

Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee

MMA Boardroom, Epping

11 April, 2018

In Attendance: David Wallace, Ben Apted, Alec Berias, Anthony Mould, David Whitchelo, , Bryan Coyne, Nicola Pearl, Matthew Elliott & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Mark Maskiell & Vince Doria

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory CONFIRMED the Minutes from 14 November 2017 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

- **Forklift Highways:** The breezeway between the Flower Market and Trading Floor now have an extended forklift area to avoid blind spots. There are now temporary scissor barricades in place to test and validate the changes to the traffic management plan.
- **Buyers Walk Bollards:** The new bollards have been installed, and new railing sections adjacent to buggy parking areas will be installed by the end of April.
- **Rapid Roller Doors:** The MMA are continuing to install new windows, lights and radars/ sensors at all roller door locations. The sensors will be implemented within 90 days, and this is to ensure that forklifts move with caution onto the forklift highway, rather than proceeding at speed into potential traffic and pedestrian zones.
- **Site Cleaning:** The overall consensus from the committee was well received regarding the cleaning. MMA have agreed to keep up this commitment of the cleaning standard. The MMA have organised the MRO's to visit all Trading Stands for a request not to push their rubbish onto the stand floor. It needs to be pushed to the end of the stand, where 1 cubic metre bins are provided. It has been suggested that emptying of the recycling satellite station maxi cages needs to occur on the weekend, ready for trading on Monday morning & the MMA have taken this into account.
- **Events Calendar:** MMA have created a 12mth rolling calendar which will be available online, to include events such as; school holidays, kids in the market, Market closures etc. MMA will also include cut off payment dates in the calendar. The introduction of the MMA Portal is a work in progress, this will allow market users access to invoicing, access card and parking bay status and Market updates.

MARKETING

- **Green Grocer National Brand Program:** Each state has confirmed their commitment to the program and funding. The launching date is 1 July 2018.
- **Green Grocer Skills Training:** Marketing will continue to advertise this to other markets to gauge the level of interest as no enrolments to date.
- **Drug & Alcohol Education Program:** The MMA in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic has continued to run information sessions for business owners on Drug & Alcohol policy implementation and how to manage and handle employee behaviour relating to substance abuse. The follow up session is scheduled for 19 April 2018.
- **LED Signage:** The MMA are currently investigating changing the stand signage, to run LED stand numbers/ signs for each bay.

OPERATIONS

- **Ring Road Speed Limit:** The MRO's are continuing to monitor the increase of the speed limit on the ring road, however it is noted that anyone who exceeds the new limit will be issued an infringement. The MMA have removed all 20km zone signs and will notify tenants when any minor roadworks will be undertaken. The Committee agreed with the new speed limit, resulting in no issues or incidents.
- **LED Lighting:** The LED lighting project is running to schedule. The MMA had a recent tour of the market to check on the progress, and have provided recommendations on additional lighting to be installed.
- **Line Marking:** The MMA confirmed that the line marking in the Trading Floor area has been completed. The overall positive feedback has been well received.

- **Bollards:** The MMA have now completed the installation of magnetic bollards in the trading stores area. The implementation of the bollards on the pedestrian walkways has now created a safer walkway.
- **Air Testing:** Air testing equipment is being installed in the week commencing 16th April, 2018. The equipment will conduct the testing of air quality in 3 zones T1, T2 & T3, each area will be independently tested and repeated in each zone on the same day of the week in the same time period to ensure accuracy in comparisons. The Committee suggested the screen cleaning should be done of 6 times per year.
- **Temperature Monitoring:** The MMA will be installing air temperature equipment in the central roof area, digital readings will be maintained over a 12-month period.
- **Stand allocation process**
Priority is given to the adjacent stand if it becomes available, then offered to others. There is no preferential allocation or favouritism applied by the MMA in the stand allocation process.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Dandenong Market:** The Planning Minister's Advisory Committee hearing is scheduled for 28 May and is anticipated to continue for 3 days.
- **LPG:** The MMA conduct a price checking exercise on a daily basis. Any comments regarding over pricing are unfounded and in most cases the LPG rates are well below those available outside the market. It is noted that overall there has been an increase to the wholesale price of approximately 14 cents over the past 2 months. The Committee questioned if GST is included in this cost, therefore the MMA will investigate this further. To be reported at next Committee meeting in July 2018.
- **Pallets:** The advisory noted that tenants are being issued infringements for leaving pallets next to the cages when they are full and that produce is being removed from bays before the end of trade. The MMA requested that anyone fined under these circumstances should contact DW directly and that the MMA will review the internal processes about issuing infringement notices for these offences.