



Wine and maps mix online

Updated 1 August 2014

In what is a major boost for local viticulturists, the exact boundaries of Australia's Phylloxera infestation and risk zones are now as close as your computer or tablet thanks to the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia.

The PGIBSA has created an online map that allows users to zoom in to see specific areas and individual roads in any wine region, allowing industry to plan the route vehicles should take, or track the route they have taken, to ensure they avoid problematic areas.

"Until now we have only had paper maps, which aren't as accessible, don't provide pinpoint accuracy and can't be quickly updated if and when boundaries change," PGIBSA chief executive Alan Nankivell said.

Created by the PGIBSA's spatial information services administrator Brendan Tully, in collaboration with Precision Management Solutions, the tool has been framed to suit tablets, whilst also viewable on smart phones.

Mr Nankivell said there was a real risk of Phylloxera establishing new infestations when machinery and equipment that had been infected moved between states and regions. He also said there was evidence of an increasing understanding in the wine and grape growing industry of the Phylloxera risk and how it spreads.

"People are more aware of what they are looking for and are coming forward when they see something of concern."

Greg King, a fruit biosecurity officer with the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, said the new map would be valuable for anyone buying machinery or grapes from Victoria.

"Wherever you live you can accurately determine the Phylloxera status of where your potential purchase is coming from and make the best decision on how to proceed," he said.

The map can be accessed via the Interactive Maps button on the PGIBSA website.

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