



NEW ZEALAND WINE  
PURE DISCOVERY

**NEW ZEALAND WINEGROWERS  
SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE  
WELLINGTON REGION  
JUNE 2009**

**INTRODUCTION**

New Zealand Winegrowers makes this submission in response to the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region (the proposed RPS).

New Zealand Winegrowers was established in 2002 as a joint venture between the New Zealand Grape Growers Council Inc and the Wine Institute of New Zealand Inc. Its role is to provide strategic leadership, research, promote and represent the interests of New Zealand grape growers and wine makers. Every grape grower and winemaker in New Zealand is a member of our organisation. Accordingly, New Zealand Winegrowers is recognized as New Zealand's principal wine industry organisation.

The wine industry is an important contributor to the Greater Wellington economy as both a producer and tourism provider, and is focused on ensuring the sustainability of that contribution as follows:

- The wine industry takes its environmental responsibilities extremely seriously. Our goal is to have 100% of production accredited to an independently accredited sustainability programme by 2012. To date, over 82% of producing area is accredited or working towards Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand accreditation.
- In an effort to provide Councils around the country with a best practice approach to wine industry planning issues NZW has previously collaborated with the Ministry for the Environment, Local Government New Zealand, and representatives of Councils in wine-making areas to produce the Guidance on Planning for the Wine Industry (<http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/plan-topics/wine-industry.php>).

**WINEGROWING IN THE WELLINGTON REGION**

The Greater Wellington region, particularly Martinborough and the Wairarapa, is a wine growing region. However, the local wine industry is particularly sensitive to growth, especially rural residential development, which without proper controls, has the potential to accelerate the loss of productive soils in the region and compromise limited existing water supplies. Inappropriate development within rural

areas may also raise reverse sensitivity issues, where conflict arises between the effect of existing rural activities and the expectations of new residents.

It is therefore crucial that the proposed RPS recognises and supports the wine industry's role within the Wellington region.

## **SOILS AND MINERALS**

While we support the proposed RPS' acknowledgment that rural land is under threat from residential development, we oppose the limitation of protection within Policy 59 to Class I and II soils. We therefore recommend that the wording of Policy 59 be amended to extend also to soils suitable for winegrowing. Resource management decision-making needs to consider the irreversible effects of losing land suitable for winegrowing for exactly the reasons provided in Policy 59 for protecting Class I and II soils:

- It is important to retain the productive capability and unique winegrowing potential of this land for future generations; and
- The use of these soils for some activities – such as residential development and roading projects – will result in what is effectively permanent loss of valuable winegrowing soils from productive use.

Soils that are excellent for viticultural purposes will not always fit within either the Class I or II soil classifications. We therefore recommend that in recognition of the valuable and growing contribution of the wine industry within the Greater Wellington region, that the wording of Policy 59 be amended to state:

“When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or replacement to a district plan, particular regard shall be given to retaining the productive capability for agriculture of Class I, II **and suitable winegrowing** land.”

New Zealand Winegrowers welcomes the opportunity to be an active part of this process and to discuss the best method by which to address this issue. Ensuring that a consistent approach is taken to establishing the framework for activities in the rural zone is an important part of ensuring that the working environment remains a productive one.

## **APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE**

New Zealand Winegrowers would welcome an opportunity to be heard in person. If others make a similar submission, we will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Kristy Newland, Regulatory Affairs Adviser on either [kristy@nzwine.com](mailto:kristy@nzwine.com) or (09) 306 5558 or 021885662.