

2023 2023

2023 INAUGURAL  
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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**VOYAGER ESTATE**

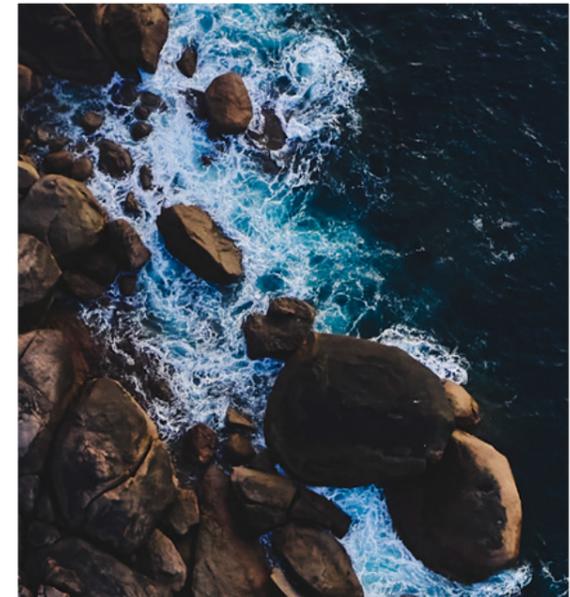
MARGARET RIVER

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REPORT

# WELCOME

We are proud to present Voyager Estate's 2023 inaugural sustainability report. Over two decades, we've made a conscious commitment to improving our patch of land in Margaret River, with the goal of leaving it in better condition for future generations. This report summarises the journey so far, celebrates key milestones, and outlines the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as we take practical steps towards a carbon-neutral future.



**WE GROW AND MAKE OUR WINES ON THE LAND OF THE WADANDI PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS THE MARGARET RIVER REGION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.**

# OUR COMMITMENT

WE EXIST TO SHINE A LIGHT ON  
WHAT MAKES OUR UNIQUE PLACE  
IN MARGARET RIVER SO SPECIAL.



We do this through how we grow and make our wine, and how we share it. Our work, therefore, intimately calls on us to be good stewards of the land and conscious users of natural resources.

Our ultimate ambition couldn't be simpler – to craft wines that do justice to our extraordinary climate and soils. Our commitment to the environment, our employees, and the broader communities in which we live and work, is continuously evolving. Yet, the fundamentals remain consistent over time.

## FOR VOYAGER, THAT MEANS:

- Stewarding and managing the land to be healthy, alive and regenerating.
- Closing the loop on the materials, products and resources that flow in and out of our business, as much as possible.
- Having a meaningful impact on our local Margaret River community.

# OUR BUSINESS, AT A GLANCE

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## TOTAL AREA

~400 hectares (~988 acres)

## VINEYARDS

~ 102 hectares (~ 252 acres)

~ 51% whites, 49% reds

All vineyards are organically farmed and certified by Australian Certified Organic

## CLIMATE

Temperate maritime

Average annual rainfall c. 1000 mm

## SOILS

Predominantly deep, free-draining red/brown gravelly loam soils over a stony/clay sub-soil

## WHITE VARIETIES PLANTED

Chardonnay, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Gris, Viogner

## RED VARIETIES PLANTED

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Shiraz, Tempranillo, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Grenache

