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I understand that my submission, including my personal contact details, will be published on the DEM website and provided to the applicant	checked

#### **Submission details**

Issue	Refer to attached File
Reference and page number (if known)	
Comment	
Attach any documents that support your submission	Australian Grape and Wine Submission_Bird in Hand Mine 2019.pdf



**Australian Grape & Wine  
Submission to consultation on  
Bird-In-Hand Gold Project**

**September 2019**

## Who are we

Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated (Australian Grape & Wine) is Australia's national association of winegrape and wine producers. Our activities focus upon the objective of providing leadership, strategy, advocacy and support that serves Australian wine businesses now and into the future.

We represent the interests of the more than 2,500 winemakers and 6,000 winegrape growers working in Australia. Our role is to help forge a political, social and regulatory environment - in Australia and overseas - that enables profitable and sustainable Australian wine and winegrape growing businesses. These businesses make a significant contribution to underpinning regional economies by driving growth in jobs, regional exports and food and wine tourism.

Australian Grape & Wine's voluntary membership represents over 75% of the national winegrape crush. We represent small, medium and large winemakers and winegrape growers from across the country. Policy decisions by the Australian Grape & Wine Board require 80% support, ensuring no single category can dominate the decision-making process and guaranteeing policy is only determined if it provides significant industry benefit. In practice, most decisions are determined by consensus.

Australian Grape & Wine is recognised as a representative organisation for winegrape and wine producers under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*, and is incorporated under the *SA Associations Incorporation Act 1985*. We work in partnership with the Australian Government to develop and implement policy that is in the best interests of winegrape growers and winemakers across Australia.

## Issues

Australian Grape & Wine operates nationally, on issues of significance to the sector. While primarily a state based issue, we believe the potential impact of this mine, poses a risk to the broader reputation of the sector, the environment and the local community. The Adelaide Hills wine region is nationally and internationally renowned. It generates millions of dollars for the South Australian economy each year through tourism, wine production and agricultural employment. These benefits are spread throughout the community – to vineyard workers, drivers, sales staff, tourism operators, hospitality workers, accommodation providers, winemakers and winery workers. In a state, and in the Adelaide Hills in particular, which places so much importance on maintaining its reputation for producing food and agricultural products from our "clean and green" environment, this proposed mine puts at risk our social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Approval of the mine would effectively shift the risk of negative environmental impacts to the local wine industry, while any benefits will directly flow to the mining company. In the meantime, local jobs and businesses who are committed to the long-term economic and social sustainability of the community will suffer from increased truck movements, dust, unknown water quality impacts and significant reputational damage as a desirable tourism region.

The mine is proposed for the pristine catchment of Inverbrackie Creek, the heart of a thriving agricultural community which is internationally known for its clean, green reputation for delivering the best produce to the world. The proposed mine jeopardises underground water security vital to the region's prosperity, particularly those in the wine industry who rely on it for production.

Wineries directly affected include Petaluma, Bird in Hand, Wicks Estate and ArtWine. In addition to wine production, these wineries operate as tourist destinations, welcoming thousands of visitors each year to their cellar doors, restaurants, art galleries and function venue spaces. Furthermore, with hundreds of hectares of vineyards in the area, many grape-growers would suffer.

Of most concern is the impact on the sensitive fractured rock aquifer that these existing wineries and vineyards rely upon to supply the quality and quantity of groundwater to maintain their existing operations. Australian Grape and Wine shares the concerns expressed by Accolade Wine that the groundwater modelling underpinning Terramin's assessment of the impacts on groundwater is deficient. After reviewing Terramin's groundwater documentation, Professor Peter Cook of the National Centre for Groundwater Research was unable to conclude that the groundwater model proposed is fit for purpose, or that 'worst case scenarios' have been modelled. We share the concerns of Professor Cook and Professor Saydam of University of New South Wales (which are outlined in Accolade Wines submission) that 70 per cent grouting effectiveness is not an appropriate worst case scenario. Nor has Terramin's proposal adequately addressed the risks of managed aquifer recharge in such a sensitive environment. The loss of access to groundwater as a result of the risks associated with Terramin's proposed mine would put the livelihoods of existing wine industry businesses and employees in jeopardy.

The potential environmental impacts are significant, including from substantial dust, noise pollution and heavy truck movements. This is in addition to risk of job-loss, annual farm gate turnover and threats to tourism resulting from the impact of mining and transport activity.

South Australia is the country's biggest wine producer, with Adelaide one of just ten Great Wine Capitals across the world, acting as a gateway to a number of wine regions. Its reputation as a leading global wine producer is significant, and will be threatened should the construction of this mine go ahead.

## Conclusion

Australian Grape & Wine strongly opposes the establishment of the Bird in Hand Gold Project as has been set out by Terramin Australia's proposal and application. This project poses significant risk to social, environmental and economic sustainability of the region and the wine sector as a whole. The net outcome of the project would be negative with the implications on tourism, jobs, regional economies and the environment far outweighing any positive impacts claimed.

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