

Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee
MMA Boardroom, Epping
28 June 2017

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

Apologies: Robyn Stewart

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

MATTERS ARISING

- **Site Cleaning:** The MMA confirmed the sweeper is now covering the entire trading floor. The new scope is to be implemented next month and includes a weekly scrub of all stands and an initial deep clean. The MMA advised that there may be water discolouration in the recycled water outlets (toilets) whilst the storage tanks undergo scheduled maintenance. This will not affect drinking water.
- **Forklift Highways:** The breezeway between the Flower Market and Trading Floor will have an extended forklift area so that blind spots are removed. The hand rails will also be moved to make it easier for hand trollies to access the Trading Floor.
- **Hand Dryers:** The MMA confirmed that there are 72 hand dryers in the market and all are progressively being upgraded to the Dyson system. There will be two in each bathroom.
- **Prayer Rooms:** The MMA is seeking an appropriate location as potential existing locations have not been suitable due to the specific requirements (direction, wash facilities and height). Store Holders with underutilised space will be approached when areas becomes available.
- **Market Fresh Schools Program:** The MMA have confirmed the program is continuing.

MARKETING

- **Green Grocer National Brand Program:** The working group between the facilitator and the CMAA / FMA representatives are currently finalising what the deliverables and timeframes are for year 1. Initial logo and brand concepts have also been developed. This is to be presented back to the Markets and Chambers next month.
- **Green Grocer Skills Training:** The steering committee met during May to finalise the course content. It has now been submitted to the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority and they will provide the recommendation for endorsement. It is anticipated the course will be available for enrolments by December 2017.
- **Student Placement Program:** Northlink in conjunction with La Trobe and RMIT are offering to place students into local businesses where they can provide project support (ie: introduction of a new accounting package). Further details can be provided by Matt to any tenants that are interested.
- **Pathways to Export Forum:** The forum has been postponed until further notice from Austrade and Horticulture Innovation Australia. A process flow chart has been developed and will be distributed. It helps business that are interested in export identify key opportunities and steps to consider. The MMA will make these available at the Customer Service Centre and will circulate via This Week in the Market.
- **Increasing the profile of the Advisory Committees:** The advisory SUGGESTED that it would be beneficial to get all advisory groups together once a year to discuss how we can best promote a thriving fresh produce industry. The advisory NOTED that the main concerns for the growers is the increasing cost to do business at the market and the lack of undercover parking.

OPERATIONS

- **Children in the Market:** The MMA will continue to run registered days during the school holidays. Upcoming dates are Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July. The MMA is expecting 100 registrations across both days.
- **Access Card Renewal:** Approximately 9500 cards were renewed as part of the process. Classifications and Parking rights are continuing to be validated with new parking permits to be issued in the current invoice cycle.

- **Ring Road Speed Limit:** The MMA are undertaking work to ensure traffic management concerns with the forklift crossovers to the south of the site are appropriately managed. MRO's are closely monitoring the speeds of the ring road as the traffic modifications are made for the increase to 40km p/h. The advisory NOTED with the increased traffic around the north side truck bays around the Flower Market the MMA should consider limiting direct access from the ring road as visibility can be difficult with extra forklifts and larger trucks in the area.

OTHER OPERATIONS

- **Undercover Area Extension:** The MMA is investigating the installation of 2 x 1.3ha roofing panels which will join to the existing roofline. There are many areas to consider including materials to be used, solar suitability, approvals, permits and then construction timeframes that minimise the disruption to the current market users.
- **LED Lighting:** In April the MMA Board approved the Business Case to upgrade all the common area lighting to LED lighting. It is currently with the Minister for sanctioning. We anticipate approval before the end of July and that works will commence immediately once we enter into contracts with the preferred supplier.
- **CCTV Upgrade:** This project has now been completed. The MMA anticipate 15-16 produce queries a day can now be tracked from start to finish which is a great result.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **40 Years of Service:** The advisory APPROVED the award for Salvatore Loverso.
- **Dandenong Market:** The Planning Permit application for Dandy Fresh was put to council on 26 June 2017 and was approved with a vote of 8 in favour / 2 opposed. The MMA will seek further advice if there are grounds to challenge at VCAT. In the meantime the MMA will continue discussions with Defenders of Green Wedge representatives regarding their appeal.
- **North East Link Authority:** The North East Link Authority is undertaking community consultation to help the Authority understand what people value in their local neighbourhood and gather information about how and when people travel around the North East Link study area and across the region. Consultation will help the Authority prepare the final Business Case for the North East Link due at the end of 2017. A representative will be in the Market on Tuesday 4 July and the MMA encourage all market users to complete the survey or talk to the representatives about the impact it has on the site and its users. Mark and Matt also met with local MP Bronwyn Halfpenny and reiterated the importance of finishing the North East Link extension.
- **Tolls:** The advisory NOTED that the recent increase to Citylink tolls is having an adverse impact on market tenants. In most cases tolls for trucks have doubled.
- **Pallets:** 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.
- **Damage to MMA Property:** A tenant was concerned about not receiving adequate information from the MMA to appropriately manage an insurance claim. David advised that he has spoken directly with the tenant, their insurance company and confirmed the MMA has provided the details that were required. The MMA are also reviewing this process internally.
- **Rapid Roller Doors:** The advisory REQUESTED that the sensors in the doors need to be changed across the site as a priority. They agreed the new doors with the additional window, radar sensors and lights are working well.
- **Market Fees:** The advisory REQUESTED that the MMA postpone the rent increase of 4% due to the increased costs associated with trading at the Market. They are concerned that many stand holders will not continue. The position of the MMA remains that the licence fee is consistent with the approved financial model for the operation of the Market.