

## Sustainable Winegrowing Australia – Sign Up & Data Collection Tips

Thank you to Chris Rodgers for the following information

Useful Documents:

- [Business Indicators – Vineyard](#)
- [Business Indicators – Winery](#)
- [SWA User Manual](#)
- [Winery Data Pages on website](#)
- [Vineyard Data Pages on website](#)

### Membership sign-up steps

- Refer to the User Manual which is an excellent step-by-step guide
- Aim to collate your data metrics ahead of signing up. See the tips below
- Hover the mouse cursor over the question marks in the data metrics section to see further information on each item
- Remember that the Workbook is self-assessment. The multiple-choice options work in sequence. As you tick 1, 2 becomes available. Tick 2 and 3 becomes available, etc
- Most enterprises will find 2 and sometimes 3 applicable per item, but a few 1s does not constitute an unsustainable enterprise
- The difference between 2 and 3 is often if documentation isn't or is in place for that item. Freschare certification will put everything into the 3 category.
- The 4 category indicates a very high-level of sustainability management of an item or area in the enterprise, and usually includes comprehensive initiatives being pursued
- Once membership is complete (and paid), your results can be viewed, and you can download your Membership Certificate

### Data Metrics for Membership – Vineyard & Winery

- This is required as part of the membership sign-up (and annual renewal) process to attain (and retain) Membership, which must be done by 31 August
- Data is for the previous financial year
- Estimates should be used if accurate records aren't readily available. The first year of data entry will make it very obvious what you need to record for future financial years
- When deriving estimates via your own calculations, make a note of how you derived those for future reference. This can be recorded in the portal or in your own notes.

### Vineyard Data Metrics tips

- The majority of the Data parameters are straightforward and will be things that most growers are already recording somewhere
- The attached data page indicates what you will need to have at hand when you go online to complete your Membership
- Membership data and Workbook questions can be complete over several sessions though by saving as you go
- The point of the tips below is just some examples of how to work out a method of data recording that's practical and relevant to your enterprise

### Diesel-use

- This excludes fuel used by external contractors (ie it excludes fuel use of tractors & vehicles that are not owned by the Member entity)

- All vineyard enterprises would have a record of fuel purchases via invoicing and/or via their diesel fuel rebate claims. Use your financial year records. Don't worry about if storage tanks are full or empty at year start/end.
- Mixed farms enterprises (eg viticulture & broadacre), or those including a contracting business (eg contract machine harvesting) often use the same on-farm diesel storage and sometimes the same tractors and it may not be practical to accurately track diesel use of each. One option is to apply an estimated number of tractor hours for the vineyard and multiply this by an average fuel consumption per hour; typical vineyard tractors use between 10 and 15 litres per engine hour. Estimated tractor hours per hectare per annum might be based on the number of tractor passes made for the various operations, multiplied by an average work rate (eg 0.8hrs/ha/pass)
- In the case of a contractor business run by the vineyard member that provides services to external clients (eg machine harvesting of other vineyards), these hours are usually on the clients invoices which could for example be summed and multiplied by 15L/hr x 2 tractors, and then deduct those litres from the total litres purchased for the year
- Vineyard vehicles diesel use (eg utilities) is often from farm storage tanks (hence is in fuel invoices), or if its purchased at service stations then most enterprises will have some record of these. Non vineyard related fuel use is often relatively small and can be ignored for this data.
- The accuracy of diesel use in the Membership Data is not of crucial importance. Whilst inaccurate data in the first year could distort your ability to fairly compare your data with the regional or national averages, any errors in your data are unlikely to have a significant effect on the overall averages. When being audited for Certification, the Freshcare auditor is not there to rate you on your data accuracy. They want to see that you have all your systems in place that help guide "how" you manage the sustainability of your enterprise. The "what" is up to you. The Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Program does help you plan, record and review "what" you do via the self-assessment Workbook, the Data metrics and the other records you maintain.
- Improving data collection accuracy over time can be beneficial though. It's quite common that members find interesting insights (or surprises) from this data collection that then leads them to making improvements in operational efficiency in future years

#### Fertiliser-use

- This area of data collection will require consideration of both fertiliser purchases, as well as their nitrogen content (%N). The website has ready reckoner on calculating nitrogen inputs of various synthetic and non-synthetic fertilisers which can help calculate total N use
- Most enterprises will have a record of fertilisers used via purchase invoices or other methods.
- Some vineyards also use foliar fertilisers, however for the most part these contribute very small amounts of Nitrogen per hectare (ie grams not kgs) so they can be ignored for this data if records aren't readily available
- Data for mulch, compost and manures is for both the vineyard hectares where these existed in the previous year, and for any new amounts applied in the previous year. Some estimation of weight will be required (eg a large square of straw for mulching is ~450kg)
- Once again, best estimates in the first membership year will suffice if good records aren't readily available

Renewable energy generation - this only needs to be accounted for in this data if it is generated within the vineyard enterprise (eg solar panels on vineyard sheds). Solar panels on your private residence on your vineyard property are not applicable

Economics data – this is voluntary. If you do decide to enter such data here for future reference, rest assured that all data in this portal is treated with the strictest confidence.