



Frome Electorate Office

Hon Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



Media Release

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Clare Winegrape Growers to pay less for Irrigating

Geoff is extremely pleased to see that after years of lobbying and working with all stakeholders involved, an agreement has been negotiated commencing next summer for Clare Valley winegrape irrigators to pay less.

This trial aims to assist irrigators during the peak period from the beginning of December to the end of March.

The scheme developed between SA Water and the Clare Region Winegrape Growers Association will initially run as a three year trial, and participation by irrigators will play a key part in the success of the scheme as the greater the volume of water signed up through this scheme, the cheaper the water will be for everyone.

This agreement provides a way for grape growing in the region to remain viable, the Clare Region Wine Growers Association will work with irrigators to purchase bulk water on their behalf.

The water is to be secured under irrigators 'River Murray water licences and transported at a cost that delivers water for less than SA Water's state-wide price.

Under this agreement Clare Valley irrigators will source the water themselves and use SA Water infrastructure to transport it at a time of day when pumping is cheaper and there is spare capacity in the network.

To participate, irrigators must be part of the existing Clare Valley Water Supply Scheme, have a River Murray Water Licence and sign up to the trial agreement before July 1 2015.

Geoff looks forward to this trial commencing and will continue to work closely with all parties and the Clare Region Winegrape Growers Association to ensure the project continues.

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