Australian Government

Wine Australia

Wine Australia

COST RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

2026–27

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

Charging for regulatory activity involves government entities charging individuals or organisations in the non-government sector some or all of the minimum efficient costs of a specific government activity. The Cost Recovery Policy along with the Australian Government Charging Framework (**Charging Framework**) sets out the policy under which government entities design, implement and review charging for regulatory activities. The CRIS is the public document to ensure the transparency and accountability for the level of the charging and to demonstrate that the purpose for charging, as decided by Government, is being achieved.

This Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (**CRIS**) provides information on how Wine Australia implements cost recovery charging for its regulatory activities. It reports actual financial and non-financial performance information for its regulatory activities and contains financial and demand forecasts for 2026–27 and three forward years. Wine Australia will maintain the CRIS until the activity or cost recovery for the activity has been discontinued.

2. POLICY AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CHARGE (COST RECOVER)

Wine Australia is a corporate Commonwealth Entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (**PGPA Act**). The Finance Minister has made a government policy order in *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Charging for Regulatory Activities) Order 2017*, that Wine Australia must apply the Charging Framework and the Australian Government Cost Recovery Policy (**Cost Recovery Policy**).

Under the Australian Government Charging Framework, cost recovery requires both policy approval and statutory authority. For grape products, statutory authority is provided under the *Wine Australia Act 2013* (**Act**).

Cost recovery (regulatory charging) falls within the Australian Government's broader Charging Framework. The type of charge is determined by the characteristics of the activities as described in the Charging Framework. This provides the overarching framework under which government entities must design, implement and review cost recovery.

Regulatory charging is appropriate for grape products because regulatory activity is provided to a clearly identifiable group – individuals and organisations that participate in the export of grape product from Australia, including the trade in grape products right across the supply chain. If it were not for the business activities of these groups, the regulatory activities would not be required.

There are additional benefits to funding exports regulation through regulatory charging. When a business pays for the activities it receives, the government has an obligation to justify the prices it charges. Regulatory charging also raises the awareness of regulated entities of how much a regulated activity cost.

For these reasons, the government has determined regulatory charging to be the most appropriate mechanism for funding Wine Australia's regulatory activities. Regulatory charging for Wine Australia's regulatory activities is consistent with the Charging Framework.

3. CHARGING (COST RECOVERY) MODEL

3.1. Outputs and business processes of the activity

Wine Australia is established in accordance with the Act. Wine Australia's objects include to control the export of grape products from Australia in accordance with Part 3 of the *Wine Australia Regulations 2018* (**Regulations**) and to enable Australia to fulfil its obligations under prescribed wine trading

agreements.[1] The latter of these two objects give rise to Wine Australia's obligation to maintain the Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms, and to administer the Label Integrity Program (**LIP**) established by Part VIA of the Act.

Wine Australia may only charge for an approved regulatory charging activity. Section 8(2)(g) of the Act gives Wine Australia power to charge export approval fees without gaining separate approval from the Australian Government. The regulatory activities conducted by Wine Australia pursuant to the Act and Regulations are:

- controlling the export of grape products from Australia as set out in the Regulations;[2] and
- administering the LIP described in Part VIA of the Act.[3]

Cost associated with these activities are recovered through charges paid by exporters of Australian wine relating to export licences, product approvals and shipping certificates.

A summary of current and past regulatory fees is included below:

Service	1 July 2014	1 July 2023	1 July 2024	1 July 2025	1 July 2026
Licence application – Wine grapes levy-payer	$700	$1050	$1100	$1100	$1150
Licence application – Wine export charge-payer	$1084	$1050	$1100	$1100	$1250
Licence renewal	$700	$900	$950	$950	$1050
Label Registration fee	$38	$38	$40	$40	$45
Product registration – bulk	$62	$62	$65	$65	$70
Shipping application – requested on WALAS	$25	$30	$32	$35	$42
Shipping application – requested via email/fax	$48	$53	$55	$55	$62
Shipping exemption application	No charge	$30	$32	$35	$42
VI-1 certificate (2 copies)	$12	$20	$22	$25	$28
Export documents – requested on WALAS	$25	$20	$22	$25	$30
Export documents – requested via email	$30	$25	$25	$25	$40
Express Post	N/A	N/A	$10	$10	$10

Further information as to Wine Australia's regulatory activities, outputs and charges is provided in Annexure A.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Australian Government's Cost Recovery Guidelines, Wine Australia must self-assess the risks associated with materiality, complexity and sensitivity for any new or amended cost recovered activity as part of the policy proposal process or operational change. Wine Australia has used the Better Practice Template for a Charging Risk Assessment (CRA) for regulatory activities to self-

[1] Including The Agreement on Trade in Wine between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK Wine Agreement) and the Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine of 2008 (EU Wine Agreement).