## LOCATION

Stevens Valley, Margaret River

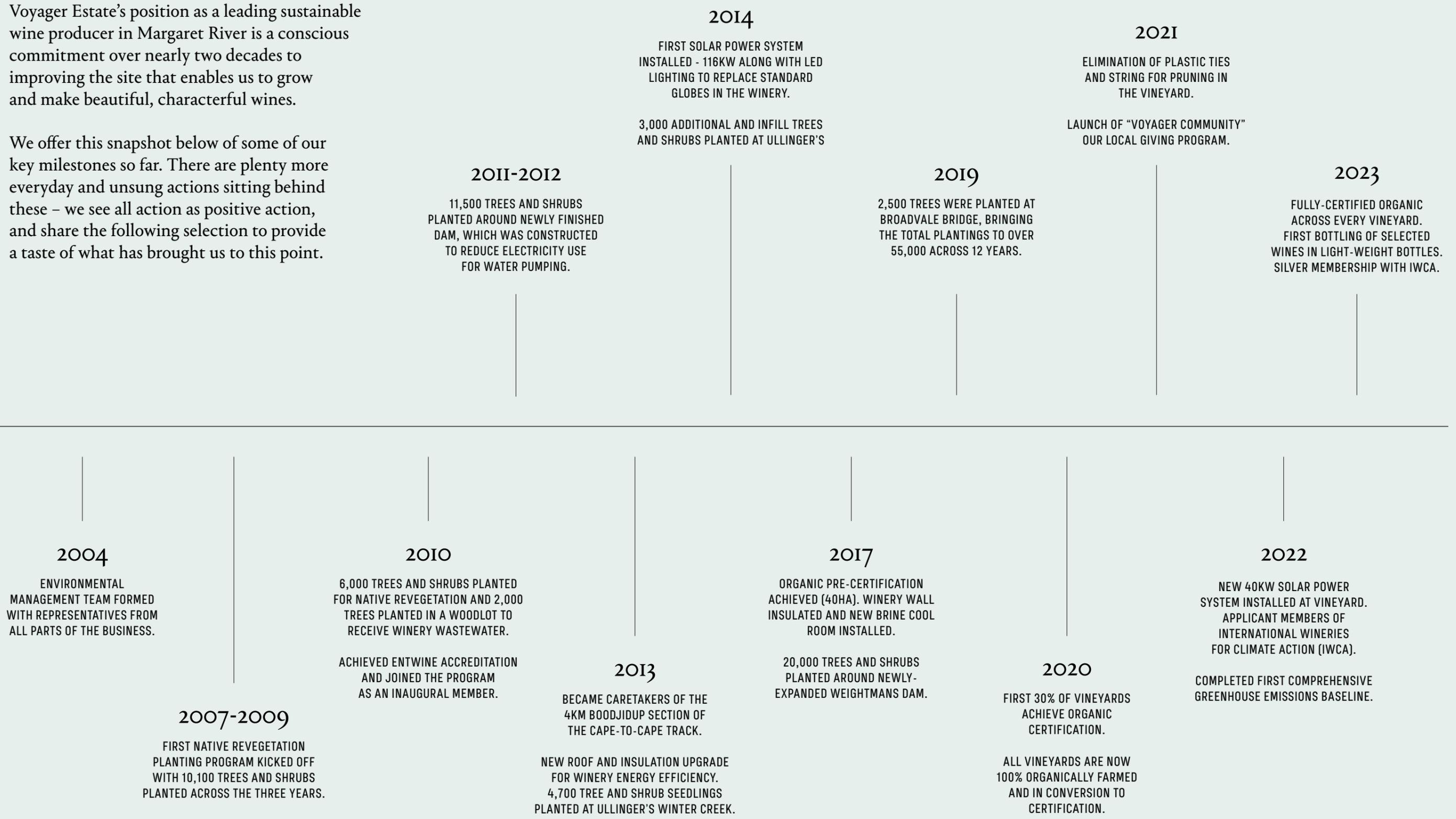
## AVERAGE GRAPE CRUSH

~ 500 tonnes

# THE JOURNEY SO FAR

Voyager Estate's position as a leading sustainable wine producer in Margaret River is a conscious commitment over nearly two decades to improving the site that enables us to grow and make beautiful, characterful wines.

We offer this snapshot below of some of our key milestones so far. There are plenty more everyday and unsung actions sitting behind these – we see all action as positive action, and share the following selection to provide a taste of what has brought us to this point.



## BIODIVERSITY TAKES MANY FORMS.

It starts with the smallest soil micro-organisms and reaches out to the region's precious and globally significant biodiversity. Natural or cover-cropped grasses, and yes, even weeds, perform important functions in the inter-row space between the vines. This plant diversity attracts beneficial bugs and insects, providing habitat and shelter, which prey on pest species. Cover crops and grasses keep the soil stabilised and covered, and support healthy 'underground livestock' – fungi and bacteria that perform many wonders, including helping plants take up nutrients.

And what about our 'above-ground' livestock? We have long used grazing sheep in winter to control weeds and add natural fertiliser to the vineyard. In 2022, we trialled the use of Muscovy Ducks to control snails in our Ullingers vineyard, with noticeable reductions in those blocks that were frequented by the ducks. There are no silver bullets in organics, but the trial has been successful enough that in 2023 our goal is to add a second flock to another vineyard.

