

FLOWER' MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY MMA BOARD ROOM
THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2012, 7.40AM – 08.30AM

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Grower's Advisory Committee Members

John Boon
Phillip Mays
Adrian Parsons

DBI Representatives

Jane Niall
Viraj Perera

MMA Representatives

Allan Crosthwaite – CEO
Megan Sandiford – Minute Taker
Rozita Hana – Minute Taker
Colleen Buckley – Minute Taker

Apologies

Geoff Maguire – flower advisory chairman
Greg Duffy – flower advisory member
Gisela Marven - MMA board member
Mary Baker - DBI

Meeting opened at 7.40am.

DBI noted:

- Three options have been suggested in the discussion paper, a state built warehouse, the purchase of a ground lease or private developer/private financing.
- Written submissions from the advisory group will provide important information to assess the demand and needs of the market community.
- The committee should speak to other flower growers to ensure they are completely briefed regarding warehousing and that if they wish to be part of the EOI process they are given the correct information in order to provide a submission.
- The EOI aims to give a better indication of market trends and demand for warehousing.
- The Minister will ensure all submissions are equally addressed.
- Submissions are due 31 August 2012, expressions of interest forms are due 30 September 2012.

The Committee noted:

- The Committee noted there may only be 2 flower growers who currently have a distribution warehouse facility within their business operation. Flower Growers with a stand licence in the current flower market have not shown interest in warehousing at this stage.

- The Committee raised concerns of the economic implications of warehousing costs if the market had to fund it. The trading floor and warehousing are independent of one another however both trading areas complement each other from a business perspective to ensure the viability of the market.
- The Committee noted the flower market metal structure, roof and internal outlays are complete and the foundations of the flower market will be completed soon. The Committee requested a site visit to Epping to view the flower market on completion.
- The Committee advised a mid-year move to Epping would be extremely difficult to the growers; the holiday period between Christmas/New Year would ease the pressure allowing more time to transport equipment from the current market to Epping. The Committee also noted that relocating over a weekend would create a large amount of work for all concerned.
- The Committee were offered administrative support to draft their submission if the committee requires it.
- All members agreed that the Committee do not require a follow up meeting.

Other:

- The Committee requested future advisory meetings begin at 8.00am.
- The Committee noted that flower market stand holders are sub leasing without any restrictions or knowledge of the MMA.
 - MMA advised they would investigate this activity and follow up with the Committee at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

- To be advised. – MMA

Meeting closed at 08.30am