

WHOLESALE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

HELD AT THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2012, 9.00AM – 10.00AM

ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Wholesalers Advisory Committee Members

Stephen Wirtz
Shane Schnitzler
Vince Brancatisano
Grant Nichol

DBI Representatives

Mary Baker
Howard Stachehr – Commercial
Brendan Eccelston - Technical

MMA Representatives

Allan Crosthwaite – CEO, MMA
Aurora Kostezky – Legal Counsel MMA
Colleen Buckley– Minute Taker, MMA

Apologies

Frank Mohler – Transitional and Operations
Steve McArthur – Board Member
Harry Kapiris – Advisory Member

Meeting opened at 9.05am.

DBI noted:

- the Minister received a proposal from the Vegetable Growers Association requesting the option of reducing the proposed stand size at Epping from 35sq to 21sq to create additional stands to allow more opportunities for all stand holders in the market community.
- It was noted most stand holders are trading on their stands but a percentage of stand holders are using stands for parking or storage. It was noted of the 664 stands only 85% are operating at the current Footscray Site.
- The Minister has requested that advice on the size of stands be sought from the Growers Advisory Committee and the Wholesalers Advisory Committee.
- It was noted stand holders as at 31st January 2012 are eligible for the ballot.
- It was noted the rents and charges will be released on Thursday 13th December 2012 to the market community.

- It was recommended to the advisory members that a deposit be paid by the growers to register for their Stands Ballot to protect the grower's community and ensure an opportunity for stand holders.
- It was noted the Draft of Traffic Plans and Management will be shown in form of a presentation and provide the opportunity for discussion amongst all advisory groups with A1 size print outs available on request.
- It was noted power will be provided on stands for stand holders and will be via a pull down structure connected to the stand apparatus.

The Committee noted:

- strongly they would support the 35 square metre stand size that was proposed 9 years ago not the reduced 21 square metres recently proposed by the VGA. It was noted the advisory committee members had not received any supporting documentation to the VGA proposal, and therefore the Committee are unable to provide a view.
- that the growers only represent a small minority of the market community.
- their dissatisfaction with the consultation process on relocation.
- that the market community are very angry and are venting their frustration to their advisory members who represent them to the government. It was noted a majority of market community members do not understand the documents because of a language barrier and they are unable to understand forms they are required to complete.
- that lawyers have been engaged to review the Deed Poll within 24 hours of the meeting held, and they noted they did not receive communication from the government within the 24 hour period.
- 15 Store holders advised the advisory members they did not receive their letter regarding loss of space or gain of space prior to the ballot; it was strongly felt those members could have been discriminated against. It was noted the ambiguity in the interpretation of the documentation released raised concerns for committee members.
- noted that committee member were ignored before the Ballot took place. It was noted that some businesses were more advantaged in their ballot outcomes.
- that there was no guarantee that Fresh State members would attend the Wholesalers Advisory Committee as opinions are ignored.
- the government representatives were invited to attend a Fresh State public meeting of their members, to answer any questions face to face, and to hear first hand the angst of their members at how they have been treated.

- Ethylene 27.5 is being reported to be used at Epping and concerns have been raised raised by members of the danger to all market users.
- members raised concern of electronic emails circulated by DBI may be against the Privacy Act.

Date of Next Meeting

- To be advised. - MMA

Meeting closed at 10.00am