

<sup>1</sup> ,  
<sup>2</sup> Graphical Abstract

<sup>3</sup> **An exploratory analysis of the influence of resource use on the yield**  
<sup>4</sup> **verse quality trade-off in Australian vineyards**

<sup>5</sup> Bryce Polley



## <sup>6</sup> Highlights

<sup>7</sup> **An exploratory analysis of the influence of resource use on the yield**  
<sup>8</sup> **verse quality trade-off in Australian vineyards**

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<sup>10</sup>     • Research highlight 1

<sup>11</sup>     • Research highlight 2

12 An exploratory analysis of the influence of resource use  
13 on the yield verse quality trade-off in Australian  
14 vineyards

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16 **Abstract**

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20 **1. Introduction**

21 The global focus on sustainability in agronomic industries has changed the  
22 way in which these enterprises do business. When strategies for a sustainable  
23 winegrowing industry are assessed, there is a trade-off between balancing the  
24 amount of resources invested and the resultant yield verses quality produced.  
25 This dilemma exists across agriculture through shared fundamental consider-  
26 ations such as water use and nitrogen levels (Hemming et al., 2020; Kawasaki  
27 and Uchida, 2016; ZHU et al., 2017). Quality in viticulture (the cultivation  
28 of grapes for wine production) is driven through its integration within the  
29 wine industry; with a wine’s potential quality being initially defined through  
30 the chemical makeup of the grapes used in its production. The consideration  
31 of sustainability within viticulture is further complicated by environmental

32 and socio-demographic pressures. In the Australian context, these include:  
33 biosecurity, climate and international market demands.

34 In this analysis we observe relationships between yield and quality through  
35 the use of linear models. Although an extensive amount of research into a  
36 variety of factors' effect on grape quality and yield exists; due to the lack  
37 of long-term and in-depth data, individual effects are often studied in isola-  
38 tion (Abbal et al., 2016). The lack of consolidated datasets also restricts the  
39 ability to gain statistical insights at large scales and across multiple regions  
40 (Keith Jones, 2002; Knight et al., 2019). The dataset used for this analysis  
41 includes data collected for the past 10 years from a multitude of vineyards  
42 located over a diverse range of Australian winegrowing regions.

43 We aim to use this broad dataset to confirm the existence of a yield verse  
44 quality trade off within Australian winegrowing; one not prior confirmed ex-  
45 plicitly across such extensive diversities. In achieving this, the context of  
46 how resource-use relates to yield and quality will also be described. We link  
47 these relations to the potential for improvement through decision-making  
48 processes, whilst highlighting that the way moving forward will require the  
49 optimisation of these processes. The practical addition of these aims is a  
50 baseline for comparison - given a vineyard within Australia, one could ex-  
51 trapolate their comparative efficiency with regard to the tradeoff between  
52 invested resources, yield and quality.

## 53 **2. Methods**

54 We created four linear models to explore relationships between resource-  
55 use and vineyard outputs (see Table1). The data was sourced from Sustain-

Table 1: Summary of models; their predictors, covariates and variable interactions.

	Response	Predictors	Covariates	Interactions
<b>Model 1</b>	Yield	Water Used Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested Year GI Region	N/A
<b>Model 2</b>	$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area Harvested}}$	Water Used Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested Year GI Region	Area Harvested * Scope 1 Emissions Area Harvested * Water Use Year * Region
<b>Model 3</b>	Yield $\times$ Average Sale Price	Water Used Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested Year GI Region	N/A
<b>Model 4</b>	$\frac{\text{Yield} \times \text{Average Sale Price}}{\text{Area Harvested}}$	Water Used Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested Year GI Region	Area Harvested * Scope 1 Emissions Area Harvested * Water Use Year * Region

able Winegrowing Australia and Wine Australia. Variables used included: yield, average sale price, region, water use, emissions, area harvested and year. After fitting to the data, each model was validated using k-fold cross validation.

### 2.1. Analysis

Before models were fit to the data, Pearson Correlation Coefficients were used to look at the existence of linear relationships between predictor variables. These relationships were summarised in correlation matrices to compare the level of interaction present between predictor variables. The relationships between the predictors and response variables were then modelled using General Linear Models. Both the Pearson Correlation Coefficients and General Linear Models were created using the R statistical programming

68 language (R Core Team, 2021). General Linear Models were chosen as they  
69 offer the ability to produce statistical models that are explicit in the relation-  
70 ships between predictors and response variables. General Linear Models also  
71 allow the exploration of interactions between predictors and present easily  
72 comparable differences in the influence and magnitude of relationships. A  
73 variety of alternate methods were also explored, including: Splines, hierar-  
74 chical regression, General Additive Models, and Generalised Linear Models.  
75 These alternative approaches were not used as final models due to offering  
76 no further insights or improvements in accuracy.

77 The response variables of the models were yield and quality. Yield was de-  
78 fined as the total tonnes of grapes harvested. For the purpose of this study,  
79 quality was defined by the financial value of winegrape crops' average sale  
80 price per tonne. The definition of quality was an important consideration,  
81 as quality can be defined in a variety of ways, for example analysing grapes':  
82 aroma, chemical composition and color. Using sale price as a defining trait  
83 of quality was due to the market value of winegrapes being reliant on grape  
84 quality and because Wine Australia explicitly defines grape quality through  
85 the use of discrete price brackets in their annual reports ; the generalisation  
86 made to reflect quality through using average price assumed a due diligence of  
87 those who purchased the grapes (Yegge, 2001). Both response variables were  
88 examined as totals and as scales of area harvested. Values were compared in  
89 this manner to observe how economies of scale affect the use of resources.

## 90 2.2. Significant Tests

## 91 2.3. Data

92 Data used in this analysis was sampled by Sustainable Winegrowing Aus-  
93 tralia and Wine Australia. Sustainable Winegrowing Australia is Australia's  
94 national wine industry sustainability program, which aims to facilitate grape-  
95 growers and winemakers in demonstrating and improving their sustainability  
96 (SWA, 2022). Wine Australia is an Australian Government statutory author-  
97 ity governed by the Wine Australia Act 2013 (Win, 2019).

