



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Senator Susan McDonald
Chair
Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McDonald

On 23 March 2021 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During this hearing Senator McCarthy said in relation to the impact of China's temporary tariffs on imports of Australian wine:

"I'd be interested to know how Wine Australia is going. I've just been hearing this morning about our different produce and exports. I'd like to know how Wine Australia is going, especially given the media articles we've read over recent months. Where are things at with Wine Australia at the moment in terms of exports?"

In response I said:

"I will give you a high level and then hand over to Andreas, as CEO. I joined at an interesting time. The Chinese have put 200-plus per cent tariffs on our red wines going into the country. It's about 1.8 billion litres of red wine. That's affected not only our levypayers but our organisation as well. As you know, we regulate exports of wine, and therefore there's no income coming from those exports. Generally, it's affected not only the industry but also Wine Australia. We've had to very quickly reduce the number of staff we have in the organisation, which will also reduce our ability to deliver for our levypayers. I will hand over to Andreas for some more detail."

I wish to correct the following sentence:

*"The Chinese have put 200-plus per cent tariffs on our **bottled** wines going into the country. It's about **\$1.2 billion worth of wine.**"*

The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michele Allan
Chair
Wine Australia
31 March 2021