



Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee
MMA Boardroom, Epping
7 December 2016

In attendance: David Wallace, Ben Apted, Alec Berias, Vince Doria, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Matthew Elliott, Kirsty Harvison (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Gis Marven, Anthony Mould

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory **CONFIRMED** the Minutes from 14th September 2016 and 20th October 2016 are a true and accurate record of the meeting

MATTERS ARISING

- **Ring Road Speed Limit:** The MMA confirmed that the Ring Road Speed limit will be increased from 20km to 40km. The MMA are working with Cardno and Worksafe to ensure the implementation satisfies safety requirements where the current forklift crossovers exist. It is likely the design will reduce traffic flow to one lane in some areas. All agreed that it is an appropriate safety measure. There will be zero tolerance on anyone travelling more than 40kph.
- **Casual Stands – Food Handling Certificates:** The MMA confirmed the COW regulations do not require any Food Handling certifications for market traders. The advisory discussed that new growers don't have HACCP certificates or any testing certification which is putting others at risk. ACTION: The MMA will consider whether additional regulation/certification is required as part of the registration process.
- **Dandenong Market:** There has been no further development. Council has sought further information from the applicant. The planning application is now required to be approved by the full council. At the recent elections 9 out of 12 councillors were re-elected.
- **Children in the Market Trial:** The trial was deemed a success. There was a robust registration process and additional MRO's were resourced to ensure the safety of those onsite. The next event will be held in the first term school holidays 2017.

MARKETING

- **Green Grocer Support Program:** Stage 1 interviews are almost complete. This involved consultation in each state with the Central Market and Fresh Markets Australia representatives and Green Grocers. Outcomes so far suggest that 100% see value in a national independent programme. Stage 2 is to conduct over 600 Consumer Surveys before the end of the year.
- **Green Grocer Skills Training:** The first reference group meeting with Melbourne Polytechnic is to be held on 9 December 2016, with 2 Retailer Advisory Members part of the group (8 Green Grocers in total).

OPERATIONS

- **Christmas Trading Hours:** The MMA confirmed that Christmas Eve is not a market trading day, however retailers will be permitted to enter to collect orders.
- **Site Cleaning:** An impact clean has been completed on all amenities. The frequency of cleaning in common areas has also increased. Green Waste bins have also been implemented across the trading floor. The advisory **REQUESTED** that the trading floor is cleaned once a week and that the amenities near the parking areas are cleaned more often. They noted that Warehouse 5 & 6 facilities need to be improved and that hand dryers should be upgraded to newer models across the market. The MMA confirmed that an increased cleaning scope will be introduced from February 2017.
- **Forklift Storage:** EFS Building works are now complete. Forklifts need to be stored within the EFS Building or in Warehouses. The advisory **REQUESTED** the installation of additional cladding along the perimeter of the EFS Building to prevent exposure to the elements.
- **Dust Testing:** The MMA will continue discussions with Alex Fraser and COW. Alex Fraser will install additional wind breaks and monitoring on their site. The testing conducted by the MMA shows that it is currently within the Australian Standards. The advisory **NOTED** that traders are complaining about the dust and asthma symptoms. ACTION: The MMA will circulate Dust Testing Reports from the trading floor to the Advisory and doors on the trading floor will be kept open when the temperature exceeds 26 degrees.

- **Early Access:** The advisory **NOTED** that early access is not a concern for the growers, their position is the retailers come first and most wish to exit the market before 5am.
- **Pallet Dumping:** A trial for plain pallet racking outside T2 has been implemented. There are still up to 45 pallets dumped around the site per day. It is anticipated if the trial of racking is successful an additional 14 locations will be added across the site. The advisory **SUGGESTED** that an additional site should be closer to Green Machine.

OTHER OPERATIONS

- **Undercover Area Extension:** The MMA is investigating the installation of 2 x 1.3ha roofing panels which will join to the existing roofline. The initial proposal includes a fully enclosed roof made from Solar panels.
- **LED Lighting Upgrade:** The MMA will tender works to install LED lighting across the site in all common areas (including the trading floor). The change to LED lighting will improve colour clarity and are 60% more efficient.
- **CCTV Upgrade:** The MMA has entered into a contract to increase and upgrade site wide CCTV coverage. Works have already commenced and will be complete before the end of February 2017. Cameras will be installed into areas that are fit for purpose and will help identify stock loss as well as other security benefits.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Truck Curfew:** Consultation with VicRoads indicates that the curfew will be extended, however it will likely to be changed to limit certain vehicles types and those that do not use engine brakes. VFF is seeking to remove the curfew.
- **Business Growth:** The MMA discussed removing access to the common area space in Warehouse 6 and an associated offset to the current tenants. The Advisory is in support of this.
- **Forklift Highways:** The advisory **NOTED** that the grinding is still not sufficient for the forklift highways and **SUGGESTED** bitumen as a solution. The MMA has concerns about ongoing maintenance in high traffic area. ACTION: The MMA will review the defect rectification on the forklift highway and consider options for improvement.
- **Rent Relief:** The advisory **REQUESTED** that the MMA consider a freeze on 4% licence fee increase. The position of the MMA remains that the licence fee is consistent with the approved financial model for operation of the Market.