

**The implementation of the recommendations of the
Summary of a Review of Grapevine Germplasm Collections in Australia
(GWR1112)**

The GWRDC report on Germplasm Collections and the release of the edited version requires the attention of the Australian viticultural industries.

This report notes:-

- the total number of different varieties and clones held within Australia's grapevine collections is estimated at close to 900, with multiple clones of some varieties
 - 470 selections are unique
- resolution of the following data issues would refine the exact quantum of genetic diversity:
 - capture details of a private imports
 - national agreement on accepted synonyms
 - removal of duplication of varietal and clonal names
 - accepted methodology for identification verification
 - agreed guidelines on evidence of traceability
 - consistent reporting of imported treatments, e.g. hot water, virus elimination
- all large grapevine collections in Europe and USA are funded by Governments at levels ranging from 40 – 100%. Strong alliances with research institutions are common
 - the level of health status maintenance in international collections often reflects the purpose of the collection and material released.
- The collection capabilities have been ranked. The weightings assigned revealed that the AVIA, CSIRO, RVIC and SARDI collections have the capability to provide the priority services to the Australian industry, at present.
 - Not all these collections are currently open to the public.

The Report Recommendations

- The project team strongly recommended that:
 - the National Grapevine Register be maintained,
 - investment in germplasm related R & D is continued and
 - that national guidelines on naming, health testing and identity verification be developed.

The release of this report highlights the need for a national organisation that can provide the focus for:-

- a strategic plan,
 - a risk management assessment
- and
- a Board of Management

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Appendix

From the “**Summary of a review of grapevine germplasm collections in Australia**”
(GWR 112) Principal Investigator Prue McMichael edited 22/7/13

Summary and recommendations

This review recommends actions to be taken to optimize Australia’s germplasm resources, their management and usefulness to the viticulture industries and allied interests. This will assist the Australian wine industry to reach an international, competitive standard with respect to knowledge of, and access to extensive genetic resources that can provide options to address future environmental and market place challenges.

The project has resulted in a revised register of germplasm in Australia grapevine collections (not available to the public). The project team strongly recommends that the register be maintained, regularly updated and refined in association with the development of national guidelines on naming, health testing and identity verification. A focus on identification verification against international reference databases is recommended.

The project team recommends that investment in germplasm related R & D continue and that some funds be directed to management of the register and collection management as inventory knowledge and the germplasm plantings underpin much of the relevant R & D.

The practical options for germplasm collection management in Australia are limited. The options presented are to:

- Option 1. Do nothing
- Option 2. Secure some government funding to support some collections, or
- Option 3. Rationalise the number of collections

The project team recognises that government priorities do not generally support the funding of germplasm collections and therefore it recommends Option 3 be pursued. It is recommended that support be provided to first undertake a risk assessment, develop a strategic plan and form a Board of Management.

It is recommended that the management board examine the activities, funding and business structures of other perennial industries (e.g. Citrus, forestry) to identify elements that may be applied to germplasm management and/ or vine improvement models requiring longer term relevance.

It is recommended the industry pursue closer alliances with other perennial industries and with authorities in post-entry quarantine services.