Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Smoke taint detection through the On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program is helping Australian farmers take advantage of climate monitoring solutions to help take the guess work out of farm operations.

Murray Leake is a viticulturist in the Southern Adelaide region of South Australia. He was made aware of the Program through the region's wine industry body and took the opportunity to improve the vineyard's climate monitoring, specifically in relation to smoke taint detection.

Through the Program, Murray purchased a GoWISD from an Approved Supplier. This is a real-time smoke taint detection system that provides timely and accurate information to support decision making in the aftermath of a smoke event.

Murray said the technology would enable him to base his decisions on more accurate information after smoke events.

'The technology is very new and will aid decision making in whether to harvest fruit when smoke contamination has been an issue,' he said.

Murray said this is important information to obtain as it allows farmers to make informed decisions about whether the fruit is still viable to be used or not.

'It will also help us calibrate to what extent smoke accumulation can occur before the fruit is considered unusable,' he said.

Murray said the process to apply for the Program was very simple.

'The [Approved] Supplier of the equipment was aware of the process and assisted us a lot [during the process],' he said.

The Program has been a valuable initiative for farmers, reducing the financial barriers to improving connectivity across farms. The On Farm Connectivity Program is set to benefit more farmers, with a third round due to open later in 2025.