98 Data sampled by Wine Australia was collected via phone surveys and in-  
99 cluded: summary statistics such as yield and average price of sale per tonne;  
100 these values were summarised by region and grape varietal. Data recorded  
101 by Sustainable Winegrowing Australia was entered manually by winegrowers  
102 using a web based interface with some fields being optional, variables in-  
103 cluded: region, harvest year, yield, area harvested, water used and fuel used  
104 (diesel, petrol, biodiesel and LPG). To enable direct comparisons between  
105 fuels, they were converted to tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

106 The inclusion of Wine Australia data was due to average sale price being  
107 an optional field in Sustainable Winegrowing Australia's dataset. Regional  
108 average prices from Wine Australia were filled into values that were missing  
109 from the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia data; the common practice of  
110 purchasing grapes at regional prices was an important consideration in this  
111 decision. Two subsets of data were then created for the analysis. The first  
112 subset contained all vineyards and was used for Models 1 and 3. The second  
113 subset contained vineyards which either recorded a value for average price of  
114 sale per tonne through Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, or were within a

115 region with an average price of sale recorded by Wine Australia; this subset  
116 was used for Models 2 and 4. These subsets meant that the data would be  
117 limited to samples which had recorded values for the response variables (see  
118 Table1), where every sample had a recorded value for yield but not average  
119 price of sale per tonne.

120 The first subset of data was used for Model 1 and Model 2 (see Table1).  
121 This subset contained 5298 samples spanning the period from 2012 to 2022,  
122 covering 55 GI Regions and 1261 separate vineyards.

123 The second subset of data, was limited to vineyards that recorded a value  
124 for their average sale price of grapes per tonne. This subset was used for  
125 Model 3 and Model 4 (see Table1); and contained 2878 samples spanning  
126 the period from 2015 to 2022, covering 51 GI Regions and 944 separate vine-  
127 yards. 1842 of the values for average price of sale per tonne were extracted  
128 from Wine Australia surveys with the remaining 1036 being from Sustainable  
129 Winegrowing Australia’s dataset.

130 Additional variables were considered for analysis but were excluded due to  
131 being either underreported or had insignificant contributions to model accu-  
132 racies. Variables explored but not used due to low reporting values included:  
133 fertiliser, and scope 2 emissions. Variables considered but ultimately removed  
134 due to a lack of significant contributions to models, included: the use of re-  
135 newable energy, contractor use, and pressures such as frost, fire and disease.  
136 Data preprocessing was conducted prior to analysis using the Python pro-  
137 gramming language (G. van Rossum, 1995). Preprocessing included logarith-  
138 mic transformations, centring and scaling by standard deviation. Variables  
139 such as scope 1, which required prior calculations were also computed using



140 Python.

#### 141 2.4. Total Emissions

142 The equation given from the Australian National Greenhouse Accounts  
143 Factors, shown as

$$144 \quad tCO_2e = \frac{Q \times EC \times EF1 + EF3}{1000}, \quad (1)$$

145  
146 was used to convert the quantity of fuel in litres,  $Q$ , using a prescribed  
147 Energy Content,  $EC$ , and emission factors of scope one,  $EF1$ , and scope  
148 three,  $EF3$ , to tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent,  $tCO_2e$  (Department  
149 of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2022). Emissions  
150 were calculated for total diesel, petrol, bio-diesel and LPG used.

#### 151 2.5. Region

152 Differences in vineyard locations were captured through the use of Ge-  
153 ographical Indicator Regions (GI Regions). Each GI Region has its own  
154 unique mixture of climatic and geophysical properties that describes a unique  
155 winegrowing region within Australia; these regions were predefined by Wine  
156 Australia (Halliday, 2009; Oliver et al., 2013; SOAR et al., 2008). Both Wine  
157 Australia and Sustainable Winegrowing Australia used the same GI Region  
158 format to describe location.

159 The site of a vineyard predetermines several physical parameters such as cli-  
160 mate, geology and soil; making location a widely considered key determinant  
161 of grape yield and quality (Abbal et al., 2016; Agosta et al., 2012; Fraga  
162 et al., 2017). The climatic properties of each GI Region were summarised by

163 using predefined classifications as per the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia  
164 (2021) user manual. The user manual describes climates by rainfall and tem-  
165 perature, creating supersets of Regions of similar climatic properties. The  
166 climatic groups were used to illustrate similarities and differences occurring  
167 in areas larger than GI Regions.

## 168 *2.6. Model Validation*

169 Models were validated using K-fold cross validation calculated through  
170 the R Caret Package (Kuhn, 2008). K-fold cross validation works by remov-  
171 ing a subset of data from the sample used to train models and then predicts  
172 those variables to determine how sensitive the model is to changes in the sam-  
173 ple data. For this analysis each model was validated using 10 folds, repeated  
174 100 times.

## 175 **3. Results**

### 176 *3.1. Data*

177 Each variable was logarithmically transformed and then centred around  
178 a mean of 0. The values of these variables were then divided by standard  
179 deviation creating a comparable ratio intrinsic to each variable. Table 2  
180 shows the summary statistics of each variable, to contextualise these ratios  
181 to real values.

### 182 *3.2. Exploratory Analysis*

183 Linear relationships between variables were explored using Pearson Cor-  
184 relation Coefficients. Values for these coefficients reflect the linear relation  
185 between two variables, on a scale between -1 and 1; the magnitude and sign

Table 2: Summary statistics of each continuous variable.

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Yield	7.757E+02	2.179E+03	1.000E+00	7.231E+04
Area Harvested	6.670E+05	1.337E+06	7.000E+02	2.436E+07
Water Used	7.471E+06	5.646E+08	1.000E+00	4.268E+10
Scope One Emissions	4.173E+04	8.571E+04	6.755E+00	2.110E+06
$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area}}$	1.009E+01	8.127E+00	4.000E-02	8.634E+01
Average Sale Price	1.477E+03	9.216E+02	1.600E+02	2.600E+04
$\frac{\text{Average Sale Price}}{\text{Area Harvested}}$	1.347E+02	5.711E+02	1.753E-01	2.979E+04

Table 3: Variable Pearson correlation values for logarithmically transformed values.