Beyond the vines, around 15 years ago, we first recognised the need to protect and improve the health of the Boodjidup Brook catchment area. The Boodjidup Brook and its tributaries (smaller streams) run right through our Estate, entering, and exiting at multiple locations. Maintenance of the riparian zones (the area where the water meets the land) is vital to prevent erosion, increase biodiversity, and ensure water quality.

Approximately 11ha of otherwise rundown or bare land has been revegetated. We're proud that this contribution is in the top 10% of all Sustainable Winegrowing Australia members.

In 2022, we invited Nature Conservation Margaret River Region to independently assess how and where those early efforts have improved the landscape and to assist in focusing our future work. This biodiversity assessment uses accepted Condition Ratings, along a typical scale of "poor or degraded/disturbed" to "pristine" and everything in between.

**"EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE VINEYARD IS PART OF A WIDER PLAN TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR SOIL, AND INCREASE BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE ENTIRE PROPERTY."**

GLEN RYAN, VINEYARD MANAGER



WEIGHTMANS BLOCK 2009



WEIGHTMANS BLOCK 2022

## THE EARLY FINDINGS ARE:

- The waterways and riparian zones targeted by our early revegetation efforts have measurably improved in terms of vegetation and foreshore condition. Those areas that have received no revegetation remain in a static but somewhat degraded condition.
- There is a total of 25.2ha of remnant vegetation on the property, including upland and riparian zones, however over 50% of the remnant vegetation is in an average and degraded state, much of this due to weed infestations which plague many parts of the region.
- The Western Minnow, a small fish endemic to the South West, is confirmed to be at Voyager Estate. Sadly, it is listed as vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act, however, a study undertaken by Murdoch University on our dams suggest that the species is doing particularly well here at the estate.



ULLINGERS BLOCK 2006



ULLINGERS BLOCK 2022



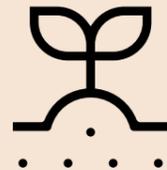
## RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2022, Voyager was powered by 27% renewable energy, with 156kW of solar panels installed across three sites at the winery and vineyard.



## VOYAGER COMMUNITY

Over \$11,000 has been donated to local community groups and events including the Wallcliffe Fire Brigade, Scott River Charity Ball, River Angels, Radio Margaret River, Football Margaret River and Cowaramup Bay Boardriders.



## LANDCARE & REVEGETATION

59,800 seedlings planted since revegetation and landcare projects began in 2007.



## BIODIVERSITY

Voyager Estate is in the top 10% of all Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (SWA) members in terms of biodiversity protection area, with around 25ha of land under remnant and restored vegetation.



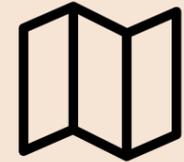
## 100% CERTIFIED ORGANIC

As of 2023, all our vineyards are certified with Australian Certified Organic (ACO) – meaning healthy soils and no synthetic inputs.



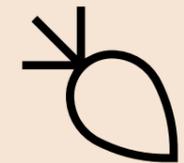
## COMPOSTING

100% of our grape marc and garden waste, and 50% of kitchen organics (from food preparation) are composted onsite. Starting in 2023, our compost is now fully certified organic for use in the vineyard.



## CAPE-TO-CAPE TRACK

Since 2013, we have donated around 1,000 hours of volunteer staff time to look after a 4km stretch of the iconic Cape-to-Cape walking track.



## GROW LOCAL

In 2022, we started supplying fresh vegetables to the Voyager Estate Restaurant, grown in our adjacent market garden on The Landsmith Home Farm. In 2023, Head Chef Travis Crane and team started managing the kitchen garden, true farm-to-table.

## 2023 IS THE FIRST TIME THAT EVERY GRAPE GROWN AT VOYAGER ESTATE IS CERTIFIED ORGANIC.

Our journey to organics began many years ago, so progressing from an already organically-focused vineyard to a certified one was more of a small step than a giant leap for us. In 2004, the team began trialling an organic farming approach to our heritage Old Block Cabernet. Subsequently, our organics journey was formalised over a 'kicking the dirt' chat with proprietor Alexandra Burt in 2016.

