



23 September 2010

**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on State Development**

**NEW INQUIRY INTO THE WINE GRAPE MARKET
AND PRICES**

The Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Steve Whan MP, has asked the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development to conduct an inquiry into the wine grape market and prices.

'The New South Wales wine industry has been one of the state's star economic performers over the last decade,' said the Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC, Committee Chair. 'However, there are reports that prices paid for wine grapes in the 2010 vintage varied widely'.

'The Committee will inquire into factors affecting supply and demand for wine grapes, the role of the Wine Grapes Marketing Board, and the potential for measures such as collective bargaining and a code of conduct to contribute to an effective market.'

The Committee is inviting written submissions, with a closing date of 1 October. Mr Catanzariti on behalf of the Committee said, 'I'd like to encourage all interested people and organisations to contribute to this important inquiry.' Submissions can be lodged with the Committee Secretariat either in hard copy or via the Committee's website or email.

The Committee will hold a public hearing in Sydney and will also visit Griffith on 14 October. 'There is a lot of interest in the inquiry among people involved in the wine industry, particularly in the Riverina,' said Mr Catanzariti. 'The Committee has resolved to hold a hearing in Griffith to hear about the issues first-hand from grape growers and wine producers. The Committee will also consider requests to give evidence in confidence if people have concerns about confidentiality,' he added.

The State Development Committee is the Chair, the Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC (Australian Labor Party), Deputy Chair the Hon Rick Colless MLC (The Nationals), the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC (Liberal Party), Rev the Hon Fred Nile MLC (Christian Democratic Party), the Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC (Australian Labor Party), and the Hon Mick Veitch MLC (Australian Labor Party).

Information about the Inquiry, including how to make a submission and copies of the terms of reference, is available from the:

- Committee's website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment
- Committee secretariat, phone (02) 9230 3509, or email state.development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**For further comment please contact Mr Tony Catanzariti,
Committee Chair, phone 9230 2837**