



Australian Government

**Australian Grape and
Wine Authority**



REGIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2014–17

Australian Grape and Wine Authority, trading as Wine Australia

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Grapegrowers and winemakers pay levies that are used specifically for research and development (R&D). For every one dollar of R&D levies, the Commonwealth Government offers an extra dollar of funding for R&D activities.

The Australian Grape and Wine Authority, trading as Wine Australia, invests these monies in research and development and the extension of research findings.

This investment is made in activities that align with priorities as identified in the Australian Grape and Wine Authority Strategic Plan 2015–20 that was developed in consultation with the sector.

The Regional Program

Each of our R&D investments goes to supporting an Australian grape and wine community that is profitable, competitive and sustainable through innovation.

Investment in the Regional Program directly supports this goal by encouraging regional adaption and adoption of R&D and extension of research findings to the sector.

Indirectly, the program supports regional innovation and stronger sector networks.

Objectives

The objective of the Regional Program is specific: to encourage regional adoption and adaption of research findings.

To support this objective, the Program offers funding for:

1. practical trials of research findings that are structured to encourage adoption or adaption of innovation and improve regional competitiveness and sustainability; and
2. the extension of research findings and related information.

Sector partners

Each Australian wine region can participate in the Regional Program; currently there are 11 regional clusters.

Each cluster is represented by a Regional Program Partner. The role of this organisation is to work with the relevant RD&E Program Manager to develop and implement the Regional Program.

The maximum amount of funding available to each cluster is based on the value of winegrape levies paid in that cluster.

Strategic and annual planning

Regional Program Strategic Plans

Each regional cluster is asked to develop a four-year strategic plan that identifies regional priorities.

The plans are developed by the regions for the regions; Regional Program Partners work in collaboration with grapegrowers and winemakers, industry bodies, our RD&E Program Manager and other Regional Program Partners.

Regional Program Annual Operating Plans

Each year the Regional Program Partners are invited to submit an annual operating plan (AOP) with a set of proposed activities.

These activities should align with the cluster's strategic plan, support the objectives of the Regional Program and meet the criteria for investment.

[Template: Annual Operating Plan.](#)

AOPs are due in February of each year.

Assessment guidelines

The activities that are included in the Annual Operating Plans are assessed in two steps.

Step one: Assessment – can the activity be considered for our RD&E investment?

Activities that can be considered for investment must be structured to encourage adoption and/or adaption of research findings.

For the purpose of the Regional Program 'activity' includes:

- in-field / winery demonstration or adaption trials;
- workshops and demonstrations; and
- development of extension materials.

An activity that includes the analysis of current grapegrowing and winemaking practices may be eligible **as long as** the activity meets the Regional Program criteria and is structured to encourage regional adaption and/or adoption of research results.

Activities that are *not* eligible for Regional Program investment include:

- activities that include the collection and collation of data where the focus of the activity is not adaption and adoption of research findings;
- research projects;
- structural-change projects;
- leadership training;
- agri-political activities; and
- marketing activities.

or where the private sector could reasonably be expected to undertake the activity.

Step two: Assessment – does the activity meet the Regional Program criteria?

If the activity is considered eligible, it will then be assessed using the following criteria:

- whether it meets the objectives of the regional cluster's four-year strategic plan. (if an activity falls outside the identified priority areas, further information should be supplied outlining the cluster's need)
- the identified outcomes (including anticipated short-medium term regional benefit, value for money, key learnings and number of participants)
- whether the activity's budget aligns with our RD&E contribution table (costs that exceed these amounts should be met by the regions and will be considered to be a regional co-investment); and
- whether the administration costs are appropriate.

Administration costs of up to 10 per cent of the total activity budget are available.

Administration includes time and other incidental costs associated with planning and delivery of the Regional Program activity. Examples of administration costs include telephone and information technology charges, and time taken by the cluster representatives in organising activities (e.g. organisation of catering, equipment hire, publicity etc.)

The purchase of **capital equipment** (e.g. instrumentation for a demonstration site) may be eligible for investment. Requests will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Assessment process

Our RD&E Program Managers will work with the Regional Program Partner to develop a set of activities and a draft AOP that meet the Regional Program criteria.

AOPs are due in February of each year. Our RD&E Program Managers will work closely with their Regional Program Partners to develop an AOP that meets these criteria and are available to discuss draft submissions any time before this date. On submission, AOPs are assessed by our RD&E Program Managers, who make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer for approval.

We can approve, amend or reject either the AOP in its entirety or an activity within the AOP. This assessment will be made against these guidelines.

Administration

Contracts

Contracts will be drafted once the AOP has been approved by the Chief Executive Officer. In order to limit administrative burden, we will draft the contracts and manage payment. Payments are made annually and are based on the approved AOP budget.

Variations

If an amendment to the contract is needed (e.g. where the scope of an activity has changed, or if an activity can no longer be run) a variation to the contract should be discussed with the RD&E Program Manager as soon as the need to amend is identified.

