

**Submission
No 12**

INQUIRY INTO WINE GRAPE MARKET AND PRICES

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The wine grape industry desperately needs the voluntary code of conduct to become mandatory because wineries can change at no notice when they will pay growers. Although they may inform you of the terms of payment, there are the unscrupulous few that will not make the payments as previously agreed upon. This then has ramifications for grape growers, large and small, to negotiate with banks, farm suppliers, leasing arrangement, workers pay, holidays, super etc.

This behaviour of some wineries to delay payment to growers without notice makes it difficult for honest wineries to compete in the marketplace.

The Wine Grape Marketing Board can fight for late payment but the government continuously is weakening its powers. Unless there is some guarantee when we are going to get paid, wine grape growing will become totally unviable for growers.