

**Submission
No 3**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association

Date Received: 3 June 2021

I have been managing a project on behalf of the Hunter Valley wine industry where we are trying to get Heritage recognition for the cultural and agricultural aspects of the Hunter Valley Wine Industry. As the birthplace of the Australian wine industry and containing some of the oldest known producing vine stocks in the world the Hunter Valley has been proven to have significant Heritage value to our State and yet under the current Heritage listing rules it is virtually impossible for the industry to be considered for State Heritage listing. To gain listing for an area of around 600 individual landholders all with varying degrees of heritage value requires a virtually impossible process under the current rules. Meanwhile the rest of the world are recognising agricultural landscapes and ensuring their preservation and protection. Having undertaken a study that evaluates the Heritage value of the areas in the Hunter Valley (see attached) I recently applied for a grant to undertake a Landscape Management Plan as this is required prior to community consultation and nomination for listing. This grant submission was refused on the basis that the areas were not already on the Heritage list and yet we cannot be on the list without a Landscape Management Plan. The regulations surrounding the listing of heritage value landscapes needs to allow for a situation where the whole landscape can be recognised whilst still allowing for items of non heritage value to be changed whilst still protecting and preserving the primacy of the landscape in respect to its heritage value.