

Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee
MMA Boardroom, Epping
9th March 2016

In attendance: David Wallace (Chair), Ben Apted, Vince Doria, Alec Berias, Anthony Mould, Mark Maskiell, David Whitcelo, Matthew Elliott, Shaun Matthews, Sally Devlin (Minute Taker)

Item 1: Terms of Reference

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

The advisory **AGREED** to the proposed Meeting dates.

Item 3: Market Hours

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. An independent consultant will be engaged to undertake the work.

The advisory **SUGGESTED** the following:

- Whilst later hours would suit the Growers, the Buyers do not want to come in later - a move to later hours would turn retailers away;
- Trading should be allowed from 12am and all market participants make a decision to participate when they want to.

Item 4: Stand Reallocation

Document Referenced: 160307 Growers Advisory Discussion Paper re Stand Allocation

The Advisory **NOTED** that the MMA will commence the termination of stands licenses that are not being used or being used incorrectly within the coming weeks. A number of growers are planning to give back their unused stands. The MMA **REQUESTED** that the advisory talk to stand holders and have them contact the MMA ASAP.

The advisory **SUGGESTED** that those parties who are asked to move without receiving additional space should be compensated and that the MMA should consider converting some stands into Buggy Parking.

Item 5: Access Card Renewal

The MMA advised of the process regarding the new Common Expiry Date rollout. Letters to Business Principles will be distributed this week, asking to confirm current employees / access cards prior to invoicing from 1st April 2016. The advisory are aware that tenants are sharing cards and this practice needs to cease.

Item 6: Market Operations

1. **BPAY:** The MMA will be introducing BPAY before 30th April 2016 as an alternative payment method.
2. **POOLING ACCOUNTS:** Approx. 600 new accounts were opened as part of the lockout of buyers last month. 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 the Operating Rules resulting in Lockout. The MMA anticipates this process to be completed by 31st March 2016.
3. **WASTE MANAGEMENT:** The construction phase of the Waste Transfer Facility is due for completion by the end of April 2016, with the facility operational late May.
4. **DISPLAYING ACCESS CARDS:** Lanyards or armbands are not practical or safe for tenants, therefore the MMA should consider modifying the Operating Rules such that access cards must be carried at all times rather than the requirement to be displayed.
5. **PARKING:** There are a number of people on the waiting list (mostly LCVs). No retailers are being denied entry into the market. White Permits have been issued to those on the waitlist so they can be easily identified within the market.

6. **MUSIC:** The advisory **REQUESTED** that the Music is discontinued.

Item 7: Other Operational Items

- **TRADING FLOOR CLEANLINESS:** The MMA are working with IKON to ensure the desired results are achieved with the Trading Floor.

General Business

- **TRUCK CURFEW:** Feedback was that some smaller strawberry growers (eg: Australian Strawberry Distributors) are no longer coming to the market due to the truck curfew and the high expense of using a transport company for distribution. The MMA **REQUESTED** written notification from any tenants experiencing difficulties due to the Curfew.
- **IAP FUNDS:** The advisory **REQUESTED** information on how the current IAP funds will be utilised.
- **MMA STAFF:** The advisory **NOTED** that since the move to Epping, MMA Managers and Staff have been very approachable and more visible during trade which has been appreciated.