 7. to disseminate information on disease and work practices or industry codes of practice that would minimise the risk of disease, or its spread, to people involved in grape growing or winemaking; 8. to approve nurseries (whether within or outside the State) that are capable of producing propagative material that is free of specified diseases or industry-based accreditation schemes for such nurseries; 9. subject to subsection 13(3) of the Act, to collect and, on request by an interested person, supply data relating to vineyards and vine health in South Australia; 10. to perform the other functions assigned to the Board by or under this Act or by the Minister. • Maintain a Register of all vineyards planted in South Australia. • Manage a system to levy, collect and recover contributions owing to Vinehealth Australia, pursuant to section 23 of the Act. • Inspectors under the Plant Health Act 2009 *ex officio*.

- Determine the appropriate action to take in the event of an outbreak, jointly managing the outbreak and providing ongoing advice to the Minister regarding the outbreak.

Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda 2021-2026

Pursuant to section 18 of the Act, Vinehealth Australia's five-year Strategic Agenda sets out five priority areas, with a target articulated for each as depicted below:



Target: Priority Area 1
A stronger, active defence against vineyard pest threats, with biosecurity practices integrated into everyday operations and access to high-health planting material.

Target: Priority Area 2
The impact of an incursion on assets, people and profitability is minimised, providing business continuity for growers, winemakers and other entities along the supply chain.

Target: Priority Area 3
A responsive and robust biosecurity regulatory system, respected and complied with by industry.

Target: Priority Area 4
An active and connected network across the South Australian grape and wine supply chain, with impact and results extending across the country.

Target: Priority Area 5
A sustainable organisation with expertise, systems and resources, that delivers exceptional outcomes.

Vinehealth Australia's Focus Areas 2024-2026

In January 2024, Vinehealth Australia's newly formed Board and team held a strategic session to refine Vinehealth Australia's key focus areas for 2024-2026. These focus areas are outlined below and will form the basis of The Agency's Performance in this year's annual report.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

1. Implement communication and awareness activities and campaigns to drive biosecurity behavior change across the wine supply chain and improve understanding of regulatory obligations (2024 – 2026).
2. Provide on-demand services to industry and the South Australian government that utilise Vinehealth Australia's biosecurity expertise and assets (2024 – 2026).

PREVENTION

Minimise the likelihood of the introduction of phylloxera and other pests and diseases.

1. Ensure regulatory management of phylloxera is based on risk, science and industry insights (2024 – 2026).
2. Improve production of high-health planting material produced by the grapevine propagation sector (2025 – 2026).
3. Enhance farm-gate hygiene adoption through practical solutions (2026).

PREPAREDNESS

Being well-prepared for potential incursions.

1. Transform the Phylloxera Outbreak Plan into an effective preparedness plan for South Australia (2024 – 2025).
2. Challenge industry readiness for a phylloxera outbreak through simulations (2024 – 2025).
3. Deliver a pilot phylloxera surveillance program (2026).

RESPONSE

Responding effectively when incursions occur.

1. Undertake incident response activities that are aligned to the relative complexity, impact and type of pest incident (2024 – 2026).

A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

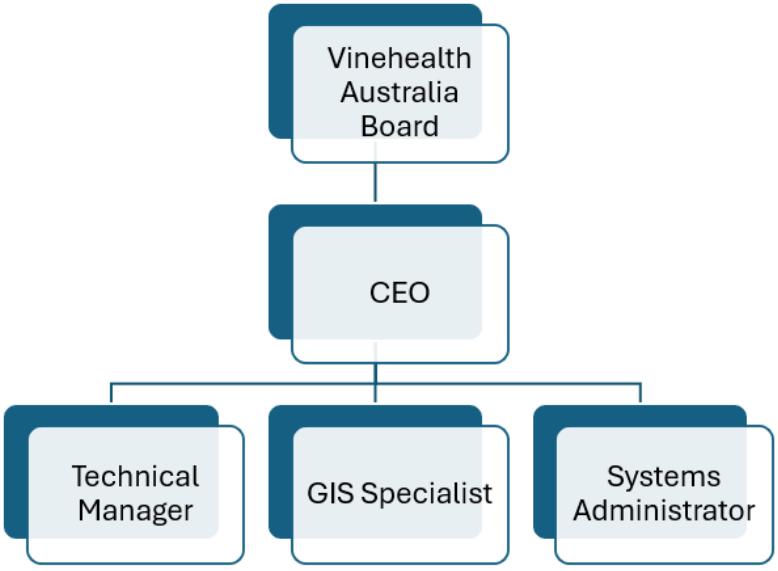
1. Enhance the Register to handle grower records more efficiently (2024 – 2026).
2. Prudently manage contributions payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape industry Act 1995,* and ensure compliance with rules approved by the Minister (2024 – 2026).

Our organisational structure

Vinehealth Australia is a small agency with a mix of full time and part time staff. There were four employees at 30 April 2025, equating to 3.6 full time equivalents.

Organisational chart

On 30 April 2024, Vinehealth Australia's organisational structure remains with no divisions – simply a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with three directs reports, a Technical Manager (Warren Birchmore), a Systems Manager (Jo Bainbridge) and a GIS Specialist (Brendan Tully). Noting Jo Bainbridge, Systems Manager tenure finished on 30 April 2025 as mentioned in "Changes to the Agency" section below.



The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board of Vinehealth Australia.

Click here for profiles on current staff.

Board

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Act, the Board of Vinehealth Australia has up to eight members appointed by the Minister, and an additional member being the Chief Inspector for South Australia. Of those appointed by the Minister, one member must have expertise in viticultural research and up to seven are nominated to the Minister by one or more organisations or bodies that, in the opinion of the Minister, have significant involvement in grape growing or winemaking.

Board members serve a term of not more than three years and are eligible for reappointment at the end of their term. Each year in July, the board members elect one of their number to be Chair (Presiding Member) for a term of one year.

The Board deals with all matters relating to the strategic oversight and management of Vinehealth Australia and there is an Audit and Risk Committee of the Board.

Board members

At 30 April 2025, there were seven members of the Vinehealth Australia Board (including the Chief Inspector of South Australia):

- Ms Dianne Davidson AM (appointed 9 November 2023 for a three-year term, elected as Presiding Member 11 December 2023 and re-elected as Presiding Member on 10 June 2025)
- Mr Iain Jones (appointed 9 November 2023 for a three-year term)
- Ms Krysteen McElroy (appointed 10 November 2023 for a three-year term)
- Mr Nick Secomb (ongoing appointment as Chief Inspector)
- Mr Peter Nguyen (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three-year term)

- Ms Brooke Howell (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three-year term)
- Dr Fiona Constable (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three-year term)

Click here for profiles on current board members.

Changes to the agency

During 2024-25 there were the following changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

- Suzanne McLoughlin, Acting CEO resigned and ceased working at the organisation on 28 June 2024.
- Warren Birchmore, Technical Assistant, was appointed to Interim Manager from 1 July 2024 until 18 August, after which returned to the role of Technical Assistant.
- Dr Samantha Scarratt was appointed to the position of CEO on 19 August 2024.
- Warren Birchmore was appointed to the position of Technical Manager on 30 October 2024.
- Jo Bainbridge, Systems Manager tenure finished on 30 April 2025.

Our Minister (s)

The Hon. Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Minister for Forest Industries is responsible for the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*.

Our Executive team

Dr Samantha Scarratt, Chief Executive Officer

Sam is an experienced leader and has worked as a Senior Consultant in the wine industry, specialising in viticulture and wine business advice.

Prior to consulting, Sam was Director of Grape Supply for Australia's largest wine business by volume, leading a team of over 100 people to deliver over 150 000 tonnes of grapes to winery networks across Australia and New Zealand. In this role she was responsible for operational budgets more than $150M pa.

Sam has been a strong supporter of research in the wine industry and has sat on Research Advisory Committees across Australia and New Zealand for 12 years. Sam is also currently Vice President and a Director of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) and a Director of the Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference (AWITC).

In the role of CEO at Vinehealth Australia, Sam is responsible for driving and implementing Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda, leading the Vinehealth team,

management of all operations, and ensuring exceptional standards of governance and reporting to the Board, industry and to the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Warren Birchmore, Technical Manager (appointed Interim Manager prior to CEO's appointment)

Warren is responsible for the provision of technical specialist biosecurity advice to industry and government. For industry, this includes the development, analysis and communication of technical knowledge, policies and initiatives relating to biosecurity and general vine health. For government, this includes providing technical advice on all industry biosecurity-related matters under the SA Plant Quarantine Standard and providing technical expertise into response activities, quarantine-related incidents, incident tracing and vineyard surveillance.

Legislation administered by the agency

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995 (Act).

Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), incorporating Biosecurity Division.

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Continued to lead wine biosecurity education through multi-channel communications campaigns, including communications on our website, in our e-newsletter, which exceeds industry open rates, via industry notices, biosecurity alerts, publications in industry newsletters and magazines, social media channels and radio.
- Prepared for Contractor Biosecurity training to be run in two winegrowing regions in SA.
- Regional wine engagement across South Australia. Engaged with regional associations (and their Boards), held phylloxera training, shared regionally relevant information from the Vinehealth Australia Vineyard Register and held biosecurity related industry events.
- Continued to foster collaborative working relationships with State, National and International organisations.
- Used the state's foundational vineyard data in Vinehealth Australia's Vineyard Register to provide aggregated, deidentified data to state government departments, state and regional wine industry associations, individual vineyard owners and industry participants on request.
- Continued to provide aggregated, deidentified data from Vinehealth Australia's Vineyard Register to Wine Australia for the 2025 South Australian Winegrape Crush Survey.

PREVENTION

- Recommendations made to PIRSA on amendments to South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standard to include updated phylloxera research results from recently completed work by Agriculture Victoria.
- To drive improved endemic virus management by the propagation sector, Vinehealth Australia reviewed the results of single vineyard virus testing of one of South Australia's vine improvement source blocks. The data was reviewed with a prominent Australian virologists and plans made for further testing.
- Maintained and operated Vinehealth Australia's Naracoorte Heat Shed, which is the only dry heat shed in South Australia available for public use.
- Continued collaborative project with Small Design Co. to produce a fit-for-purpose disposable shoe cover to be branded 'SafeSolz' as an alternative to footwear disinfestation to minimise the risk of pest, disease and weed introduction spread by footwear in vineyards.

PREAREDNESS

- South Australia's Phylloxera Outbreak Management Plan was reviewed after the last review in 2009. It was endorsed by the joint PIRSA and Vinehealth Australia Phylloxera Management Working Group. This was the culmination of over 12 months of work by both agencies and means that, should a phylloxera outbreak occur in SA, the organisation are better placed to respond. There is still work to be done in phylloxera preparedness. Phylloxera preparedness work will continue to be a priority for Vinehealth Australia to ensure preparedness for a phylloxera outbreak.
- Provided advice and guidance on the National Phylloxera Management Protocols Pest Risk Analysis work being led by Agriculture Victoria.
- Responded to requests from industry and PIRSA on compliance with the South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standard and other quarantine or risk-related enquiries.
- Continue to sit on relevant grape and wine biosecurity related reference groups advising on industry requirements.
- Participated in and contributed to a Phylloxera Preparedness Exercise (previously referred to as a simulation) with a wine industry business to ensure their preparedness in the event of a phylloxera outbreak.
- Continue to sit on the Research Advisory Group for the phylloxera research project funded by Wine Australia to Agriculture Victoria to ensure needs of industry, including phylloxera surveillance research are considered.

RESPONSE

- Provided significant support to PIRSA in response to plant pest biosecurity incidents.
- Vinehealth Australia's Vineyard Register proved vital in enabling direct communications by Vinehealth staff with vineyard owners affected by fruit fly outbreaks in the Riverland and metropolitan Adelaide.

A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

- As required in the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act, 1995,* Vinehealth Australia continued to maintain the State's unique Register of vineyard plantings used by Vinehealth for all preparedness, prevention, and response activities. Accuracy of the Vinehealth Australia's Vineyard Register was enabled through the annual vineyard record return, validation of vineyard owners' requests for changes to their records through review of aerial imagery, onsite visits and continued involvement in the conveyancing process during land sale.
- The Vinehealth Australia Vineyard Register upgrade project continues as an organisational priority with significant work invested into the project this year. Investments included finalising a Request for Quote so that the organisation are ready and precise about industry need, drafting procurement documents and working with a procurement partner on timeframes.

- As done previously, the levy collection and recovery system was managed in house.

Board attendance

Eight board meetings were held between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025:

Meeting date	Meeting duration	Meeting type
20 May 2024	7 hours	In-person and via Teams
6 June 2024	½ hour	Via Teams
9 July 2024	5 ½ hours	In-person
19 August 2024	5 hours	In-person and via Teams
30 September 2024	4 hours	In-person and via Teams
2 December 2024	3 ½ hours	In-person
10 February 2025	5 ¼ hours	In-person
14 April 2025	5 ½ hours	In-person and via Teams

The number of meetings attended by each board member was as follows:

- Dr Jo Luck (2/2) (final Board meeting attended on 6 June 2024)
- Mr Alex Sas (2/2) (final Board meeting attended on 6 June 2024)
- Dr Sally Troy (2/2) (final Board meeting attended on 6 June 2024)
- Ms Dianne Davidson AM (8/8)
- Mr Iain Jones (8/8)
- Ms Krysteen McElroy (5/6)
- Mr Nick Secomb (7/8)
- Dr Fiona Constable (6/6)
- Ms Brooke Howell (6/6)
- Mr Peter Nguyen (6/6)

An Audit and Risk Committee was established in October 2024 to provide governance on Vinehealth Australia's financials and risk. At 30 April 2025, two Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held with the following members in attendance at all of these meetings.

- Mr Peter Nguyen (Committee Chair)
- Ms Dianne Davidson AM
- Ms Brooke Howell

Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objective: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Indicator

1. Implement communication and awareness activities to drive biosecurity behaviour change across the wine supply chain and improve understanding of regulatory obligations.