Variable	Yield	Area Harvested	Water Used	Scope One Emissions	$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area}}$	Average Sale Price	$\frac{\text{Average Sale Price}}{\text{Area Harvested}}$
Yield	1.00E+00	7.44E-01	-4.31E-03	7.29E-01	3.50E-01	-2.26E-01	-1.64E-01
Area Harvested	7.44E-01	1.00E+00	-5.33E-03	8.92E-01	7.85E-02	-1.18E-01	-2.04E-01
Water Used	-4.31E-03	-5.33E-03	1.00E+00	-1.93E-03	-5.60E-03	-3.56E-02	-2.67E-02
Scope One Emissions	7.29E-01	8.92E-01	-1.93E-03	1.00E+00	9.36E-02	-9.42E-02	-1.93E-01
$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area}}$	3.50E-01	7.85E-02	-5.60E-03	9.36E-02	1.00E+00	-4.85E-01	-1.70E-01
Average Sale Price	-2.26E-01	-1.18E-01	-3.56E-02	-9.42E-02	-4.85E-01	1.00E+00	4.73E-01
$\frac{\text{Average Sale Price}}{\text{Area Harvested}}$	-1.64E-01	-2.04E-01	-2.67E-02	-1.93E-01	-1.70E-01	4.73E-01	1.00E+00

186 of a coefficient indicates the strength of the relation, and whether the rela-  
187 tion is positive or negative respectively. This was undertaken for data on the  
188 original scale and for data as a logarithmic transform. The logarithmic trans-  
189 formed data showed the strongest correlations, likely due to a skew caused  
190 by a greater number of smaller vineyards within the dataset (see Table 3).  
191 Transforming data prior to calculating the coefficients changes several things:  
192 The logarithmic transform of the data alters the interpretation of the coef-  
193 ficients to percentage change - a coefficient will be indicative of the change  
194 in percentage of one variable compared to the other; scaling by standard de-  
195 viation also changes this interpretation to be a percentage of that variables  
196 standard deviation. Scaling by standard deviation also makes the Pearson  
197 Correlation Coefficient equal to the covariance of the two variables. With all  
198 this in mind, when considering the logarithmically transformed variables, a  
199 coefficient of 1 would indicate that: given the change of one variable by one  
200 percentage of its standard deviation, the other variable would change by one  
201 percent of its own standard deviation. The importance of this is the dimen-  
202 sionless nature of these relationships and that it can be translated directly  
203 to any vineyard's case that has a well known distribution.  
204 To determine if a coefficient was indicative of a strong relationship, confidence  
205 intervals were used. P-values reflected the significance of a given correlation  
206 coefficient when considering its relation to sample size via its incorporation as  
207 an element of standard error. Strong relationships were found to be present  
208 as all P-values, except for the non-transformed values for water used, were  
209 considered significant ( $P < 2.200E-16$ ).

Table 4: Summary of models; their performance, F-statistics and Residual error.

	$R^2$	$R^2$	F-Statistic	P-Value	Residual Standard Error	Residual Sum of Squares	Residual Mean of Squares
<b>Model 1</b> <b>Yield</b>	9.072E-01	9.061E-01	7.753E+02	2.200e-16	3.065E-01	4.913E+02	1.000E-01
<b>Model 2</b> <b>Yield/Area</b>	7.951E-01	7.770E-01	4.403E+01	2.200e-16	4.722E-01	1.085E+03	2.200E-01
<b>Model 3</b> <b>Value</b>	9.753E-01	9.748E-01	1.885E+03	2.200e-16	1.589E-01	7.111E+01	3.000E-02
<b>Model 4</b> <b>Value / Area</b>	9.669E-01	9.638E-01	3.095E+02	2.200e-16	1.904E-01	9.528E+01	4.000E-02

### 210 3.3. General Linear Models

211 General Linear Models were used to describe how response variables re-  
212 lated to predictors' values. Log transformed variables were used as inputs to  
213 these models as they resulted in higher  $R^2$  values and described the relation-  
214 ships proportionally; reflecting coefficient values as percentages of a variable's  
215 standard deviation. Each model showed a strong relationship between the  
216 predictors and the response (see Table 4). Model accuracy was measured in  
217  $R^2$ , as this allowed an easy comparison between their performances and their  
218 validation.

#### 219 3.3.1. F-tests

220 To determine if predictors significantly related to a Model's response vari-  
221 able, F-tests were conducted. Aside from 3 variables, all F-tests across each  
222 model indicated a significant contribution at 95% confidence. The three ex-  
223 ceptions were: scope 1 emissions in Model 3 (P=2.221E-01) and Model 4  
224 (P=3.621E-01), and Model 2's interaction between area harvested and water

225 used ( $P=2.192E-01$ ).

226 Scope 1 emissions was included in all models to directly compare the response  
227 variables as ratios of vineyard size to raw values. Even though not significant  
228 within models 3 and 4, when using the Pearson Correlation Coefficients scope  
229 1 emissions was strongly correlated to every Model's response variable; this  
230 was especially so for Model 1 and 4 (Yield and average price per tonne as a  
231 ratio to area harvested, respectively).

### 232 3.3.2. *T-tests*

233 T-tests were used to determine if predictors significantly contributed to  
234 their models when accounting for other variables; this allowed a more granu-  
235 lar examination of interactions and factors within categorical variables, show-  
236 ing which specific years and areas contributed significantly and which did not  
237 (the appendix contains a comprehensive list of these values).

238 For Models 1 (yield) and 3 (value) year played a pivotal role, with only one  
239 year in each model not being significant (2021/2022 and 2016/2017 respec-  
240 tively). Both Model 1 and 3 showed a majority of regions were significant  
241 with 32 of 54 regions being significant in Model 1, and 42 of 50 regions being  
242 significant in Model 3 with 95% confidence.

243 The number of combinations of year and region meant that Models 2 and  
244 4 had many tests (424 and 243 respectively). Model 2 found 62.56% of  
245 these combinations were indicative of a significant contribution to the model  
246 at 95% significance. Model 4 was found to have 88.07% of its year/region  
247 combinations indicating a significant contribution. A likely reason for some  
248 combinations not being significant was a lack of samples in that particular  
249 region/year being present; with region sample sizes ranging from 1 to 1006.

