

NEXT GENERATION VITICULTURE (NGV)

Public Summary - December 2024

Summary of progress during this quarter

The second quarter of year one of the NGV programme built on the work completed during the Go-Early phase of the project, following the official project launch on 30 September 2024. Throughout this quarter, the project setup continued under the guidance of the newly appointed Programme Manager. Canopy system development and field trials continued across seven vineyard sites owned and managed by the co-investors - Constellation Brands New Zealand, Indevin Group, Whitehaven Wine Company, Treasury Wine Estates (Matua), Cloudy Bay Vineyards, Framingham Wines and Stanley Estate.

Ross Wise MW started as NGV Programme Manager on 2 December 2024. Ross is a viticulturist and winemaker previously based in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. He holds a Bachelor of Viticulture and an Advanced Diploma in Wine Science at the Eastern Institute of Technology. In 2020, Ross became Canada's 7th Master of Wine – his MW Research Paper studied the potential implications of climate change on viticulture in the Okanagan Valley looking ahead to the 2050s.

Ross has worked in viticulture, winemaking, and consulting roles across many wine regions of New Zealand and Canada. Most recently, he held the position of Director of Winemaking for Andrew Peller Limited, overseeing wine production at five BC wineries, and leading winemaking at the iconic Black Hills Estate Winery. He has been heavily involved with Canadian wine industry organisations over the last decade, with roles including administering research activities, leading knowledge and technology transfer programmes, and assisting in the establishment of a clean plant material network.

Key highlights and achievements

- Spring canopy management trials and measurements were completed. Activities included budburst assessments, shoot thinning, shoot tucking, inflorescence counts, flowering and fruit-set assessments, and canopy photographs and measurements.
- Initial yield estimates were completed. Estimates show significantly increased yields for all sites compared to the previous vintage, including for the control vines. The yield for the modified training systems is predicted to be higher than the target of 1.3 times the commercial control.
- Winemaking trials from the Go-Early phase were completed, including sensory analysis. Analytical and sensory results showed few significant differences between the treatments.
- An industry field day was held on 4 February at one of the Grantor's trial sites.

Upcoming focus areas

- Maturity sampling and harvest data collection and analysis.
- Engagement with key stakeholders including wine tasting of 2024 wines, winter Grantor workshop, and quarterly Grantor newsletter.
- Strengthen industry engagement through public articles and winter pruning workshop.
- Review and revise Year 2 plans to consider learnings from Year 1 where applicable.
- Define work plans for NGV Project 3 – Technology and Automation.

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	In-kind contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 147,291	\$ 10,502	\$ 105,195	\$ 262,988
Programme to date	\$ 416,709	\$51,355	\$ 312,042	\$ 780,107