

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2007/2008

The composition of the Committee has not altered for 2007/2008 and is as below;

John Ward	Chairman & Victorian Grower Representative
Barry Cock	Deputy Chair & New South Wales Grower
Jeff Mitchell	Industry Representative
Bob Shields	Industry Representative
Ron Hutton	New South Wales Government Representative
Andrew Murdoch	New South Wales Grower Representative
Stuart Holland	Victorian Government Representative
Len Schliefert	Victorian Grower Representative
Jan O'Connor	Victorian Grower Representative

I report on a year that has thrown new challenges to the industry.

The change in the value of water in this last season has impacted heavily on growers' profitability. In spite of some higher grape pricing, after the value of the water was taken into account growers were very little in front. It would appear the industry will face this challenge of higher priced and short supplied water again for season 2008/2009.

The Committee has utilised all reserves on project expenditure in 2007/2008. This has meant that on a forecast lower tonnage (2008 vintage) for 2008/2009 expenditure, the Committee has approved projects on forecast levy income only (eg. no use of general reserve funds).

Your Committee is still dedicated to giving you best value for your valuable levy dollars. The Industry Development Officer, Liz McGuire, is available to all growers for assistance. Liz is a valuable resource that many growers contact for assistance.

In these difficult times the help and cooperation of Michael DePalma and Mike Stone has been outstanding and I thank them for their contribution.

The projects completed in 2007/2008 and those approved for 2008/2009 are shown below. For further details go to the industry website at [www.murrayvalleywinegrapes.com.au](http://www.murrayvalleywinegrapes.com.au)

Projects Funded	Project Cost 2007/2008 Actual \$	Project Cost 2008/2009 Approved \$
Grower Communication	35,707	22,990
Grower Groups	10,750	
Grower Services Manager	57,220	
Improving Grape Sale Prospects	6,530	
Industry Development Committee Administration	78,427	*80,486
Information Collection & Communication	35,700	8,085
Industry Development Officer	70,890	70,680
Regional & National Viticulture Input	67,650	67,650
Production of Spray Diary	4,000	
<b>Total (GST exclusive)</b>	<b>366,874</b>	<b>365,302</b>

\*includes allowance of \$8,500 for new order creation costs

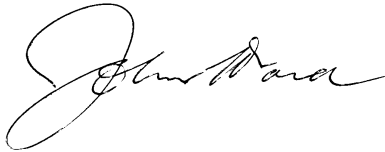
Contact Liz McGuire the Industry Development Officer for viticulture related assistance or Ashley Turner regarding voting or administration of levy funds.

We are now at the end of the 4 year Order and would hope that you as growers ask the minister to remake another term.

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In executing the IDC's operations orderly, I encourage all growers to participate in the annual voting process and contribute to the election of new projects. The IDC would like to see many more growers partake and have a say about how your levies are spent.



**JOHN WARD**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**MURRAY VALLEY WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**