Performance

- Continued delivery of Vinehealth Australia's Communications Strategy 2024-2025 which targets behaviour change and covers:
  - Projects and campaigns
  - Content
  - Industry engagement
  - Media and PR
- Continued use of multiple communications platforms, particularly digital channels.
- Continued creation of compelling content that is widely shared.
- Targeted reminders issued to vineyard owners on the importance of farm-gate hygiene vigilance around peak tourism events of the Tour Down Under, Gather Round and the McLaren Vale Marathon, including ways to limit tourist access to vineyards.
- Biosecurity Tips written and provided weekly to Daily Wine News and to all SA regional wine industry associations for their weekly regional newsletters.
- Themes covered by 2024-25 Tips series included propagation, footwear, pre vintage, vintage and dormancy.
- Close relationships with key wine, rural and news media maintained.
- Shared information about the importance of boundaries in controlling phylloxera spread in wine industry magazines.
- Three interviews with media/ podcasters held about the role of Vinehealth Australia and impacts what the impact of phylloxera would be if found in vineyards in South Australia.
- Weekly email updates to South Australian wine industry regional and state associations, sharing biosecurity tips, alerts, resources and news.
- Presentations on biosecurity and Vinehealth activities at a range of industry, university and government forums.
- Monthly regional biosecurity series commenced in March 2024 in Vinehealth Australia's e-newsletter to highlight biosecurity activities occurring in regions and by regional associations.

- 18 Biosecurity Alerts and Industry Notices published, covering key topics such as contractor biosecurity training sessions in regions, Board communications, fruit fly outbreaks, phylloxera research, grapevine scale, phylloxera fact sheets, CEO appointment and Vineyard Records.
- Communications with registered vineyard owners located within 3 kilometres of prescribed burns in the Mount Lofty Ranges.
- Resources created to enable biosecurity to be maintained as part of grapevine removal for either full or partial vineyard removal. This includes references on what constitutes grapevine removal to then be removed from the Vineyard Register.
- ***E-News***
- 10 issues published, consisting of 105 different articles.
- 69% average open rate (industry average 38%).
- 4.5% click through rate (industry average 2.9%).
- Two feature articles written and published in a wide variety of industry journals, papers, magazines, including 'The importance of controlling phylloxera spread' in Grapegrower & Winemaker Magazine in September 2024 and 'Vinehealth Australia's 125th years of service to industry' in Grapegrower & Winemaker Magazine.
- Awarded the inaugural Biosecurity Champion Award – showcasing and promoting industry leaders in biosecurity.
- Updated the Vinehealth Australia website.
- Contributed to the Phylloxera Outbreak Plan Communications Action Plan.
- ***Posters***
- Produced the "Who to Call" poster for Registered Vineyard Owners in South Australia.
- ***Fact Sheets***
- Produced Yarra Valley Fact Sheets – Key Learnings for your Region which were shared with industry to provide learned experiences from a region living and working with phylloxera.
- Updated the About Grape Phylloxera fact sheet with updated lifecycle graphics.
- ***Maps***
- Six instances of sending out updated Google Earth Pro file format fruit fly boundaries to industry.
- Four maps produced to reflect changes to fruit fly affected area boundaries transposed over Vinehealth Australia's SA vineyard layer, relating to all current outbreaks between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025.
- Re-digitised all vineyards in the Limestone Coast zone and regenerated their associated individual vineyard maps.

- Supply the GIS vineyard block dataset to support Regional Planning.
- Supported Flinders University Masters student with imagery data for an AI project.
- ***Biosecurity Signs***
- Continued production of industry-specific biosecurity signage and disinfestation kits and delivery to industry, including:
  - 71 farm-gate hygiene signs (representing a 14% decrease from 2023-24).
  - 58 consumer-facing signs (representing a 36% decrease from 2023-24).
  - 67% of Vinehealth Australia's biosecurity signs were installed in South Australia, 17% in Victoria, 15% in New South Wales and 1% in Queensland.
  - 1 disinfestation kit.
- Donation of Wine Tourism Biosecurity Signs to the Barossa Council which have then been subsequently installed at intervals along the Barossa Trail walking and cycling path, between Nuriootpa and Lyndoch.
- Contractors Biosecurity training delivered in two winegrowing regions in South Australia. These sessions were well attended with over 60 attendees participating in training sessions across both regions.
- Regional visits held in eight winegrowing regions reaching over 120 people at all events combined.
- Prepared for the distribution and the next Vineyard Owners' Survey to quantify adoption of farm-gate hygiene practices scheduled for delivery in August 2025.

Indicator

2. Provide on-demand services to industry and the South Australian government that utilises Vinehealth Australia's biosecurity expertise and assets.

Performance

- Outputs as a result of managing Vinehealth Australia's Vineyard Register mandated by the Act:
  - Provision to Wine Australia of aggregated and deidentified planting data and maps for The SA Winegrape Crush Survey 2024. For a snapshot of data contained in the Register, refer section in this annual report titled, 'Reporting required under any other act or regulation.'
  - Provision to SA wine regional associations of Regional Snapshots sharing de identified and aggregated regional statistics to eight winegrowing regions.
- Queensland Fruit Fly Industry Updates held in the Riverland, the Adelaide Plains and the Adelaide Hills, with over 70 attendees at all events.

- Supported frost mapping work by PIRSA by providing data layers and aggregated data by vineyard for the following regions; Riverland, Clare, Barossa, Eden Valley, Langhorne Creek and Padthaway.
- Technical Manager provided phylloxera training on request of a major winery in NE Victoria, providing training at two sites, with approximately 40 attendees.
- With the news of cessation of Queensland Fruit Fly control in Victoria, raised awareness of increase monitoring, inspection and vigilance of South Australian businesses and vineyards to prevent further incursions of fruit fly into our state. As a result, growers and businesses accredited under ICA-33 in South Australia no longer need to issue Plant Health Assurance Certificates for wine grapes being dispatched into Victoria and New South Wales.
- Vinehealth Australia's Acting CEO Suzanne McLoughlin attended the recent Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) conference held 8-9 May. Keynote speaker on day 1 of the conference was Danny le Feuvre, CEO of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, who reflected on the honey bee industry's recent Varroa mite incursion and road to recovery.

Agency objective: PREVENTION

Indicator

1. Ensure regulatory management of phylloxera is based on risk, science and industry insight.

Performance

- Recommendations made to PIRSA on amendments to South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standard to include updated phylloxera research results from recently completed work by Agriculture Victoria.
- Maintained and operated Vinehealth Australia's Naracoorte Heat Shed, which is the only publicly available dry heat shed in South Australia. The heat shed had 24 uses over the past year (14% decrease on last year's uses) and is best practise if moving machinery and equipment between regions in SA.
- Updated processes at the Naracoorte Heat Shed to ensure they meet new research standards for phylloxera dry heat disinfestation.

Indicator

2. Improve production of high-health planting material produced by the grapevine propagation sector

Performance

- Vinehealth Australia reviewed the results virus testing of one of South Australia's vine improvement source blocks. Some of the data was reviewed with prominent virologists in Australia and it was ascertained that

another round of testing in certain blocks should be done in the future.

- Attended SAVIA/ VINA meetings on updates to the Grapevine Grafted Standards.

Indicator

3. Enhance farm-gate hygiene adoption through practical solutions

Performance

- Continued collaborative project with Small Design Co. to produce a fit-for-purpose disposable shoe cover to be branded 'SafeSolz' as an alternative to footwear disinfestation to minimise the risk of pest, disease and weed introduction and spread by footwear in vineyards.
- Technical Manager raised biosecurity awareness in the McLaren Vale wine region just prior to harvest with education of nearly 20 growers, harvesters and carriers.

Agency objective: PREAREDNESS

Indicator

1. Transform the Phylloxera Outbreak Plan into an effective preparedness plan for South Australia

Performance

- South Australia's Phylloxera Outbreak Management Plan was endorsed by a joint PIRSA and Vinehealth Australia Phylloxera Management Working Group. This endorsement has been the culmination of more than 12 months' work by both agencies and means that should phylloxera be found in South Australia, both agencies are better placed to respond to an outbreak. Final endorsement of the documents by PIRSA Executive Team and Vinehealth Australia's Board will be completed in the future.
- Provided advice and guidance on the National Phylloxera Management Protocols Pest Risk Analysis work being led by Agriculture Victoria.
- Requests from industry and PIRSA on compliance with the South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standard and other quarantine or risk-related enquiries comprised 43% of all service enquiries for the 2024-25 period, demonstrating Vinehealth's biosecurity expertise.
- Two staff members attended Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) training.
- Attended Xylella Research Funding cross sectoral forum.
- Continue to sit on the following:
    - Crown Gall like symptoms industry reference group.
    - Fungicide Industry Reference group.
    - Queensland Fruit Fly industry briefing group.
    - National Wine Industry Biosecurity Committee.

- Quarterly Wine Business Meetings with PIRSA.
- Phylloxera National Working Group.
- Wine Biosecurity Group meetings.
- National Action Plan for Pest of Horticultural Crops for the National Priority Plant Pests.

Indicator

2. Challenge industry readiness for a phylloxera outbreak through simulations.

Performance

- Participated in and contributed to a Phylloxera Preparedness Exercise (previously referred to as simulations) with a wine industry business to ensure their preparedness in the event of a phylloxera outbreak.
- Engaged with regional associations and planned for Phylloxera Preparedness Exercises to be held with industry in the latter part of 2025.
- With the forthcoming update of the PIRSA Phylloxera Outbreak Management Plan, commenced planning for preparedness exercises for industry organisations and specific regions.

Indicator

3. Deliver a pilot phylloxera surveillance program.

Performance

- Sit on the Research Advisory Group for phylloxera research to ensure needs of industry, including phylloxera surveillance research are considered.
- Met with PIRSA to discuss phylloxera surveillance and link them to phylloxera researchers.
- Meetings with international researchers to gauge best practice monitoring.

Agency objective: RESPONSE

1. Undertake incident response activities that are aligned to the relative complexity, impact and type of pest incident

Performance

- Provided significant support to PIRSA in response to nine plant pest biosecurity incidents, including eight fruit fly incidents and extensions and one crown gall like symptom enquiry.
- Followed up on potential vine health issues with registered vineyard owners as required.
- Responded to a potential phylloxera concern.

- Provided ongoing response to crown gall like symptoms to impacted growers and nurseries.
- Assisted in communicating to industry about providing samples on scale in vineyards research project.
- Vinehealth Australia's Register proved vital in enabling direct communications by Vinehealth staff with vineyard owners affected by fruit fly outbreaks in the Riverland and metropolitan Adelaide.
- Held three industry meetings to ensure industry were aware of their movement and certification requirements through Queensland fruit fly outbreak zones, attracting over 70 people.

Agency objective: A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

1. Enhance the Register to handle grower records more efficiently.

Performance

- Vinehealth Australia continued to maintain the State's unique Register of vineyard plantings used by Vinehealth for all preparedness, prevention, and response activities. Accuracy of the Register, enabled through the annual vineyard record return, validation of vineyard owners' requests for changes to their records through review of aerial imagery and onsite visits, and continued involvement in the conveyancing process during land sale.
- Minor upgrades to the existing Register complete.
- A significant increase in Register database memory in October 2024 to unlock restricted capacity and allow continued use.
- The Vinehealth Australia Vineyard Register upgrade project continues as an organisational priority with significant work invested into the project this year. Investments included finalising a Request for Quote so that the organisation are ready and precise about industry need, drafting procurement documents and working with a procurement partner on timeframes. Although work on this project progressed this year, it did not progress to the establishment of an upgraded register and as a result funds that were allocated to the project this year have been held over to continue this work in the future.
- Capture of current procedures and processes to maintain the accuracy of the Register to avoid loss of knowledge and continuity of the existing Register.

2. Prudently manage contributions payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape industry Act 1995,* and ensure compliance with rules approved by the Minister.

Performance

- Internally managed levy collection and recovery system.

Corporate performance summary

Items for this section are included in Agency specific objectives and performance (above).

Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025, Vinehealth Australia recruited one new employee outside the use of a public sector wide employment opportunity program.	

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
Employee Performance and Development Review (EPDR)	Mid-year and end-year performance reviews were completed for 100% of staff. This formal process was complemented by regular discussions with all employees to track performance and identify any challenges/barriers to achieving objectives.
Discipline Policy (Poor Performance & Serious Misconduct)	There was no need to deploy this policy during the 2024-25 reporting period for employees of Vinehealth Australia.

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
During the 2024-25 reporting period, all Work health and safety policies were maintained. They include: • Work Health and Safety policy • Emergency Plans • Office Security policy • Working Alone on Premises policy (outside of normal office hours) • Remote Work – Field Work policy • Travelling for Work policy • Bullying and Harassment policy • Equal Employment Opportunity policy • Incident Reporting and Investigation policy	All policies remain effective in providing a rigorous framework for the safety of Vinehealth Australia employees. Work, health, and safety remains the first agenda item on staff meetings, providing the opportunity for staff to raise and discuss any concerns, and for management to action and resolve.
Working from home	Vinehealth Australia employee-initiated requests for part-time working from home supported in 2024-25 and undertaken in accordance with the Working from home policy.

