



## MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY

### NOTICE TO MARKET REGARDING THE MELBOURNE MARKET AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 2014

This notice concerns the Melbourne Market Authority Amendment Bill 2014 (**the Bill**), due to be debated in the Legislative Assembly the week beginning 18 August 2014.

There is a petition being circulated in the market seeking your support to lobby opposition to the Bill. There is misinformation regarding the intention of the Bill and this is reflected in the circulated petition. The correct intention of the Bill and context as it affects stall holders is summarised below.

#### **Purpose of the Bill**

The purpose of the Bill is not in any way intended to curtail stall holder rights or entitlements. The stall holders will have all their rights and entitlements as expressed under the licence agreements they will sign for Epping. The intention and objectives of the proposed Bill are as follows:

1. To open the new market at Epping a cut-off date for the conclusion of the market at West Melbourne needs to be established. It is not appropriate to have two wholesale markets operating concurrently.
2. When bringing the market at West Melbourne to a definite end at the cut-off date, the Bill clarifies the status of rights at West Melbourne.
3. Once the market at the West Melbourne site is no longer operating, the site has to be able to be used for other purposes that will benefit the State of Victoria such as for infrastructure, roads, or the future expansion of the port, or for other uses.

The Bill will achieve these objectives by:

1. Allowing the Minister to nominate a day (no later than 30 June 2015) when the market at West Melbourne will come to an end. This will allow the Melbourne Market Authority (MMA) to close West Melbourne as a market after the market at Epping is declared to be open.
2. Removing the current restriction on the West Melbourne site, which allows it to only be used as a market, once market operations cease.

#### **Rights under a Licence**

Stall holders at West Melbourne are licensees which confers a right to occupy a stand during market operating hours for a 12 month period. As in any other licence of this nature, it does not confer any property right or entitlement. The Bill merely provides a mechanism for bringing the licences at West Melbourne to a definite end when the licences at the Epping market become operative once the new market is operating.

### **Commitment to the move to Epping**

The Bill must be seen in the context of the relocation to Epping, and the overwhelming participation of market members in that move. A substantial sector of the market community has already committed to the move to Epping by signing and paying deposits for store leases, warehouse leases and flower stand (stall) licences. The growers stand (stall) ballot and signing of licences which will occur on Friday 8 August 2014 will confirm the growers' commitment to the move to Epping.

The passage of the Bill is necessary. It will provide certainty and clarity to the market community and others that Epping is where the future market will be and that West Melbourne will no longer be a market.

Further consultation with the Growers Advisory Committee will occur during the week commencing 11 August 2014 and we urge all members of the committee to attend.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING MARKET CIRCULARS**

In an effort to reduce our impact on the environment and to keep our market clean, the MMA will be phasing out printed circulars.

As of 1 September 2014 the MMA will no longer hand out printed copies of market circulars and other notices.

#### **Where to access circulars after 1 September**

All circulars, news and other notices will be available:

- Via our website [www.melbournemarkets.com.au](http://www.melbournemarkets.com.au).
- To those registered on our e-database via our email and SMS alerts
- In hardcopy for collection on request from our MMA offices.
- Summary alerts and updates published on the TV screens around the market.

#### **Not on our e-database?**

Join our e-database to receive emails and SMS alerts with the latest market news before 1 September to ensure you don't miss out.

To join call us on 9258 6100 or visit one of our offices to update your details today!