

**Submission
No 44**

INQUIRY INTO WINE GRAPE MARKET AND PRICES

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My submission is based on the fact there is little or no competition in the market place regarding wine grape prices.

In my view wineries should be free to set prices and growers should have an opportunity to accept/reject or negotiate as appropriate.

The problem is that wineries do not release their prices until just before the harvest period.

Due to the extremely perishable nature of the product this leaves growers with no chance to negotiate or for any commercial competition to take place.

My suggestion is that the wineries should be obliged to release their prices publicly a minimum of 3 months prior to harvest - say Nov 1 at latest.

This open exposure of the prices in a reasonable time frame would ensure transparency and allow fair competition to develop.