

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

In Attendance: Anthony Pignataro, Nick Patsuris, Ricky Mazaris, Vince Doria, Josh Sharma, Mark Maskiell, David Whitchelo, Malcolm Lum, David Power, Rob Rotondi, Amanda Flannery, Lauren Kitchener, & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker).

Apologies: Nil

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 8 June 2021. Given the Committee are without a Chair at present, the MMA Chief Operating Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

- **Traffic Management plan:** To ensure further safety improvements onsite, Management confirmed the recent line marking and additional physical barriers installed throughout the market.
- **Safety Committee Meeting:** MMA confirmed the newly formed OH&S Committee, which will hold their first meeting in the coming weeks. The Committee welcome anyone along who would like to attend as a guest participant wanting to contribute. Minutes will be available and distributed following each meeting.
- **Covid-19 Vaccination hub:** The MMA are in discussion with Austin Health to return onsite to administer the second dose vaccinations in 3-4 weeks. Management will provide the market community with all communications.
- **40 Year Celebration Wall Feedback:** Committee suggested listing each nominee's name and include the year beside it. The MMA will take this suggestion onboard and will further investigate.

OPERATIONS

- **Market Incident – Traffic Management & Pedestrian Crossings:** Management discussed the recent fatality in the market in early August and reiterating the importance of safety throughout the market. During August, there were an additional 3 onsite Worksafe reportable incidents. The MMA are continuously enforcing the importance of safety in the market and looking at ways to increase safety measures.
- **Forklift Safety CCTV Incident:** The MMA presented a video to the committee displaying a collision by two forklifts onsite, neither of them adhering to market operating rules. MMA confirmed installing new handrails and Armco railing through the market in high traffic areas to increase safety measures.
- **OH&S Committee:** The MMA, in collaboration with FreshState have formed a new Safety Committee, and the first meeting will be held in coming weeks. The MMA welcome additional guests to attend the committee meetings for those wanting to contribute. Minutes will be distributed following each meeting.
- **Solar Canopy Project – Update:** The solar canopy project is progressing well and on schedule. The first two canopies are now complete, with the solar panels to be installed on the second canopy. The MMA have focussing on carparking allocations at present for the new undercover parking areas.
- **COVID-19 – Market updates & Communications:** The implementation of the Covid vaccination hub onsite has been well received. To date, Austin Health have administered 2500 vaccinations onsite. The MMA are liaising with Austin Health for them to return to administer the second dose of vaccinations in 3-4 weeks.
- **Warehousing Development Eastern Boundary:** The MMA are finalising the designs and space allocations for additional warehousing onsite at the market. The Traffic Management plan will coincide with the entry/ exit areas to each warehouse, to ease traffic flow and accommodate warehouse tenants.
- **Trading Floor – ventilation (air flow) – update:** The MMA have been investigating the air flow in the market trading floor, to accommodate the upcoming warmer weather. Management will be installing new roofing fans, called "kick ass fans".

MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- **A Better Choice - National Brand Program:** The A Better Choice “Spring” campaign will commence in October. The campaign will be focussed on supporting local sporting groups within your area. There will be approximately \$25k prizes available to give away per state. The A Better Choice team are currently looking to recruit a dedicated person as the “face” of a Better Choice, to predominantly work with retailers to support them on the program.
- **Greengrocer Training Scholarship:** Management confirmed the program is running well, although ideally would like an additional 15 students to enrol in the course. Feedback to date has been positive, from both the employer and employee/ student of the course structure and benefits associated.
- **Market TV Advertising screens:** The large TV screen has been installed in the market, together with an additional screen in the flower market. The screens will be used for advertising within the market, both internally and externally.
- **Food Services Australia – Exhibition (February 2022):** Due to lockdown restrictions, the Exhibition is now scheduled in February 2022. The MMA will reach out to the Market community to see if they would like to be involved closer to the date.
- **Artwork Mural - Admin Building:** The new artwork mural is in its finalisation stage, displayed on the side of the Admin building. Feedback to date has been positive and well received by the market community.
- **40 Year Celebration Wall Feedback:** The new 40 Year Celebration wall has been installed recently, and feedback has been positive. The Committee suggested listing each award recipient’s name, together with the year they received the award. The MMA will take this suggestion onboard and will further investigate.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Digital Transformation - Update on Customer online portal:** The MMA confirmed the finalisation (improvement) phase of the new customer portal. Several market tenants have been assisting the MMA with the trial period. Management have received feedback on the portal for improvements, which have been considered and rectified to ensure the portal is user friendly and can accommodate all requirements. The portal will be secure, providing market tenants with visibility to their pay accounts, view statements, parking allocation details, liaise with the MMA directly and overall will provide more efficiency. Once opting in, the MMA will provide assistance with onboarding to the portal, and an instruction video is also available.
- **Café Relocation:** Moon Bean Café are relocating from their current premises and will continue to operate via a “a pop-up café” outside the Deli location, being their new location. By the end of the first week in October, Moon Bean will be operating out of their new premises, which will consist of an onsite bakery.
- **Advisory Committee Nominations 2022:** The Advisory Committee election for 2022 will commence later this year. Committee members to think about re-nominating and/ or recommending other wholesalers to nominate as part of the Committee.

The Chief Operating Officer closed the meeting at 8:30am.