Dear Sir/Madam

Our family has been in the Wine Industry for five generations and clearly remember the day Bob Hawk put a 20% sales tax on wine. What a day.

Unfortunately little has changed since with consecutive governments constantly changing fiddling with wine taxation making it ever more complex to the point where we are today

needing a taxation lawyer to make heads or tails of the current wine tax system. Just ridiculous, so much for Mr Turnbulls' promise of cutting red tape for business.

Wine taxation in Australia is broken and needs fundamental change.

Australia has the highest tax on wine of any wine producing country in the world. How can we build an internationally competitive industry under this model?

The Wine Equalisation Tax Rebate (WETR) is cumbersome, overly complex and does nothing to restrict New Zealand producers from receiving tax benefits directed to Aussie winemakers.

The only real fix for the situation is to offer the wine industry a second option based on a volume tax akin to New Zealand's wine industry.

It is embarrassing how the New Zealand wine industry has out performed Australia's over the last ten years in almost every category.

The proposed changes to to the WET do not meet the needs or expectations of the wider wine industry despite all the consultation that has occurred.

The rebate must be maintained at $500,000 unless major structural reform of the wine tax system is implemented.

**Steve Lubiana**

Winemaker

**Stefano Lubiana Wines & Osteria**