

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Future directions for dried grape research and development**

Dried grape growers are being called on to assist in the planning of future directions for research and development in the Sunraysia region. An all day Riverlink planning forum will be held at CSIRO Plant Industry, Merbein on Thursday 19 October, beginning at 9.00am.

Riverlink Program Leader – Viticulture, Peter Clingeffer, said, “Research agencies including CSIRO Plant Industry, Victorian Department of Primary Industries and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries will be attending under the Riverlink banner.

“This is an ideal opportunity for growers, industry and researchers to come together and discuss production, processing and marketing concerns.

“The aim of the forum is to prioritise dried grape industry issues and ideas, then to look at possible solutions or directions for Riverlink to investigate and propose for research,” Mr Clingeffer said.

Attendees will be updated on projects regarding Sunmuscat dried fruit quality, fruit set and bunch shatter, as well as obtain information regarding yield quality, processing efficiencies and customer needs.

Group discussion and priority setting throughout the day will aim to promote participation and feedback from growers, industry and researchers.

Mr Clingeffer encouraged growers to attend the planning forum; “Riverlink is an unique network of government research agencies in the Sunraysia and Riverland regions.

“Industry planning forums assist agencies to develop strategies for future directions in research. Growers and industry provide invaluable support in attending these forums,” he said.

For registration details and the agenda, contact Lee Byrne, Riverlink Communications and Development Officer, tel: (03) 5051 4500.

## **ENDS**

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