

NEXT GENERATION VITICULTURE

Public Summary – June 2026

The Next Generation Viticulture (NGV) Programme made strong progress during Year 2 Quarter 4, moving from harvest and fermentation into winter vine assessment, pruning and analysis of Year 2 results. Winter dormancy measurements were completed across the trial network to assess vine balance, vigour and treatment performance. Pruning is now underway, with targeted vine re-working where required to improve spur position, upright development and canopy structure ahead of Year 3.

Yield-to-pruning-weight analysis shows encouraging progress toward the programme's vine yield and vigour balance target. Selected modified NGV treatments are meeting or exceeding the mid-term target of a 25% higher ratio than control vines, suggesting improved crop production per unit of pruning weight removed.

Winemaking work also advanced during the quarter. Fermentation trials have been completed for all sites and varieties, wine laboratory analysis is underway, and stabilisation is progressing ahead of bottling and sensory evaluation. Early results indicate that Brix, titratable acidity and yeast-assimilable nitrogen were more closely aligned between NGV treatments and controls in Year 2 than in Year 1, suggesting that higher-yielding treatments are maintaining key juice-quality parameters.

Engagement and adoption activities focused on translating NGV results into practical information for growers. Paul Epee presented at Grape Days in Hawke's Bay and Marlborough, emphasising the economic and operational case for NGV adoption, including improved canopy efficiency, potential cost reduction and higher productivity per unit of vineyard input. The team also published a popular article in *New Zealand Winegrower* magazine and completed a 6V conversion fact sheet to support growers considering conversion from cane-pruned vines to six vertical cordons.

Key highlights and achievements

- Vineyard work: Winter dormancy measurements were completed across the trial network, and pruning is underway, including targeted vine re-working where needed to improve structure for Year 3.
- Progress toward vine-balance targets: Yield-to-pruning-weight analysis shows selected modified NGV treatments meeting or exceeding the 25% mid-term uplift target.

- Winemaking trials: Fermentation trials have been completed for all sites and varieties, with laboratory analysis and stabilisation progressing ahead of bottling and sensory evaluation.
- Engagement and adoption: Grape Days presentations, a New Zealand Winegrower article and a 6V conversion fact sheet communicated NGV's productivity, canopy-efficiency and cost-reduction messages to growers and industry audiences.
- Programme coordination: The programme reviewed Smart Irrigation alignment, issued the Year 2 participant survey, held a Commercial Advisory Group meeting and progressed economic-modelling discussions.

Upcoming focus areas

- Vineyard work: Complete pruning, targeted vine re-working and Year 2 yield, dormancy and pruning-weight analysis.
- Winemaking: Bottle trial wines, complete laboratory analysis and prepare for sensory evaluation of Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling wines.
- Data analysis and reporting: Complete Year 2 viticulture, winemaking and wine-quality analysis and prepare results reporting.
- Engagement and adoption: Deliver the public pruning workshop and Grantor team visit, continue planning the Year 2 Results Day, and use participant survey feedback to refine Year 3 extension activities.
- Programme coordination: Progress economic modelling, Smart Irrigation alignment discussions and quarterly governance and advisory meetings.

Investment

Investment period Y2 Qtr4	Industry contribution	In-kind contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 334,660	\$8,341	\$ 201,331	\$ 571,669
Programme to date	\$ 1,678,166	\$337,968	\$ 1,344,089	\$ 3,360,225