[2] This regulatory activity also includes ensuring that wines exported out of Australia comply with the blending rules pertaining to vintage, variety and geographical origin, and that they comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

[3] The purpose of the Label Integrity Program is to help ensure the truth and the reputation for truthfulness of statements made on wine labels, or made for commercial purposes in other ways about the vintage, variety and geographical indication of wine manufactured in Australia.

assess the risk associated with the cost recovered activity. Because the charging risk rating for the activities is not “high”, the consent of the Finance Minister is not required to be obtained.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Wine Australia engages its stakeholders in accordance with its Regulatory Performance Statement of Intent, which has been formulated in response to the Minister’s Statement of Expectation in accordance with the Regulator Performance Guide released by Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in July 2021. To monitor stakeholder satisfaction, Wine Australia surveys all licenced exporters annually to gauge satisfaction of its administration of its regulatory functions. In addition, Wine Australia maintains a stakeholder engagement plan which has been developed in accordance with Wine Australia’s Best Practice Guide to Stakeholder Engagement (**Guide**) which was received by the Minister in December 2021 following consultation with representative bodies. The Guide:

- provides a set of guiding principles which apply to all RDCs – recognising that each RDC is different and engages differently with stakeholders;
- outlines what good stakeholder consultation looks like for Wine Australia; and
- describes how industry would like to be consulted in the identification of research, development and extension and marketing priorities.

Before implementing any changes to its charging framework, Wine Australia consults directly with exporters and representative bodies including Australian Commercial Wine Producers and Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated (the declared wine grape growers and winemakers organisation under the Act). Specifically, Wine Australia:

- consults representative bodies Australian Grape & Wine (AGW) and Australian Commercial Wine Producers (ACWP); and
- writes to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) outlining the proposed changes and how we are meeting our obligations to consult exporters before the changes are implemented.

Wine Australia generally also:

- socialises the proposed changes with the Wine Australia’s “CEO Roundtable Group” (comprised of the CEOs of major exporters) and state and regional wine associations;
- notifies licensed Australian wine exporters of the proposed changes and giving them an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback before the changes are implemented (so we can address any concerns raised); and
- ensures exporters understand the changes and have sufficient notice before they’re implemented so they can plan accordingly.

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

6.1. Financial Estimates

Financial Item	Budget (millions)			
	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Total expenses	$5.0 ($million)	$4.9	$5.0	$5.1
Total revenue	$4.9	$4.9	$5.0	$5.2
Balance = revenue - expenses	($0.1)	$0.0	$0.0	$0.1
Cumulative balance	($1.2)	($1.2)	($1.2)	($1.1)

6.2. **Financial Outcomes**

Financial Item	Actual (millions)			
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (est.)
Total expenses	$4.1	$4.4	$4.7	$4.3
Total revenue	$3.6	$4.3	$4.4	$4.1
Balance = revenue - expenses	($0.5)	($0.1)	($0.3)	($0.2)

7. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Further information as to Wine Australia's performance pertaining to its regulatory activities, both financial and non-financial, are reported annually in its Annual Report.

As set out in Wine Australia's Strategic Plan 2025–30, Wine Australia is committed to:

- upholding the three principles of regulator best practice, as described in the Australian Government's Regulator Performance Guide, in discharging our regulatory functions:
    - continuous improvement and building trust – regulators adopt a whole-of-system perspective, continuously improving their performance, capability and culture to build trust and confidence in Australia's regulatory settings;
    - risk based and data driven – regulators manage risks proportionately and maintain essential safeguards while minimising regulatory burden, and leveraging data and digital technology to support those they regulate to comply and grow; and
    - collaboration and engagement – regulators are transparent and responsive communicators, implementing regulations in a modern and collaborative way;
- improving capability and culture to build confidence in Australia's regulatory settings and ensure the appropriate management of risks; and
- continually reviewing our regulatory activities and regulatory fee structure to ensure efficiency and enhance productivity.

In this context, on 22 December 2025, the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, issued a Statement of Expectations for Wine Australia, which outlines the Government's expectations of the role and responsibilities of Wine Australia. That Statement of Expectations is available on Wine Australia's website. A Statement of Intent dated 16 February 2026, which responded to the Government's Statement of Expectations for Wine Australia, is also available on Wine Australia's website.

8. KEY FORWARD DATES AND EVENTS

Regulatory fees, and associated revenues and expenses, are monitored and reviewed by Wine Australia on an ongoing basis. It is expected that regulatory fees will again be revised at the end of the financial year to which this CRIS applies, to ensure Wine Australia's regulatory activities continue to be charged on a full cost recovery basis, consistent with Wine Australia's obligations under the PGPA Act and its subordinate instruments.