In 2017, the three-year process of organic certification began. This first stage was completed in January 2020, with one-third of the vineyard achieving organic certification. At the same time, the winery and winemaking process was also certified and from 2023, every grape grown on the Estate is certified organic.

Since committing to certification, we have continued shifting our practices in various ways – this often means replacing herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides with blood, sweat and tears. The organics path is not always easy, and some of those tried and tested safety nets are removed.

Our vineyard team has carefully and lovingly put in place various actions that yield results. These practices include using beneficial bugs to combat pests, cover cropping in the inter-rows, making (and applying) our own compost yearly, and using precision irrigation and data to manage and conserve water. From 2021, the vine prunings were mulched and added to our compost, and not a single soil health-building opportunity in the vineyard has been lost.

In 2022, we introduced a small flock of ducks into one of our vineyards to test more natural snail control methods, with some early promising results. We have been using sheep to graze the vineyards in winter for many years to keep the weeds down and add natural fertiliser.



While there are many complex indicators and influences on soil health, soil carbon is one of the most important indicators. From 2018 to 2022, soil organic carbon increased by nearly half a per cent across 13 sample sites in the vineyard. This might not sound like much, but to give you some idea, even a 0.5% increase in soils similar to those in our vineyards can result in an extra 5-7 tonnes of carbon stored in the soil per ha, which is equivalent to a round-trip from Perth to London.

Our vineyard team's primary driver is always building the health and resilience of our vineyard, putting nutrition and complexity back into the soils to make them truly sustainable for the future. The rigorous standards required to achieve formal certification keep everyone focused on what is often challenging but ultimately rewarding work.

**[Click here to watch our short film](#)** and discover the story our first fully-certified organic vintage.

## IN MARCH 2023, WE BECAME SILVER MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL WINERIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION.

International Wineries for Climate Action (IWCA) was founded in February 2019 by Familia Torres (Spain) and Jackson Family Wines (USA), two leading global wine families.

Membership is open to wineries who recognise that climate change is the most significant threat to the wine community and are guided by the urgency for strategic action to accelerate innovative solutions.

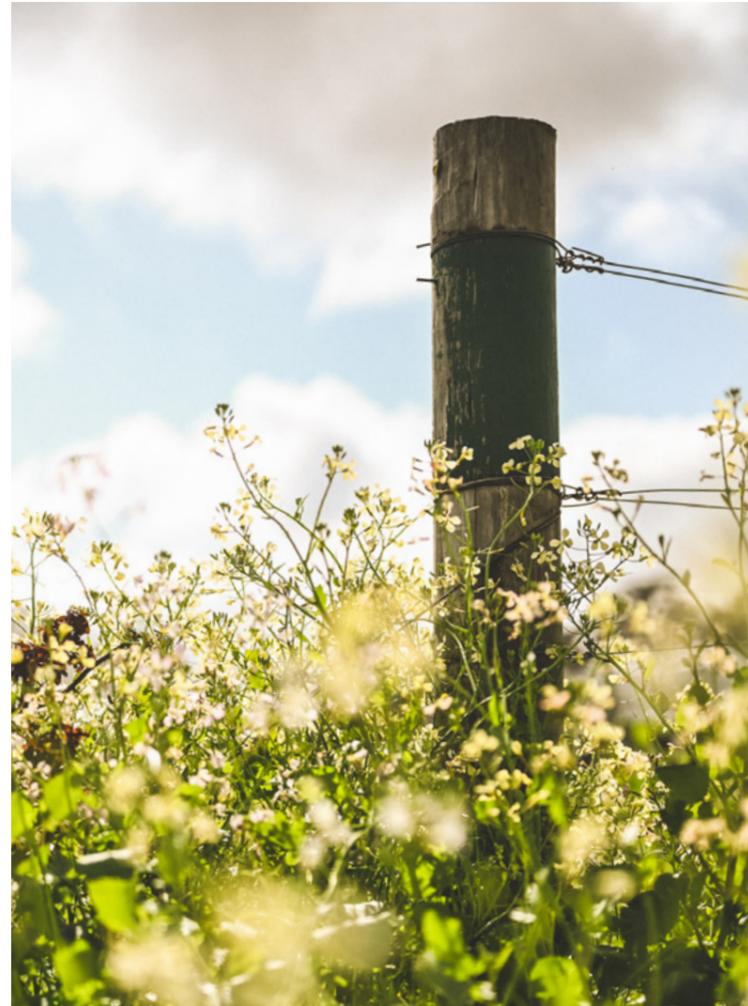
Once we were accepted as an Applicant Member in 2021, our first step was to complete a comprehensive measurement and calculation of Voyager Estate's greenhouse gas emissions and commit to practical steps towards Net Zero (carbon neutral) emissions by 2050. We're delighted that we completed that work one year later to enable us to achieve Silver Membership.

