

s22

From: Bowes, Tanya (CorpAffairs, North Ryde)
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2019 9:40 AM
To: Ladiges, Crystal (CorpAffairs, Clayton); Morgan, Huw (CorpAffairs, Adelaide K. Ave)
Cc: Gligorovska, Emilia (Board Office, Clayton)
Subject: FW: Pleas read; Media request - response from Wine Australia to comments from Dr Sean Newman

Hi both,

See Info from Emilia.

Please can you get some dot points together, along the lines of Board members conducting themselves in an appropriate manner, declaring and managing conflict (which means if there was a conflict they could not be part of a discussion). Here's the Board Charter that might help.

Might need to have what our relationship with Wine Australia is.

Be good to share your draft then take it to Judi since it's a Board level matter.

Thanks
tanya

From: Gligorovska, Emilia (Board Office, Clayton)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2019 6:31 PM
To: Bowes, Tanya (CorpAffairs, North Ryde) ; Duffy, Peter (Governance, Clayton)
Subject: Pleas read: Media request - response from Wine Australia to comments from Dr Sean Newman

Hi

See email exchange below FYI. I will check our records this evening to check dates, etc but Michele is very diligent about managing her conflict of interest.

I think we need to follow this, just in case.

E.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anita Poddar s22
Date: 17 April 2019 at 6:03:16 pm AEST
To: "Michele Allan (External)" s22
 s22
Subject: Re: Media request - response from Wine Australia to comments from Dr Sean Newman

Hi Michele,

I'm hoping that the issue of dual board roles will not be addressed by The Guardian as it was not raised in The Guardian's questions. In any case, in addition to the appropriate governance processes maintained by both organisations, you were not on the WA board at the time the CSIRO agreement was signed off last year. The agreement was signed in July or so from memory. However, if this issue does come up we'll let you know immediately and draft a response along the lines you've suggested.
Regards Anita

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Apr 2019, at 4:47 pm, Michele Allan s22 [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks Anita
should we also include in future that there is a conflict of interest register and policy that would address such matters? I have cc the CSIRO company secretary as we have a strict process at CSIRO as well.

Happy Easter

Michele

Dr Michele J Allan
Sent from my iPad

On 17 Apr 2019, at 16:16, Anita Poddar s22 [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Michele,

Hope you are well and looking forward to a few restful days over Easter/Anzac day.

I'm writing because we received an inquiry from The Guardian online news service today. As you will see below, it was based on questions raised in a letter to the UK's Lancet magazine by an ANU academic Saul Newman, suggesting that it's inappropriate for government agencies to fund research that leads to alcohol production. Queries were directed to both Wine Australia and the CSIRO over funding grape vine research and we've shared our responses.

More on that later.. but we specifically wanted to give you a heads up because, while The Guardian's queries to us on the subject don't mention it, Saul Newman put out a tweet a few weeks ago.. suggesting that there was something inappropriate about Wine Australia funding the CSIRO as you were on both boards. We ignored it at the time because Saul has only 75 followers on Twitter and it gained no traction.

https://twitter.com/saul_newman/status/1111475866448465920

However, now that the Guardian has followed up there is a risk that Saul may repeat the sentiment in The Guardian and we thought the probability great enough that it was best to forewarn you.

Our actual response to The Guardian is brief as we doubt that a long and reasoned response would do anything other than raise more questions.

Thanks for your inquiry

Wine Australia is a statutory authority, one of 15 such research agencies, which invests levy payer funds and matching Commonwealth funding into the sector's research priorities including addressing changing climate and improving sustainability.

CSIRO is a valued research partner and we work together to ensure the sustainability of the Australian grape and wine sector.

Further information on our strategic plan and our research priorities is available from our website.

Based on the line of questioning we were not entirely sure that the Guardian was even aware that we are not an alcohol company, although Saul clearly was aware of our role as a research agency.

Best Regards Anita

Duplicate emails - removed