Workplace injury claims	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0%
Fatalities	0	0	0%
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0%
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0%

**number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment meeting the relevant threshold under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)*

Work health and safety regulations	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents (*Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3)*	0	0	0%
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (*Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195*)	0	0	0%

Return to work costs**	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure ($)	0	0	0%
Income support payments – gross ($)	0	0	0%

***before third party recovery*

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	**Number of executives**
Fixed term contract	2

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment has a workforce information page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. Full audited financial statements for 2024-2025 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2024-25 Budget $000s	2024-25 Actual $000s	Variation $000s	2023-24 Actual $000s
Total Income	1,660	1,709	49	1,630
Total Expenses	1,404	1,071	333	958
Net Result	239	637	398	672
Total Comprehensive Result	**239**	**637**	**398**	**672**

Statement of Financial Position	2024-25 Budget $000s	2024-25 Actual $000s	Variation $000s	2023-24 Actual $000s
Current assets	2,590	3,176	586	2,602
Non-current assets	531	219	312	219
Total assets	**3,120**	**3,395**	**275**	**2,821**
Current liabilities	193	178	15	232
Non-current liabilities	539	182	357	191
Total liabilities	**733**	**360**	**373**	**423**
Net assets	**2,388**	**3,035**	**647**	**2,398**
Equity	**2,388**	**3,035**	**647**	**2,398**

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies with a contract value below $10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	$ Actual payment
All consultancies below $10,000 each - combined	Various	$23,427

Consultancies with a contract value above $10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	$ Actual payment
Christina Cook Consulting	Lead the joint PIRSA and Vinehealth Australia Phylloxera Management	$23,879

Consultancies	Purpose	$ Actual payment
	Working Group to achieve the updated Phylloxera Outbreak Plan	
Lument	Draft Request for Proposal for Vineyard Register Upgrade Project	$21,450
	Total	$45,329

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

See also the Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors with a contract value below $10,000

Contractors	Purpose	$ Actual payment
All contractors below $10,000 each - combined	Various	$36,618

Contractors with a contract value above $10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	$ Actual payment
Blackbird IT Pty Ltd	Provision of monthly IT services and help desk (cost excludes license subscriptions that Blackbird IT facilitates for Vinehealth)	$ 73,139
Cindie Smart Consulting	Communications Advisor contractor (e-news, articles, fact sheets, Industry Notices, Biosecurity Alerts, case studies, presentations, annual report, website, social media campaigns, communications strategy)	$ 62,586

Contractors	Purpose	$ Actual payment
Perks & Associates	Integrity audit of levies, monthly accounting services (including, payroll, management accounts, government data collection, preparation and lodgement of tax returns), advisory and consulting for banking migration, assistance with external financial audit	$ 37,002
Biz Hub Australia Pty Ltd	Provision of monthly IT services to maintain Vinehealth Australia's Register and other ad hoc Register improvements	$ 26,843
Versent Pty Ltd	Assistance with Vineyard Register	$ 16,245
	Total	$ 215,815

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. View the agency list of contracts.

The website also provides details of across government contracts.

Risk management

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
No cases of actual or suspected fraud were detected in 2024-25.	0

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Vinehealth Australia continues to implement key strategies to control and prevent fraud throughout the organisation. This is particularly important given the delegated authority from the Commissioner of State Taxation to the Presiding Member of Vinehealth Australia to levy, collect and recover contributions payable under the Act. These strategies include:

Internal controls and segregation of duties

- Delegations of Authority Policy annually reviewed and approved by the Board.
- Two signatories required on all expenditure (except credit cards), with CEO being the second and final authority.
- Limits on employee purchasing cards reviewed annually and monthly reconciliations completed.
- Vinehealth Australia utilises the services of an external accounting expert to manage payroll and internal financial reporting to management and to the Board, thus providing an additional independent review and verification of accounts and payroll.
- Month end review of management accounts by CEO and external accounting expert.
- Annual integrity audit of contributions payable under the Act completed by external accounting expert to ensure accuracy and to resolve any issues identified.

External auditor

- The external auditor of Vinehealth Australia reports directly to the Board of Vinehealth Australia on its findings and recommendations.

Conflict of interest

- A conflict of interest register for Board members is maintained and is a standing agenda item at the beginning of every Board meeting.
- Related party transactions for Vinehealth Australia Board members and executives are declared and disclosed as part of Vinehealth Australia's audited financial statements.

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality agreements are entered into with contractors and consultants to Vinehealth Australia.

Culture

- Provision of Code of Ethics for the SA Public Sector and *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995* to all employees and Board members through their induction program.
- Information regarding conditions of employment and organisational policies are provided in the Vinehealth Australia Employee Handbook, which is provided during induction.
- Policies and procedures for all financial operations are annually reviewed.
- Policies and procedures for the maintenance of vineyard owner records in the Register (pursuant to Section 19 of the Act) are implemented.
- Ongoing promotion to employees during staff meetings regarding the prevention, identification, and reporting of actual or suspected instances of fraud.

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018:* 0.

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995	Section 26(1) *'The Board must, no later than 31 July each year, submit to the Minister a report on its operations during the financial year of the Board ending on the preceding 30 April.'*

Section 26(1)

Reporting on the operations of Vinehealth Australia is contained within this Annual Report in prior sections.

A snapshot of information contained in the Register is provided below.

Snapshot of the Register information for 2024-25

Pursuant to Section 19 of the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, Vinehealth Australia maintains a Register of persons who own vineyards comprising 0.5 hectares or more of planted vines. The Register contains owner details, parcel and land titles information, vineyard area, grape variety, rootstock, and age of vines.

The number of vineyard owners has continued to show a slow decline with a decrease of 23 registered owners from 2023-24 to 2024-25 with 3,160 owners. This has had a commensurate decrease in planted area of nearly 150 hectares over the same period.

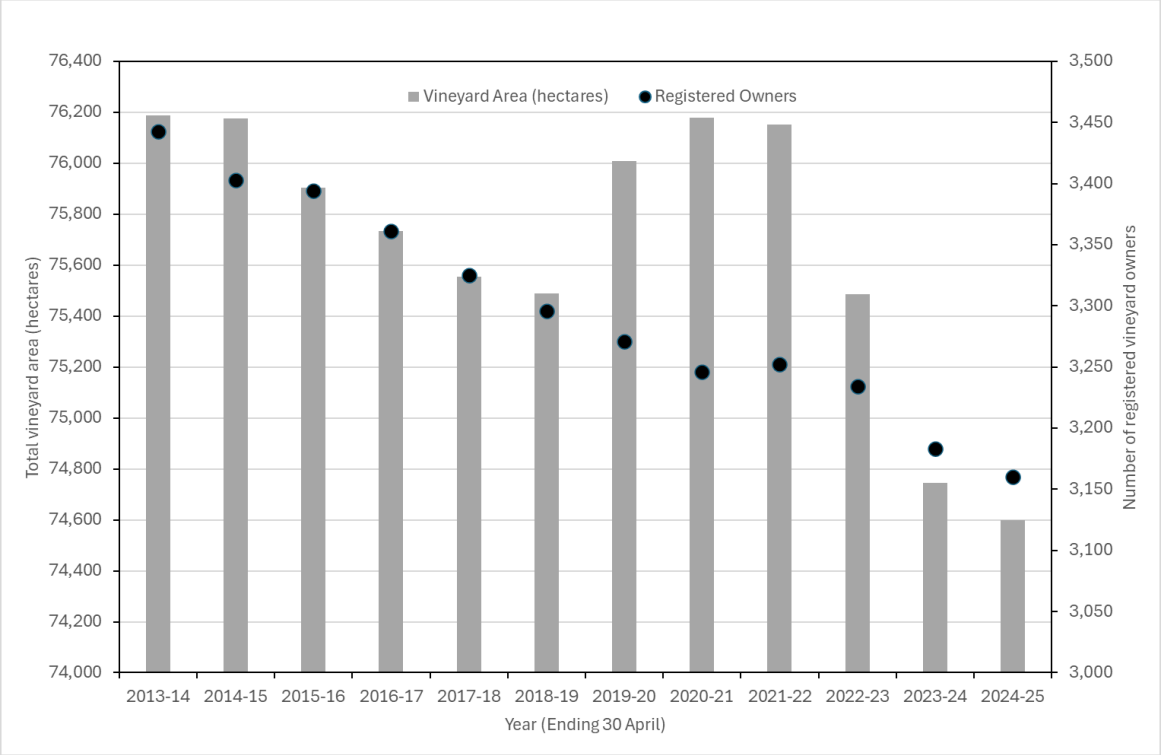


Figure 1. Number of registered vineyard owners and total vineyard area in South Australia. Note the minimum on the vertical axes is not zero and thus exaggerates the visual decline.

Whilst not presented here, the SA registered vineyard owners have now decreased to the lowest number since 2002 (3,156) after peaking in 2008 (3,706), and the vineyard area has decreased to before 2006 (75,938 ha) levels after also peaking in 2008 (78,905 ha).

Vineyard sizes in South Australia

South Australia continues to have a small number (4% of registered owners) of very large vineyards (100 hectares or more) accounting for 43% of the planted area in South Australia. Conversely, there are 1,898 registered owners (58% of owners) holding less than ten hectares, accounting for only 11% of the total planted area in South Australia.

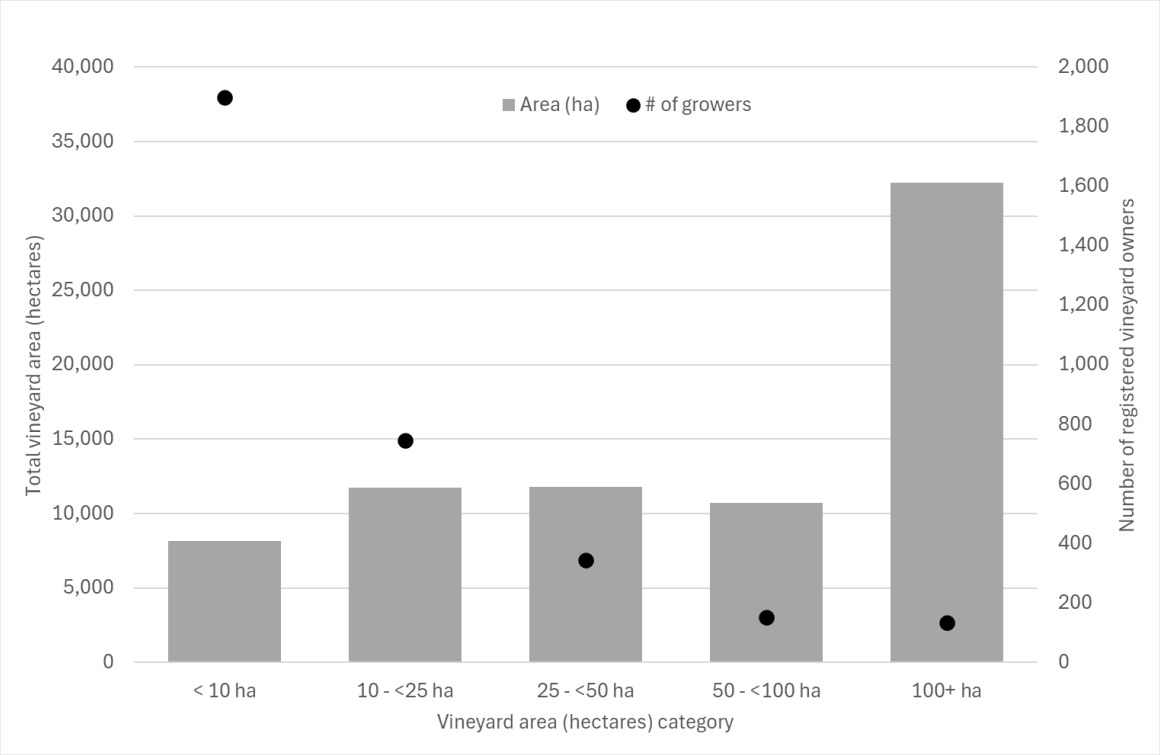


Figure 2. Number of registered vineyard owners and total area per vineyard size category in South Australia for 2024-25.

If the 2023-24 data is compared with the 2024-25 data:

- All categories have decreased in planted area from 2023-24 to 2024-25 except the 100+ hectare category which has seen an increase of 428 hectares with the largest decrease in the 25 - <50 hectare category with a decrease of 254 hectares.
- The four smallest categories have decreased in number of growers with the 100+ hectares remaining static. The <10 hectare category has seen the largest decrease with 10 growers.

Grape varieties in South Australia

South Australia continues to be dominated by 2 major red varieties, namely Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon, totaling 60.2% of the planted area, with three of the top 5 varieties being red. Chardonnay continues to be the major white variety at 10.6% of the planted area in South Australia with Sauvignon Blanc (3.4%) rounding out the top 5 varieties.

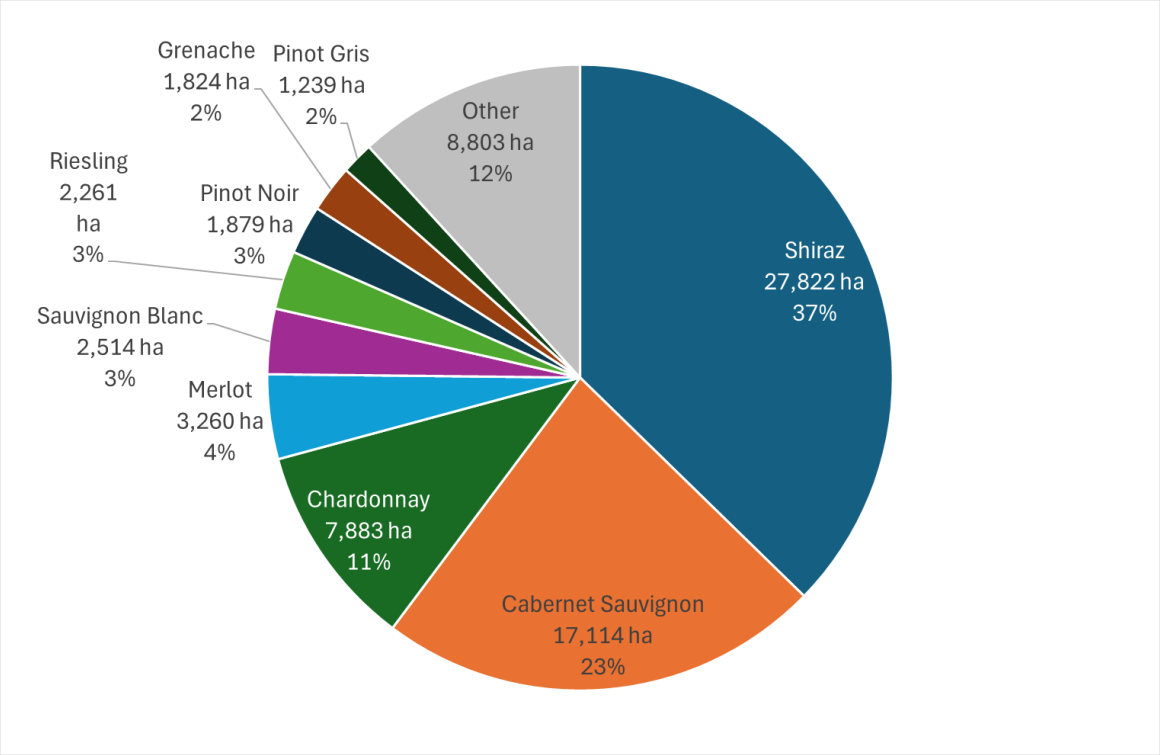


Figure 3. Most widely planted grape varieties in South Australia by area (hectares) and percentage in 2024-25.