Our efforts in 2022 focused on confirming our biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and identifying what will be the key focus areas of our energy and emissions reductions.

We completed a third-party audited baseline for the year 2019 – to avoid any impacts from the anomalies of 2020 onwards with COVID-19 (you know we had to mention it at least once).

Using the 2019 data as a baseline, our aim is to reduce our emissions by 35% in 2030 and get to Net Zero in 2050 by reducing 85 tonnes per year on average.

[Click here to view the IWCA Annual Report](#) showcasing a global benchmark for emissions reduction in the wine sector.



**“I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING AND NURTURING THE LAND AT VOYAGER ESTATE FOR 15 YEARS, LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER OUR EARLIER DAYS OF CONVENTIONAL FARMING. THE DIFFERENCE FROM THEN TO NOW IS, WELL, ASTOUNDINGLY GOOD. WORKING WITH NATURE TO ENHANCE PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE, IS REALLY REWARDING. I’M SO PROUD OF ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AS A TEAM.”**

ALEX MILLER, TECHNICAL VITICULTURALIST

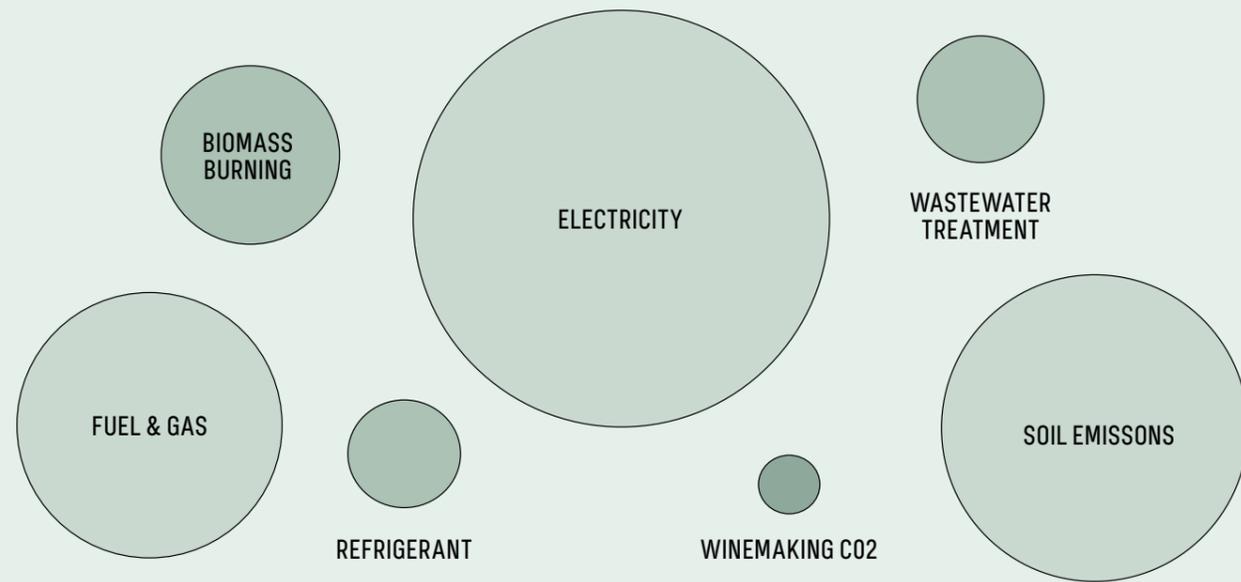
## UNDERSTANDING OUR FOOTPRINT

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised as either scope one, two or three. Scope one emissions are from our direct operations (such as fuel used for tractors), and scope two is electricity emissions. We generally have greater direct influence or control over scope one (such as fuel use), and to some extent, scope two (electricity use). Scope one and two are around 46% of our emissions footprint at Voyager Estate.

