



Coonawarra Vignerons position on gas extraction

The Coonawarra Vignerons Association has had a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability through their Environmental Management Plan written in 2001 and the intense involvement in the consultation for the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (WAP).

The WAP has continuously formed the basis for many, if not all of the positions that the Coonawarra Vignerons Association has held on external environmental issues, such as the once proposed 'Penola Pulp Mill' and the way that the Indenture Bill valued water dissimilarly for different commodity groups.

'Unconventional gas extraction' may potentially compromise the quality of our aquifers. With this in mind we are maintaining a watching brief on the proposed Beach Energy conventional well being drilled at the southern end of the Coonawarra region.

Conventional wells have been drilled in the Limestone Coast for many years. Our concern is that the risks associated with unbridled expansion far outweigh the short-term benefits of gas extraction.

Those risks being to the aquifer, and the clean green environment that the Limestone Coast and Coonawarra trade under, both internationally and domestically.

Grape growing, as with many other existing industries in the region, employ significant numbers of people. Risking these existing industries at the expenses of short term gas extraction does not seem wise.

END

For more information about the Coonawarra Vignerons visit www.coonawarra.org

NOTES:

Coonawarra Grape and Wine Incorporated (CGWI), trading as Coonawarra Vignerons is an amalgamation of the former Coonawarra Vignerons Association and the Coonawarra Grapegrowers Association. The Coonawarra Vignerons is a not for profit members organisation that supports local grapegrowers and winemakers by facilitating the promotion, marketing, technical innovation, finances and administration associated with the Coonawarra wine region membership. Integral to Coonawarra Vignerons is protecting the integrity, and enhancing the reputation, of Coonawarra as a fine wine region.

For Further Information Contact:

Olivia Nunn
Executive Officer
olivia@coonawarra.org
08 8737 2392