Comparing 2023-24 with 2024-25, the top 5 varieties from 2023-24 have all declined in area the past 12 months except for Sauvignon Blanc has increased nearly 9% on 2023-24.

Rootstock plantings in South Australia

71% of vines in South Australia are planted on own roots, with own rooted vines susceptible to phylloxera.

The portion on own roots will remain relatively static with South Australia maintaining and valuing the old vine plantings.

Vinehealth Australia continue to advocate for any new plantings to be on phylloxera tolerant rootstocks or at least consider planting on rootstocks.

Some rootstock plantings are desired for cropping level, drought tolerance, salinity tolerance and lime tolerance than just for phylloxera tolerance alone.

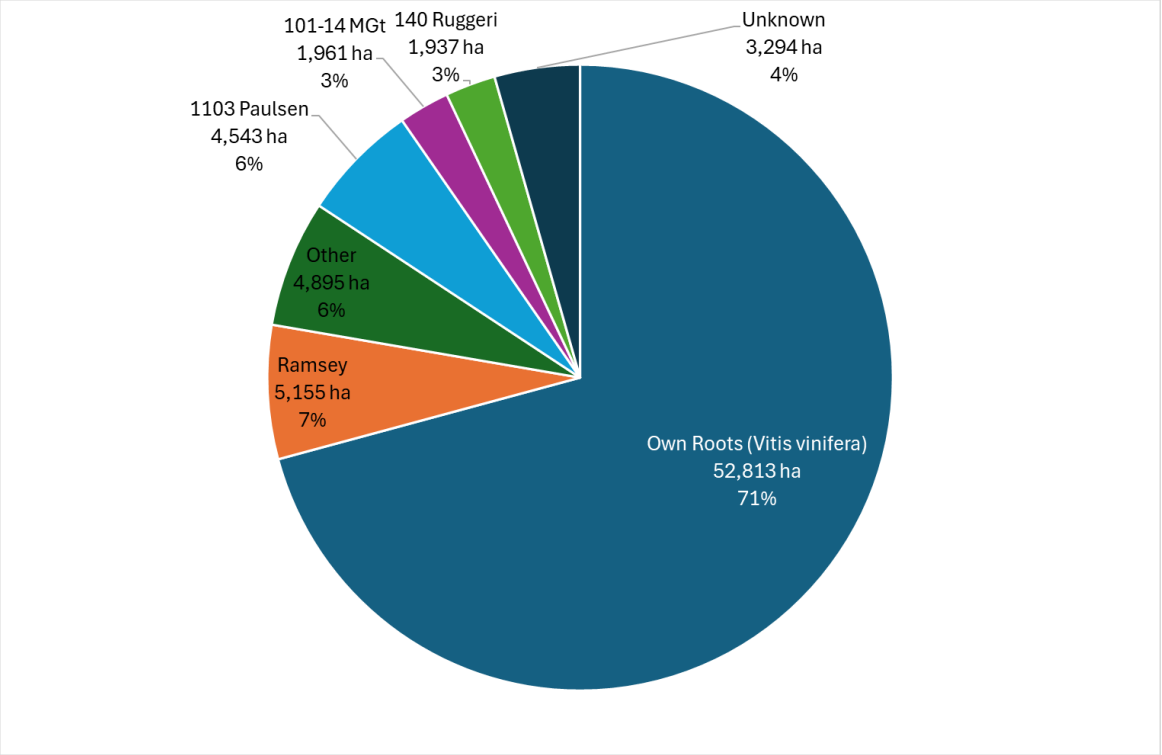


Figure 4. South Australian vineyard plantings by rootstock type in 2024-25.

Vine age in South Australia

South Australia continues to have some of the oldest vines in the world, with known plantings going back to 1842, some 6 years after South Australia was first settled.

Vine age in South Australia is gradually increasing. This is in part due to less new plantings adding to the planted area of vines, and the vines planted in the boom years of the 1990's are now creeping into older age bracket of 35 - <70 years old.

Table 1. South Australian vineyard plantings split by vine age category in 2024-25 compared to in 2018-19.

Age (years)	Percentage of Total Planted Area	
	2018-19	2024-25
0 - <35	89.05%	86.67%
35 - <70	7.73%	9.85%
70 - <100	0.78%	0.76%
100+	0.34%	0.56%
Unknown	2.11%	2.16%

The age of vines being grubbed and removed from the Vineyard Register has not been captured or reported. It could be that the majority of the grubbed vines are from the 0 - <35 years old and thus appear to increase the small percentages in older age brackets.

Reporting on insights from the Register in 2024-25

Information from the Vineyard Register was analysed internally and provided to Wine Australia as source information for the South Australian Winegrape Crush Survey.

There was increased sharing through Vinehealth Australia's e-newsletter on insights gained from the Register to demonstrate value of the information held to industry and government. Articles included:

- Review of Vineyard Owner Numbers Decreasing (reported May 2024).
- Review of vineyard size by region (reported June 2024 & November 2024).
- Review of what varieties are on the rise in SA (October 2024).
- Review of changes in rootstock plantings by region over the last decade (reported November 2024).

- Update on the number and timing of vineyard sales recorded in the Register (reported February 2025).

Act or Regulation	Requirement
Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995	Section 26(2) *'The report must incorporate −* *(a) The audited statement of accounts of the Board for the period to which the report relates; and* *The five-year plan prepared or revised by the Board under this Act.'*

Section 26(2)

Audited statements of accounts are provided as part of this Annual Report (Appendix A).

Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda 2021 to 2026 is hosted on Vinehealth Australia's website and is attached in Appendix B.

In 2024, the Board of Vinehealth Australia released its Focus Areas for 2024 to 2026 as a subset of the Strategic Agenda. These focus areas have been reported against in this Annual Report and are also attached in Appendix B.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act* 2005

Not applicable.

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported (estimates provided for 2024-25)

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2024-25
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	1
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	1
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	1
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	7

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2024-25
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out-dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		Total	0

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	7
Number of negative feedback comments	10 (reported above)
Total number of feedback comments	17
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	100

Data for previous years is available at: Vinehealth Australia's website

Service Improvements

In line with PC039- Complaint Management in the South Australian Public Sector, Vinehealth has undertaken some service improvements resulting from complaints during 2023-24, including:

1. Around two months prior to the 2024-25 Notices of Assessment being issued, an indicative Notice of Assessment was generated and sent to every registered vineyard owner. This provided a clear breakdown of levy calculations, a further opportunity for vineyard owners to advise Vinehealth of any changes to planted area held by the Register (upon which the levies are calculated in part), and for budgeting purposes.

2. At the time of issue of the 2024-25 Notice of Assessment to every registered vineyard owner, a “Who to Call” poster was included to provide details of key contacts in the wine industry at the National, State and regional level.

3. Under the Act, Vinehealth Australia is required to maintain a Register of all vineyards of 0.5 hectares or greater in South Australia. Maintaining this Register, including managing a levy system, allows Vinehealth direct contact with all registered vineyard owners. Vinehealth continues to receive annual feedback from vineyard owners around difficulties attempting to maintain their records in the current Register. These difficulties stem from the age of the Register and the technology used to build the Register more than 10 years ago. Vinehealth acknowledges this feedback and continues to provide significant one-on-one assistance to vineyard owners. An upgrade to the Register continues to be recognised as a key organisational priority, with this remaining a key focus in 2024-2025.

Compliance Statement

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (t/a Vinehealth Australia) is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y
Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (t/a Vinehealth Australia) has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency’s related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Y

Appendix A: Audited financial statements 2024-25

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia

Trading as Vinehealth Australia

Financial Statements
For the year ended
30 April 2025

Simplified Disclosures

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Contents
For the year ended 30 April 2025

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Statement of cash flows	8
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William Buck
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Independent auditor's report to the members of Vinehealth Australia

Report on the audit of the financial report

Our opinion on the financial report

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Vinehealth Australia (Vinehealth), presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the financial position of Vinehealth as at 30 April 2025, and
- its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*.

What was audited?

We have audited the financial report of Vinehealth, which comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 April 2025,
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended,
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended,
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended,
- notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Board are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in Vinehealth Australia's annual report for the year ended 30 April 2025, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

William Buck
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995 and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing Vinehealth Australia's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of these financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:
http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our independent auditor's report.

William Buck

William Buck (SA)
ABN 38 280 203 274

G Martinella

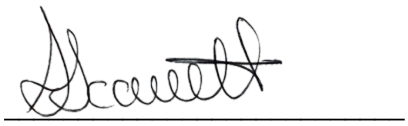
G.W. Martinella
Partner
Adelaide, 14th July 2025

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Contents
For the year ended 30 April 2025

We certify that:

- General purpose financial statements of the Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia:
  - are in accordance with the accounts and records of the department;
  - comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions;
  - comply with relevant accounting standards; and
  - present a true and fair view of the financial position of the department at the end of the financial year and the result of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.

- Internal controls employed by the Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of financial statements have been effective.



Chief Executive Officer

Presiding Member

14 July 2025

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Statement of comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 April 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Income			
Fees and charges	2.1	1,437,283	1,226,840
SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers	2.2	175,000	325,000
Sales of goods and services	2.3	23,440	28,137
Other income	2.4	73,095	50,188
Total income		1,708,818	1,630,165
Expenses			
Employee related expenses	2.7	(543,447)	(502,253)
Supplies and services	2.9	(343,284)	(277,703)
Depreciation and amortisation	3.1	(44,554)	(39,513)
Lease interest	3.2	(7,116)	(6,672)
Other expenses	3.3	(132,975)	(131,583)
Total expenses		(1,071,376)	(957,724)
Net result		637,442	672,441
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		637,442	672,441

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Statement of financial position
As at 30 April 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3.6	1,527,692	1,232,037
Trade and other receivables	3.7	1,648,638	1,369,993
Total current assets		3,176,330	2,602,030
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3.4	214,278	209,194
Intangible assets	3.5	4,849	9,849
Total non-current assets		219,127	219,043
Total assets		3,395,457	2,821,073
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	3.8	76,310	100,729
Lease liabilities	3.9	39,575	29,544
Employee benefits liability	2.8	62,455	101,959
Total current liabilities		178,340	232,232
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	3.9	181,723	179,245
Employee benefits liability	2.8	-	11,643
Total non-current liabilities		181,723	190,888
Total liabilities		360,063	423,120
Net assets		3,035,394	2,397,953
Equity			
Retained surpluses	4.1	3,035,394	2,397,953
Total equity		3,035,394	2,397,953

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 April 2025

	Equity	Total equity
	$	$
Balance at 1 May 2023	1,725,512	1,725,512
Surplus for the year	672,441	672,441
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	672,441	672,441
Balance at 30 April 2024	2,397,953	2,397,953

	Equity	Total equity
	$	$
Balance at 1 May 2024	2,397,953	2,397,953
Surplus for the year	637,442	637,442
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	637,442	637,442
Balance at 30 April 2025	3,035,395	3,035,395

All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Phylloxera & Grape Industry Board of South Australia **FY2025**
Trading as Vinehealth Australia
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 April 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Grower levies and charges		1,056,348	877,495
Receipt of government grants		175,000	325,000
Interest received		70,836	43,756
GST recovered from the ATO		40,814	57,782
Other receipts		25,699	38,590
Employee benefits payments		(553,049)	(570,178)
Payments for supplies and services		(477,116)	(358,367)
Interest paid		(7,116)	(6,672)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		331,416	407,406
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(3,632)	(13,791)
Payments for intangibles		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(3,632)	(13,791)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(32,129)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(32,129)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		295,655	393,615
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,232,037	838,422
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	3.6	1,527,692	1,232,037

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Note 1.1 General Information

The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia, trading as Vinehealth Australia ("Vinehealth"), is a statutory authority of the State of South Australia, established pursuant to the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* ("Act").

The financial statements and accompanying notes include all the controlled activities of Vinehealth.

Vinehealth does not control any other entity and has no interests in unconsolidated structured entities.

Vinehealth has not entered into any contractual arrangements which involve the sharing of control or significant influence over another entity.

Vinehealth does not have any transactions and balances relating to administered resources.

Note 1.2 Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies that are material to the entity are set out below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards (Simplified Disclosures) and the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*.

These financial statements have been prepared with reference to section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and therefore do not include all disclosures and presentations required under that section.

Vinehealth has applied Australian Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities, as Vinehealth is a not-for-profit entity.

The financial statements have been prepared based on a 12 month period and presented in Australian currency. The historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item with the item measured.

Assets and liabilities that are to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

All amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Taxation

Vinehealth is not subject to income tax. Vinehealth is liable for fringe benefits tax and goods and services tax (GST).

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

• when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods or services is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item applicable; and

• receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified as part of operating cash flows.

Budget Performance
Vinehealth does not have an obligation to provide Parliament with an annual budget and therefore the Board have adopted to not include a budget versus actual analysis for inclusion within this financial report. Management and the Board undertake appropriate monitoring of actual results against budget on a monthly basis and also report against budget in the annual report.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of Vinehealth Australia
Vinehealth will carry out the role and functions outlined in the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* to provide for the protection of vineyards from disease and to assist and support the grape industry in South Australia.

Activities of Vinehealth Australia
Vinehealth is committed to minimising the risk of pests and diseases (in particular phylloxera) in vineyards, by investing in biosecurity training and awareness, policy and procedures, research and development priority setting, and preparedness, prevention and response activities, to the benefit of the South Australian and national wine industry.

