

**Fruit & Vegetable Wholesalers Advisory Committee**  
**MMA Boardroom, Epping**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**In attendance:** Harry Kapiris (Chair), Brett Collins, Joseph Manariti, Grant Nichol, Shane Schnitzler, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Kirsty Harvison, Sally Devlin (Minute Taker)

**Item 1: Terms of Reference**

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The advisory **AGREED** to the Terms of Reference. The MMA **REQUESTED** that EFT details that were not provided prior to the meeting are be sent to the MMA ASAP.

**Item 2: Meeting Dates & Times**

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Grant Nichol **NOTED** that he could not attend Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September; MMA will source an alternative date and advise at the next scheduled meeting. The advisory **REQUESTED** that the meeting times are changed to 8.30am; MMA to update meeting requests to reflect this change.

**Item 3: Market Hours**

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The MMA is committed to reviewing Market hours within the first 12 months of operating at Epping. This process will commence in April 2016 to ensure a review can be completed prior to August 2016. Feedback received to the MMA so far suggests that the Storeholders / Wholesalers are pressured by their buyers to be available earlier than WM.

The advisory **SUGGESTED** the following:

- Road / Traffic concerns contribute to the earlier start and trade finishing earlier;
- Pre-Order levels remain the same as WM; Buyers still wish to view the produce they are purchasing;
- Currently buying times are not being adhered to (no enforcement pre or post trade), if hours are to remain the same, they need to be enforced with demerit points issued for non-compliance;
- A "bell / alarm" like Perth market to indicate the commencement of trade for the day could be considered.

The MMA will continue to monitor and enforce no early access to Retailers via the 24/7 Warehouse Access unless legitimate subleasing arrangements can be substantiated and will reinforce no buyers on the trading floor prior to trade via the MRO's and Market Security Officers.

**Item 4: Industry Assistance**

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The MMA has commenced discussions with local TAFEs with the aim of creating a program for Greengrocer training that will result in participants having an appropriate skill set to undertake their business. Feedback from the training industry suggested that apprenticeships are no longer desired by the current workforce. On behalf of Fresh State, SS expressed full support for the development of such a program.

**Item 5: Access Card Renewal**

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The MMA advised of the process regarding the new Common Expiry Date rollout. Letters to Business Principles will be distributed this week, asking them to confirm current employees / access cards prior to invoicing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Kapiris and Premier have agreed to test the process and provide feedback before the rollout to all Market Businesses.

**Item 6: Market Operations**

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1. **BPAY:** The MMA will be introducing BPAY before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 as an alternative payment method.
2. **POOLING ACCOUNTS:** The MMA will be distributing letters to Business Principles (Stores & Stands) before 11/03/16 outlining the process regarding Pooling Account Requirements and the Breach of Operating Rules resulting in Lockout. The MMA anticipates this process to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The advisory **NOTED** that where wholesalers are enforcing the use of accounts internally with their own customers it is working well. However CHEP statements and website are confusing for many tenants and therefore could be deterring tenants from using them and signing up.

3. **FORKLIFT STORAGE:** Allocation of bays can now commence for Forklift Storage. No Pallets can be stored on Forklifts in the EFS Facilities. Enforcement will commence in relation to storing forklifts and pallets on walkways outside of tenancies. The advisory is reminded that nothing can be left outside of the tenancies.
4. **WASTE MANAGEMENT:** The construction phase of the Recycle Transfer Facility is due for completion by the end of April 2016, with the facility operational late May. 60 additional collections have been scheduled per month for the Maxi cages at eh satellite stations as feedback has been on Tuesday / Friday the areas are not being maintained to an appropriate standard. The MMA **REQUESTED** DW is notified if the increased schedule is not achieving the desired results.
5. **DISPLAYING ACCESS CARDS:** Lanyards or armbands are not practical or safe for tenants, therefore the MMA should consider that the terminology is changed from always display to immediately make available upon request.
6. **PARKING:** There are a number of people on the waiting list (mostly LCVs). A number of semi bays have been identified that could be converted into Rigid Bays to meet demand. White Permits have been issued to those on the waitlist so they can be identified within the market. All agree that there are less concerns / issues being raised about parking in the past month. The advisory **REQUESTED** that the MRO's investigate tenants that are allowing Retailers to use bays (that disadvantage others) and better enforcement of the rules when tenants are putting stock on undercover bays.
7. **MUSIC:** The advisory **REQUESTED** that the Music is discontinued.

#### **Item 7: Other Operational Items**

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1. **DISPOSABLE PALLET SURCHARGE:** The \$10 disposable charge for broken pallets is expensive and should be reviewed. The MMA advised the committee of the new "Green Pallet" business that will be entering the market as alternative service provider.
2. **FORKLIFT ACCESS ON BUYERS WALK:** The advisory **NOTED** that the original agreement was that forklifts would be allowed on the Buyers Walk Pre & Post Trade for Set up & Pack down purposes only. The MMA advised that this is not possible given current Worksafe recommendations and that the MMA is working with Worksafe to investigate alternative options.
3. **TOILET CLEANLINESS:** The cleanliness has improved, however the floor is constantly wet.

#### **General Business**

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- **CONDENSATION / WET FLOORS IN STORES:** The MMA have engaged a consultant to undertake an investigation into the potential cause. The MMA confirm that the concrete was sealed after construction.
- **DUST:** MMA testing has been undertaken and the results have been forwarded onto the council for comment.
- **TRUCK CURFEW:** The MMA **REQUESTED** feedback on the implementation of the truck curfew.
- **DOOR SEALS:** This is a concern for affected tenants and needs rectification ASAP.
- **GLYCOL USAGE:** More information (daily usage breakdown) should be made available with the invoices.
- **MARKET CREDIT SERVICE:** A compulsory registration to the Market Credit Service for buyers would give businesses more surety in case of non-payment. The MMA **NOTED** that the credit service is not run by the MMA and it is not possible to make it a condition of entry to the site.
- **BUYER NUMBERS:** The advisory **REQUESTED** that swipe access data is released to provide an understanding of how many buyers are attending the market so that it can be used to communicate Market Usage to its members.
- **PARKING FOR ADMIN STAFF:** The advisory **REQUESTED** that the MMA not charge businesses for additional parking required by the admin staff post trade (after 8am). The MMA advised that this is not possible.

Meeting closed 10.50am