



LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

Preserving the Past, Enhancing the Future

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DL/VH/EF10/555

19 September 2011

Tax Forum
Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Email: taxforum@treasury.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of Leeton Shire Council Council I would like to express Council's support for the Australian wine industry and the status quo in relation to taxation of alcohol.

The wine industry directly contributes 60,000 Australian jobs across 64 wine producing regional communities, including the local government area of Leeton, and any change to the status quo in alcohol taxation threatens jobs and has the potential to devastate regional communities.

Australia's wine industry is already one of the highest tax regimes in the wine-producing world, and a change to a volumetric tax combined with the removal of the Wine Equalisation Rebate would do little to address the real social issues of alcohol misuse while having a significant impact on regional employment and trade.

The wine industry is already facing significant challenges, including access to water, with the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan about to be released, climate change, imported surplus wine and the unprecedented strength of the Australian dollar.

A drop in sales due to the introduction of a volumetric tax will severely damage the wine industry and will render many vineyards unviable. Many of these vineyards are already facing a difficult time and any change in the current status quo will have a negative impact from the grower to the producer level.

Our community is currently facing uncertain times and any change to the current status quo in relation to the taxation of alcohol will only increase this uncertainty for our community and the region.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Maytom', written in a cursive style.

Cr Paul Maytom
Mayor