

## NEXT GENERATION VITICULTURE (NGV)

### Public Summary – December 2025

#### Summary of progress during this period

The NGV programme continued to make strong technical progress during the second quarter of Year 2. Vineyard measurements across all seven trial sites focused on canopy development, flowering, vine water status, and early yield estimation, with more detailed assessments undertaken at key sites to improve data quality while maintaining cost efficiency. These measurements are building a robust evidence base on how different NGV training systems influence vine growth, water demand, and yield potential.

Year 1 winemaking results were finalised this quarter. While wines from the control and 6V systems showed similar composition, the larger vine systems (9V and 12V) produced wines with lower Yeast Available Nitrogen (YAN) and thiol levels, likely reflecting high crop loads and early establishment effects. These findings reinforce the need for ongoing monitoring of nitrogen status and yield–quality relationships as the systems stabilise.

Technology and automation capability expanded through the installation of new soil moisture and canopy scale evapotranspiration sensors. These tools, alongside stem water potential measurements, will strengthen our understanding of treatment-specific water use dynamics and support future modelling of irrigation requirements.

Sustainability benchmarking for Year 1 demonstrated average reductions of around 31% in water, fungicide, and carbon inputs per tonne of fruit across NGV treatments compared with the control. These results indicate early progress toward the programme's medium and long-term input efficiency targets.

#### Key highlights and achievements

- **Vineyard activities:** Spring canopy growth assessments and measurements were carried out for all trial sites, including vigour, canopy density and flowering assessments. Vine water status was evaluated for all treatments at two trial locations selected to represent the range of sites and to most accurately reflect Marlborough's environmental conditions.

- **Winemaking activities:** Analysis and reporting of results from the 2025 winemaking trials were completed.
- **Engagement and Communications:** A spring public workshop was held, focusing on spring vineyard activities, conversion to NGV systems, and early-season light interception. The Year 1 results report was completed and shared with the PGG, CAG and TAG. Viticulture and Winemaking results workshops were held with the CAG.
- **Programme Management:** A review of the IP of the programme was carried out with a third party. Engagement with a third party to carry out cost analysis to inform the Programme's Vineyard Costs KPI began.

### Upcoming focus areas

- **Vineyard Activities:** Completion of growing season canopy and yield assessments. Maturity sampling and fruit quality assessments for all sites.
- **Winery Activities:** Processing maturity samples and preparing for the 2026 harvest.
- **Technology and Automation:** Continuing to monitor soil and vine canopy sensors. Ongoing engagement with trialists to understand technology and automation concerns.
- **Engagement:** Hosting a public NGV open day in February. Completion of a popular article.

### Investment

Investment period Y2 Qtr2	Industry contribution	In-kind contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 185,367	\$ 60,144	\$ 163,674	\$ 409,186
Programme to date	\$ 1,210,666	\$ 252,712	\$ 975,585	\$ 2,438,964

