

GROWER'S MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTE

HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY 3RD JULY 2012, 9.45AM – 11.00AM

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Grower's Advisory Committee Members

David Wallace – Chairman
Vince Doria
Luis Gazzola
David Kelly
Alec Berias

DBI Representatives

Jane Niall
Mary Baker

MMA Representatives

Allan Crosthwaite – CEO, MMA
Aurora Kostezky – Legal Counsel, MMA
Megan Sandiford – Minute Taker, MMA
Rozita Hana – Minute Taker, MMA

Apologies

Nada Kirkwood – Board Member, MMA

Meeting opened at 9.45am.

DBI noted the following:

- The Minister's statement on allocation of fruit and vegetable stands has taken on board the comments provided in the submission by the Growers Advisory Committee.
- When the rents are released to the market, the Minister has agreed to an expression of interest process to assess the demand and supply of stands.

The committee noted:

- Their displeasure in the reduced trading stands area.
 - It was advised that the design and construction are final and cannot be altered.
- The committee noted that demand may exceed supply and questioned the guarantee of obtaining a stand/s at Epping, as the amount of stands has decreased from 600 at Footscray Road to 216 at Epping.
 - The Committee were advised that the MMA conducted a survey over a period of three months to inspect the way stands are used and how many stands are used for storing empty pallets, rubbish and car parking.
- The committee noted if a grower has 4 stands at Footscray Road but only receive 2 stands at Epping, circulation, produce movement and storage capacity will be affected causing safety issues due to reduction of space.
 - A mark out of stand measurements will be provided at the current market so trading floor occupants can see the size of Epping stands.
- The committee do not support a 40% increase in rents where they would subsidise the warehousing or wholesalers given that growers would receive no benefit from this. The committee feel that growers should only pay for what they will use - infrastructure for growers use, parking and shared market facilities.
 - The committee were advised to provide comments in their submission to the Minister for his consideration.

- The committee were advised that power will be provided to stands and charged according to use.
- A presentation was provided to the Growers Advisory Committee by the MMA on loading/unloading issues. More information is to come. The committee queried whether growers will be in the way of the unloading service at the Epping Market.
 - The committee were advised, proposals are being worked on and a decision will be made in the near future. The unloading service is not near the growers section and therefore will not interfere with them.
- The committee noted that growers should be allowed to drive their vehicles into the market, unload their produce and park their vehicles in the designated parking area which is the current arrangement for the flower growers.
 - The committee were advised to put this in their submission to the Minister for his consideration.
- The Committee noted that there should be at least 2 other competitors who go to Tender for the LPG refuelling station as well as another refuelling station due to the increase of forklifts and expected usage at the new market. The committee also noted that LPG prices should be the same within the market as is outside the market.
 - The committee were advised to put in their submission any concerns with regard to market services.
- The committee noted there has not been a release of information regarding retailer parking or how many parking spaces are available.
 - The committee were advised this information will be released shortly.

Date of Next Meeting

- To be advised. – MMA

ACTIONS ARISING

- Organise meeting to discuss and compile rent option submissions - MMA

Meeting closed at 11.00am