Note 2.1 Fees and charges

	2025 $	2024 $
Grower levies	1,405,363	1,216,575
Penalties	31,920	10,265
Total fees and charges	**1,437,283**	**1,226,840**

Note 2.2 SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers

	2025 $	2024 $
SA government grant	175,000	325,000
Total grant income	**175,000**	**325,000**

SA Government Grant relates to that received from the Hon Clare Scriven MLC and PIRSA as part of approval of Vinehealth's sustainable funding model in June 2023, to enable Vinehealth to carry out its functions and activities under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*.

Note 2.3 Sales of goods and services

	2025 $	2024 $
Sale of goods	17,623	22,273
Heat shed income	5,817	5,864
Total sales of goods and services	**23,440**	**28,137**

Note 2.4 Other income

	2025 $	2024 $
Interest received	70,836	43,756
Sundry income	2,259	6,432
Total other income	**73,095**	**50,188**

Note 2.5 Key management personnel disclosures

Remuneration of key management personnel reflects all costs of employment including salaries and wages, payments in lieu of leave, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits and any fringe benefits tax paid or payable in respect of those benefits.

The total remuneration received by these employees for the year was $379,557 (2024: $284,290).

Note 2.6 Board Members

Board members during the 2025 financial year and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

Ms Dianne Davidson AM (appointed 9 November 2023 for a three year term, elected Presiding Member from 11 December 2023)

Mr Iain Jones (appointed 9 November 2023 for a three year term)

Ms Krysteen McElroy (appointed 10 November 2023 for a three year term)

Mr Nick Secomb (ongoing appointment as Chief Inspector)

Mr Peter Nguyen (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three year term)

Ms Brooke Howell (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three year term)

Dr Fiona Constable (appointed 1 July 2024 for a three year term)

The number of Board members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	2025	2024
$0 - $9,999	7	10
Total number of members	**7**	**10**

Remuneration of Board members reflects all costs of performing board duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits and any fringe benefits tax paid or payable in respect of those benefits. The total remuneration received or receivable by members was $6,085 (2024: $4,963).

In accordance with the Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 016, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board duties during the financial year.

There are no related party transactions for the year ended 30 April 2025 (2024: nil).

Note 2.7 Employee related expenses

	2025 $	2024 $
Salaries and wages	446,911	393,656
Employee on-costs-superannuation*	51,642	43,084
Board fees	6,085	4,963
Long service leave	9,200	17,054
Workers compensation	2,084	2,156
Annual leave	12,370	(3,249)
Other employee related expenses	15,155	44,589
Total employee benefits expense	**543,447**	**502,253**

Note 2.7 Employee related expenses (continued)

*The amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income represents the compulsory superannuation contribution made to staff and board superannuation plans by Vinehealth in respect of services by current Vinehealth staff.

Note 2.8 Employee benefits liability

	2025 $	2024 $
Current liabilities		
Annual leave	20,426	39,901
Long service leave	42,029	62,058
Total current employee benefits	**62,455**	**101,959**
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	-	11,643
Total employee benefits	**62,455**	**101,959**

Employee benefits accrue as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid. Long-term employee benefits are measured at present value and short-term employee benefits are measured at nominal amounts.

Salaries and wages, annual leave, skills and experience retention leave (SERL) and sick leave

The liability for salary and wages is measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at remuneration rates current at the reporting date.

The annual leave liability is expected to be payable within 12 months and is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

Long service leave

Employee entitlements relating to long service leave are calculated and provided for as per the *Long Service Leave Act 1987*. In summary, employees are entitled to 13 weeks long service leave after the completion of 10 continuous years of service, we highlight a pro-rata payment is payable on termination after 7 years of continuous service. Management have agreed upon the accounting policy in respect to long service leave being to record the full entitlement (including on-costs) upon each employee satisfying the requirement of 5 years continuous service. This is an acceptable 'short-hand' method under *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*.

Note 2.9 Supplies and services

	2025 $	2024 $
Stakeholder communications and engagement	96,358	99,718
Project expenses	35,710	36,483
Information technology	110,804	87,172
Operating lease payments	7,490	11,371
Board expenses	16,367	10,643
Heat shed expenses	7,799	8,933
Consultants	68,756	23,383
Total supplies and services	**343,284**	**277,703**

Consultants

The number of consultancies and the dollar amount paid/payable (included in supplies and services expense) to consultants that fell within the following bands:

	No.	2025 $
Below $10,000	4	23,427
Above $10,000	2	45,329
Total paid /payable to the consultants engaged	**6**	**68,756**

	No.	2024 $
Below $10,000	3	20,408
Above $10,000	1	19,314
Total paid /payable to the consultants engaged	**4**	**39,722**

In the current financial year, certain consulting costs relating to strategic projects have been presented under 'Consultants'. In prior years, these costs were classified under 'Project expenses'. This change in presentation has been made to better reflect the nature of these costs.

Note 3.1 Depreciation and amortisation expenses

	2025 $	2024 $
Plant and equipment	6,052	3,801
Right-of-use buildings	33,502	30,712
Intangible assets	5,000	5,000
Total depreciation and amortisation	**44,554**	**39,513**

All non-current assets, with a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated/amortised over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Useful Life

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated on a straight-line basis. Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets depreciation and amortisation are calculated over the estimated useful life as follows:

Class of asset	Useful life (years)
Plant and equipment	3 - 8 years
Right-of-use buildings	Lease term
Intangibles	3 years

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. Vinehealth only has intangible assets with finite lives. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for intangible assets is reviewed on an annual basis.

Revision of accounting estimates

Assets' residual values, useful lives and amortisation methods are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate, on an annual basis. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or the method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate.

During the year Vinehealth did not re-assess the useful lives of its class of assets.

Note 3.2 Lease interest

	2025 $	2024 $
Interest expense on lease liabilities	7,116	6,672
Total lease interest	**7,116**	**6,672**

Note 3.3 Other expenses

	2025 $	2024 $
Accounting	35,980	48,025
FBT and bank charges	15,150	10,104
Tourism RVC	2,347	8,855
Telephone & Internet	9,171	9,649
Office amenities	8,007	7,142
Travel	6,950	1,564
Sundry expenses	55,370	46,244
Total other expenses	**132,975**	**131,583**

Note 3.4 Property, plant and equipment

	2025 $	2024 $
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment - at cost	50,260	52,987
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(44,184)	(40,859)
	6,076	**12,128**
Right-of-use property	321,042	276,404
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(112,840)	(79,338)
	208,202	**197,066**
Low value assets - at cost	24,373	24,373
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(24,373)	(24,373)
	-	**-**
Total property, plant and equipment	**214,278**	**209,194**

Reconciliations
Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Plant and equipment $	Right-of-use asset $	Total $
Balance at 1 May 2024	12,128	197,066	209,194
Additions	3,632	44,638	48,270
Depreciation expense	(9,684)	(33,502)	(43,186)
Balance at 30 April 2025	**6,076**	**208,202**	**214,314**

Property, plant and equipment leased by Vinehealth

Short-term leases of 12 months or less and low value leases where the underlying asset value is less than $15,000 are not recognised as right-of-use assets. The associated lease payments are recognised as an expense and are disclosed in note 4.1.

Vinehealth leases office space on the first floor of Industry House located in the National Wine Centre precinct. A new lease agreement was signed in July 2022, covering a period of 3 years from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024. The lease includes two 3-year extension options which have been factored into the disclosed balances. The first extension option has already been executed.

Acquisition and recognition

Non-current assets are initially recorded at cost or at the value of any liabilities assumed, plus any incidental cost involved with the acquisition. Non-current assets are subsequently measured at cost after allowing for accumulated depreciation.

Where assets are acquired at no value, or minimal value, they are recorded at impairment in the Statement of Financial Position.

All non-current tangible assets with a value equal to or in excess of $5,000 are capitalised.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment of tangible assets at 30 April 2025.

Note 3.5 Intangible assets

	2025 $	2024 $
Non-current assets		
Computer software - at cost	22,400	22,400
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(17,551)	(12,551)
Total intangible assets	**4,849**	**9,849**

Reconciliations
Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Computer Software $	Total $
Balance at 1 May 2024	9,849	9,849
Amortisation expense	(5,000)	(5,000)
Balance at 30 April 2025	4,849	4,849

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. Intangible assets are measured at cost and are tested for indications of impairment at each reporting date. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are recorded at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. Vinehealth Australia only has intangible assets with finite lives. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for intangible assets is reviewed on an annual basis.

The acquisition of or internal development of software is capitalised only when the expenditure meets the definition and recognition criteria and when the amount of expenditure is greater than or equal to $10,000.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment of intangible assets at 30 April 2025.

Note 3.6 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 $	2024 $
Current assets		
Cash at bank	1,527,692	1,232,037
Total cash and cash equivalents	**1,527,692**	**1,232,037**

Note 3.7 Trade and other receivables

	2025 $	2024 $
Current assets		
Receivables		
- Trade debtors	5,824	4,414
- Balance of current year levies unpaid	1,370,993	1,191,061
- Previous years' levies and penalties not received	240,371	162,776
Total receivables	**1,617,188**	**1,358,251**
Less allowance for doubtful debts	-	-
Prepayments	11,144	7,385
Accrued Income	-	-
GST input tax recoverable	14,880	4,357
Total current trade and other receivables	**1,648,638**	**1,369,993**

Receivables in relation to current year levies are invoiced yearly in arrears at the end of the financial year (30 April 2025), and therefore have not been received at 30 April 2025.

At the date of signing the financial statements, $643,784 of the current year levies and penalties have not been received.

No provision for doubtful debts is recorded due to provisions under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* stating that the fees due and payable remain a charge on the land upon which the vineyard, winery or distillery is situated until payment.

Contributions (levy) payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* are subject to the same penalties for delay or default in payment as land tax.

Administration of land tax falls under the *Taxation Administration Act 1996*, which allows for a flat penalty tax of 75% of the unpaid tax to be imposed in the instances of the deliberate non-payment of tax, or 25% for any other situation. *The Taxation Administration Act 1996*, also allows for interest to be imposed on unpaid tax on a daily basis from the due date until the date the tax is paid.

For the purposes of levies payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, a penalty tax of 5% of the annual levy outstanding will be applied in a Final Notice if the original Notice of Assessment is not paid by the due date. A further default on a Final Notice, will result in a 25% penalty tax of the annual levy outstanding being applied and a Demand Notice issued. Default on a Demand Notice may be referred to a debt recovery provider.

Receivables are raised for all goods and services provided for which payment has not been received. Receivables are normally settled within 30 days. Receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and they are measured at amortised cost.

Receivables, prepayments, and accrued revenues are non-interest bearing.

Note 3.8 Trade and other payables

	2025 $	2024 $
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	6,367	62,516
Employee on-costs*	41,775	12,644
Levies in advance*	5,426	4,626
Accrued expenses	22,984	20,943
Suspense	(24)	-
Other payables	(218)	-
Total current payables	**76,310**	**100,729**

*Employee on-costs include Work Cover levies and superannuation contributions.
*Levies in advance relate to sale of properties

Note 3.8 Trade and other payables (continued)

Vinehealth contributes to several State Government and externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. There is no liability for payments to beneficiaries as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at reporting date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to a superannuation fund.

Payables are measured at nominal amounts. Creditors and accruals are raised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Sundry creditors are normally settled within 30 days from the date the invoice is first received. Employment on-costs are settled when the respective employee benefits that they relate to is discharged. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to the amounts being payable on demand.

Note 3.9 Lease liabilities

	2025 $	2024 $
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	39,575	29,544
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	181,723	179,245
	221,298	208,789

Vinehealth leases office space on the first floor of Industry House located in the National Wine Centre precinct. A new lease agreement signed on July 2022, covered a period of 3 years from 1 October 2021 with extension up to 30 September 2030.

Note 4.1 Retained surpluses

	2025 $	2024 $
Retained surpluses at the beginning of the financial year	2,397,952	1,725,512
Surplus for the year	637,442	672,441
Retained surpluses at the end of the financial year	**3,035,394**	**2,397,953**

The Board notes that levies are invoiced in arrears each year on 30 April. The current year levies unpaid at 30 April 2025 ($1,370,993) constitute 50% of total equity and are yet to be received by Vinehealth Australia. Cash and cash equivalents of $1,527,692 represents the second largest portion of total equity for Vinehealth Australia.

The Board has highlighted the purpose of maintaining equity is to:

• Support communications, administration and technical activities consistent with the functions described under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*, during the initial stages of an outbreak.

• To allow the Board to exploit opportunities outside the normal annual operating plan / strategic agenda (planned to include upgrade of the Register) and to cover fluctuations in income.

• To cover forward contracted commitments – reviewed at the end of each financial year.

Note 4.2 Commitments

Unrecognised Commitments

Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing arrangements arising from contractual sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Unrecognised contractual commitments are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from, the Australian Taxation Office, the commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

Lease Commitments

	2025 $	2024 $
Committed at the reporting date and recognised as liabilities, payable:		
Within one year	27,739	35,875
One to five years	230,557	194,323
Total commitment	258,297	230,198
Less: Future finance charges	(36,999)	(21,409)
Net commitment recognised as liabilities	**221,298**	**208,789**
Committed at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities, payable:		
Within one year	-	6,589
One to five years	-	-
Total commitment	**-**	**6,589**
Representing:		
Non-cancellable leases	**221,298**	**215,378**

Future lease commitments for Vinehealth include one motor vehicle leases with a term of 4 years commencing February 2021, which has been extended for another four years term and office space lease agreement covering a period of 3 years from October 2021 to September 2024 which has been extended by a further three-year term.

Note 4.3 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

Unrecognised contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office. If GST is not payable to, or recoverable from, the Australian Taxation Office, the commitments and contingencies are disclosed on a gross basis.

At the date of signing these financial statements, the Board is not aware of any contingent assets or contingent liabilities of Vinehealth.

