

Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee

MMA Boardroom, Epping

15 November 2017

In Attendance: David Wallace, Ben Apted, Alec Berias, Vince Doria, Anthony Mould, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Jenna Patan (Minute Taker)

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory CONFIRMED the Minutes from 29 June 2017 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

- **Forklift Highways:** The breezeway between the Flower Market and Trading Floor will have an extended forklift area so that blind spots are removed, there are now temporary scissor barricades in place to test and validate the changes to the traffic management plan. The new permanent installation and changes to the hand railing will be completed early 2018.
- **Rapid Roller Doors:** The MMA are continuing to install new windows, lights and radars at all exiting door sites. These safety installations do not omit the requirement to stop at the doorway even if the door is up. This is to ensure that forklifts move with caution onto the forklift highway, rather than proceeding at speed into potential traffic.
- **Site Cleaning:** Prior to the new line marking, the Fruit & Vegetable Trading Stands area underwent a deep clean. The results have been well received and this level will be maintained. The MMA also confirmed that the toilets have been repainted and that the cleaning schedule has been increased. The advisory requested that all toilets require 2 hand dryers, not just the high use ones and noted that the cleanliness of the toilets in Warehouse 5&6 are poor.
- **Prayer Rooms:** The MMA is still seeking an appropriate location as potential locations have been rejected by the user group within the market. The advisory suggested that the MMA create a temporary area on a vacant pad site with basic facilities until a permanent solution can be sought.

MARKETING

- **Green Grocer National Brand Program:** The collaboration by the central markets and the chambers is progressing well. All states have been asked to confirm their commitment to the program before the end of November 2017. It is anticipated that with the initial logo and implementation strategy already developed, once funding has been confirmed a launch date of 1 July 2018 is still viable.
- **Green Grocer Skills Training:** The Certificate II and Certificate III in Greengrocery has now been approved by the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority and can now be launched and available for 2018 enrolments.
- **Drug & Alcohol Education Program:** The MMA continues to receive anecdotal feedback regarding drug use in the Market. The MMA in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic will continue to run information sessions for business owners on Drug & Alcohol policy implementation and how to manage and handle employee behaviour relating to substance abuse.
- **WUWM Congress:** The Congress attracted 200 local and international delegates from approximately 30 markets from 22 countries. The MMA would like to thank all market tenants for their participation in the event and for showcasing our market to the rest of the world during the tour of the site.
- **Market Satisfaction Survey:** The survey launched this week for all market users to complete. It will be open for 2 weeks and the MMA encourage all advisory members to communicate the importance of providing feedback.

OPERATIONS

- **Ring Road Speed Limit:** The MRO's are monitoring the increase to 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 will remove all 20km zone signs and will notify tenants when any minor roadworks will be undertaken.
- **LED Lighting:** The LED lighting project is running to schedule. The MMA confirmed additional lighting and adjustments to how high the lighting bays are around the canopy has been resolved to ensure that the lux lighting levels are appropriate for these areas.
- **Line Marking:** The MMA confirmed that the line marking in the Trading Floor area has been completed.

- **Christmas Public Holiday Trading Hours:** The Market will be closed on the following dates during Christmas and New Year - Saturday 23 December to Tuesday 26 December (Christmas) and Saturday 30 December to Monday 1 January (New Year). Access to the Market on Saturday 23 December is available for collection of produce to facilitate arrangements made between buyers and sellers.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Ring Road Extension / Toll Increases:** The MMA requested the names of businesses that have been significantly impacted by the Citylink Toll increases in 2017 to build a case to the Minister regarding the importance of expedited construction of the North East Link for the Market community.
- **Dandenong Market:** A briefing session was conducted by Dandy Fresh on 26 October 2017 to discuss current plans and to outline the management structure of the facility. Management understands there were approximately 6 F&V wholesalers and 6 flower representatives at the meeting. The South East defenders of the Green wedge are still proceeding with their objection which is due to be heard by VCAT in February 2018.
- **Combined Advisory Meeting (all groups):** As a result of feedback from the groups at the last meeting, Management will be hosting a Morning Tea with the Board for all Advisory Groups on Thursday 14th December to discuss market operations and industry wide issues.
- **Buyers Walk (Worksafe):** On Thursday 5 October settlement was reached on the basis that flexible bollards adhered via an adhesive method (magnets) at not greater than 1.5m intervals, except in front of the Store doors would be installed before 18 April 2018. The MMA will also reinforce safe traffic management within the buyers walk via targeted communication to all market tenants.
- **Pooling Accounts:** The MMA has formal pooling equipment account requirements to ensure a more efficient and cost effective system for everyone. For tenants that use Pallets accounts can either be set up directly with CHEP or LOSCAM. If tenants only use plain pallets or don't use them at all a Statutory Declaration is required to be submitted to the MMA.
- **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.
- **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 than 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.
- **Market Officers:** The advisory noted that the perception of the MRO's is that they do not consistently enforce the operating rules. Whilst they are responsive to tenant requests, at times there is no need for 5-6 to be within the trading stands area. The MMA and PAM are reviewing the resourcing of these roles and encourage any feedback from the tenants regarding the MRO's and Security Staff.
- **Rent Increase:** The MMA will not support lobby activities of market tenants relating to rent. The position of the MMA remains that the licence fee is consistent with the approved financial model for the operation of the Market.