

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

**In attendance:** Paul Ahern (Chair), John Psarakos, Leon Mugavin, Graham Gee, Tony Mecca, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Shaun Matthews, 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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Tony Mecca **NOTED** that he could not attend the scheduled June Meeting.

**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. An independent consultant will be engaged to undertake the work. The advisory **REQUESTED** that the access data collated from the exercise is shared with the committee.

The advisory **SUGGESTED** that consideration should be given to a “free market model” where trading should be allowed whenever there is demand and in turn the market hours would work itself out. If the wholesalers want to set up and trade early they can chose to participate or not.

**Item 4: Greengrocer Support Program**

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The MMA is undertaking discussions with local TAFEs to create 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. Fresh State are also supportive of this initiative.

**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 to confirm current employees / access cards prior to invoicing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

**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:** Approx. 600 new accounts were opened last month. The same process will be undertaken with the Stores & Stands this month.
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 that access cards must be carried at all times, not shown at all times.
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 committee **NOTED** the music in the trading floor and buyers walk is too loud.

## General Business

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- **MARKET FRESH WEBSITE:** The MMA is working to review the current site layout and content to make it more relevant to the retailers.
- **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD:** The MMA is assessing cost and location, however further discussions to be had between PA & ME to determine an appropriate solution.
- **ENGAGEMENT WITH JOURNALISTS:** The advisory ***REQUESTED*** that the MMA engage directly with publications such as Epicure (The Age) with content about in season, fresh produce.
- **SMOKING:** There is no enforcement of Smoking outside the designated areas. The advisory ***REQUESTED*** that the MMA consider increasing the number of designated smoking areas.