Note 4.4 Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 April 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the entity's operations, the results of those operations, or the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

Note 4.5 Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by William Buck, the auditor of Vinehealth Australia:

	2025 $	2024 $
Audit services		
Audit of the financial statements	11,500	10,150

Appendix B: Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda

2021-2026 and Vinehealth Australia Focus Areas for 2024-2026

VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA

STRATEGIC AGENDA 2021 TO 2026

VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA

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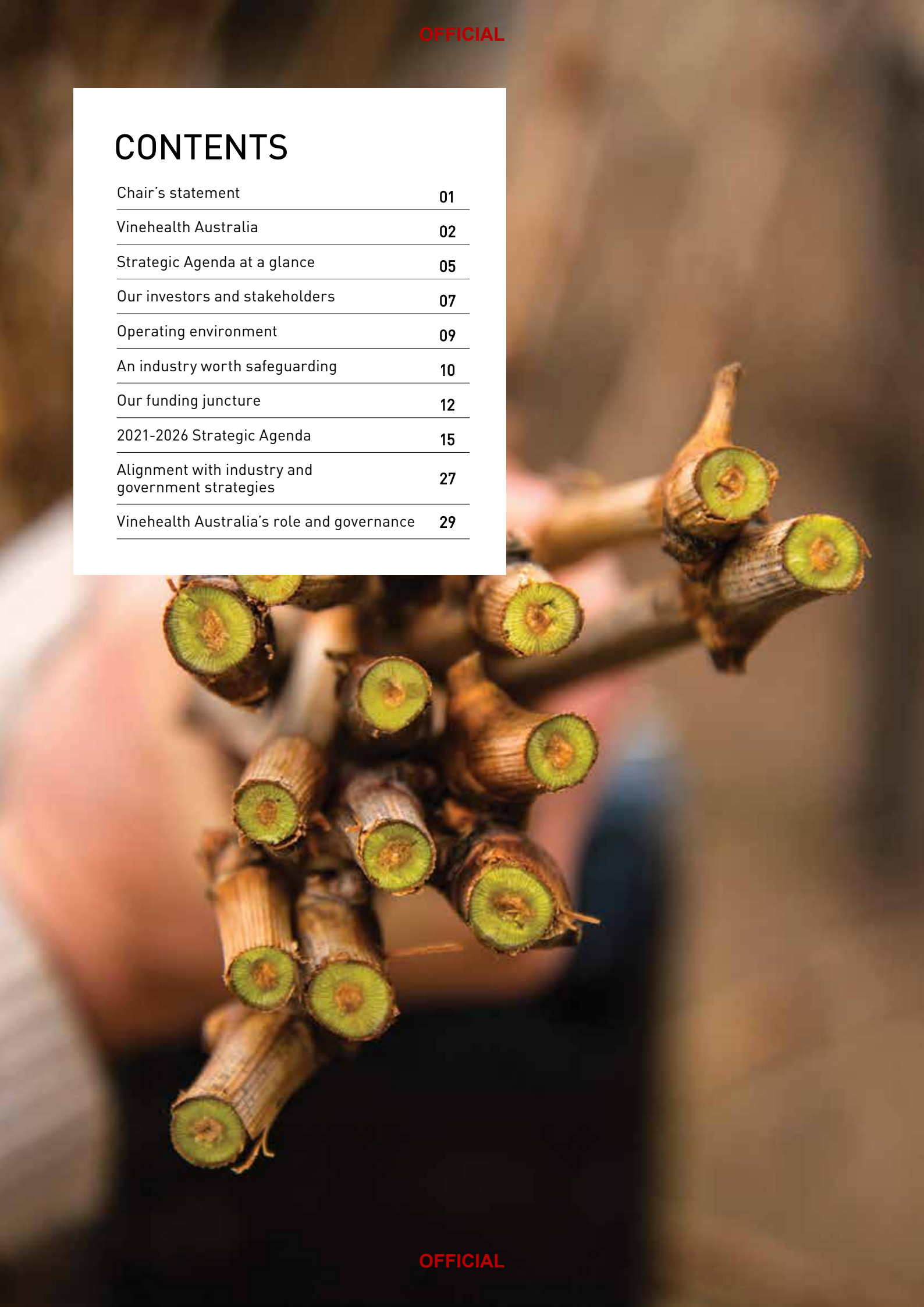


CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The grape and wine industry is critical to South Australia's future prosperity.

Generating $1.92 billion in wine exports and directly employing 8,440 people in grapegrowing and winemaking roles, the South Australian wine industry is a powerhouse.

But South Australia's biosecurity status is under significant pressure. Over the past three years, Vinehealth Australia has set a clear vision for biosecurity management across the grape and wine industry in Australia.

Vinehealth Australia's strategic plan Towards 2020, launched in July 2017, was a whole of industry plan created to raise the profile of our biosecurity status as a key enabler to the future success of the grape and wine industry in Australia.

This goal was achieved, and the biosecurity language used in Towards 2020 is now commonly used in the general vernacular among regional, state and national wine industry organisations and by industry personnel.

Towards 2020 also cemented Vinehealth Australia as a biosecurity expert for the grape and wine industry. It reinforced the key role that Vinehealth Australia commands as the anchor to the wine industry's biosecurity preparedness.

Our new Strategic Agenda 2021-2026 continues that biosecurity momentum, with five priority areas essential to making the industry more resilient and future focused.

We will create solutions across the supply chain, we will minimise pest impacts, we will shape the regulatory environment, we will continue to work closely with all stakeholders and we will cement our capacity and capability to lead.

We look forward to working with industry on delivery of this plan, and continuing to evolve and set the biosecurity agenda for the industry.

Prue McMichael
Chair

VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA

Vinehealth Australia is an independent statutory authority in South Australia. We obtain our powers and functions from our governing legislation, the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*. The overriding aim of the Act is to provide for the protection of vineyards from pests, and to assist and support the grape and wine industry in South Australia.

The impact of Vinehealth Australia on the grape and wine biosecurity landscape is powerful.

With a single-minded focus on biosecurity and deep understanding of the supply chain and industry dynamics, Vinehealth Australia partners with growers, winemakers, suppliers and industry stakeholders to empower them with tools, information and expertise to safeguard their vineyards and wines from pests. In the event of an incursion, Vinehealth Australia uses its biosecurity expertise and assets to provide counsel to government and support industry to manage and recover.

Vinehealth Australia is viewed as an honest broker between government and industry on biosecurity matters and holds the enviable position of being everyone's informed advocate.

The enduring and strong working relationship Vinehealth Australia has with the South Australia government, and particularly the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), enables strategic and operational biosecurity work for industry. PIRSA continues to rely on Vinehealth Australia for counsel, operational activities and consultation with industry on various matters.

Grapevine phylloxera is a global destructive vine killer pest.

Prevention of the entry of phylloxera into South Australia is, and will always be, at our core. The absence of phylloxera in South Australia drives the organisation.

The modern Vinehealth Australia plays a broad and critical role for all pests that are a threat to the health of our vines. Our scope of pests includes any bacterium, fungus, insect, mite or other arthropod, protozoan, virus, other organism or pathogen, or any other condition that may affect vines.

PURPOSE

To foster a profitable, sustainable and reputable grape and wine industry, by working alongside growers, winemakers, propagation specialists and government to protect vines from biosecurity risk and to advance vine health.

VISION

Biosecurity action is integrated in every grape and wine business.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Knowledge: Pursuing new knowledge to empower evidence-based decision making by industry and government.

Action: Completing targeted, high impact biosecurity activities that deliver measurable change in biosecurity practices by industry, government and other priority stakeholders.

Collaboration: Partnering with grape and wine businesses, government, researchers and industry bodies to drive accountability for biosecurity and to leverage resources.

Focus: Investing in biosecurity initiatives that support the state's growth agenda and the industry's enviable reputation for quality and heritage.

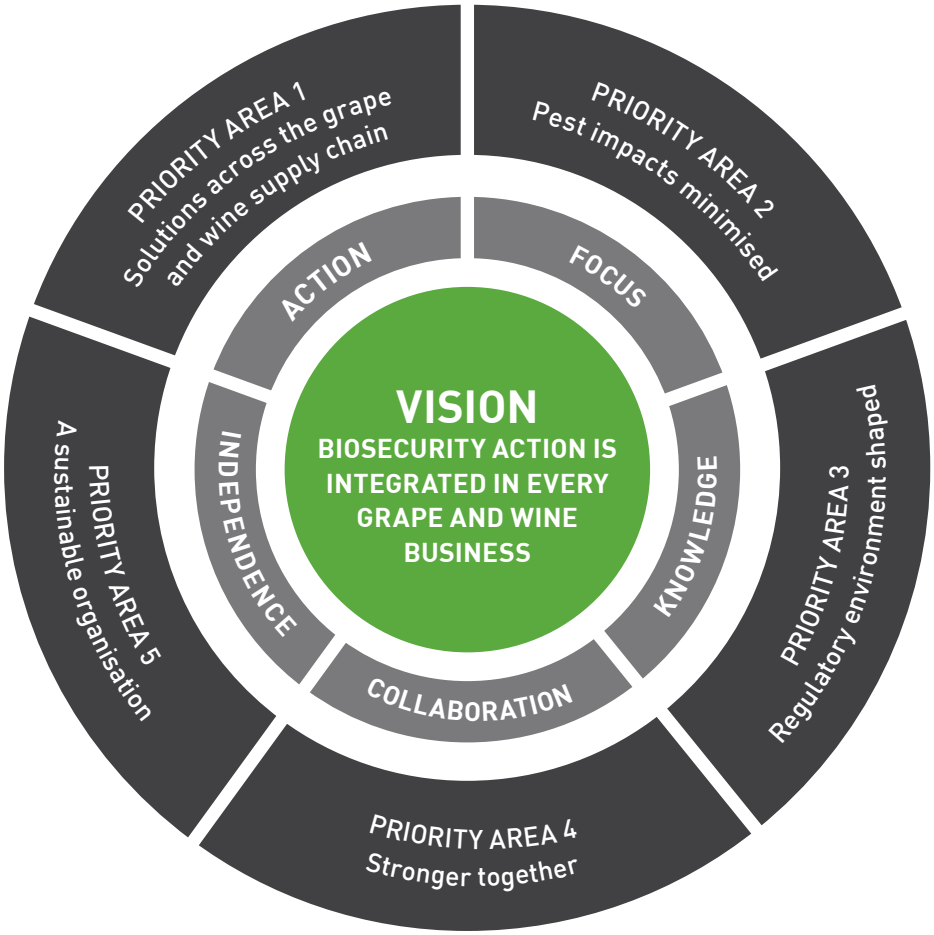
Independence: Honouring our status as an independent statutory authority, as defined by our governing Act, and working to create enduring value for industry through ongoing strategic review and performance monitoring.

"Following the discovery of unusual leaf symptoms in a young vineyard, we called Vinehealth. The quick response and fantastic service was invaluable and helped us solve the problem."

Sue Trott, Vineyard Owner

STRATEGIC AGENDA 2021 TO 2026 AT A GLANCE

Vinehealth Australia is an independent statutory authority in South Australia. Our purpose is to foster a profitable, sustainable and reputable grape and wine industry, by working alongside growers, winemakers, propagation specialists and government to protect vines from biosecurity risk and to advance vine health.



Target: Priority Area 1
A stronger, active defence against vineyard pest threats, with biosecurity practices integrated into everyday operations and access to high-health planting material.

Target: Priority Area 2
The impact of an incursion on assets, people and profitability is minimised, providing business continuity for growers, winemakers and other entities along the supply chain.

Target: Priority Area 3
A responsive and robust biosecurity regulatory system, respected and complied with by industry.

Target: Priority Area 4
An active and connected network across the South Australian grape and wine supply chain, with impact and results extending across the country.

Target: Priority Area 5
A sustainable organisation with expertise, systems and resources, that delivers exceptional outcomes.

OFFICIAL

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OUR INVESTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Our Act enables contributions to be levied from investors, being (1) registered owners of vineyards that are equal to or greater than 0.5 hectares, (2) winemakers, and (3) distillers, in accordance with rules approved by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

We have a broad group of stakeholders whom we influence and collaborate with to champion biosecurity to ensure collective long-term industry success.

	INDUSTRY		GOVERNMENT
National	• Australian Grape and Wine • Vine Industry Nursery Association and Australian Vine Improvement Association • Australian Table Grape Association • Dried Fruits Australia • Greenlife Industry Australia	• Vineyard owners (wine, table, dried) • Winemakers • Nurseries • Suppliers	• The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (including AQIS) • Plant Health Australia • Wine Australia • Horticulture Innovation Australia
State	• South Australian Wine Industry Association • Wine Grape Council of South Australia • South Australian Vine Improvement Association • Interstate wine associations		• Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development South Australia • The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (including Biosecurity SA) • State government jurisdictions
Regional	• South Australian regional wine associations • Vine improvement groups • Interstate regional wine associations		• Regional Development Boards • Regional tourism associations • Local councils
	Community Research and extension providers (including The Australian Wine Research Institute, Agriculture Victoria Research, SARDI, CSIRO)		

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OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Vineyards and wine businesses face many threats to their sustainability. Our vines are under pressure from multiple sources including:

- Drought, bushfires and other natural disasters that damage vineyards and businesses
- Global pandemics, that lead to financial hardship
- Pest movements, including phylloxera in Victoria and *Xylella fastidiosa* species all over the world
- International trade disputes that put our wine exports at risk
- Changes to regulations that govern import and movement rules
- Changing consumer preferences and trends

Added to this, increased consolidation in the wine industry is contributing to the risk of a biosecurity incursion, with large processing facilities importing higher volumes of grapes across regional and state boundaries.

Increased international ownership of Australian wineries and vineyards adds complexity to the system, with 'absent owners' removing a layer of accountability for best practice farm-gate hygiene.

The wine industry is also seeing increased specialisation, with more contract vineyard management, pruning and harvesting, increasing the risk of cross-state, cross-regional and cross-vineyard contamination.

And increased international trade provides opportunities for the movement of pests between countries, states, regions and vineyards.

Coupled with this, margins for grapegrowers continue to be tight, resulting in sub-standard investment in farm-gate hygiene activities.