250 With regard to continuous variables, Model 1 and 2 showed water use, scope  
251 1 emissions and area harvested were significant at 95% confidence when ac-  
252 counting for other variables. T-tests for Model 3 showed all continuous vari-  
253 ables except scope 1 emissions were significant. Model 4 showed scope 1  
254 emissions and water use to only be significant when considered as an inter-  
255 action with area harvested but not when considered on their own.

### 256 3.3.3. Model Coefficients

257 The coefficients of each model describe the relationship of a predictor  
258 variable to its response when considering all other variables. Due to the  
259 transformations of the data, coefficients are individually interpreted in the  
260 same manner as the prior regression values were (see Section 3.2); unlike the  
261 regression values, coefficient ranges are not limited between -1 and 1, as each  
262 variable needs to be considered together.

263 We look at the coefficients of categorical and continuous variables separately.  
264 This is primarily done as the categorical variables have many coefficients, one  
265 for each category, whilst continuous variables have only one. The coefficient  
266 for categorical variables is summarised in Figure1; illustrating the difference  
267 in the range as well as affect region and year could have on each of the  
268 models. Comparatively, the continuous variables coefficients are summarised  
269 in Table 5. In terms of magnitude, GI region has the highest possible absolute  
270 value for each model. An important consideration is that region and year are  
271 binary, such that they are only equal to zero or the coefficient (as they will  
272 present as a value of 1 which will be multiplied by the coefficient); this means  
273 that, although region may have a strong relationship, it can be overshadowed  
274 by an extreme value of one of the continuous variables. The most notable

Table 5: Summary of each Models coefficients for continuous variables

	Intercept	Area Harvested	Water Used	Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested * Scope 1 Emissions	Area Harvested * Water Used
<b>Model 1</b>	-3.318E-02	7.418E-01	8.660E-02	6.731E-02		
<b>Model 2</b>	-6.516E-01	5.774E-01	1.079E-02	8.498E-02	-4.971E-02	-5.346E-02
<b>Model 3</b>	1.808E-02	9.713E-01	-2.310E-02	-6.992E-03		
<b>Model 4</b>	6.702E-01	-7.354E-01	-6.732E-03	-5.645E-03	2.726E-02	7.515E-02

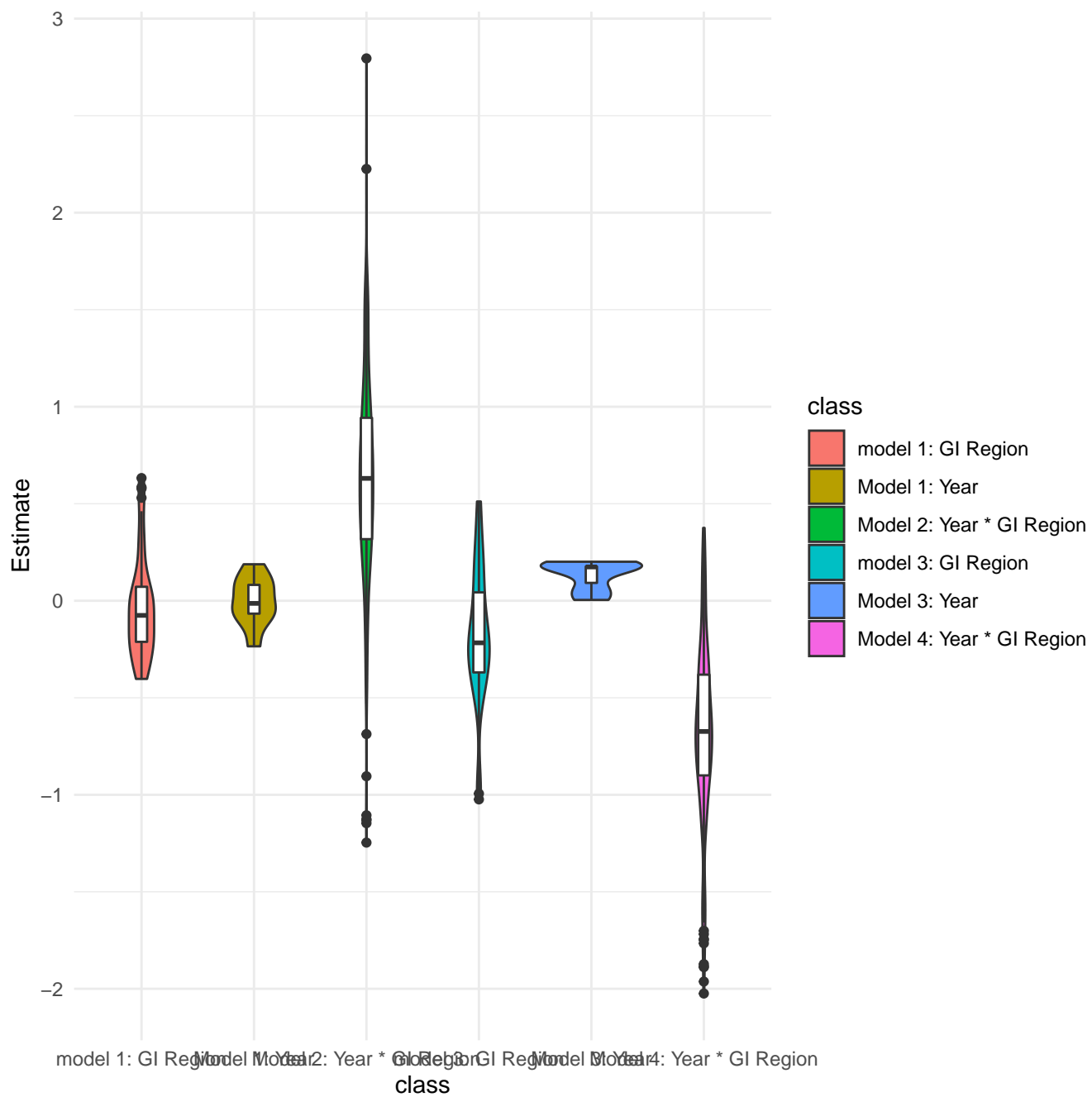
275 difference between the continuous variables coefficients is the change from  
276 positive to negative values. This change occurs between the Models for Yield  
277 (Model 1 and 2) and the Models for value (Models 3 and 4); where all but the  
278 coefficient for area harvested had the opposite sign. These models also differ  
279 in an order of magnitude when looking at resource use, with the coefficients  
280 for yield being smaller than those for value.

