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Media Release



New Zealand Winegrowers welcomes increase in seasonal workers

New Zealand Winegrowers welcomes the increase in the number of seasonal workers under the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme announced by Social Development Minister Anne Tolley and Immigration Minister Michael Woodhouse today.

An increase in 1,000 RSE workers for the 2016-17 season will help support the wine industry during its peak times said Jeffrey Clarke, General Manager, New Zealand Winegrowers. "There's a huge demand for labour during vintage and pruning. Although the wine industry is focused at placing New Zealanders into work, there is often a shortfall and RSE workers ease some of that pressure."

"The access to labour through the RSE scheme over the last 10 years has supported the wine industry and contributed to export growth."

New Zealand wine exports are valued at \$1.6 billion for the year to the end of October 2016. The industry is working towards a goal of \$2 billion of exports in 2020.

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