

WHOLESALE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM
FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST 2012, 8.30AM – 9.30AM

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Wholesalers Advisory Committee Members

Stephen Wirtz – Chairman
Grant Nichol
Shane Schnitzler
Harry Kaporis

DBI Representatives

Mary Baker
Jane Niall
Viraj Perera

MMA Representatives

Steve McArthur – Board Member, MMA
Allan Crosthwaite – CEO, MMA
Aurora Kostezky – Legal Counsel, MMA
Megan Sandiford – Minute Taker, MMA
Rozita Hana – Minute Taker, MMA
Colleen Buckley – Minute Taker, MMA

Apologies

Neil Lowe (MMA Chairman)
Vince Brancatisano- Advisory Committee

Meeting opened at 8.40am.

DBI noted:

- It was suggested that the Advisory Committee provide comments in their submission to allow the Minister to consider all issues.
- The Committee noted that the EOI was designed to provide up to date information on the demand and delivery preferences for the warehousing.
- It is currently being discussed whether priority should be given to those with leases on warehousing in the current market.
- It was noted a registration process will be conducted for the ballot; the market community will receive adequate notice of the ballot date.
- The Committee was asked to provide suggestions on a high profile identity that would be appropriate to manage the ballot process.
- The Committee noted that consideration is being given to permitting wholesalers who had gained space in the new market and sell their business prior to the Agreement for Lease not being required to transfer the liability of the increase space under the new lease.
- A formal letter will be forwarded to wholesalers confirming arrangements for loss and gain of space.
- 62 submissions were received regarding the rental discussion paper.

The Committee noted:

- The Committee noted they do not support ground leases or freehold that allow private entities to own and operate market warehousing. The Committee recommended that the State provide the warehousing.
- The Committee raised concerns related to purchasing a freehold warehouse facility at Epping in relation to potential risks factors that may eventuate. It was noted that to purchase outside the boundary reduced any potential risk factors.
- The Committee requested DBI to recommend any support programs, (government and non-government), which could assist their members to adjust to the relocation. Committee members were advised of the DBI business assist programs operating in the western suburbs. DBI will provide information on these in the future.
- The Committee members noted the substantial increases in cooling costs as a flow on of the carbon tax. It was suggested that the cost of re-gassing cooling units had increased substantially.

Other:

- The Committee asked about charging for water and power in the new market.
- The MMA advised that the method of charging is being looked at with a view to keep it simple.

Date of Next Meeting

- To be advised. - MMA

Meeting closed at 9.30am