

Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee

MMA Boardroom, Epping

14th September 2016

In attendance: David Wallace, Ben Apted, Vince Doria, Alec Berias, Anthony Mould, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Kirsty Harvison (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Gis Marven

Item 1: Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The advisory **AGREE** the minutes are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Item 2: Actions Arising from Previous Meeting

- **Ring road speed limit increase:** MMA has reviewed and monitored the speed limit on the ring road and **AGREED** to increase the speed limit to 40kph. This will be implemented with flashing lights and convex mirrors near the forklift crossover, as well as extended fluorescent paint.
- **Warehouse 5 & 6 vacant space:** Fully let – the four 95m² tenancies that were available following the end of initial lease term have each been let to new tenants (3 stand holders and 1 retailer).
- **Warehouse 7 update:** MMA previously circulated an EOI to ascertain demand. Providores and green grocers have expressed interest in a solution where they can more easily drive vehicles inside their warehouse. Currently not sufficient demand to justify construction expenditure.
- **Green Grocer support programme:** Currently going through Request For Tender (RFT) process to determine consultant to develop and deliver a national programme. Expected that marketing plan should be issued in the next financial year.

Item 3: Stand Allocation

Right to trade stands: MMA reiterated the position that no right to trade stands, as determined by the Minister before market opening. MMA continue to receive applications for casual stands, with more demand than availability. The process is that the casual stand holder needs to complete a casual registration form and pay a one-off fee, register as a new business and obtain access cards then contact the Customer Service Centre to book stands on a casual basis.

Advisory **REQUESTED** that MMA consider whether Fresh food handling certificate from City of Whittlesea also be required as part of the accreditation process before a party is able to book a casual stand.

Item 4: Market Hours

Approximately 35 - 40 people have been in consultation with McKinna to have one on one consultations. McKinna have also met with all of the advisory committees. McKinna will shortly be issuing a survey to business principals/nominees for one response per business re view on market hours. This is not a vote per se, but will form part of McKinna's recommendation on market hours as part of a robust process that canvasses the wider market community. Expected that the recommendations will be implemented in October 2016.

Item 5: Market Operations

- **Dust Testing:** MMA has undertaken dust testing on trading floor and Buyers' Walk. This testing has not found anything in excess of allowable limits. Biggest dust component in the market is silica (from concrete), but this is within allowable limits. MMA is in process of installing rapid roller doors to limit entry of dust on north south entries. MMA continues to work with City of Whittlesea re enforcement of dust controls on the Alex Fraser recycling facility. Fresh State have also undertaken their own testing but are yet to share the results with the MMA.
- **Truck curfew:** The trial period has finished. Curfew currently remains but the MMA has not yet received final confirmation from Vicroads re future plans. MMA has not been notified by the market community that the curfew is causing issues. MMA encouraged Advisory to engage with traders to raise curfew issues with Vicroads/MMA.

Item 6: General Business

- **40 year service:** entitles to free access card. Process will be that the Advisory signs off the application in collaboration with the MMA to confirm period of service. **REQUESTED** that MMA make available free parking in the admin carpark for the period of visit, not just 90 minutes. **REQUESTED** that an event to celebrate 40 years' service in the market be held each year.
- **Children in the market:** Age that children are allowed to enter the market is now 15 years old, based on the Child Employment Act. MMA has **AGREED** to introduce dedicated market days during the September school holidays for market users to bring their children to the Market. This will be a trial, and will require all children to be registered and accompanied at all times by a parent/guardian.
- **Cleaning of toilet facilities:** **REQUESTED** that toilets need to be cleaned more frequently. Advisory reported that some market users are squatting on toilet seats.
- **Supermarket buying:** **REQUESTED** MMA investigate avenues to encourage Coles/Woolworths /Aldi to purchase product via the Market.
- **Melbourne Polytechnic skills training:** MMA presented first tranche of courses for green grocery training to be made available. Courses available early 2017, with eligibility for government assistance in 2018, following recognition by Victorian Registration Qualification Authority.
- **Dandenong Market:** Advisory asked whether a permit has been granted, as rumours are that permit has been granted. MMA confirmed that it has lodged an objection to the planning application and is not aware of a permit being granted. Council is currently in caretaker mode pending elections on 22 October.