

Fruit & Vegetable Wholesalers Advisory Committee

MMA Boardroom, Epping

9th October 2018

In attendance: Harry Kaporis (Chair), Shane Schnitzler, Grant Nichol, Mark Maskiell, Matthew Elliott & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker)

Apologies: David Whitchelo, Gis Marven & Joseph Manariti

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory CONFIRMED the Minutes from 18th April 2018 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

- **Glycol Portal – Opt-in Agreement:** The Glycol Portal is available and ready to use within the Market Community. The portal is available for anyone who is interested to sign up/ opt-in. Further information is available on the Glycol portal from the MMA if you require assistance. MMA to advise if Produce Time has opted in.
- **Public Access/ Direct to Public Market/ Retail Market:** Over the previous 8 weeks, the MMA have had Fiona Whitworth performing feasibility studies to consider the idea of a Clearance/ Retail/ Direct to Public Market on a Saturday morning. MMA are further investigating, and the feasibility and logistics need to be taken into consideration. The proposal is for a “Direct To Public” Market to operate on a Friday morning (in Buyers Walk), although the Committee suggested that a Thursday may be a more suitable option from a Wholesalers perspective, and will need to be canvassed within the market community in a more formal manner. MMA have committed to gathering information and advise the market community about the market idea. Fresh State have their AGM on 24 October and have requested some further information from the MMA for Fresh State to present at the meeting.
- **Transshipping:** The Committee are passionate about this issue and the affect it has on the market. Transshipping is a major threat across the nation at all markets, not just at the Melbourne market. MMA are aware of the issues and will continue to work through the transshipping issues to find a suitable option and continue to work with Fresh State for a long-term solution. MMA highlighted that any additional costs on unloaders is a risk on increasing costs to other market participants. The feedback was that while this is a risk, the majority of costs would be directed to industry participants not supporting the central market. MMA will continue to talk to other markets and try to understand as an industry overall and apply it to the Melbourne Market.

OPERATIONS

- **Static Security Operation:** A new Static Security Operation is in the final stages of implementation. Offices are currently being fit out and will be ready for operation in the near future.
- **Buyers Walk Line Marking:** Operational maintenance is scheduled over the next 3-8 weeks of Buyers Walk line marking. MMA will be removing existing lines and replacing them. The works will be taking place from post trade on Friday- Sunday, therefore not effecting the Market Community.

MARKETING

- **Green Grocer National Brand Program:** The Green Grocer National Brand Program commenced recently, and so far 8 businesses have committed and signed up, and for further information about the program is located at: <http://www.abetterchoice.com.au/>. Once a company have signed up, they will have access to further information.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Dandenong Market:** The Planning Minister’s Advisory Committee hearing occurred in July. This process is slowly moving through the channels. The MMA understands that an update on the planning permit is likely to be made by mid-October. MMA will continue to update the Committee.
- **Early Access Buyers Permit/ Application/ Cost:** MMA discussed the introduction of a new early buyer access permit, the cost and the application process. The early buyers permit fee was announced on 1 October 2018 and due to come into effect on 22 October. The fee is \$10,000 per annum per Permit, based on the cost of a trading stand. MMA are continuing to work through the logistics of the early permit pass. The revenue received for the early buyers permit fee will be injected directly into the National Green Grocer Program. This is a 90-day trial and will be reassessed at the end of the term. Discussion was had around the suggestion of locking doors to the buyers walk.



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- **Market Hours Trial:** The Committee discussed the new Melbourne Market 90-day trial of slightly earlier market hours. The change to the market hours commenced on 1 October, from 3:30am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. MMA will review the market hours at the end of the 90-day trial period.
- **Advisory Committee Terms – Concluding Jan 2019:** MMA informed the Committee of the Advisory Committee Terms ending on 1 January 2019 and the MMA have advised that they will continue to work through this process. MMA will advise committee of further information in due course.
- **New Market Café:** The new Market Café is due to commence operating in approximately two weeks. The new tenants have been operating a similar café in Queensland. The tenants, trading as Moon Beam Café.
- **Unmanned Diesel Refuelling Station:** The Unmanned Diesel refuelling plant is currently residing with the Minister of Agriculture for sign off. It is expected that the unmanned Diesel facility will commence operation in Q1 2019 and will be located next to the recycling centre in the market. This will be run by United Petroleum, who will be offering all market tenants a significant discount if signing up to their loyalty card
- **MMA Policy- Right to exclude or remove Persons from Market Land:** The MMA have further developed its “Right to exclude or remove persons from Market Land” Policy and explained it in detail to the Committee.