Legislative Council
Standing Committee on State Development

FINAL REPORT:
INQUIRY INTO NSW WINE GRAPE MARKET AND PRICES

The Chair of the New South Wales Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development, the Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC, today released the report of the Inquiry into the wine grape market and pricing.

'The wine industry is going through a difficult period, with grapes in oversupply and prices falling,' said Mr Catanzariti. 'The Committee visited Griffith, where grape growers have been hit hard by falling prices. Low prices are threatening the viability of growers' businesses.'

'However, it is not all about prices,' said Mr Catanzariti. 'The Committee encourages fair and transparent business practices in the industry.'

Mr Catanazriti said, 'the key recommendation arising from the Inquiry is that the NSW Minister for Primary Industries should pursue the introduction of a mandatory national Code of Conduct in the wine industry. The industry already has a voluntary Code of Conduct, but it has not been widely adopted by wineries.'

'The Committee believes that a mandatory Code is the way forward in the wine grape industry, as it has been in the horticulture market, ' said Mr Catanzariti. 'A mandatory Code may not increase grape prices, but it will help to provide some consistency and stability to the industry.' Wineries and growers must work together to build a better future for the industry, and the Code of Conduct provides a framework for them to do that.'

'The report also makes a number of other recommendations, including a requirement that wineries provide indicative prices for grapes for the forthcoming season by 30 June each year. This is intended to provide growers with the information they need to make sound business decisions,' Mr Catanzariti said.

The report, which makes eleven recommendations, is available on the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment

For further comment please contact the Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC, Committee Chair, phone 9230 2837