Program Managers will make best endeavours to accommodate contract variations as long as the proposed variation meets the Regional Program guidelines.

Unspent funds

Money that is unspent at the end of each financial year must be returned to us, unless a carry-over is approved.

Measurement of value

Information-sharing is a key part of the Regional Program

We are committed to the continuous improvement of the Regional Program – to support this we will host twice-yearly workshops for all Regional Program Partners. Each partner will be asked to provide verbal updates on their activities, share their expertise and learnings and thoughts on how the program could better meet the sector's needs.

In the interests of transparent processes, Regional Program Partners will be asked to submit an end-of-year report with an overview of the Regional Cluster's activities. Approved reports will be made available on our R&D website, www.research.wineaustralia.com.

To facilitate whole-of-industry information-sharing, any materials produced (such as training materials, strategic plans and trial results) through the Regional Program will be disseminated to ensure maximum industry uptake.

Indicative dates 2014–2017

21 February 2014	AOPs 2014–15 (Year 2) due
Mar-Apr 2014	AOPs assessed
1 May 2014	Workshop with Regional Partner representatives to review progress during Year 1 of the program.
1 July 2014	Regional Plans 2014–15 commence activity (Year 2)
1 August 2014	End-of-year report on 2013–14 (Year 1) activities due
6 November 2014	Workshop with Regional Partner representatives to discuss, develop and initiate planning for activities for 2015–16 (Year 3) and update on 2014–15 (Year 2) activities.
20 February 2015	AOPs 2015–16 (Year 3) due
Mar-Apr 2015	AOPs assessed
7 May 2015	Workshop with Regional Partner representatives to review progress during Year 2 of the program.
1 July 2015	Regional Plans 2015–16 commence activity (Year 3)
7 August 2015	End-of-year report on 2014–15 (Year 2) activities due
5 November 2015	Workshop with Regional Partner representatives to discuss, develop and initiate planning for activities for 2016–17 (Year 4) and update on 2015–16 (Year 3) activities.
19 February 2016	AOPs 2016–17 (Year 4) due
Mar-Apr 2016	AOPs assessed
6 May 2016	Workshop with Regional Partner representatives to review progress during Year 3 of the program.
1 July 2016	Regional Plans 2016–17 commence (Year 4)
5 August 2016	End-of-year report on 2015–16 (Year 3) activities due
4 November 2016	Workshop with regional partner representatives to discuss potential new Regional Program
5 May 2017	Workshop with regional representatives to review progress during Year 4 of the Regional Program
June 2017	Regional Program 2013–17 finishes
4 August 2017	End-of-year reports due on 2016–17 (Year 4) activities due

Regional Program clusters, Partners and Program Managers

Regional cluster	Geographical indications	Regional Program Partner	Program Manager	Investment cap per annum
SA North	Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Eden Valley, Adelaide Plains, Southern Flinders Ranges	Barossa Grape & Wine Association Inc	Keith Hayes	\$50,000
SA Central	Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills, Southern Fleurieu, Currency Creek, Kangaroo Island	Langhorne Creek Wine Region	Elise Heyes	\$50,000
Limestone Coast	Coonawarra, Padthaway, Wrattontully, Mount Benson, Robe, Mt Gambier	Limestone Coast Grape and Wine Council	Adrian Loschiavo	\$50,000
Murray Valley	Murray Darling, Swan Hill	Murray Valley Winegrowers Inc	Adrian Loschiavo	\$125,000
Greater NSW and ACT	All regions in NSW and ACT excluding Riverina	NSW Wine Industry Association	Anne Duncan	\$50,000
QLD	All regions in QLD	Queensland Wine Industry Association	Anne Duncan	\$25,000
Riverland	Riverland	Riverland Wine	Elise Heyes	\$125,000
Riverina	Riverina	Wine Grapes Marketing Board	Anne Duncan	\$125,000
WA	All regions in WA	Wines of Western Australia	Keith Hayes	\$50,000
TAS	All regions in TAS	Wine Industry Tasmania Ltd	Adrian Loschiavo	\$25,000
Greater VIC	All regions in VIC excluding Murray Darling, Swan Hill	Wine Victoria Inc	Keith Hayes	\$50,000

Contribution table

We will pay up to a certain amount for costs that are commonly associated with regional activities.

The table lists the maximum contribution that we will pay for these common costs to assist regions in their budget preparation.

Expense	Contribution
Venue hire: workshop for <50 people	\$220
Accommodation (speaker/presenter)	\$135/night
Car hire (speaker/presenter)	\$70/day with \$50 for rental period (insurance)
Catering: half-day event	\$20 per person
Catering: full-day event	\$30 per person
Speaker daily allowance	\$60

*Anticipated costs in excess of these amounts must be negotiated with the relevant Program Manager before submission of an AOP.