



Australian Government

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation

Industry Notification

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Changes to the Geographical Indications Committee and Application Fees

Two changes to the Geographical Indications Committee (GIC) have been announced today.

Mr Dennis Mutton has replaced Ms Anabel Shears Carter as the Presiding Member of the GIC and Mr Philip Laffer is the new Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) nominee.

Mr Mutton, formerly Chairman of the Grape and Wine Research Development Corporation (GWRDC) has been a Member of the GIC, as the WFA nominee, since September 2002.

Mr Laffer is presently Group Chief Winemaker and a Director of Pernod Ricard Pacific. He is also Vice President of WFA, a director of DrinkWise Australia and has held a range of other industry positions during his career.

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation (AWBC) Chair, Mr James Dominguez, who made the appointments, highlighted Mr Mutton's "extensive experience in the fields of natural resource management, regional development, and industry-government relations".

"I valued the constructive dialogue with Dennis during his term as Chair of the GWRDC and given his intimate knowledge of the GI process I am confident that his appointment will enable the GIC to continue to effectively deal with the applications currently under consideration," Mr Dominguez said.

"I also wish to thank Anabel for her seven years of distinguished service as Presiding Member, and for her long involvement and significant contribution to various national wine sector organisations".

In welcoming Philip Laffer's appointment, Mr Dominguez said "Philip has had a long and distinguished career in the wine industry and I am sure the GIC will only benefit from his wealth of experience".

The GIC is a statutory committee established in 1994 under the AWBC Act to determine Australia's wine regions and localities. The GIC comprises three members:

Mr Dennis Mutton (Presiding Member)
Mr Philip Laffer (WFA Nominee)
Mr Brian Englefield (Grape Grower Nominee)

In addition, the AWBC Board recently agreed, effective immediately, to increase the initial application fee for the determination of Australian GIs from \$5,500 to \$27,500 (GST Inclusive), with a provision for charging additional fees as necessary.

In commenting on this change Mr Dominguez said "the Board is of the view that this increase in the application fee is fair and reasonable and it has the full support of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia. The move to a full cost-recovery model for determining Australian GIs will ensure that the cost is borne by the applicants rather than the broader Australian wine industry which has been the situation to date."

ENDS

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