



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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RICHARD HILDER RECEIVES TOP NSW WINE INDUSTRY HONOURS

A viticulture expert with more than five decades experience in the wine industry has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Graham Gregory Award, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson announced today.

Katrina Hodgkinson presented the award to Richard Hilder at the NSW Wine Industry Awards in Sydney last night.

“The Graham Gregory Award was established to acknowledge individual contribution to the NSW wine industry, which makes Mr Hilder a very worthy recipient,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Mr Hilder has built up a 55 year-long association with this country’s wine industry, working with the South Australian Department of Agriculture as a Viticultural Project Officer before making the move into private enterprise and working with multinational companies such as Rosemount and Fosters.

“A specialist in his field and now a viticultural consultant advising growers and vineyard managers on best practice procedures, Mr Hilder is also co-owner of Pyramid Hill Wines, based near Denman in the Upper Hunter Valley.

“Mr Hilder has contributed significantly to the viticulture and horticulture industries within the Australian Wine Industry. His forward planning for the development of irrigation, fertigation, pruning, harvesting, and other viticultural practices have benefited the not just the national wine industry but those across the country who love a good drop.

“Mr Hilder is a deserving recipient of this prestigious award and it is because of the hard work and dedication of people like him that the NSW wine industry is a major player in the international wine market,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

The NSW wine industry contributes more than \$500 million to the NSW economy each year and represents more than 35 per cent of the national wine industry.

“Our State has around 450 wineries across 14 official wine regions. Collectively these wineries account for more than a third of Australia’s \$5 billion wine industry.

“I thank all the sponsors of the NSW Wine Industry Awards and in particular Citibank for such a wonderful evening celebrating our State’s wine industry,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

The Graham Gregory Award is named after the former NSW Agriculture Deputy Director-General, who is celebrated as a pioneer of the NSW wine industry.