



Winemakers' Federation of Australia

For the Industry by the Industry

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The Australian Wine Industry Position on Gene Technology

The Australian wine industry has reviewed its position on gene technology in light of regulatory and scientific developments. The industry's position remains unchanged:

It is the Australian wine industry's position that no genetically modified organisms be used in the production of Australian wine

The Australian wine industry produces some of the best wines in the world. It is a vibrant, efficient and forward-looking industry, with a strong interest in remaining at the forefront of a very competitive world market. Its success has been built through cooperation, determination and a focus on quality and efficiency.

Underpinning this success is a culture of innovation and a willingness to improve the way grapes are grown and wine is made. The industry will continue to explore new developments in all areas of science but will only apply these new practices commercially when there are clear consumer benefits and public acceptance of the practices.

As part of this endeavour, Australian scientists are using gene technology in research to advance knowledge of how both grapevines and microorganisms function. These efforts form part of an ongoing, long-term program of scientific research and are not unique to Australia, or to the wine industry. Research organisations in many countries are investigating the use of gene technology for potential application in the food industry, including grape and wine production.

The wine industry is monitoring progress in this research with interest. Whilst there are potentially great benefits in employing gene technology, the industry is also conscious of the need for safety, openness and quality assurance in any use of gene technology. At present, this work is at the research stage and is not being used commercially in Australia. It accords with the objectives of the Australian *Gene Technology Act 2000*, which are to protect the health and safety of people, and to protect the environment.

For further information please visit the following websites:

www.crcv.com.au

www.genetech.csiro.au

www.awri.com.au