# Appendix 4

# **Letters of support**

### **Hawkesbury City Council**

## Hawkesbury City Council

8 August 2002

Mr Jonathan Auld Secretary Nepean Hawkesbury Wine & Grape Growers Assoc C/- Tizzana Winery 518 Tizzana Road EBENEZER NSW 2756



966 George Street (PO Box 146) Windsor NSW 2756 Phone: 02 4560 4444 Facsimile: 02 4560 4440 DX: 8601 Windsor

Dear Mr Auld

The Council strongly supports the geographical recognition of the "Sydney Wine Region".

The Hawkesbury area was historically the "granary of the infant European colony" and, since that time, has played an important role in agriculture.

There has been a tendency in Australia, around the fringe of metropolitan cities, for important agricultural lands to be allowed to deteriorate to the extent that there was a perception that they were no longer useful for agricultural pursuits, and thus allowed the speculative gain of them being turned into urban areas. One of the ways in which this can be alleviated is to "brand" the area to indicate its importance as an agricultural region.

The Council, together with many members of the community and organisations such as the University of Western Sydney and the Department of Agriculture, have spent considerable time and resources in recent years in developing a climate where there is a new enthusiasm for agriculture, thus adding significantly to the district's environmental and social capital.

The efforts are being rewarded and there is no doubt that recognition of the area as part of the "Sydney wine region", would be another significant step further complimenting the work undertaken to date.

You are assured of the Council's strongest support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Garry McCully General Manager

Direct Line: 4560 4409

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All communications to be addressed to the General Manager P.O. Box 146, Windsor NSW 2756 Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7.30pm Thursday 8.30am - 7.30pm

Where people make the difference

### Kerry Bartlett, M.P. - Federal Member for Macquarie







9 August 2002

The Chairperson
Geographical Indications Committee
Australian Wine & Brandy Corporation
Industry House
Hackney Road (Cnr Botanic Road)
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in support of an application from the Nepean Hawkesbury Wine & Grape Growers Association to you, for consideration of a geographic wine region for Sydney *Wine Region*.

The Association operates within my Federal electorate of Macquarie and the adjoining Federal seat of Lindsay and is highly thought of as an entrepreneurial and energetic body of industry. Its aim is to restore the wine industry in the Greater Sydney Region. The region has a long history in the industry and the wines produced are very well known and regarded.

The Sydney Basin has a number of unique geographical and climatic features which produce wines so different to those in other areas, thus warranting a separate classification. Further, the determination of Sydney as a distinct region would dovetail neatly with the expanding role of the University of Western Sydney in viticulture and winemaking and support for the wine industry.

It would be an excellent gesture in recognising the history and the aims of the Nepean Hawkesbury Wine and Grapegrowers Association. The title of *Sydney Wine Region* would have a positive and recognisable impact on agri-tourism for this state and the local region.

I commend the Application to you for worthy consideration.

Yours sincerely

KERRY BARTLETT MP Federal Member for Macquarie

Electorate Office: Suite 3, 186 Macquarie Rd Springwood NSW 2777 Correspondence: PO Box 376 Springwood NSW 2777 Email kerry,bartlett.mp@aph.gov.au

Tel: (02) 4751 7494 Fax: (02) 4751 7495 Tol Free 1800 810 050 Website: www.kerrybartlett.com

### Kevin Rozzoli, M.P. - Member for Hawkesbury



THE HON. KEVIN ROZZOLI, M.P. MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

Telephone: 4577 8922

Facsimile: 4577 8013

"Hawkesbury Cottage"

11 Baker Street
WINDSOR NSW 2756

Email: arozzoli@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Chair Geographical Indications Committee Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation 5 August 2002

#### Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of an application from The Nepean-Hawkesbury Wine and Grape Growers Association Inc. for a declaration that the winegrowing region of the Sydney Basin be declared an Australian Geographical Indication winegrowing region to be known as the "Sydney Wine Region".

As a long-serving representative of the area, nearly 30 years, I have always been a strong advocate of its agricultural potential and am impressed by the energy and drive now being focussed on the further development of winegrowing in the Sydney Basin.