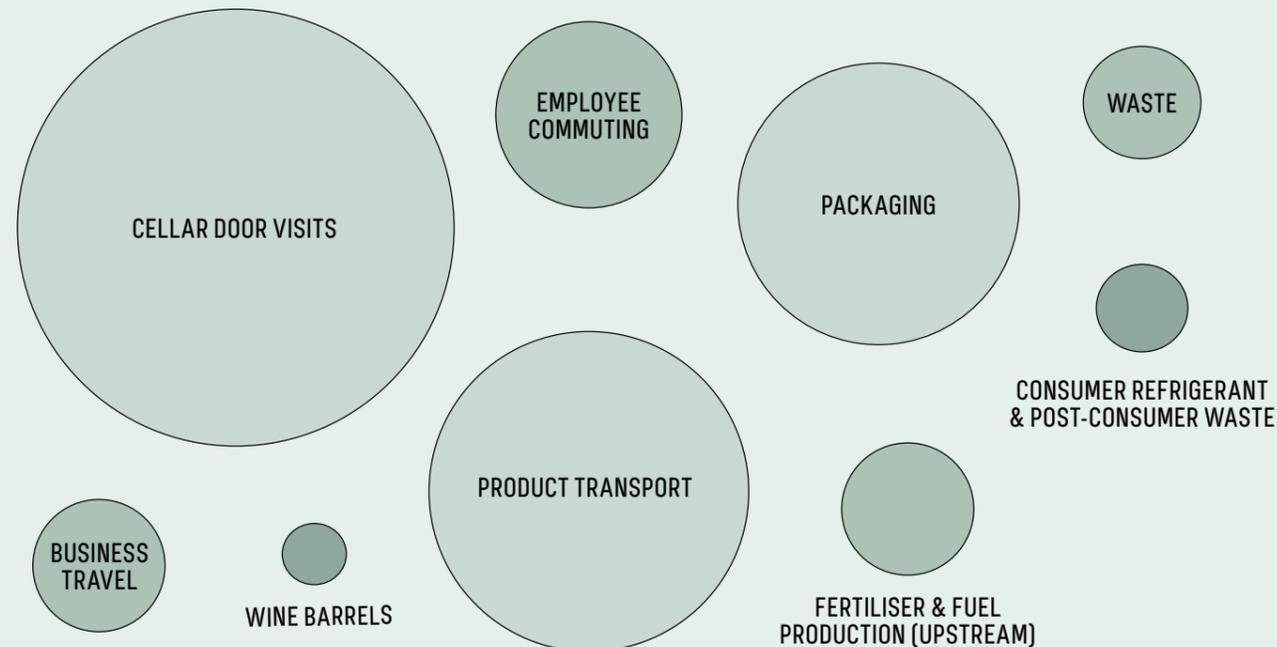
Scope three emissions are those associated with our supply chain, including packaging, product transport, oak barrels and employees commuting to and from work. These are sometimes called ‘indirect’ – because we rely more on other people and businesses to come to the table with products, processes, and technologies to make these more greenhouse-friendly (around 54% at Voyager Estate).



## SCOPE ONE & TWO – DIRECT OPERATIONS & ELECTRICITY



## SCOPE THREE – INDIRECT OPERATIONS



## EMISSION REDUCTIONS

Our key focus areas for action over the next three to five years are in scope one and two, and where we can source readily available technology, materials and equipment. These actions will sit alongside ongoing, consistent reductions in waste generation and electricity use as part of day-to-day operations.

### ENERGY & RENEWABLES

- Increase solar and/or other renewable energy installations (feasibility underway).
- Research and understand lower emissions fuels and/or electrification for mobile plant<sup>1</sup> in the vineyard and gardens.

### CARBON STORAGE

- Established plantings to add biodiversity and carbon storage, generating third-party verified carbon credits to offset those harder-to-shift emissions.<sup>3</sup>

### PACKAGING & TRANSPORT

- Increased use of recycled, reusable, or environmentally-preferred packaging materials.
- Introduce light-weight bottles to four wines in 2023 and continue to standardise packaging, which helps avoid cardboard waste.
- Research alternative packaging landscape and fully assess impacts of a product's life cycle.<sup>2</sup>
- Continued analysis of the potential for bulk wine transport and bottling closer to east coast Australia distribution points.



