



**Fruit & Vegetable Retailers Advisory Committee
MMA Boardroom, Epping
15 November 2017**

In attendance: Paul Ahern (Chair), Leon Mugavin, Graham Gee, Tony Mecca, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Jenna Patan (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Jacinta Carboon, John Psarakos

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory **CONFIRMED** the Minutes from 28th June 2017 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Environmentally friendly programs for retailers:** There are opportunities for the retailers to purchase calico bags at wholesale prices from the market. Retailers across the state will be working to phase out plastic bags in 2018 therefore targeted communication from the MMA with information would be useful. The MMA are looking at alternative for the whole of market which includes biodegradable plastics that dissolve in hot water. The MMA will also publish their recycling rates on the website.

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.
- **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 the collection of produce to facilitate arrangements made between buyers and sellers. Retailers will have full access to the market during this period, the buyers walk will not be open. The advisory noted that with so many variances with retailers opening hours the market should trade as normal over the Christmas period.
- **Misuse of Parking bays:** The MMA is continuing to reallocate bays where tenants are not using them as they are intended. Trucks will be monitored closely as will trucks that are loading from the warehousing.



- **Site Cleaning:** As the schedule and type of cleaning across the site has increased, there has been a noted improvement. A fence was also installed along Gate 2 which has greatly improved the rubbish that was being collected along Cooper Street.
- **Line Marking:** The MMA confirmed that the line marking in the Trading Floor area has been completed. Additional works within the Buyers Walk area is being disputed as a defect and are awaiting sign off from the State to undertake works in the New Year.
- **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. The advisory suggested that there should be more buggy parking / pull off areas internally to avoid congestion. There is "dead area" where the hand rails are and this could be converted to pull over areas. Painting bays would also help to direct tenants into safe areas. They also noted that the MMA should share more details to the tenants about the process undertaken to get the best possible outcome.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **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.
- **Undercover Canopy Extension:** A concept design has now been developed that minimizes the disruption to the existing parking (initial concepts lost up to 50 current parking bays to pylons which was unacceptable). The MMA is also in discussion with solar and battery storage providers as we are unable to put any unused power back into the grid (it is at capacity).
- **Warehouse 7:** 10 expressions of interest were received for the 95sqm (small) warehouse formats. Based on the original cost estimates for construction, the MMA is investigating design modifications to lower the build costs. It is expected revised pricing will be received mid-December with another EOI undertaken in the New Year with indicative pricing. The MMA confirmed construction would be approx. 12 months. The advisory suggested that the MMA should consider installing small format storage cages / garages across the west side of the site.