Identification of a discrete "Sydney Wine Region" would recognise its historical significance as one of the earliest winegrowing regions of Australia and distinguish it from other winegrowing areas currently identified within the very large and generally non-descriptive region known as 'South Coast' of which it is currently a part. As well as recognising the area's early wine heritage, it would further identify the area's unique value for grape growing, as well as its importance for the growth of agritourism through the Hawkesbury Harvest Farm Gate Trail Project.

I am advised there are currently 28 vineyards planted and in production in the identified region and a number of others in the planning stage. I am myself in the process of reestablishing myself on 4 hectares of land at Grose Vale with the goal of establishing my own vineyard. I intend to link my project to the University of Western Sydney, which, through its Richmond campus, offers courses in viticulture, winemaking and wine law

As you would be aware the climate and geology of the Sydney Basin provides some of the finest horticultural land in Australia and despite the challenges of urban growth it retains its agricultural focus yielding produce worth almost \$900 million annually. These qualities also create a unique environment for grape growing, resulting in wines that are distinct from other areas, but display strong similarities across the proposed region.

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The Chair Geographical Indications Committee Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation 5 August 2002

Like most areas it is not without its growing problems. This has resulted in significant experimentation and new plantings with different grape varieties and trellising that, I am assured, will lead to vastly improved yields in the years to come and which will be important to maintaining the region's unique product.

I am certain that winegrowing will expand in the coming years as local councils seek to further the State Government's policy of sustainable agriculture. Grapes are an ideal crop in terms of land suitability and water consumption. The gently undulating land means small vineyards can be scientifically located to realise maximum potential from growing conditions. Small vineyards working on a co-operative basis have proven successful, both in terms of the quality of product and financially, in many parts of the world.

Finally the Nepean-Hawkesbury region is an area of immense heritage value. The Nepean-Hawkesbury Wine and Grape Growers Association Inc. can play a major role in preserving the history of Australian winemaking and grapegrowing. Quite apart from the role it played in the very beginnings of the Australian industry through plantings at Sydney Cove, Ryde and Parramatta; the efforts of the Macarthur family at 'Camden Park' vineyard, Camden and Penrith are regarded as the first commercial plantings in New South Wales (c1817).

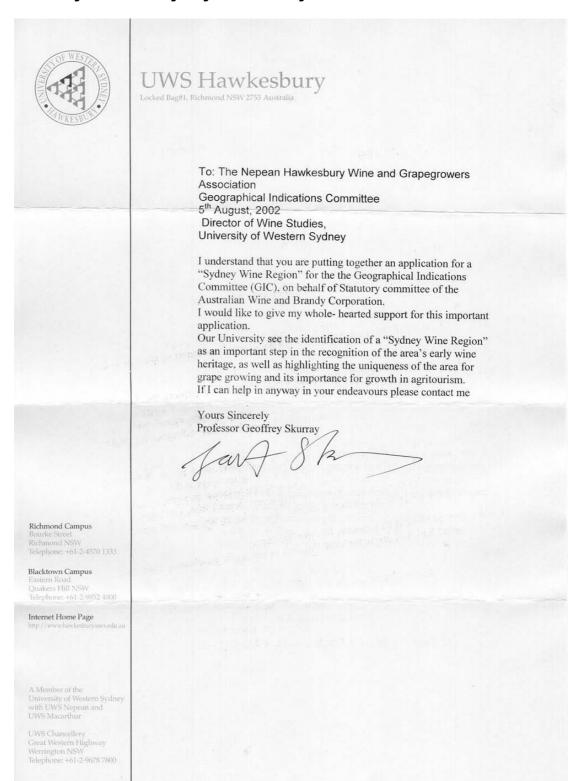
The Association's website presents one of the most powerful arguments for recognition of the Sydney Basin as an Australian Geographical Indication winegrowing region in its own right.

I strongly support its application and trust you will give it favourable consideration.