9. CRIS APPROVAL AND CHANGE REGISTER

Date of CRIS change/approval	Details	Approver	Notes
26 April 2019	CRIS approved by resolution of the Board	Wine Australia Board	N/A
Approved by Board on 31 March 2021 to commence 1 June 2021	Removal of product registration fee for packaged product and introduction of label	Wine Australia Board	Change made as a result of obligation being introduced on Wine Australia to maintain a Label

Date of CRIS change/approval	Details	Approver	Notes
	approval fee for packaged product		Directory in accordance with the Act and the Regulations.
Approved by Board on 7 May 2021 to commence 1 June 2021	Update to reflect cap of 2 on number of label registration fees to be charged against a product	Wine Australia Board	N/A
26 April 2022	Inclusion of information about cost recovery policy and Wine Australia's Statement of Intent	Wine Australia Board	N/A
4 May 2023	Certification of revised CRIS by Board following approval of new charging structure	Wine Australia Board	N/A
7 June 2023	Certification of revised CRIS by Board	Wine Australia Board	Change clarifies that a $150 charge is applicable for new licence applications to reflect regulatory activity associated new licence application
3 May 2024	CRIS approved by resolution of the Board	Wine Australia Board	N/A
26 June 2025	CRIS approved by resolution of the Board	Wine Australia Board	N/A
17 June 2026	CRIS approved by resolution of the Board	Wine Australia Board	N/A

Summary of regulatory activities, outputs, processes and charges

	Regulatory activity	Outputs	Process of the activity	Regulatory charges	Cost	Quantity per annum (approx.)	Estimated revenue
Export licences	Wine Australia makes decisions about whether to grant licences to export grape products from Australia in accordance with Part 3, Division 2 of the Regulations	In considering eligibility to hold licences to export grape products from Australia, Wine Australia has regard to the matters set out in section 9(3) of the Regulations which include (without being limited to): • the financial standing of the applicant • whether the applicant has a place of business in Australia • the applicant's ability to obtain grape products from Australian suppliers • any matter relating to the applicant that may adversely affect the export trade in grape products • any other matter relating to the promotion of the export of grape products that relates to the applicant • whether the Authority has suspended or cancelled a licence held by: (i) the applicant; or (ii) an associate of the applicant • whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.	Information is collected as part of the application and verified by Wine Australia. Compliance with the Label Integrity Program is monitored through the exercise of monitoring powers under section 39ZC of the Act and requests for records in accordance with section 39ZAA of the Act. Offences relating to the sale, export or import of wine with false or misleading description and presentation is monitored through risk-based inspections. Compliance with conditions of export are monitored through WALAS. Revocation and refusal of applications for export approval are monitored through WALAS.	Export licence fee	$1050 for licence renewal $1150-$1250 including new licence application assessment	1,670	$1,785,500
Product inspections and label approvals	Wine Australia makes decisions about whether to approve, refuse, suspend or revoke approval of grape products for export in accordance with Part 3, Division 3 of the Regulations. Wine Australia makes decisions about whether the description and presentation of grape	To grant approval of grape products for export, Wine Australia must be satisfied that the grape product complies with the Code (or that the ways in which the product does not comply will not compromise the reputation of Australian grape products). Wine Australia must be satisfied that the description and presentation of the grape product is appropriate having regard to requirements of the Act, other Australian laws and the laws of other countries. Wine Australia may cancel or suspend licences to export grape products from Australia, apply for injunctions to prevent the sale of non-compliant	Compliance with the Code is monitored through WALAS and through risk-based collection of samples tested for compliance with the Code. The description and presentation of wine is assessed for compliance through: • inspections of labels and LIP documentation as a precursor to granting product approval • LIP inspections.	Product approval application fee (bulk) Label approval fee (packaged)	Bulk - $70 per application Packaged – $45 per application capped at two label approval fees per product	13,449	$640,844

	Regulatory activity	Outputs	Process of the activity	Regulatory charges	Cost	Quantity per annum (approx.)	Estimated revenue
	products is false or misleading for the purposes of sections 40C and 40E of the Act. Wine Australia makes decisions about whether record keepers have complied with the LIP.	products, and may pursue criminal penalties for breaches of the Act. Wine Australia must maintain a Label Directory as referred to in the Regulations and must ensure that labels are provided in relation to packaged product prior to granting an export certificate for the relevant consignment.	• Risk based inspections of labels are conducted to satisfy Wine Australia that the description and presentation of the grape products are appropriate. • Offences relating to the sale, export or import of wine with false or misleading description and presentation are monitored through risk-based inspections. • Compliance with the Label Integrity Program is monitored through the exercise of monitoring powers under section 39ZC of the Act and requests for records in accordance with section 39ZAA of the Act.				
Shipping approval	Wine Australia makes decisions about whether to issue, refuse or revoke export certificates (shipping approval) in accordance with Part 3 of Division 4 of the Regulations.	Wine Australia must be satisfied that a consignment of a grape product has been approved. Wine Australia must refuse to issue as export certificate if it reasonably believes that the grape product cannot lawfully be sold in the country to which it is to be exported.	Approval status of grape products is monitored through WALAS. Requests for information are made to verify that laws pertaining to the description and presentation of grape products have been complied with.	Shipping approval application fee	$42 per application	30,979	$1,301,130