

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA awards Yalumba's sustainability journey

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will today present The Yalumba Wine Company with South Australia's first EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence.

The new licence is only awarded to businesses that demonstrate a high level of environmental performance and show a commitment to continuous improvement.

EPA Presiding Member Cheryl Bart AO said the new EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence is a combination of the EPA's existing Accredited Licence with a voluntary sustainability agreement.

"This sustainability agreement commits the company to continually improving its environmental performance as well as actively working with its community," Ms Bart said.

"Under the new licence, the EPA will still be able to use its regulatory and enforcement powers if necessary; however companies with outstanding environmental track records are eligible for a simplified licence.

"For a company to receive an EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence, they must pass rigorous assessments and demonstrate that they comply with best practice standards.

"As far as environmental licences go, this is the highest standard of licence a company can achieve.

"The new licence benefits businesses by not only building on their performance but by rewarding them with discounted licence fees and a licence term of 10 years.

"Yalumba's environmental achievements were recognised when the company achieved an 9.5% reduction of emissions for every litre of wine produced at Angaston.

"Yalumba is an example of what can be achieved and we congratulate all the Board, management and staff for their passion and commitment."

Initial targets Yalumba aims to achieve under its voluntary sustainability agreement, include:

FURTHER reducing water use by 10%

CONTINUE to beneficially reuse all winery wastewater

UNDERTAKING additional energy audits to identify cost-effective opportunities

WORKING with suppliers to maximise the sustainability of packaging.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Paul Caica congratulated The Yalumba Wine Company for achieving the milestone of South Australia's first recipient of an EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence.

"The South Australian Government hopes that other businesses will soon follow this pioneering effort and seek to sign up for their own sustainability licence," Mr Caica says.

Yalumba's Director of Strategy and Business Development Brian Walsh said the company has been on the sustainability journey for many years now and this is one more significant step.

"We don't pretend to be perfect or know it all, but we urge our colleagues in the grape and wine industry to do what is appropriate for their particular circumstances as it is ultimately very rewarding and satisfying.

“Special thanks to our own Dr Cecil Camilleri for his drive, our environmental committee for their commitment, all our employees for their support and to the EPA for the vision and collaborative approach.”

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