The risk of a biosecurity incursion has never been greater.

Vinehealth Australia's role is to implement policies, practices, tools and systems to assist the wine industry to better manage these risks.

The opportunity to create meaningful behaviour change has been heightened in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The community now has a far greater understanding of biosecurity terminology and the impacts of outbreaks.

BIOSECURITY LEGISLATION IN SA

The State Government is developing a new Biosecurity Act for South Australia, through PIRSA. The new Biosecurity Act will merge several existing pieces of biosecurity legislation into one, with the aim of creating a simpler and more effective legal framework for the management of pests, diseases and weeds, and biosecurity emergencies.

It's critical that the wine industry participates in the creation of the new Biosecurity Act, to ensure our systems remain strong and that the new Biosecurity Act aligns with our governing Act, the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*.

AN INDUSTRY WORTH SAFEGUARDING

Vineyards in South Australia have several end uses; for wine, as table grapes or dried fruit. Vineyards also supply propagation material for new plantings.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VITICULTURE INDUSTRY

76,008 HECTARES OF GRAPEVINES

3,271 registered vineyard owners

99% of vineyards planted to winegrape varieties

A propagation sector with a state vine improvement association, 6 regional vine improvement associations and a network of commercial nurseries

OUR HERITAGE

South Australia requires healthy, productive vineyards to supply our wine markets and to keep pace with growth ambitions.

The oldest vineyards of 150 years plus can be found in the Barossa Valley, Eden Valley, McLaren Vale, Clare Valley, Coonawarra, Langhorne Creek and the Riverland.

This rich tapestry of old and young vine material, due to the absence of phylloxera and other pests, makes us unique compared to the rest of the world and helps create some of Australia's most iconic wines.

But 70% of grapevines in South Australia are planted on their own roots, making them susceptible to phylloxera. And with phylloxera on our doorstep in Victoria, we must be vigilant.

Of the vines planted in South Australia:

90.96% of vines are aged 0-34 years

7.80% of vines are aged 35-69 years

0.79% of vines are aged 70-99 years

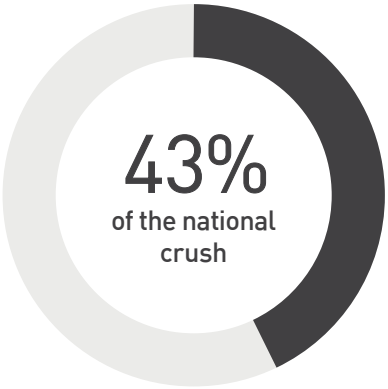
0.45% of vines are aged 100 plus years

70% of vines in SA are susceptible to phylloxera

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY IS A POWERHOUSE

651,195 TONNES
of winegrapes crushed in 2020 vintage

550 million litres of wine produced in 2019 (equivalent to 734 million bottles)



$1.92 billion in wine exports (2019)

$3.6 BILLION IN REGIONAL VISITOR EXPENDITURE (2019)

8,440 PEOPLE
directly employed in grapegrowing and winemaking, and many more indirectly employed

$2.28 billion in wine production (2019)

More than 340 cellar doors

More than 680 wineries

34%
of international visitors travel to a wine region while in South Australia

OUR FUNDING JUNCTURE

Vinehealth Australia has a clear remit outlined in its governing Act. However, with a diminishing pool of funds we are unable to perform our functions to the level required and expected by industry to confront intensifying and evolving biosecurity challenges.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR GROWERS AND WINEMAKERS?

An increased likelihood that a devastating grapevine pest is introduced, spread and established in South Australia, with significant financial, social and environmental consequences to grape and wine businesses, suppliers, regional communities and supporting businesses.

CONSTRAINED FUNDING MEANS A GREATER RISK OF PEST INTRODUCTION INTO SA

It will disrupt continuity of grape and wine supply, constraining the South Australian wine industry's growth ambitions and compromising wine tourism.

$23 BILLION BY 2030

SA'S FOOD, WINE AND AGRIBUSINESS PLAN FOR GROWTH

WHAT IS THE COST OF A PEST INCURSION?

There are many pests that could cause a serious negative impact to the wine industry. The spread of Pierce's Disease (caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*) and phylloxera globally demonstrates the extent and severity of impacts.

The cost of a Pierce's Disease incursion on the Australian wine industry is predicted to be up to $7.9 billion over a 50-year period.[1] In California, this disease causes more than $100 million in yearly losses to the grape industry.

$7.9 BILLION

THE PREDICTED COST OF A PIERCE'S DISEASE INCURSION OVER 50 YEARS

Similarly, with phylloxera continuing to spread in Victoria in recent years, the cost to regions and grape and wine businesses is evident. Replanting infested vineyards with grafted vines tolerant to phylloxera costs approximately $60,000 per hectare. Add to this loss of production while new plantings mature, loss of brand continuity and value, and the cost of ongoing quarantine controls.

$60,000 PER HECTARE

The cost of replanting infested vineyards on phylloxera tolerant rootstock

With fewer than 30% of South Australia's vineyards on rootstock tolerant to phylloxera, the reliance on old vines for some brands and with limited supply of high-health grafted propagation material to replant infested vineyards, the cost of a phylloxera incursion in South Australia has the potential to be immense, and for some grape and wine businesses, catastrophic. And the threat is real with the closest phylloxera infested zone only 300 kms from the state border.

1 https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/biosecurity/biosecurity-economics/xyella-impact-report

FUNDING SITUATION

Our current investors, being owners of 0.5 hectares or more of planted vines, contribute $9.50 per hectare (minimum $50) each year to fund the activities of Vinehealth Australia. This equates to approximately $740,000 per year.

$740,000
Vinehealth Australia's total funding from the levy

$9.50/ha (minimum $50) = the current levy

The area of vineyards has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years and is expected to change little over the next five year period. Combined with the approved levy rate of $9.50 per hectare remaining unchanged since 1996, the total funds available for Vinehealth Australia to perform its functions has remained static.

1996
THE LAST TIME THE LEVY WAS ADJUSTED

Given this, inflation alone has eroded the purchasing power of Vinehealth Australia's funds by around 20% since 1996.

~20% reduction
in purchasing power of funds since 1996

Put simply, we are needing to do more with less to protect the state's vineyards and a new approach to funding Vinehealth Australia is needed.

A REVISED FUNDING APPROACH

A strategic review of funding of Vinehealth Australia was completed in the last strategic plan period (2017-2020) by an independent consultant. This review identified and mapped biosecurity risk creators and beneficiaries and proposed a new equitable approach to increase funding available for Vinehealth Australia.

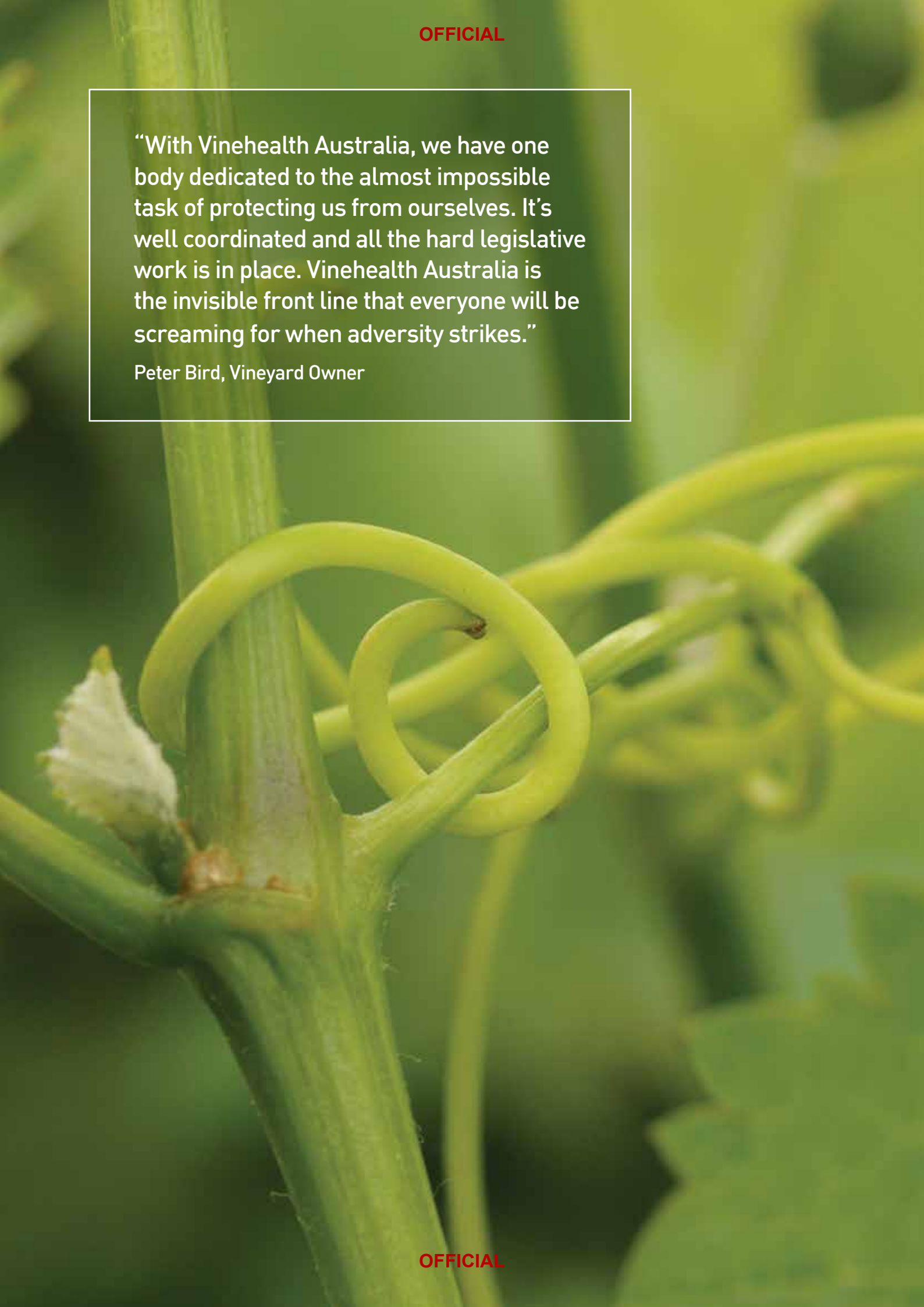
For the next three years and through conversations with industry and government, a key priority for Vinehealth Australia will be to realise this new funding approach.

Concurrently, Vinehealth Australia will also seek to attract investment for its new Digital Biosecurity Platform by leveraging synergies with South Australia's AgTech Strategic Plan, released in October 2020.

3 YEARS
The timeline to deliver a new funding model

This Digital Biosecurity Platform provides an opportunity to vastly improve the value of information captured in the Register to enhance biosecurity management for the grape and wine industry in South Australia, while enabling vineyard owners to explore the benefits that digital technology can offer.

$740,000 current Vinehealth Australia funding : **$2.28 billion** SA wine industry value = **0.032% investment**



"With Vinehealth Australia, we have one body dedicated to the almost impossible task of protecting us from ourselves. It's well coordinated and all the hard legislative work is in place. Vinehealth Australia is the invisible front line that everyone will be screaming for when adversity strikes."

Peter Bird, Vineyard Owner

STRATEGIC AGENDA: 2021-2026

Our Strategic Agenda 2021-2026 will guide our operations for the next five years, with specific focus on five priority areas:

1. Solutions across the grape and wine supply chain
2. Pest impacts minimised
3. Regulatory environment shaped
4. Stronger together
5. A sustainable organisation

For each priority area, we articulate what it means, why it is essential, our targets and how we plan to achieve success.

Each year an Annual Operational Plan is developed, with activities for each priority area guided by available funds. Vinehealth Australia's Annual Report will outline our performance against the Annual Operational Plan and delivery against our Strategic Agenda.

PRIORITY AREA 1

SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE GRAPE AND WINE SUPPLY CHAIN

The grape and wine industry continues to face new and rapidly changing biosecurity threats. We must elevate industry's maturity and capability to respond to these threats. Growers, winemakers and other entities along the supply chain need ready access to user friendly, cost effective and practical biosecurity solutions that can be easily integrated into their operations. These solutions are driven by industry needs and are fit for purpose.

Importantly, this also includes access to high-health status planting material and timely access to preferred rootstocks to improve tolerance to pests and adaptation to abiotic stresses.

This priority area addresses the pressing need to develop solutions for industry to enable widespread adoption of farm gate-hygiene practices aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of pests to our vineyards. Vinehealth Australia will listen to industry's issues and provide solutions, where possible. This priority area also embraces the propagation sector as the foundation of the long-term health of our vineyards.

Critical to the success of this priority area will be the ability of Vinehealth Australia's collective network of stakeholders and influencers to foster sustained behaviour change across the supply chain.

Target:

A stronger, active defence against vineyard pest threats, with biosecurity practices integrated into everyday operations and access to high-health planting material.

KEY THEMES

- Invest in practical solutions for industry to improve adoption of biosecurity practices.
- Partner with technical experts and industry to drive improved value from all preparedness and prevention activities.
- Advance the supply of high-health planting material to enable productive and healthy vineyards for the long term.
- Improve industry's understanding of the attributes offered by rootstocks for new plantings.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. Target projects that promote enhanced biosecurity practices by key risk creators.
2. Quantify the adoption of farm-gate hygiene practices by vineyard owners biennially to direct future investment.
3. Optimise biosecurity value delivered by the Naracoorte Heat Shed.
4. Drive improved virus management by the propagation sector.
5. Review accreditation schemes for grapevine propagation in consultation with the sector to improve the availability of high-health planting material.
6. Quantify rootstock supply demand balance and identify key levers to adjust supply, cost and quality.

PRIORITY AREA 2

PEST IMPACTS MINIMISED

The impacts of a pest incursion on people, businesses and communities are devastating. We must constantly scan the horizon to identify and assess pest threats, get industry and businesses ready, deploy prevention strategies, and ensure that we have capabilities and resources primed to respond with speed, power and efficacy.

This priority area sharpens Vinehealth Australia's activities on supporting industry preparedness for an exotic or regulated endemic pest outbreak.

