



Media Release

## **Clare Valley would expand vineyards by more than 30%, if new water available**

29 January 2020

The Clare Valley would increase its vineyard area by more than 30% (another 1600 hectares) if additional irrigation water was available, according to a pre-feasibility study released yesterday by the Clare Valley Wine & Grape Association.

The *Clare Valley Water Pre-feasibility report* found immediate grower demand for 25% more water, while a second pipeline to the region could increase water demand by up to 50%, supporting both more vineyards and more water for current plantings.

The report found as well as increased future irrigation demand to support a further 1188ha of additional vineyard planting (five years) and 1597 ha (10 years), a second Clare Valley pipeline could see the Clare Valley's current irrigation use increase by up to 50%, to 5335 ML (all water sources combined).

CVWGA chair Martin Ferguson said that while recent interest in accessing water from the NAIS was an initial driver for the study, the more viable option recommended was a project involving Bundaleer Reservoir (north of Spalding).

"Economic analysis of the NAIS and Bundaleer options indicates that Bundaleer is the recommended option," Mr Ferguson says.

"An alternate, viable source of water for the Clare Valley would underpin future investment in the region and enable economic growth throughout the region, not only for the wine industry but for agriculture more broadly," he said.

"Either option could open up corridors to the north or south for new investment into other intensive agricultural industries. The potential is exciting."

Mr Ferguson said that funding was being sought to proceed to a feasibility study.

The full report considered 10 possible options for additional water and recommended the CVWGA commenced a full feasibility study to explore two potential solutions to the existing irrigation limitations impacting the Clare Valley.

The first, a wastewater option from the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (similar to the Willunga Basin Water company which takes water from Christie's Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant); the second, a non-potable blend from Bundaleer Reserve (similar to the Barossa Irrigation Limited scheme, which takes blended river and surface water from the Warren Reservoir). The broad options of the two proposals included:

- Bundaleer (6GL). This option involves non-potable blended product (Murray Darling Basin+ local at 500ppm) and would require a 45-50km pipeline from Bundaleer, with 1-2 pumping stations across 120m of elevation at an estimated current capital cost of \$78m.
- NAIS (10-15GL). This option involves recycled water (900-1300ppm), an estimated 87km pipeline, from near Roseworthy, with three pumping stations across 282m of elevation, at an estimated current capital cost of about \$148m;

The report surveyed CVWGA members, 76% of whom said they did not have enough water. A further 73% of members said they would, or could, plant more vineyards if additional water was available.

The pre-feasibility study was undertaken by a consortia, led by Edge Environment, which oversaw the stakeholder engagement and demand analysis, and drawing on the engineering services of Inside Infrastructure and economic analysis of Marsden Jacob Associates.

The study was prepared with \$50,000 of grant funding; \$25,000 from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions through the South Australian Wine Industry Association's Project 250 and \$25,000 levy funding from the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board.

For media interviews contact Anna Baum +61 417 817 776