



# SNAPSHOT

Zero Waste SA Industry Program



## New guidelines assist wine industry sustainability

The clean green image of South Australia's wine industry is being advanced by new guidelines that assist wineries with developing an Environmental Management Plan.

Wirra Wirra has taken a lead in trialling the guidelines which have been developed by Zero Waste SA with input from the SA Wine Industry Association (SAWIA).

While good environmental practice has been a priority of the McLaren Vale winery for many years it understands the need to keep improving.

In a pilot initiated by the Zero Waste SA Industry Program, Wirra Wirra was teamed with Business SA to test the guidelines before they are rolled out to other wineries.

"This is a great example of government, business and industry working together with the single aim of improving the sustainability of the wine industry by giving it the tools and

know-how," says Zero Waste SA's Industry Sustainability Senior Adviser Meg Sommerville.

Coaching and advice was provided by Business SA as Wirra Wirra developed an Environmental Management Plan consistent with the new guidelines. Their feedback was then used by Zero Waste SA to fine-tune them.

Wirra Wirra Environmental Coordinator Emmanuelle Walton says the winery has been working on many fronts to lower its energy consumption, carbon emissions and better manage solid and liquid waste.

"But a winery with vineyards is a large and complex operation and we know we can do better," she says. "Our new environmental action plan has helped us identify areas where we can focus our effort."

### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The environmental management plan guidelines have been specifically designed for South Australia's wine sector to help wineries:

- Identify and control environmental impacts to work towards environmental best practice
- strengthen their position in the marketplace as environmentally sustainable
- improve production and resource efficiency
- minimise business risk.



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## Sustainability highlights

Wirra Wirra has introduced various initiatives to improve its sustainability. Highlights include:

- 100 KW solar array and new refrigeration and brine lines insulation system to reduce energy consumption.
- new septic system to reduce environmental risks and further cut energy use
- steel screens on specific winery drains to reduce sludge and lees in wastewater by 70%
- composting introduced for vintage waste (marc and stalks)
- restoration of winery creek with more than 1600 native trees planted and 900 exotic shrubs removed
- vineyards around the winery certified biodynamic.

## Wirra Wirra

Wirra Wirra is a long-established McLaren Vale winery with a reputation for its flagship Shira, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon. Its Church block blend is a popular Australian red wine.

[www.wirrawirra.com](http://www.wirrawirra.com)

## Zero Waste SA

A South Australian Government agency that advances improved waste management policies and the development of resource recovery and recycling. The Zero Waste SA Industry Program advises and supports companies to achieve sustainability and productivity goals through better waste, water and energy management.

[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

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