

GROWERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

**HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM
THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2013, 8.30AM – 9.30AM**

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Growers Advisory Committee Members

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

DBI Representatives

Mary Baker – Stakeholder Relations

MMA Representatives

Nada Kirkwood – Board Member, MMA
Darryn Coulson – CEO, MMA
Aurora Kostezky – Legal Counsel
Colleen Buckley – Minute Taker, MMA

Meeting opened at 8.50am.

The DBI presented a Draft Discussion Paper on 3 options for stand sizes for members to discuss and provide feedback.

- Option 1: 34.56 sq metres – the current proposed stand size based on market feedback that this size provides a superior OH&S environment and greater display space
- Option 2: 21.58sq metres – a variation on the current Footscray Road size (based on pallet size)
- Option 3 17.28 sq metres – half the proposed stand size (Option1), based on two businesses sharing a 34.56 sq metre stand
- It was noted stand demand varies over the week so that Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the busiest. It was also noted that stand occupancy has declined in the current market.
- It was agreed the discussion paper should not be distributed to the market community. Instead, the Committee requested that a meeting be scheduled with the Minister before the paper is finalised.

- The Committee said that its preference is to retain the 34.56 square metre stand size for occupational health and safety reasons as previously stated.
- It was noted that under Option 2, growers with multiple stands will lose a large proportion of space if all stand holders wish to go to Epping.
- The Committee expressed concern about using two forklifts in a shared arrangement under Option 3.
- The Committee said that first right of refusal should be given to “genuine growers”.
- The Committee said that stand holders should get like for like, should be able to trade, should be offered a buy-out option and that stand holders are being discriminated compared with store holders and flower traders.
- It was noted by members when discussion papers are circulated in the market they receive a large volume of queries by their colleagues and that documentation should be in dot points and the content clear.

West Melbourne

- The Committee requested an up-date on when the CEO position will be filled and it was noted that the selection process is in progress.

Date of Next Meeting

- To be advised. – MMA

Meeting closed at 9.55am