#### 281 3.3.4. Model Comparisons: Yield Verse Value

282 Reviewing the data to uncover reasons for this included the use of binary  
283 variables such as the utilisation of renewable energy, contractors, and the  
284 occurrence of disease, fire and frost; however none of these variables were able  
285 to explain why some vineyards produced less, or why other vineyards sold at  
286 higher prices than predicted. A wide variety of these influences were likely  
287 already explained within the use of year and GI Region, or the interaction  
288 of both variables. The change between some regions was dramatic, with  
289 particularly warmer and drier regions producing much higher volumes of



Figure 1: Violin plots of GI Region and Year coefficients for each model.



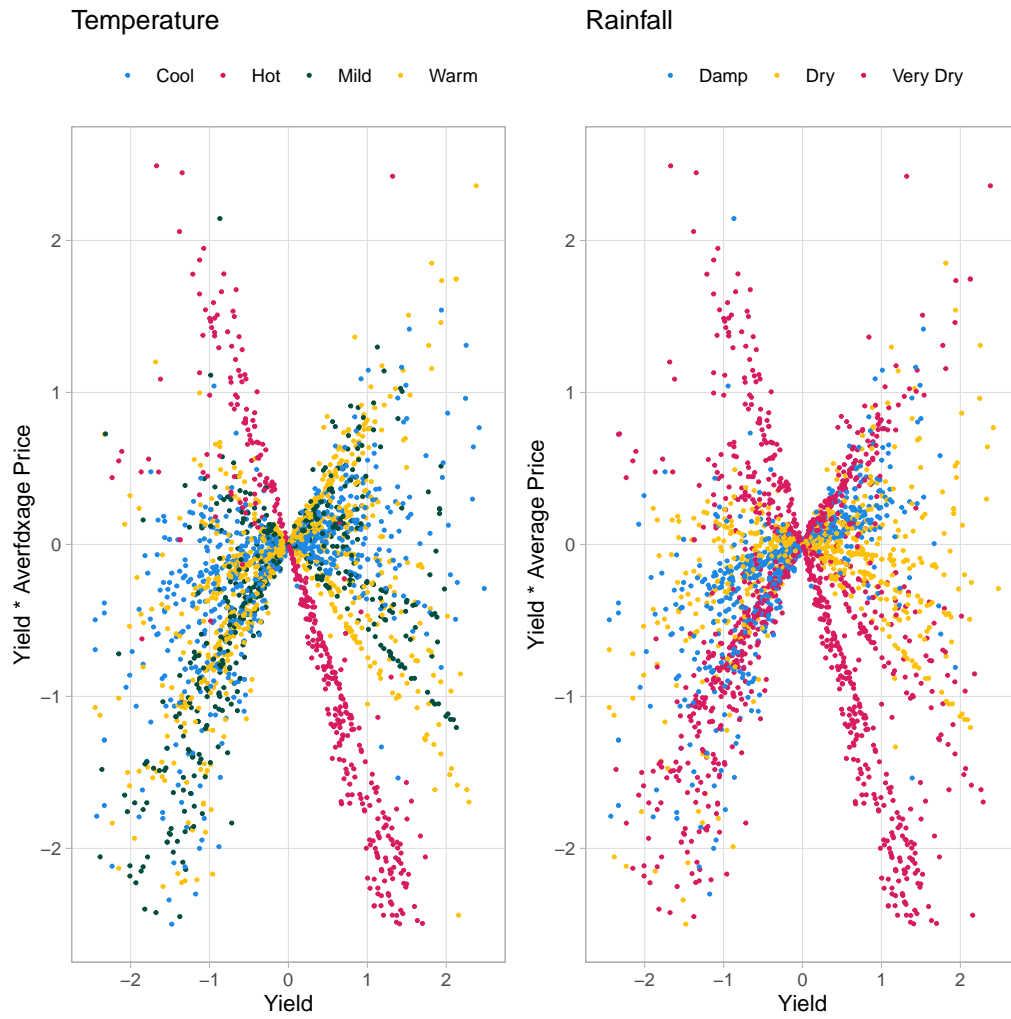


Figure 2: Scatter plot of vineyard yield against the product of yield and average price per tonne. The axes are in standard deviations with points coloured by climate.

