



## Livestock Grazing in Barossa Vineyards

In 2015 the Barossa Improved Grazing Group conducted a survey of Barossa Grape & Wine Association growers to explore the benefits of livestock grazing in vineyards. Some of the key findings were:

### Key reasons why BGWA growers graze livestock in vineyards

- Weed control
- Reduce chemical use and costs
- Reduce machinery, fuel and labour costs
- Utilise feed

### Key reasons why BGWA growers don't graze livestock in vineyards

- Lack of fencing or need to upgrade it
- Concern about potential soil compaction
- Need to manage sheep

### DO's and DON'Ts of grazing livestock in vineyards

- DO rotational graze smaller sections of the vineyard at high stocking rates
- DO maintain good fencing
- DO remove livestock at around budburst to mitigate against grape yield loss
- DO have good access to water for livestock
- DO move sheep out of the vineyard to manage chemical withholding periods
- DON'T overgraze the vineyard
- DON'T graze the vineyard if it is waterlogged

### Opportunities for grazing livestock in vineyards

- A grazing enterprise provides an additional income stream
- Agist sheep if you don't own them (link up with a local grazier)
- Grazing management can be improved through the use of a portable electric fence



### NRM benefits of grazing in vineyards

- Improved weed control (for hard to kill and herbicide resistant weeds)
- Improved plant biodiversity through reduced herbicide use
- Improved nutrient recycling through manure addition
- Reduced machinery and fuel use through less slashing, spraying or cultivating mid-rows