WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA WINEGROWING?

Sustainable Australia Winegrowing (SAW), is the leading sustainability program for grape growing in Australia. The Program assists grape growers to continually improve their operations by becoming more sustainable and reducing environmental impacts. SAW encourages grape growing practices that are sensitive to the environment, the community, and are economically feasible to implement and maintain. SAW began in McLaren Vale and has now been adopted in five other wine regions including Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills.

WHAT ARE THE SAW ASSESSMENT AREAS?

SAW assesses sustainability through a triple bottom line approach;
- environment
- social
- economic

There are seven assessment areas, and each area has been written by local grower working groups and peer reviewed by independent experts.

The Program is delivered through an online platform using a combination of self-assessment and data input by grape growers. The Program is validated by independent third party audits of a random selection of participating vineyards.
SAW AUDITING AND CERTIFICATION:

There are five levels of sustainability used in assessment, which demonstrate the overall achievements of the vineyard. SAW Members can use their score as a benchmark to improve their practices.

SAW McLAREN VALE 2017/2018 SEASON:

72% OF McLAREN VALE’S WINE GRAPES ARE FROM SAW VINEYARDS

OVERVIEW
As a region McLaren Vale is performing in the green (very good) sustainability category.

PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT
80% of SAW Members use low input conventional or organic management practices to control pests and diseases.

SOIL MANAGEMENT
96% of SAW Members have a good understanding of the different soil types on their property and have identified areas that need management or protection.

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT
91% of SAW Members actively conserve the biodiversity of their property.

WATER MANAGEMENT
98% of SAW Members have a water conservation plan.

WASTE MANAGEMENT
98% of SAW Members have a paper and cardboard recycling program.