

19 April 2018

**SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO TRIS NOTIFICATION ON
IRISH PUBLIC HEALTH (ALCOHOL) BILL 2015**

Introduction - Winemakers' Federation of Australia

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) is the national peak body for Australia's winemakers. Our objective is to represent the interests of Australian wine industry on national and international issues. The Australian wine industry includes 65 regions nationally with over 2500 wine businesses and around 8000 wine grape growers, contributing to growth of regional economies, exports, tourism and jobs.

WFA is recognised by the Australian government as a representative organisation under the *Australian Grape and Wine Authority (AGWA) Corporation Act*. WFA is incorporated under the *SA Associations Incorporation Act 1985*.

WFA voluntary membership represents around 80% of the national wine grape crush. WFA represents small, medium and large winemakers from across the country's winemaking regions, with each having a voice at the Board level. WFA Board decisions require 80% support, so no one category can dominate the decision-making process. In practice, most decisions are determined by consensus. WFA works in partnership with the Australian Government and our sister organisation, Australian Vignerons (AV), to develop and implement policy that is in the wine industry's best interests.

WFA's activities are centred on providing leadership, strategy, advocacy and support that serves the Australian wine industry now and into the future.

We welcome the opportunity to provide the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFAD) with a submission on Access to free trade agreements by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the wine industry.

WFA is a member of **FIVS**, which is a global, non-profit trade association founded in 1951, that serves all sectors of the alcohol beverage industry. The organisation has 56 members from 24 countries/regions and includes companies, distributors, importers, exporters, and trade associations.

WFA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in respect of this TRIS notification.

Submission

WFA is supportive of national initiatives which aim at addressing harmful uses of alcohol.

However, we consider that the draft Bill, if enacted, would restrict the free movement of goods within the European Single Market and create disproportionate and unnecessary obstacles to international trade. We would also like to stress that the measures have not been justified by the Irish government.

In addition, by aiming at reducing *per capita* alcohol consumption figures, we consider that the Bill misses what should be the relevant objective: reducing harmful use of alcohol.

Rather than make a separate substantive submission, WFA has contributed to the preparation of the submission by FIVS, and we fully support the points raised therein. The key points of that submission are:

- The Bill would introduce unjustified and disproportionate measures, for which the Irish Government has not presented scientific or evidence-based arguments, and which would not result in consumers being provided with accurate or balanced information.
- The Bill would hinder the free movement of international goods within the European Single Market.

We commend to you the full FIVS submission that has been separately submitted.

Yours sincerely



TONY BATTAGLENE
Chief Executive