<sup>1</sup> - Mobile plant is any piece of work equipment, appliance, vehicle, container, or tool that is provided with some form of self-propulsion and is under the direct control of an operator.

<sup>2</sup> - Evaluating the environmental impacts during the length of time from a product first being introduced to consumers until it is removed from the market.

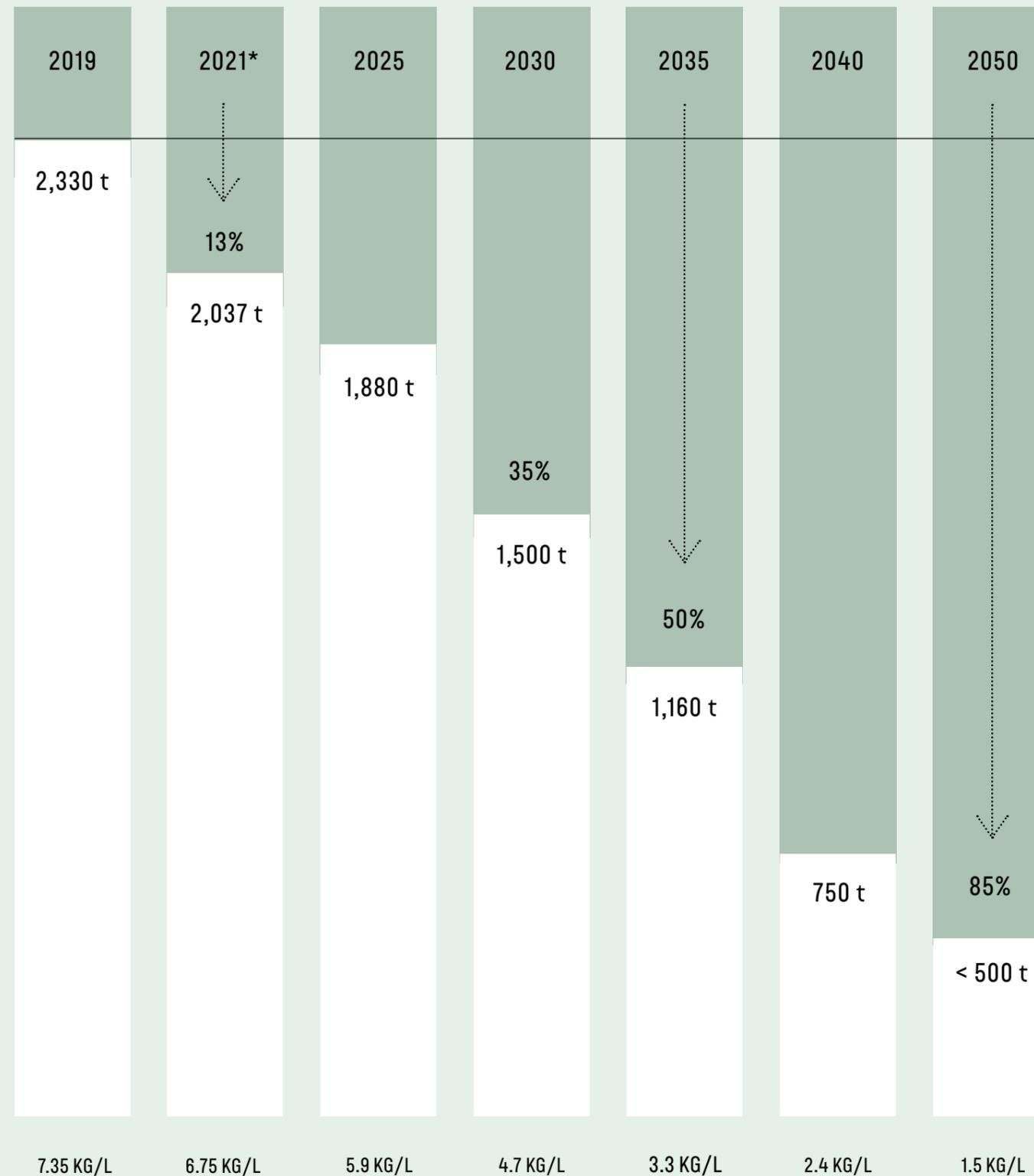
<sup>3</sup> - A process of creating verified carbon projects is called insetting or creation of insets rather than offsets, which happen somewhere else.