For an exotic incursion that is managed under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD), we are the South Australian wine industry's voice.

If incursions occur, growers and winemakers must be armed with the tools and knowledge to minimise the impacts on their businesses. Vinehealth Australia, together with PIRSA, must also be ready to act swiftly and confidently to eradicate, or contain the spread of the pest.

Target:

The impact of an incursion on assets, people and profitability is minimised, providing business continuity for growers, winemakers and other entities along the supply chain.

KEY THEMES

- Scan the operating landscape globally and locally for new and emerging threats to South Australian vineyards.
- Build industry preparedness for pest incursions.
- Rapid and effective response to suspected or confirmed pest incursions in partnership with PIRSA.
- Support research, development and adoption of early field detection and surveillance methods for phylloxera and rapid, accurate diagnostic capability.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. Profile biosecurity risks to South Australian vineyards to drive preparedness and prevention activities.
2. Transform South Australia's Phylloxera Outbreak Plan, in partnership with PIRSA, into an effective response plan.
3. Challenge the South Australian industry's readiness for a pest incursion through simulations and evaluating the integration of preparedness measures by grape and wine businesses and government.
4. Evaluate the impact of selected exotic pest incursions in South Australia to drive biosecurity action by federal and state government and industry.
5. Invest in Vinehealth Australia's ability to respond to an incursion.

PRIORITY AREA 3

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT SHAPED

A strong regulatory system provides a vital layer of defence against the entry and spread of pests into Australia and across state borders. Government is responsible for adequately resourcing and managing this regulatory environment; the federal government at the national border and state governments for their respective jurisdictions. The governing Act of Vinehealth Australia builds on this core investment by government, providing the unique ability to work with the South Australian Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and PIRSA to ensure that our state regulatory environment is effective and protects industry from serious pest threats.

Dependent on risk, a balance of regulatory controls, industry accreditation and best practice code of conducts are needed. Industry's role in complying with these are critical for the system to work.

This priority area sees Vinehealth Australia actively shaping the biosecurity regulatory environment in partnership with federal and state government. We will achieve this by developing policy positions, pest-specific management strategies (including surveillance), operational activities that enable industry compliance with regulatory requirements, and ongoing Ministerial counsel. Vinehealth Australia will support strong mechanisms to encourage compliance with South Australian biosecurity legislation and regulations, and action against those who are non-compliant.

Target:

A responsive and robust biosecurity regulatory system, respected and complied with by industry.

KEY THEMES

- Pursue policy positions on key biosecurity matters.
- Improve the effectiveness of regulations targeting known threats such as phylloxera.
- Elevate industry compliance with South Australian biosecurity legislation.
- Modernise biosecurity accreditation schemes in partnership with PIRSA that support the grape and wine industry.
- Provide independent counsel to PIRSA and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. Address high priority regulatory risks through policy action and advocacy.
2. Assist the South Australian government to ensure regulatory management of phylloxera is based on up-to-date risk profiling, scientific knowledge and industry insights.
3. Influence the development of a national strategy for the management of phylloxera.
4. Educate entities across the supply chain on their biosecurity regulatory obligations.
5. Review key operational procedures for biosecurity accreditation schemes and provide recommendations for improvement to PIRSA.

PRIORITY AREA 4

STRONGER TOGETHER

Successful biosecurity programs rely on excellent communication and collaboration across the supply chain. A close connection with grape and wine businesses, suppliers to industry, industry organisations, federal and state government and media is critical, to gauge industry needs, share insights, deliver project outcomes and perform our primary functions. We are a collective that is much stronger when we work together.

Leveraging the power of the Register, we will deliver smart, free flowing information, to stimulate action in the grape and wine industry in relation to farm-gate hygiene and biosecurity preparedness activities.

This priority area sees Vinehealth Australia using a range of communication and engagement vehicles, including regional and business visits, strategic partnerships, digital strategies, tools, data and media work, to enable meaningful behaviour change across the network. We are driven by the aspiration for positive biosecurity practices to be demanded and driven by industry members.

Vinehealth Australia will continue to be responsive to requests received from the South Australian government and industry, seeking to leverage our expertise and assets to inform activities for the greater benefit of the industry.

Target:

An active and connected network across the South Australian grape and wine supply chain, with impact and results extending across the country.

KEY THEMES

- Influence strategic investment in biosecurity by supply chain participants.
- Strengthen networks across the grape and wine supply chain.
- Fortify relationships with South Australian state and regional wine associations and federal and state governments.
- Lead the style and tone of biosecurity communications for the wine industry.
- Support federal and state governments and industry to achieve their ambitions for the sector.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. Critique the maturity of the wine industry to manage current and emerging biosecurity risks.
2. Deliver influential multi-channel communications campaigns focused on biosecurity behaviour change for key risk creators across the supply chain.
3. Elevate partnerships with state and regional wine associations to create regional biosecurity champions.
4. Drive digital communication in the wine industry, achieving industry-leading results with newsletter open rates and website users.
5. Elevate partnerships with media to underpin our status as the wine biosecurity expert.
6. Deliver on-demand services to the South Australian government and industry using Vinehealth Australia's expertise and assets.

PRIORITY AREA 5

A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

Vinehealth Australia's strength is forged in its governing Act and implemented through its deep connections with industry and government. To lead the biosecurity agenda and deliver enduring value for the grape and wine industry, Vinehealth Australia must continue to develop its people and evolve its systems and processes to deliver its statutory functions with improved efficiency and customer experience.

For over 120 years, details of ownership, location and plantings for all vineyards of 0.5 hectares or more in South Australia have been recorded in the Vinehealth Australia Register. This unique Register is an extraordinary asset and enables Vinehealth Australia to execute activities across the biosecurity continuum. It has also been crucial in supporting the South Australian government to manage potential smoke taint from prescribed burns, bushfire recovery, police investigations, water allocation planning and fruit fly outbreaks. However, for the Register to meet the changing nature and intensity of biosecurity challenges faced by industry, the functionality and flexibility offered by next generation technology must be urgently adopted.

With the South Australian government developing a new Biosecurity Act during this strategic plan period, the industry, as it did back in the late 1800s when our founding Act was established, again has the opportunity to be visionary. This involves articulating a clear picture of the biosecurity arrangements required to ensure a prosperous grape and wine industry now and well into the future. Vinehealth Australia will provide an essential supporting role to industry and the South Australian government through this process.

Target:

A sustainable organisation with expertise, systems and resources, that delivers exceptional outcomes.

KEY THEMES

- Modernise the Register to provide the functionality and flexibility needed to respond to a changing biosecurity landscape and customer demands.
- Transform the funding model for Vinehealth Australia to advance vine health and improve protection of grape and wine assets from biosecurity risk and impact.
- Enhance South Australia's biosecurity legislation to protect the grape and wine industry.
- Strong financial management, governance and systems, with transparency to the South Australian government and investors.
- Strengthen organisational culture to deliver outstanding value to industry.

HOW WE GET THERE

1. Build a new Digital Biosecurity Platform that is powered by geospatial data to drive a relationship-rich digital biosecurity ecosystem.
2. Increase the approved rate of contributions and change the investor mix to better reflect biosecurity risk creators and beneficiaries.
3. Efficiently manage contributions payable under the Act and in accordance with rules approved by the Minister.
4. Influence the development of a new Biosecurity Act for South Australia and the strengthening of Vinehealth Australia's governing Act to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
5. Continue to optimise organisational strategies, policies and procedures to meet obligations to investors, employees and government.
6. Invest in Vinehealth Australia's systems to enhance our employee performance, productivity and motivation.

OFFICIAL

Image courtesy of Coonawarra Vignerons.

OFFICIAL

ALIGNMENT WITH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda has been developed to support the industry achieve its ambitions as described in the South Australian Wine Industry Plan, and the recently released Vision 2050 for the Australian wine industry. It also aligns with South Australian government priorities for growth and biosecurity, and national plant biosecurity strategies.

Vinehealth Australia is an active contributor to the Wine Biosecurity Committee, which is chaired and managed by Australian Grape & Wine. This Committee oversees the National Wine Biosecurity Strategy and provides advice on setting wine sector biosecurity policy that minimises the negative effects of pests on the Australian wine sector. The Committee is a collaboration of grape and wine producers, nursery and vine improvement organisations, wine sector supply chain participants, biosecurity and technical experts and Wine Australia.

Through this Committee, Vinehealth Australia has played an active role in shaping the National Wine Biosecurity Strategy 2019-2023 (National Strategy) for which the Committee has oversight. The priorities of Vinehealth Australia's Strategic Agenda closely align with the six strategic objectives of the National Strategy, and collectively these two strategies will build a stronger biosecurity system for industry.

Ultimately, a stronger biosecurity system will ensure:

- Exotic pests are prevented from entering vineyards in Australia
- Phylloxera is contained within the existing Phylloxera Infested Zones (PIZ) in Australia
- In the event of an exotic or regulated endemic pest incursion, the pest is eradicated or contained and the impact on grape and wine assets minimised
- Effective management of high priority endemic pests of vineyards

Such a rigorous biosecurity system will enable market access, export growth and inbound wine tourism, and will protect the value and profitability of grape and wine assets.

INDUSTRY		GOVERNMENT
Vision 2050 (Australian Grape & Wine)	Vinehealth Australia Strategic Agenda 2021-2026	• Food, Wine and Agribusiness Plan for Growth • South Australia's AgTech Strategic Plan (South Australian government)
National Wine Biosecurity Strategy 2019-2023 (Wine Biosecurity Committee - Australian Grape & Wine)		• South Australia's Biosecurity Policy 2020-2023 (PIRSA)
South Australian Wine Industry Plan (South Australian Wine Industry Association and Wine Grape Council SA)		• National plant biosecurity strategies (Plant Health Australia) • Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Wine Australia)

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VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA'S ROLE AND GOVERNANCE

BOARD

The Board of Vinehealth Australia maintains oversight over strategy, finances, operations, culture and reporting obligations.

The Board has up to seven members nominated to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Developement by an industry Board Nominations Committee, an expert in viticultural research and is complemented with the ex officio appointment of the Chief Inspector for South Australia. This skills-based board functions according to contemporary board governance principles, with accountability to industry and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Chair of the Board is elected each year by the Board.

FUNCTIONS

Vinehealth Australia carries out activities across the four phases of biosecurity; preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

In the Act, disease* means, (a) any bacterium, fungus, insect, mite or other arthropod, protozoan, virus or other organism or pathogen; or (b) any other condition, that may affect vines.

The primary functions of Vinehealth Australia as detailed in the Act are to:

- Identify and assess
    - the relative threat to the state's vineyards posed by phylloxera and other diseases,
    - the risk of spreading diseases through the movement of machinery, equipment, vines and other vectors into and within the state
- Develop policies in relation to
    - the appropriate conditions for the movement of machinery, equipment, vines and other vectors into and within the state to prevent the spread of disease
    - the quarantine of vines that are or may be affected by disease
    - appropriate measures for the control of outbreaks of disease in the state
- Develop plans for the eradication of diseases in the state's vineyards
- Support and encourage the conduct and evaluation of research into diseases including their control and management and to publish the results of relevant research
- Promote awareness of the dangers of disease among the public and people involved in grape growing or winemaking
- Prepare and disseminate information on diseases, codes of conduct and work practices that minimise the risk of disease, or its spread, to people involved in grape growing or winemaking
- Approve nurseries (whether within or outside the state) that are capable of producing propagative material that is free of specified diseases or industry-based accreditation schemes for such nurseries
- Collect and supply data relating to vineyards and vine health in South Australia

Other core functions of Vinehealth Australia include:

- Assisting and supporting the grape industry in its initiatives
- Acting as inspectors under the *Plant Health Act 2009* ex officio
- In conjunction with the Chief Inspector, determining the appropriate action to be taken to control an outbreak and providing ongoing advice to the Minister regarding the outbreak and the action being taken to control it
- Maintaining a Register of all vineyards of 0.5 hectares or greater planted in South Australia, which includes owner and location details and planting information
- Managing a system to levy, collect and recover contributions (levies) payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995*

**For the purposes of this strategic agenda the word 'pest' is used to refer to the defined term 'disease' in our Act.*

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Government of South Australia

VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA FOCUS AREAS FOR 2024 – 2026

To be read in conjunction with the Strategic Agenda 2021 to 2026

Vinehealth Australia's key biosecurity focus areas are presented in three pillars of prevention, preparedness and response, and represent work against priority pests and diseases, with phylloxera at the core. To ensure ongoing protection of South Australia's viticultural assets, Vinehealth Australia must deliver education and awareness actions across these pillars, enhance the Register to support industry, and operate as a sustainable organisation.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

1. Implement communication and awareness activities and campaigns to drive biosecurity behavior change across the wine supply chain and improve understanding of regulatory obligations (2024 – 2026).
2. Provide on-demand services to industry and the South Australian government that utilise Vinehealth Australia's biosecurity expertise and assets (2024 – 2026).

PREVENTION

Minimise the likelihood of the introduction of phylloxera and other pests and diseases.

1. Ensure regulatory management of phylloxera is based on risk, science and industry insights (2024 – 2026).
2. Improve production of high-health planting material produced by the grapevine propagation sector (2025 – 2026).
3. Enhance farm-gate hygiene adoption through practical solutions (2026).

PREPAREDNESS

Being well-prepared for potential incursions.

1. Transform the Phylloxera Outbreak Plan into an effective preparedness plan for South Australia (2024 – 2025).
2. Challenge industry readiness for a phylloxera outbreak through simulations (2024 – 2025).
3. Deliver a pilot phylloxera surveillance program (2026).

RESPONSE

Responding effectively when incursions occur.

1. Undertake incident response activities that are aligned to the relative complexity, impact and type of pest incident (2024 – 2026).

A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

1. Enhance the Register to handle grower records more efficiently (2024 – 2026).
2. Prudently manage contributions payable under the *Phylloxera and Grape industry Act 1995,* and ensure compliance with rules approved by the Minister (2024 – 2026).

VINEHEALTH AUSTRALIA

March 2024