Re: Recovery Grants and Concessional Loans - Wine grape growers affected by smoke

Dear Xyz,

My name is abc and I represent the growers and producers in the mno region. As you may know, we have been decimated by the effects of the recent bushfires and smoke events. In the mno wine region, more than 80% of the 2020 vintage has been destroyed by the effects of smoke making the grapes unfit for commercial use.

We have been working with the state and federal government to have the effects of smoke in the wine industry correctly identified as part of the bushfire damage. The Commonwealth Government has formally advised the NSW Government that the "costs of cleaning up and salvage harvesting of damaged produce is an eligible cost under the primary producer grant - including clean up and salvage as a consequence of smoke taint".

We believe that the concessional loans and grants are critical to many growers who will have no other income until next vintage and numerous costs to prepare the vineyards for the next harvest.

the **MAJOR** issue is that the smoke shadow covers a number of LGA's not declared as Bushfire emergency areas. This is very much the case in your electorate in the mno area that covers the large proportion of the xxxxx Region. As such, these growers who were equally as affected as those in other LGA's are unable to access these grants and loans. I would hope that you would agree that this seems unfair to the constituents of your electorate and I would urge you to agitate to have the vineyard areas of the mno Council included in this support program. I believe that Minister Littleproud is now federally responsible for these grants and loans.

Yours Faithfully

abc