

A Toast...or Toasted? Wine Regions, Governance and Climate Change Adaptation

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Abstract

Short-term climate variability and long-term climate change are challenges confronting wine regions worldwide. Economic, political, social and environmental factors all influence a region's ability to adapt to these challenges. This project aims to understand how governance around land use planning, policy, and natural resource management creates opportunities or barriers to adaptation in wine regions. Applied social science research can enhance understanding of complex relationships between natural and human systems. This research will use the comparative case study method in order to better understand these issues in two regional contexts in Australia: the Barossa Valley and the island of Tasmania. Directed interviews with key-informants in government and the wine industry will be conducted to obtain descriptions and interpretations about the characteristics, orientations, and actions related to the research question. The research will also include an archival analysis of policy and planning documents affecting the wine industry, including industry initiatives and programs run by national, state, and local governments. The intended project outcome is to help identify the barriers and opportunities for new planning practices, as well as facilitate dialogue on adaptation strategies between local governments, those within the wine industry, and the larger community.

Key words: climate change, adaptation, natural resources, policy, wine