

Australia negotiates on Wine Agreement proposed by EU

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Australia is negotiating amendments to the Australia-European Community Agreement on Trade in Wine (Wine Agreement).

As part of the negotiation, the Australian Government is running a public objections process on wine geographical indications (GIs) proposed by the EU.

A public objections process provides stakeholders with an opportunity to have their say and formally lodge an objection to the protection of specific wine GIs proposed by the EU.

This process is required under Australia's international obligations and will enable the government to take into account the full range of Australia's interests in considering the EU's requests. It does not indicate the government has made a decision to protect or amend the protection of any specific EU wine GIs.

Joanna Stanion, First Assistant Secretary for Agricultural Policy encouraged the Australian wine industry and other stakeholders to put forward any submissions regarding these GIs.

"This is an open and transparent process for all interested stakeholders to provide their views," Stanion said.

"The government will use this information to help inform Australia's negotiating positions in the finalisation of the Wine Agreement."

The EU is seeking protection for 50 new wine GIs under the Wine Agreement, as well as updates to existing wine GIs. As part of this request, the EU is again seeking protection for Prosecco and Vittoria.