

WRI Membership Charter

1. Purpose of the Charter

The WRI Membership Charter outlines the mutual expectations, responsibilities and commitments between the Waite Research Institute (WRI) and its members fostering a collaborative, inclusive and impact-driven research community. It should be read in conjunction with the **WRI Membership Policy** and the **Adelaide University Research Institutes & Centres Policy**.

This Charter applies to all categories of WRI membership – Research Leader, Full, Associate and Affiliate – and to any person seeking membership, articulating the reciprocal relationship required to sustain a high-performing, strategically aligned research environment.

2. WRI Culture and Values

WRI's culture is shaped its role as a flagship Adelaide University Research Institute supporting innovation across agrifood and wine. Our values reflect both Waite's century-long collaborative legacy and future-facing trans-disciplinary ethos. Members commit and WRI promotes a culture that is:

Collaborative and trans-disciplinary

- Connecting plant, soil, food, wine, engineering, biological and socio-economic research to deliver solutions across AFW value chains.

Inclusive and respectful

- Upholding equity, diversity and inclusion through reflective practice, cultural awareness, and environments where all members feel valued.

Impact-Orientated and Industry-Engaged

- Driving scientific, economic, social and environmental impact locally and globally through strong relationships with research organisations, industry, government, and community.

Future-ready and Development Focused

- Supporting the next generation through mentoring, capability building, translational pathways and opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship building.

Ethical and responsible

- Adhering to research integrity, safe conduct, open and responsible research practices, and University wide codes and policies.

3. Responsibilities of WRI members

Regardless of membership category commit, all members commit to:

Strategic alignment

- Members should demonstrate research interests that intersect with the mission of the WRI, particularly its research focus areas and agrifood and wine strategic themes while recognising that their broader research portfolio may extend beyond these areas.
- Contributing to WRI's visibility, impact and collaboration goals.

Engagement and contribution

- Actively participate in the WRI community, through WRI initiatives (seminars, workshops, working groups, precinct activities).
- Sharing updates to support WRI reporting, external engagement and annual review processes.

Collaboration and partnerships

- Contribute to interdisciplinary and industry-led collaboration`.
- Contributing to external engagement, impact pathways and industry/government partnerships where relevant.

Culture and collegiality

- Demonstrating professional conduct, collegiality, respect and inclusive practices.
- Supporting a cohesive research community, including mentoring ECR/MCR researchers and HDRs.

Acknowledgement and representation

- Acknowledging WRI in relevant outputs, proposals, presentations, and communications as appropriate.
- Acting as an ambassador for WRI and Adelaide University within professional networks.

4. WRI commitment to members

WRI commits to supporting members through:

A collaborative and impact-enabling environment

Providing platforms for collaboration, knowledge exchange, mentorship and research translation across the Waite precinct.

Professional recognition and visibility

Offering promotion of member work through WRI channels (website, social media, reports, seminars), strengthening research reputation and networks.

Strategic and developmental support

- Support for building partnerships across the Waite precinct, industry, government and global networks.
- Access to strategic funding initiatives, seed grants, mentoring and capacity-building programs.

Inclusive and reflective research culture

- Creating spaces for dialogue, EDI reflection and continuous culture-building.
- Supporting safe, ethical and respectful research environments.

Transparent governance and feedback pathways

Ensuring membership processes, expectations and opportunities remain clear, fair, and aligned to Adelaide University policy.

WRI will continuously refine its membership program through feedback, reviews and strategic planning processes.

5. Membership Categories

Full details sit in the **Waite Research Institute Membership Policy**; the Charter reflects the shared expectations across:

- **Research Leader Members**
- **Full Members**
- **Associate Members**
- **Affiliate Members**

These categories follow the structure authorised under the **Research Institutes & Centres Policy**.

Each category carries tailored benefits and responsibilities (as defined in the Policy), but all share the collective expectations in Sections 3 and 4 of this Charter.

6. Review, renewal and good standing

Members agree to participate in WRI's periodic review process (normally every three years), providing updates on outputs, engagement and impact.

Membership remains contingent upon:

- continued eligibility,
- reasonable engagement with WRI activities, and
- alignment with WRI's mission and University conduct standards.

7. WRI Membership Pledge

By accepting or renewing membership of the Waite Research Institute, I confirm that:

I have read and understood this Membership Charter and the WRI Membership Policy.

I commit to contributing to WRI's mission of advancing impactful research across the agriculture, food and wine sectors — in South Australia and globally.

I will uphold WRI's values, foster a collaborative and inclusive culture, and engage meaningfully in WRI activities.

I will acknowledge WRI appropriately in WRI-aligned research outputs and represent the institute professionally in my networks.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____