

GROWERS MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2012, 8.00AM – 10.00AM

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Grower's Advisory Committee Members

David Wallace – Chairman, Growers Advisory Committee

Vince Doria

Luis Gazzola

Alec Berias

DBI Representatives

Jane Niall

Mary Baker

MMA Representatives

Nada Kirkwood – MMA Board Member

Allan Crosthwaite – CEO, MMA

Aurora Kostezky – Legal Counsel, MMA

Rozita Hana – Minute Taker, MMA

Marisa Di Pietro – Minute Taker, MMA

Apologies

David Kelly – Member, Grower's Advisory Committee

Meeting opened at 8.00am.

The Advisory members noted the preferred time to meet is 9.00am.

DBI gave a brief overview of the discussion paper on the allocation of Fruit and Vegetable Stands.

- The purpose of the discussion paper is to seek feedback from fruit and vegetable stand holders on the allocation of stands at the new market.
- It was noted that the Minister requested he is provided with the views of all Advisory Committees on the relevant discussion papers. The committee also noted that the Minister will be visiting the market next week to answer questions in relation to the discussion papers.
- Advisory members noted that the Minister's proposed visiting hour of 7.30am is not appropriate for stand holders as they are still trading at 7.30am. The committee suggested a more convenient time would be 8.30am.

Stand sizing and allocation

- The committee noted that the discussion papers do not make mention of the 2004 decision regarding stand sizes at Epping. The committee noted there was no industry involvement in the decision and that the sizing decision was made by a previous government.
- The Committee noted that if demand exceeds supply, an option would be to decrease the size of stands.
- The committee noted that growers cannot make a financially viable decision regarding the number of stands they'll take up until rental information is released.
- The committee were advised that the new market will have a zero tolerance to using stands as storage or parking.

- The committee indicated that some agents use stands to store produce, therefore some agents may want a stand and a store at Epping. It was advised that data could be provided on how many store holders have stands and the number of stands.
- The Committee noted there is a possibility that 80% of stands may be taken up by store owners.
- The committee discussed the name change from “grower’s floor” to “trading floor” and the rights of growers and wholesalers to stands.
- The Committee noted they will give feedback and provide a recommendation regarding the rules for the trading floor including the use of stands.

Parking of trucks relative to stands

- The committee noted that a plan displaying proximity from truck parking to stands will be made available.
- The committee noted that trucks will not be permitted on the trading floor to load and unload.

Stand Operating Rules

- The committee noted that new By-Laws have to be re-written for the Epping market as current By-Laws only apply to the West Melbourne site.
- The committee noted there is an opportunity for the growers industry via the growers advisory committee to raise issues and make suggestions which will then be given to the Minister for consideration of the Epping By-Laws.

New Market Roof

- The committee asked about the roof coverage between the market and flower market. It was noted that a confirmation of the exact roof coverage will be given.
- The committee noted that ventilation and cooling are concerns to the grower industry.

First Rights Stand versus Second Rights and Seasonal Growers

- The committee noted that the second rights policy should be changed so that if the first right holder is not using the stand then they (first rights) shouldn’t have to pay and the second rights holder should pay for period of use only.
- The Committee acknowledged that first and second rights are to deal with seasonality of produce.
- The committee will make recommendations regarding seasonal growers who need access to stands which are not required for a full year as well as location.
- The committee noted, depending on what the industry wants, may suggest a ballot process for expressions of interests for 12 month licence holders.

Bonds

- The Committee noted they will give further consideration to a bond system through discussions with their industry.
- The committee noted that stand holders pay three months in advance at the current market.

Ballot Process

- The committee noted they will give further consideration to a ballot for groups of stand holders, e.g. adjacent stand holders.
- DBI stated that paragraph 22 talks about a period of adjustment, if people want to change their balloted position.

Tour

- The committee noted that a tour of the Epping market be organised.
- The committee noted they will discuss the ballot process and operational rules around the trading floor.
- The committee noted that a map, including parking locations of the Epping market will be provided at the next meeting.
- The committee noted the next meeting date should occur on a Friday commencing no earlier than 8.30am, date is yet to be determined.

- **ACTIONS ARISING**

- Request the Minister to change the next week visit time for stand holders if possible. **DBI**
- Conduct analysis of number of store holders holding stands. **DBI and MMA**
- Provide an analysis on the number of stands needed if all first rights stand holders decide to move to Epping. **DBI**
- Confirm roof coverage between flower market building and fruit and vegetable building. **DBI**
- Provide a map of the site showing parking relative to stands and place map on the MMA website. **MMA and DBI**
- Organise tour for grower's advisory members only. **MMA**
- Organise a tour of the market at Epping for all interested market members on the next rostered day off (RDO). Suggested RDO days either 10 April or 12 April 2012. **MMA**
- Next Growers Advisory Committee meeting date. **MMA**

Meeting closed at 10.00am