



Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee
Meeting via Microsoft teams
Wednesday 2 June 2021
7:30am – 8:30am

In Attendance: Anthony Pignataro, Nick Patsuris, Josh Sharma, Ricky Mazaris, Mark Maskiell, David Whitcelo, Malcolm Lum, David Power, David Richards, Lauren Kitchener, & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker).

Apologies: Vince Doria

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: MMA COO welcomed all committee members to the Growers Advisory Committee Meeting. Minutes taken from the previous meeting on 10 December 2020 were confirmed as true and correct. Given the Committee are without a Chair at present, the MMA Chief Operating Officer welcomed Josh Sharma, Farm Gate Fresh to his first meeting as the newest member of the Growers Advisory Committee.

OPERATIONS

- **COVID-19 – Market updates and communications:** The MMA are continuing to inform the market community on all communications regarding Covid-19. The MMA continuously monitor the current lockdown and will advise whether it will be extended. Market tenants/ visitors are only able to enter the market via Gate 1 access, with all access cards checked upon entering. Face masks are also mandatory throughout the market.
- **Drug & Alcohol Testing:** Drug & Alcohol testing has re-commenced in the market, with random testing occurring throughout the market. The Drug & alcohol vans used throughout this process are all fully equipped as those of Police Drug & Alcohol testing vans. From the latest random drug & alcohol test in the market in one location 30% of participants provided a positive result therefore confirming the need for ongoing testing. The Drug testing agency used by the MMA are TDDA (The Drug Detection Agency), being our newest tenant in the Admin Building. TDDA are available for onsite visits to business requiring their services.
- **Additional Warehousing (EOI) – Update:** There has been an increase in the demand for additional warehousing in the market, and the MMA will continue to provide updates as they arise for future developments.
- **Solar Canopy project:** The MMA confirmed the solar canopy project is well underway, all concrete footings have now been poured and site offices and amenities have been installed around the market. Project is due for completion in March 2022. The MMA are continuously liaising with market tenants who may be affected by the undergoing works, in temporarily relocating their parking bays. This will occur on a 6-week rotational basis, and to date, the process has run smoothly.
- **Trading Floor – ventilation (air flow):** Management confirmed the trading floor will receive 8m span fans to be installed in the trading floor, for additional ventilation purposes. During the warmer months, this will be beneficial for air ventilation and circulation, keeping the temperature down.
- **Forklift Safety:** Management discussed the importance of forklift safety in the market, in particular recent safety events. WorkSafe have been onsite recently checking the compliance of all forklifts in the market with a focus on towing capacity to ensure they meet compliance.

MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- **Food Services Australia – Exhibition – (June 27-29 & Market Open Day (September 30):** The MMA in conjunction with Melbourne's North Food Group (MNFG) will be working sharing an exhibit at the Food Services Exhibition, scheduled 27-29 June 2021. MMA will collect the details of those attending the exhibition, and to try and entice them to attend the MMA Market Open day on 30 September 2021. MMA are currently working on an itinerary for the open day, a market tour of the flower market and trading floor, followed by the celebration of an open day.
- **A Better Choice (ABC) - Greengrocer National Brand Program:** The latest campaign "Shop to Win" has been successful and feedback has been positive. There were weekly prize giveaways, divided up between each state. The campaign will run for 4 months, coming to an end in June 2021, with further talk of it being reintroduced later in the year.



Management confirmed the installation of additional billboard advertising to occur throughout the market this year for the A Better Choice program.

- **Greengrocer Training Scholarship:** The MMA are continuously promoting the Certificate in Green Grocery Program, ideally hoping for an increase in students enrolling in 2022. The feedback received from those attending the course and their employers has been positive.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Digital Transformation- Update on Customer online portal:** The Customer portal is now complete and will be rolled out to the Market community over the next 12-months. The portal will be secure, providing market tenants with visibility to their pay accounts, view statements, liaise with the MMA directly and overall will provide more efficiency. The MMA have employed a dedicated resource to assist businesses with the rollout to ensure a smooth transition.
- **FareShare:** Management confirmed FareShare operations in the market, having commenced in 2020. FareShare accept fruit and vegetables from the market, being quite specific in the items they receive.
- **Café Relocation:** Management advised of the relocation of Moon Bean café into the old delicatessen site, and Moon Bean will in-turn be converted into a trading store, following an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.
- **Waste Management:** Management are continuously looking at ways to increase waste management recycling throughout the market.

MATTERS ARISING

- **G N Insurance Pty Ltd - Insurance Broker:** The MMA Admin Building has welcomed a new market tenant, G N Insurance Pty Ltd (Insurance Broker). The MMA will provide the details to the Advisory Committee following this meeting if requested.
- **Trading Floor Bins:** Committee requested additional bins to be installed in the trading floor, for rubbish as opposed to the existing bins for food waste & recycling. Management will ensure additional bins are provided.

Chair closed the meeting at 8:00am.