

# Wine Grape Symposium

Growers, winery representatives, commercial consultants and researchers attended the Riverlink Wine Grape Symposium in June. Researchers presented project information and outcomes including land and water use efficiency, optimising vineyard production with low input, breeding and development, quality production, and nutrition.

Attention was especially focused on low water allocation management, with the approaching uncertain irrigation season nearly upon horticulturalists.

A range of different deficit irrigation methods have been examined over a number of seasons. Yasmin Chalmers, Victorian Department of Primary Industries, has recently completed a project on sustained deficit irrigation. Outcomes from the project illustrated that while yield is decreased at 33% of regular water, the vine can continue to grow and produce grapes.

Riverlink aims to ensure ongoing research into these fundamental issues that affect the wine grape industry. Liz McGuire, Chair of the Riverlink Wine Grape Industry Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Committee, outlined the aims, objectives and combined proposed research priorities.

The Committee has been jointly established by Riverlink, Murray Valley Winegrowers, Riverland Winegrape Growers Association and the Riverland Wine Industry Development Council, in response to a call for better planning and discussion between researchers and industry.

Symposium participants provided feedback to the Committee regarding the combined priorities as developed through Murray Valley Winegrowers and Riverland Wine Industry Development Council

The Committee has met to discuss priorities and develop a plan to progress wine grape research in the Riverlink region.



*The symposium attracted a range of wine industry representatives.*