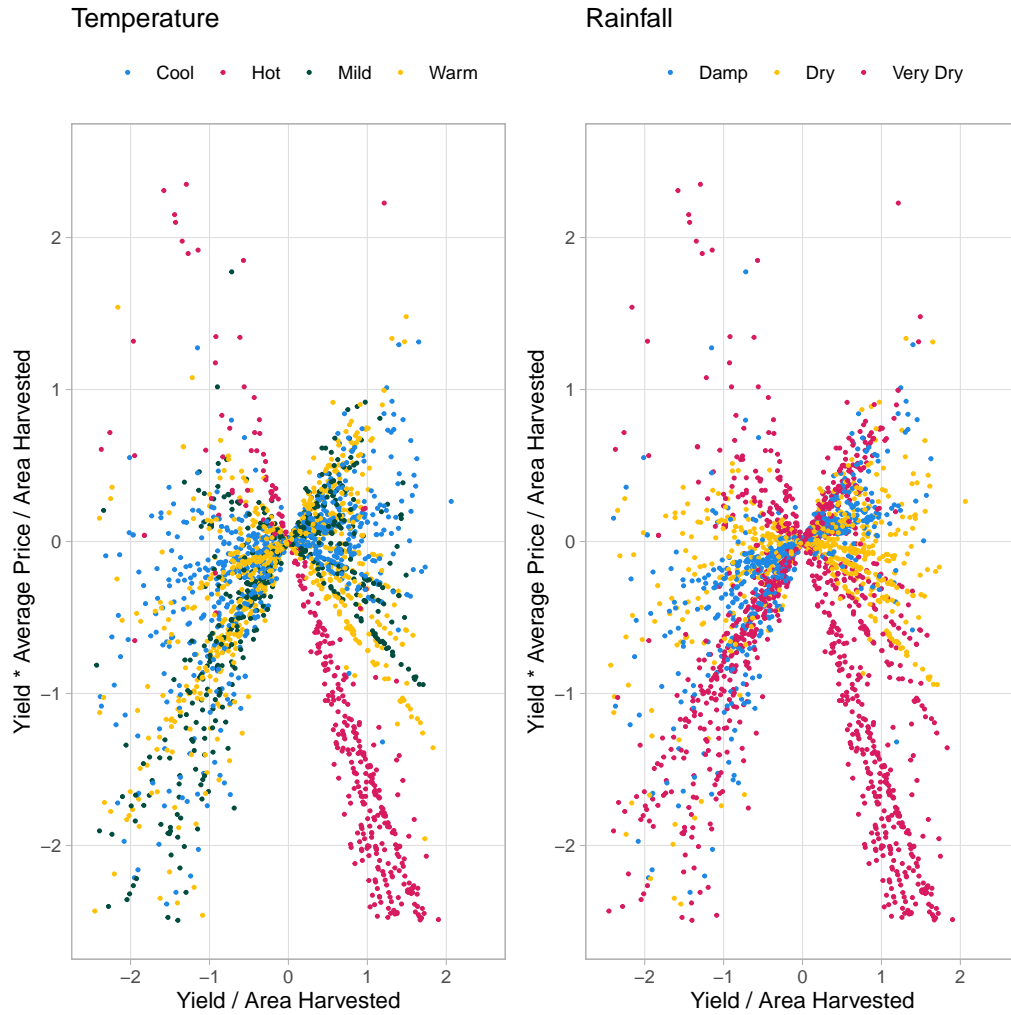


Figure 3: Scatter plot of vineyard yield against the product of yield and average price per tonne as ratios to area harvested. The axes are in standard deviations with points coloured by climate.

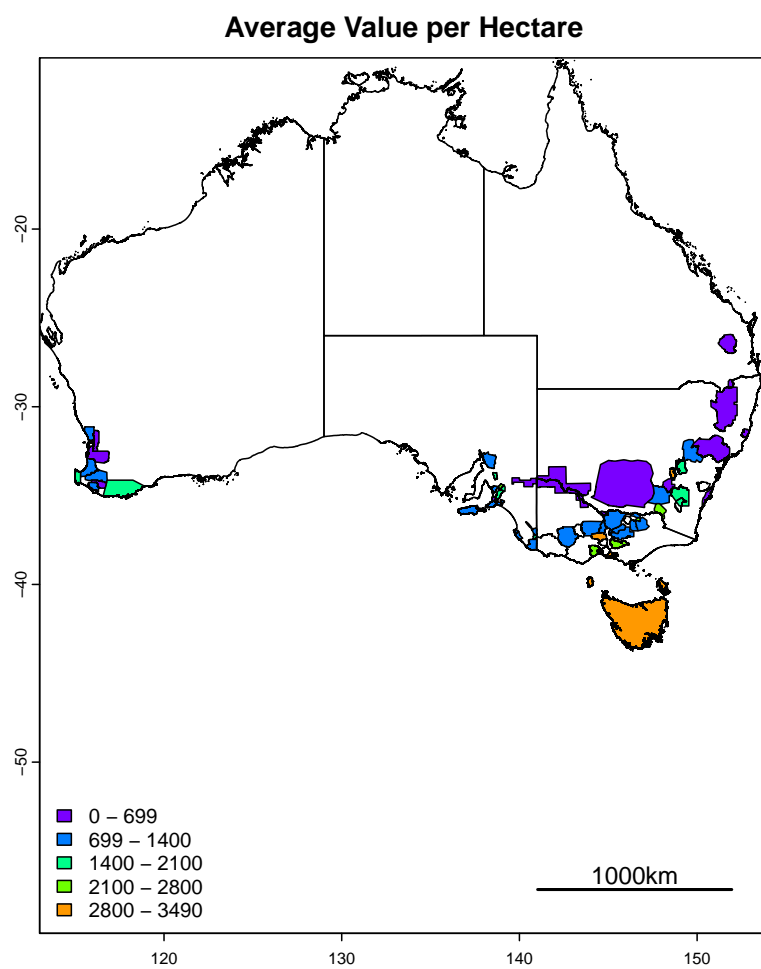


Figure 4: Map of regional average yield and value per hectare.

grapes at lower prices (See Figures 5 and 6). The use of other variables and methods, specifically splines, were able to create a more normally distributed set of residuals but at a drastically reduced accuracy when comparing R2 and RSE. The introduction of known average prices per tonne also helped increase R2 values a small amount; it is important to not that it is common practice for wineries to purchase grapes at a regional average rate, likely resulting in much less variance within a region.

different strategies are likely employed between different regions, where some regions target the mass production of cheaper grapes over quality. This is most notable when grouping regions by climate, especially when considering GI Regions in the 'Hot Very Dry' climate (see Figure 7). The effect of climate in the models was not more significant than the more granular use of GI regions. The interaction between year and GI Region likely accounted for localised events such as bushfires, which would be impactful, but only at a local level in both time and space.

### 3.4. Model Validation

To validate the performance of these models k-fold cross validation was used. This was done using 10 folds,  $k = 10$ , repeated 100 times. The models performed similarly to their original counter parts (see Table ??tab:kfold).

## 4. Discussion

In alternative attempts at models it was found that without the incorporation of GI Region or year the predictions greatly under performed. The possible reason behind this effect was that different strategies are likely em-

Table 6: Model validation using k-fold cross validation, for 10 folds repeated 100 times.

	RMSE	R2	MAE
Model 1	3.087E-01	9.045E-01	2.165E-01
Model 2	5.104E-01	7.409E-01	3.493E-01
Model 3	1.652E-01	9.723E-01	1.008E-01
Model 4	2.235E-01	9.500E-01	1.279E-01

313 played between different regions, where some regions target the mass pro-  
314 duction of cheaper grapes over quality.

