

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

Agriculture

Question: 48

Division/Agency: Australian Grape and Wine Authority

Topic: Overview of work

Proof Hansard page: 133

Senator STERLE asked:

Senator STERLE: Beauty, I will wrap it up. Could you just give us a quick rundown on the work being undertaken by the Australian Grape and Wine Authority. Through you, Chair, how long have they got? About 15 seconds?

CHAIR: About that.

Senator STERLE: You can take it on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Grape and Wine Authority (AGWA) commenced on 1 July 2014. In the last five months, AGWA has focused on capturing value from the merger of the Grape and Wine Research Development Corporation (GWRDC) and Wine Australia Corporation (WAC) for our stakeholders. We have continued to deliver on our three areas of responsibility (research, development and extension (RD&E), market development and compliance) while working to identify opportunities to provide more integrated services to our levy payers.

Board

The Board was appointed from 1 July 2014 and has met three times.

Board committees have been established and delegated appropriate responsibilities for Audit, Market Development, Remuneration and Research, Development and Extension. Each of these committees has established a strategic direction for its area of responsibility and is providing the required strategic guidance to AGWA management.

Executive

The Board has conducted recruitment for the Chief Executive position and hopes to make an announcement about the successful candidate shortly. In the meantime, Andreas Clark is acting Chief Executive.

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A new General Manager – Market Development has commenced, a General Manager – Corporate Affairs and Strategy has been appointed and a new Regional Director – UK/Europe has been recruited.

A key focus for the first five months has been integrating the two teams from GWRDC and Wine Australia.

Stakeholders

The acting Chair and acting Chief Executive have worked closely with AGWA’s key stakeholders, including the Minister for Agriculture and Department of Agriculture, the President and Chief Executive of the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia and the Chair and Executive Director of Wine Grape Growers Australia.

Meetings have been held with state and regional organisations; key RD&E providers; small, medium and large exporters; other research and development corporations; and companies involved in the wine sector.

Strategic planning

AGWA has developed a Corporate Plan for 2014–15 that outlines our strategic priorities for the first 12 months, which has been approved by the Minister and an Annual Operational Plan 2014–15 that outlines how we will deliver on our strategic priorities.

On 9 December 2014, AGWA commenced consultation on its five-year strategic plan with the release of its Strategic Plan 2015–2020 Discussion Paper. Facilitated meetings will be held in February and March and written submissions can be provided until 20 February 2015. AGWA will submit its five-year strategic plan to the Minister by 1 May 2015.