Yours faithfully

The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli MP Member for Hawkesbury

# **University of Western Sydney - Hawkesbury**



#### **Hawkesbury Harvest**



#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On behalf of Hawkesbury Harvest Inc. I wish to support the Nepean Hawkesbury Wine & Grape Growers Association Inc. in its quest to achieve status as a distinct wine growing region in the Sydney Basin to be known as the 'Sydney Wine Region'.

Hawkesbury Harvest is community based project aimed at improving the economic sustainability of local agriculture in the Hawkesbury River Catchment of the Sydney Basin. Hawkesbury Harvest is providing people who live on or own small farms in the catchment with a number of marketing options. Two that have proven to be successful are the Farm Gate Trail which is agri-tourism based and Farmers Markets. Hawkesbury Harvest has 34 trail destinations on it current Farm Gate Trail map. The inaugural Hawkesbury Harvest Farmer's Market was held at Castle Hill Showground on Saturday 10 August 2002. At least 6000 people attended and it was a huge success. The next program for the organisation will be to market local produce and value added products under the Hawkesbury Harvest brand.

Hawkesbury Harvest is demonstrating that there is a huge demand in the community for the local goods and services it is developing. The proposal by the Nepean Hawkesbury Wine & Grape Growers Association Inc. to establish the 'Sydney Wine Region' will provide the potential for the wine growers in the Basin to take advantage of that demand. There is much to be gained.

Yours faithfully

David Mason Chair Hawkesbury Harvest Ph 45 770652

# **The Evans Wine Company**



ABN 31 074 841 491

Postal Address: P.O. Box 452, Maitland, New South Wales, 2320.

Telephone (02) 4930 1999 Facsimile (02) 4930 1988 Email: ttwines@turboweb.net.au

The Secretary, Nepean & Hawkesbury Wine & Grape Growers Association Inc., 518 Tizzana Road EBENEZER NSW 2756.

Dear Sir,

# "SYDNEY REGIONAL G.I.C. SUBMISSION"

This company wholeheartedly supports the above submission for the inclusion of "Sydney" in the list of Australian Geographic placenames.

We support the application in its general terms, but particularly as

- It very clearly defines the discrete and homogenous character of the region.
- (2) The proposed region represents the birthplace of the Australian Wine Industry.
- (3) The name requires protection from "passing-off".
- (4) The number of small vineyards planted recently in the region is sympathetic to the history of the proposed G.I.C.

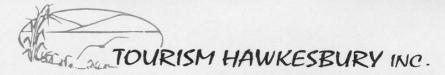
As the leasee of the Camden Park vineyard and viticultural managers of the Nangarin vineyard development, we will enthusiastically use the "Sydney" region as part of our labeling policy.

Yours Faithfully,

Denis Power. Director.

August 21, 2002

### **Tourism Hawkesbury Inc.**



◆ YOU GET MORE OUT OF LIFE, OUT OF TOWN ◆

Jonathon Auld Secretary Nepean Hawkesbury Wine and Grape Growers Association C/o 518 Tizzana Rd Ebenezer NSW 2756 5th August 2002

Dear Jonathon,

On behalf of Tourism Hawkesbury Inc, I am writing to support your application for determination of a geographic wine region for Sydney.

Tourism Hawkesbury Inc. operates the peak tourist association within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. As an organization, we are committed to the promotion and marketing of the region as an area that has strong foundations in the preservation of agriculture and history.

A primary focus for our region is in the successful development of a number of agri-tourism initiatives. The appeal of the Hawkesbury and surrounding districts is in the ability to promote to visitors, a region where they can share in the unique heritage and environmental aspects found here.

We support the application for the determination of a geographic wine region for Sydney as it creates a wonderful tourism product for visitors to enjoy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require further information. I am available on 45 885 895.

Yours Sincerely,

Karina Groth Tourism Manager

Tourism Hawkesbury Inc ABN: 18 935 849 066 PO Box 5534, South Windsor, NSW 2756 Internet: http://www.hawkesburyvalley.com Office: Ham Common, Bicentenary Park, Windsor St, Clarendon Phone: (02) 4588 5895 Fax: (02) 4588 5896 Email: enquiries@hawkesburyvalley.com