

For immediate release

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### **Partnership develops wine grape research via Riverlink**

Riverlink has signed a memorandum of understanding with Murray Valley Winegrowers and the Riverland Winegrape Growers Association to create a partnership that will provide direction for locally conducted wine grape research.

The Riverlink Wine Grape Industry RDE (research, development and extension) Committee is made up of representatives from each of the partner organisations, including growers, winery personnel and research officers.

Murray Valley Winegrowers Chair, Michael De Palma said, "The committee aims to promote cohesive research planning between industry and research agencies."

"Grower awareness and access to research information is essential to developing the wine grape industry. This is an opportunity to provide comment, prioritise appropriate research projects and facilitate project outcomes reporting."

Riverlink is a network of research agencies in the Sunraysia-Riverland region, ensuring knowledge and resource collaboration.

Riverlink Chair, Kevin Cock is hopeful that the committee will forge further links with industry, "For research to be meaningful, communication and industry engagement is crucial. Planning forums and meetings have assisted in the past; this committee will provide researchers and industry with a direct means of interaction."

The Riverlink Wine Grape Industry RDE Committee will hold an advisory role to make comment on proposed research concepts and provide prioritisation of industry issues. An annual planning forum will be held to present research outcomes and gather additional information from industry.

ENDS