

Wine Australia tests feasibility of alternatives to glass bottles for premium wine

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As the Australian wine sector moves towards its emissions reduction targets, six innovative packaging solutions for premium wine have been awarded Federal Government grants to test their feasibility.

The grants have been issued as part of the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) – Renewables and Low Emissions Round, managed by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. BRII provides funding to startups and SMEs to develop innovative solutions for government policy and service delivery challenges.

Alternative packaging for premium Australian wine was among three challenges of the Renewables and Low Emissions Round.

The BRII grants were awarded to six companies for their proposed solutions:

Margaret River Winery Pty Ltd

Development of quality biopolymers for sustainable wine packaging

Dr AHA Data and AI Technology Pty Ltd

Artificial Intelligence systems for managing defects in glass production to reduce carbon emissions

Delivery Happiness International Pty Ltd

Sustainable eco-flat PET bottles for premium Australian wines and beyond

Wine One Pty Ltd

Development and feasibility of Eco Steel wine bottles for wine

Bravu Pty Ltd

Eco-friendly soft plastic pouch packaging solutions for wine

Phantm Pty Ltd

Development of novel natural polymer materials for wine packaging

The technical and commercial feasibility of these solutions will be tested over three months. Grant recipients who successfully demonstrate the feasibility of their solutions may be invited to apply for a further grant to develop a proof of concept and prototype.

Dr Martin Cole, Wine Australia Chief Executive Officer, said the Australian grape and wine sector had a goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with a 42 per cent reduction by 2030.

He stated that, “the manufacture of wine packaging and the transport of packaged wine account for around 70 per cent of the Australian wine industry’s carbon emissions with heavy glass bottles being the main contributor.”