#### 315 4.1. Limitations

316 Limitations included overestimating yield for models 1 and 2, (see Figures  
317 1 and 2) and underestimating crop value in models 3 and 4 (see Figures  
318 3 and 4). This study investigated the general relationships between input  
319 resources of a vineyard, including fuel and water, and the outputs including  
320 yield and value. Some regions appeared to produce many low quality grapes  
321 at scale compared to attempting to produce fewer higher quality grapes. This  
322 behaviour can be observed when reviewing Wine Australia’s annual reports,  
323 where it is apparent that warm inland regions such as the Riverland are  
324 known to only produce large amounts of lower graded grapes Wine Australia  
325 (2022); Winemakers’ Federation of Australia (2017). Comparatively, regions  
326 such as Tasmania only produce A grade grapes but in much smaller quantities  
327 than the Riverland. Knowing that the difference in pricing per tonne can  
328 exceed a magnitude of 10 between grades E and A, the operations in regions  
329 that target different grades would have varied priorities. However, some  
330 regions such as the Yarra Valley produce a Variety of different grades of

331 grapes, from C to A, highlighting that vineyard priorities, although may be  
332 somewhat present within regional classifications, are not necessarily aligned  
333 within a given region.

334 The opportunity to target different grades of grapes may not always be  
335 available, with some regions being more renowned than others, and likely to  
336 be sought after regardless (Halliday, 2009). The Barossa is an example of  
337 this, known for its quality could also lend itself to a bias in purchasers not  
338 considering other regions that may be capable of similar quality. This effect  
339 could stifle the potential for market opportunities within these lesser known  
340 regions. A further possibility is that there may be regional upper limits with  
341 the relationship between resource input and the value gained becoming no  
342 longer proportional due to diminishing returns. Climate was considered to be  
343 a large determinant of the ability to grow a larger quantity of grapes, as well  
344 as a determinant in grape quality (Agosta et al., 2012); however there were  
345 vineyards in similar regions that were able to produce exceptionally better  
346 results than others (See Figure 7).

347 The issue of model 1 and 2 over predicting yield, may have been due to  
348 preventative measures brought on by regional pressures such as fire, frost and  
349 disease. Where, more resources were required to prevent these issues from  
350 spreading within a region, thus disproportionately effecting some vineyards  
351 compared to others locally. This type of maintenance is not well captured  
352 especially when considering that some regions, those in warmer areas are  
353 not as prone to disease as cooler climates and could potentially have lower  
354 operating costs per hectare. This could create a discrepancy in vineyards that  
355 utilise preventative measures in wetter regions, as opposed to those who do

not, and thus expend less fuel and energy but risk disease. When reviewing the differences between regions it is important to consider that vineyards in Hot Very Dry areas can be hundreds of times the size of those in other regions. It is interesting that while area, although significantly correlated to the ratio of yield to area, was still lower than water and about the same as emissions. This points to economies of scale playing a role but still being only one consideration alongside the potential resources that can be used. The negative trend between size and average sales price could also be a side effect of mass supply verse demand, especially when looking at the level of difference in production of some vineyards (see Table 4). The relationships between yield, value and area are not simply about efficiently producing the most grapes; sales price and by association grape quality, are integral to the profitability, and this is strongly linked to resource-use and thus the longevity and sustainability of a vineyard.

Literature shows that there are many on-the-ground decisions that influence both quality and yield. Where these decisions are governed by complex physical and social forces such as international market demands, disease pressures and natural disasters (Abad et al., 2021; Cortez et al., 2009; Hall et al., 2011; I. Goodwin, et al., 2009; Kasimati et al., 2022; Oliver et al., 2013; Srivastava and Sadistap, 2018). Many of these occurrences being highlighted throughout the past decades vintage reports (Wine Australia, 2019, 2021, 2022; Winemakers' Federation of Australia, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018). It is also important to consider that these reports show that the warm inland regions have seen a decline in profit during this period, as they were often compared to other regions that focused more on quality than



381 quantity. This is an important consideration, as the size of some of these  
382 vineyards when considering their ratio of value to area would only require a  
383 marginal increase to out compete other regions. There are also differences  
384 when comparing winegrowers to other agricultural industries as they are ver-  
385 tically integrated within the wine industry, tying them to secondary and  
386 tertiary industries, such as wine production, packaging, transport and sales.  
387 This results in unique issues and considerations for each vineyard, where these  
388 on-the-ground decisions may be influenced by other wine industry’s choices,  
389 such as the use of sustainable practices in vineyards as a requirement for sale  
390 in overseas markets; notably these interactions are further complicated by  
391 some winegrowers being totally integrated into wine companies, while others  
392 are not (Knight et al., 2019). Incorporating such decisions into the model  
393 could help describe the contributing factors to regional differences beyond  
394 resource consumption and regional differences.

395 Having more data for each region would also be an improvement, allowing  
396 greater comparison between regions. More variables may also help to discern  
397 vineyards that can produce larger volumes of grapes at higher prices. The use  
398 of semi transparent tools such as random forests and decision trees alongside  
399 more variables and data may help to uncover the reasons for values that  
400 were under or over estimated. These differences could be caused by the use  
401 of alternative sustainable practices in the field. While there is evidence to  
402 suggest that environmentally sustainable practices can reduce costs, increase  
403 efficiency, whilst improving the quality of grapes, more research is needed  
404 to link these benefits across different regions and climates (Baiano, 2021;  
405 Mariani and Vastola, 2015; Montalvo-Falcón et al., 2023).

406 The relationship between scope one emissions and the response variables  
407 that included average sales price

408 It is possible that the relationships between scope one emissions and the  
409 response variables were closely tied to a vineyards area. This possibility could  
410 be explained through the emissions

411 Noting that irrigation systems use fuel and that the application of water  
412 was a significant variable in each model scope one emissions' lack of signifi-  
413 cance and contribution given its F-statistics (See Tables 7 and 8), indicated  
414 that it is possible other vineyard activities requiring fuel are not as deter-  
415 mining factors for a vineyards grape quality.

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Table .7: Summary of models, their predictors, covariates and variable interactions.

Variable	Yield	Area	Water Used	Scope One Emissions	$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area}}$	Average Price Per Tonne	$\frac{\text{Average Price per tonne}}{\text{Area}}$
Yield	1.000E+00	7.440E-01	-	7.290E-01	3.500E-01	-2.262E-01	-1.644E-01
Area	7.440E+00	1.000E+00	5.331E-03	8.921E-01	7.854E-02	-1.178E-01	-2.042E-01
Water Used	-	-	1.000E+00	1.929E-03	-	-3.562E-02	-2.669E-02
Scope One Emissions	7.290E-01	8.921E-01	-	1.000E+00	9.357E-02	-9.422E-02	-1.933E-01
$\frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Area}}$	3.500E-01	7.854E-02	5.600E-03	9.357E-02	1.000E+00	4.849E-01	-1.698E-01
Average Price Per Tonne	-	-	-	-9.422E-02	-	1.000E+00	4.732E-01
$\frac{\text{Average Price per tonne}}{\text{Area}}$	1.644E-01	2.042E-01	2.669E-02	-1.933E-01	-	4.732E-01	1.000E+00

Table .8: Pearson correlation coefficients for each logarithmically transformed variable.