# REDUCING OUR EMISSIONS

## LOOKING FORWARD

As part of our membership with IWCA, we're committed to reducing our 2019 carbon baseline by 50% by 2035 in order to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Net Zero refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. It means that by the year 2050, we aim to reduce as many emissions from our operation as possible – and balance those emissions by drawing down carbon through soil or vegetation projects on our own farmland or supporting others through credible offset projects.



\*2021 is an accurate, audited figure, not an estimate.



## TOTAL EMISSIONS VS KILOGRAMS OF CO2 PER LITRE

Wine businesses often report emissions in the form of a 'kg of CO2-e per litre of production' figure, which enables comparison across different wineries and varying years of production.

Comparing businesses needs to be done cautiously, as no two wine producers are the same. Some have restaurants, offer tastings and cellar door experiences, while others focus on growing grapes and making wine.

The 'kg of CO2-e per litre' figure measures emissions per litre of wine produced every year. It helps us check if we are making genuine progress over time, regardless of how much wine we produce each year.

## A SAFE WORKPLACE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY UNDERPIN ALL THE WORK WE DO AT VOYAGER ESTATE.

Our sustainability initiatives are focused on targeting reductions in negative environmental impact and an increase in our contribution to our community. However, people and safety are crucial in understanding where these two foundational elements sit within Voyager Estate. We have a dedicated Safety Coordinator, and a Safety Committee that comprises of representatives from across all teams within the business.

Our monthly program of safety inspections and ongoing incident reporting encourages a 'let's get better together' attitude and approach. An annual workplace health and safety plan is developed and signed off by all committee members and teams.

### SOME RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Training programs completed in the past 12 months included a five-day comprehensive health and safety training program and risk assessment training.
- 17 workplace inspections were done by the committee and employee area representatives.
- 72 corrective actions were identified during the inspections; some of these are immediate, others are more long-term actions.
- >90% corrective actions were closed out by the end of the year.

### ADDITIONAL LINKS, PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

[Australian Certified Organic](#)

[Sustainable Winegrowing Australia](#)

[Wine Australia Emissions Roadmap for the Australian Wine Sector](#)

[International Wineries for Climate Action \(IWCA\)](#)

[Friends of the Cape-to-Cape Track](#)

In 2021, we established Voyager Community to help provide funding and support to areas that mean a lot to us. Entirely managed by our staff, Voyager Community is fully independent of senior management in the business, giving our people all the say in how our community is supported.

This is additional to our 20+ year program of wine donations and sponsorships, which carries on. Voyager Community ensures our support makes a meaningful difference to this magnificent region we call home.

The following are a list of local initiatives we've been able to fund and support.

### COWARAMUP BAY BOARDRIDERS

CBB is a club run by volunteers that donate hundreds of hours to help organise and judge competitions, gather prizes, run camps and develop new mental health activities. We provided new rash vests for the groms hitting the surf this year.

### FOOTBALL MARGARET RIVER

Football Margaret River is a youth-orientated local sports club with over 200 kids registered each year. We were able to support them by funding new flags for their program.

### READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL

Voyager Estate assisted in hosting two extra sessions focusing on community health and well-being.

### RADIO MARGARET RIVER

Voyager Community funded for two months of Community Call-Outs notices, which helps support the community station while giving community organisations more exposure in promoting their fundraising events.

### RIVER ANGELS

River Angels hosted their inaugural Garden Party Fundraiser and this year we assisted by covering the cost of marquee hire. The event was attended by over 200 people and over \$25,000 was raised.

### KARRIDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Karridale PS are creating a native garden/land artwork with the guidance of Indigenous Custodians of the land. To highlight this they are creating three large murals by local artist Lisa Calosi, which we support by covering some of the costs involved in these murals.

### WALLCLIFFE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Voyager Community provided funds to assist the Wallcliffe Bush Fire Brigade with bitumising their training area.

### SCOTT RIVER CHARITY BALL

We provided funding for the regional event to help support the Royal Flying Doctors and the services it provides. 380 guests attended the ball and over \$90,000 was raised.

