



# The Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct

By Cecily Zhu, Code Secretariat

# + Origins of the Code

- Launched in December 2008
- Purpose of the Code
  1. To establish a common framework for winegrape supply contracts
  2. To provide a dispute resolution system to manage disagreements
- Endorsed by Australian Vignerons (formerly Wine Grape Growers Australia) and Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA)



# + Application of the Code



- Voluntary
- 41 signatories
- Fairness and transparency
- Dispute resolution
  - Early intervention
  - Appointment of independent expert



# Winegrape Purchase Agreements

## Minimum requirements

- In writing
- Clear and concise, plain English
- Parties to the Agreement
- Duration of Agreement
- Fixed price and/or clear statement about how final price will be determined
- Terms of payment
- Tonnage and vineyard details
- Winegrape standards, assessment and harvest
- Delivery and freight
- Acceptance and rejection
- Title in winegrapes
- Professional advice

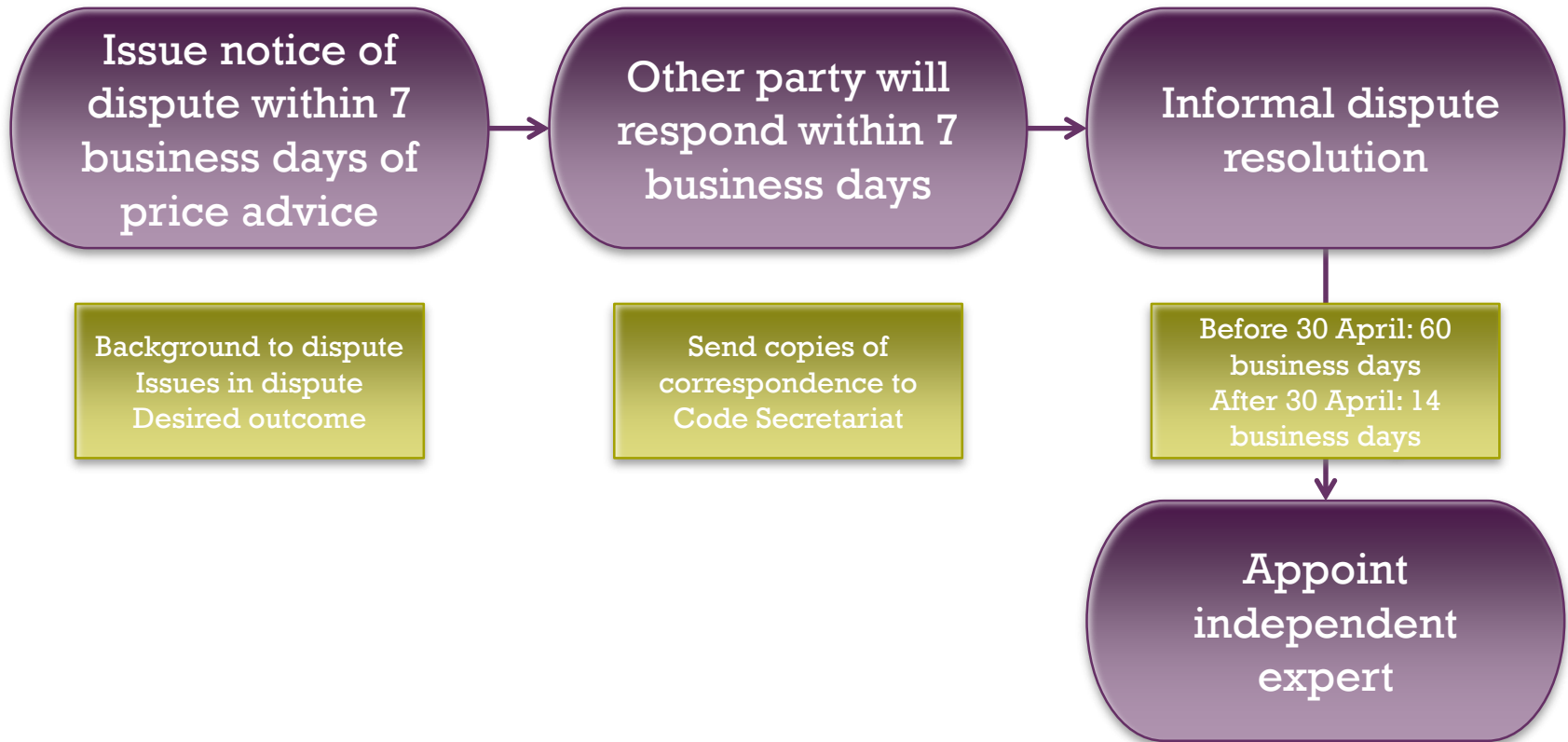


# Dispute Resolution

1. Winegrape  
price

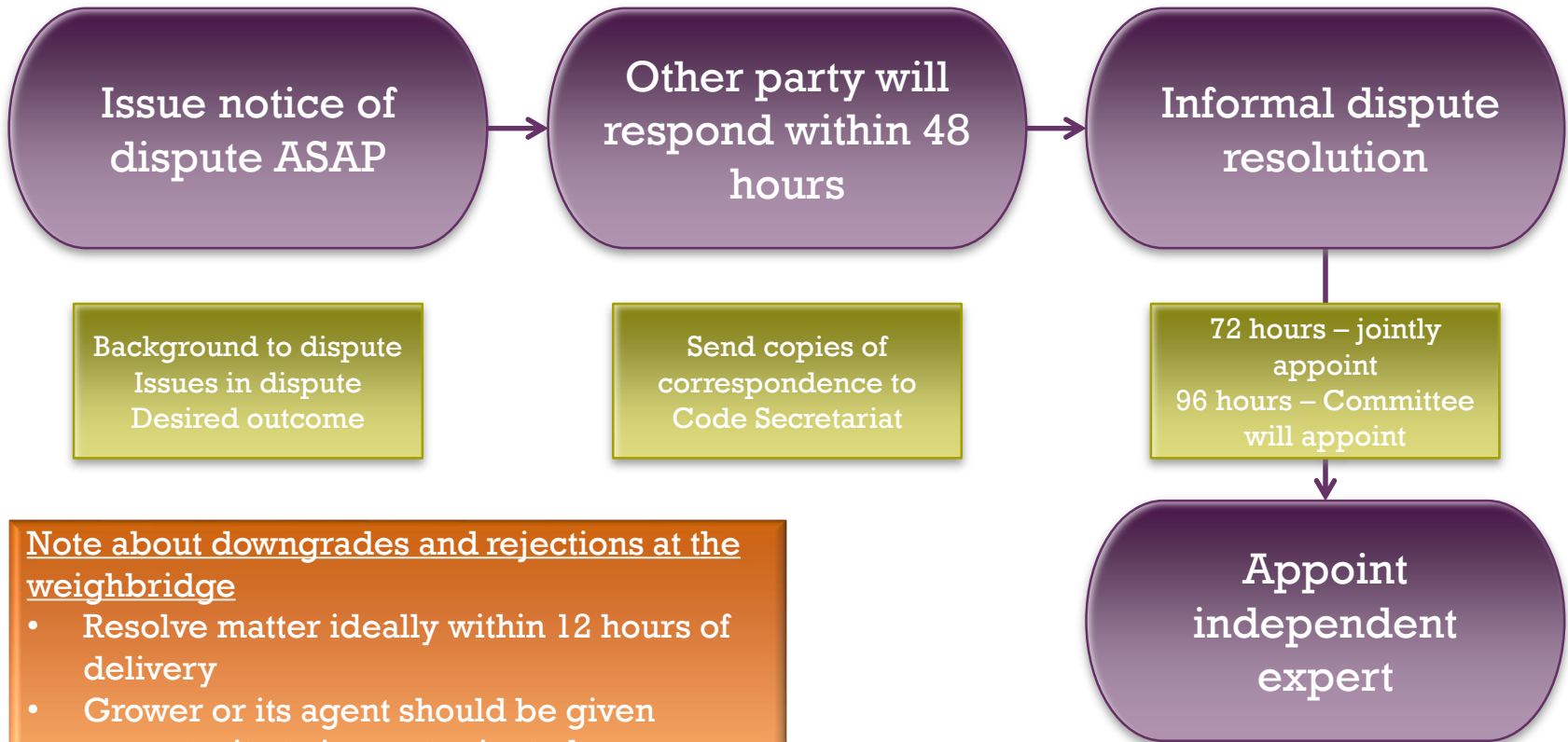
2. Downgrades  
and rejections in  
the vineyard

# + Disputes over winegrape price





# Disputes over downgrades and rejections in the vineyard



Note about downgrades and rejections at the weighbridge

- Resolve matter ideally within 12 hours of delivery
- Grower or its agent should be given opportunity to inspect rejected or downgraded winegrapes
- No independent expert required by Code

# + Breaches of the Code



- Complaint of a breach of the Code must be referred to the Committee in writing
  - Name of signatory and party bringing the complaint
  - Nature of the complaint
  - Desired outcome
- Committee will investigate complaint
- If breach has occurred, Committee will provide reasons and remedy or penalty if applicable
- Party can be removed as signatory to the Code if breach is not remedied
- Committee can recover reasonable costs from grower if complaint is found to be invalid





# The Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct

[www.wineindustrycode.org](http://www.wineindustrycode.org)

Code Secretariat  
c/- The Accord Group  
Level 2, 370 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9264 9506  
Email: [secretariat@wineindustrycode.org](mailto:secretariat@wineindustrycode.org)