Variable	Yield	Area	Water Used	Scope One Emissions	$\frac{Yield}{Area}$
Yield	1.000E+00	8.822E-01	8.245E-01	7.617E-01	9.353E-01
Area	8.822E-01	1.000E+00	7.750E-01	8.311E-01	6.742E-01
Water Used	8.245E-01	7.750E-01	1.000E+00	6.668E-01	7.292E-01
Scope One Emissions	7.617E-01	8.311E-01	6.668E-01	1.000E+00	6.086E-01
$\frac{Yield}{Area}$	9.353E-01	6.742E-01	7.292E-01	6.086E-01	1.000E+00
Average Price Per Tonne	-4.591E-01	-1.911E-01	-4.881E-01	-1.559E-01	-5.625E-01
$\frac{Average Price per tonne}{Area}$	-8.918E-01	-8.474E-01	-8.300E-01	-7.063E-01	-8.070E-01

Table .9: P-values for the non-transformed water used variable's Pearson correlation coefficients.

Variable	Water Used
Yield	7.538E-01
Area	6.981E-01
Scope One Emissions	8.883E-01
$\frac{Yield}{Area}$	6.836E-01
Average Price Per Tonne	5.600E-02
$\frac{Average Price per tonne}{Area}$	1.522E-01



Table .10: Summary statistics for each variable on the original scale..

Variable	Yield	Area	Water Used	Scope One Emissions	$\frac{Yield}{Area}$
Yield	1.000E+00	8.822E-01	8.245E-01	7.617E-01	9.353E-01
Area	8.822E-01	1.000E+00	7.750E-01	8.311E-01	6.742E-01
Water Used	8.245E-01	7.750E-01	1.000E+00	6.668E-01	7.292E-01
Scope One Emissions	7.617E-01	8.311E-01	6.668E-01	1.000E+00	6.086E-01
$\frac{Yield}{Area}$	9.353E-01	6.742E-01	7.292E-01	6.086E-01	1.000E+00
Average Price Per Tonne	-4.591E-01	-1.911E-01	-4.881E-01	-1.559E-01	-5.625E-01
$\frac{Average Price per tonne}{Area}$	-8.918E-01	-8.474E-01	-8.300E-01	-7.063E-01	-8.070E-01

Table .11: Model 1 ANOVA summarising variable significance at the .5 level.

Variable	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F Value	Pr(>F)
Year	9	7.060E+01	7.800E+00	8.353E+01	<2.20E-16
GI Region	54	1.507E+03	2.790E+01	2.972E+02	<2.20E-16
Area Harvested	1	3.211E+03	3.211E+03	3.419E+04	<2.20E-16
Water Used	1	1.040E+01	1.040E+01	1.103E+02	<2.20E-16
Scope One Emissions	1	6.600E+00	6.600E+00	7.056E+01	<2.20E-16

Table .12: Model 2 ANOVA summarising variable significance at the .5 level.

Variable	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F Value	Pr(>F)
Area Harvested	1	2.407E+03	2.407E+03	1.080E+04	<2.20E-16
Scope One Emissions	1	3.989E+01	3.989E+01	1.789E+02	<2.20E-16
Water Used	1	5.500E+02	5.500E+02	2.467E+03	<2.20E-16
Area Harvested*Scope One Emissions	1	6.921E+01	6.921E+01	3.104E+02	<2.20E-16
Area Harvested * Water Used	1	1.040E+00	1.040E+00	4.686E+00	3.045E-02 *
Year * GI Region	424	1.144E+03	2.700E+00	1.210E+01	<2.20E-16

Table .13: Model 3 ANOVA summarising variable significance at the .5 level.

Variable	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F Value	Pr(>F)
Year	6	1.324E+01	2.210E+00	8.748E+01	<2.20E-16 ***
GI Region	50	6.498E+02	1.300E+01	5.151E+02	<2.20E-16 ***
Area Harvested	1	2.142E+03	2.142E+03	8.491E+04	<2.20E-16 ***
Water Used	1	3.200E-01	3.200E-01	1.259E+01	3.947E-04 **
Scope One Emissions	1	4.000E-02	4.000E-02	1.492E+00	2.221E-01

Table .14: Model 4 ANOVA summarising variable significance at the .5 level.

Variable	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F Value	Pr(>F)
Area Harvested	1	2.066E+03	2.066E+03	5.700E+04	<2.20E-16
Scope One Emissions	1	6.000E-02	6.000E-02	1.569E+00	2.105E-01
Water Used	1	2.014E+02	2.014E+02	5.557E+03	<2.20E-16
Area Harvested*Scope One Emissions	1	5.246E+01	5.246E+01	1.448E+03	<2.20E-16
Area Harvested * Water Used	1	7.270E+00	7.270E+00	2.005E+02	<2.20E-16
Year * GI Region	243	4.546E+02	1.870E+00	5.162E+01	<2.20E-16

Table .15: Comparison of Model Residuals

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq
Model 1	5231	4.913E+02	1.000E-01
Model 2	4868	1.085E+03	2.200E-01
Model 3	2818	7.111E+01	3.000E-02
Model 4	2629	9.528E+01	4.000E-02

Table .16: Comparison of Model performance.

	RSE	R2	Adjusted R2	F-statistic	P-Value
Model 1	3.065E-01	9.072E-01	9.061E-01	7.753E+02	<2.2e-16
Model 2	4.722E-01	7.951E-01	7.770E-01	4.403E+01	<2.2e-16
Model 3	1.589E-01	9.753E-01	9.748E-01	1.885E+03	<2.2e-16
Model 4	1.904E-01	9.669E-01	9.638E-01	3.095E+02	<2.2e-16