

## **NSW Wine Industry Association Submission in response to the Review of the Independent Planning Commission**

November 21st, 2019

To whom it may concern,

The NSW Wine Industry Association (NSWWIA) has agreed to make a submission in response to the **Review of the Independent Planning Commission**. (and appreciate the correspondence from [REDACTED] at [ProductivityFeedback@treasury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ProductivityFeedback@treasury.nsw.gov.au) on 21.11.2019 to extend the submission until today)

We believe that the public interest is best served by retaining the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). Our reasoning behind this belief is founded upon:

- The belief that an IPC provides an important safeguard against corruption in the planning system (as recognised by ICAC)
- The belief that an IPC avoids the issues caused by the creation of a planning 'super agency' made up of members with strong conflicting desires.
- We have already seen the strong political influence of the mining industry and the access of its lobbyists. An IPC will help facilitate an 'arms length' approach to future development.

The NSWWIA is an Association formed in 1994 to represent the interests of the growers and producers of wine in NSW. The NSWWIA has 3 major roles:

1. To be a conduit of information both upstream to the likes of the national bodies, Wine Australia, Australian Vignerons and the Winemakers Federation of Australia, and downstream to regions, producers and growers. This information covers many forms from Research & Development, Export, Trade, Regulatory etc.
2. To represent the NSW Wine Industry in discussions and consultation with the NSW State Government.
3. To promote NSW wine and grapes. This can be in areas such as tourism, promotional activity and media.

In terms of the contribution of NSW, we are Australia's second largest wine producing state, accounting for one third of the nation's output. Consumption is growing in domestic and export markets with significant developments in premium, fast growing Asian markets. In the end, NSW wine makes an important economic contribution in terms of tourism, business turnover and jobs created.

Some significant statistics:

- NSW has 16 diverse wine regions. 14 are fully within our state boundaries. They vary from large regions such as the Riverina that produces large volumes of wine for commercial (and other) wine companies to small regions such as Tumbarumba or New England with a focus on premium wine production.
- There are approximately 506 wineries, 378 Cellar Doors and 34,000 hectares under vine.
- NSW produces approximately 492 million bottles per annum.
- NSW crushes around 500,000 tonnes of wine grapes per annum.
- The NSW Wine Industry employs roughly 21,000 directly and 53,000 indirectly
- The Wine industry is worth \$1.6Bn which includes activity beyond the farm gate
- Exports of NSW wines totals more than \$500m, which makes it NSW's 4<sup>th</sup> largest primary industry export
- Over \$2Bn is spent on food and wine tourism in NSW.

The NSW Wine Industry Association has had a history of involvement in a number of mining proposals, especially (but not limited to) the Hunter Valley area.

We are very keen to maintain the critical wine industry in NSW, including the growing and substantial wine tourism sector.

We believe that an independent body ruling on the future decision making for mine approvals is critical.

On consultation with our colleagues in the Hunter Valley (through the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association (HVWTA)), we agree with their recommendations, especially:

- To recommend broadening the scope of matters that the IPC can consider including: safety, the financial capacity and solvency of the proponent, the expertise of the proponent and the track record of the proponent and any major operational partners and contractors.
- To recommend that the IPC should be directed to adopt the precautionary principle - at all times putting the health and wellbeing of communities and our environment first.
- To recommend that the IPC should be directed to prioritise sustainable and diverse local economies in its decision making - not to allow economic monocultures to develop that may create hardship or limit opportunities for communities like ours in the future.
- To recommend ensuring that the IPC has an independent panel of scientific experts at its disposal to enable it to properly investigate differing opinions between communities, the Department and the companies and that it is independent in every way from the Department of Planning.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Executive Officer  
NSW Wine Industry Association

