



**Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting held in MMA Boardroom & via Teams**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**7:30am – 8:30am**

**In Attendance:** Vince Doria, Hermione Parsons (via teams), Lauren Kitchener, Mark Maskiell, Frank Attana, Malcolm Lum, David Whitchelo, Rob Rotondi, Fiona Whitworth & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker).

**Apologies:** Amy Dyer, Nick Patsuris (Chair), Ricky Mazaris, Amanda Miceli & Anthony Pignataro.

**Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** MMA Head of Projects welcomed committee members to the Growers Advisory Committee Meeting & noted the apologies. Management discussed the Management report previously sent to each Committee providing them with an update on all MMA recent topics. Minutes taken from the previous meeting on 21 March 2023.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

- **Vacant Stand holder:** Management have investigated a small number of buyers using their stand licences not to sell, but to get access into the market early.
  - The MMA have rectified this issue.
- **Flower Market & Truck parking – Traffic Management:** Committee discussed the congestion of the trucks on the northern side of the flower market during setup, and what could be done to ensure the safety of flower market users who are walking between the flower market and their trucks.
  - The MMA confirmed with the new traffic management plan, this will rectify the traffic congestion issue.
- **Trading Floor - ventilation (air flow):** Management confirmed large fans are currently on order for installing in the trading floor to assist with ventilation in warmer months, ideally prior to Spring 2022.
  - However, the MMA provided an update on the delay on the fans for March 2023 to be installed. The MMA have installed water pipes along the roof line to assist in lowering the inside temperature by 5 degrees during warmer months.
  - The MMA will further investigate alternative fan providers other than “kick arse fans”.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Market Trading Hours:** Management will provide all Committee members and the market community with a timeframe update on the Market hours project. Committee discussed the current hours and how the market community and the MMA can work together in achieving a beneficial outcome for all. Fiona Whitworth, Market Hours consultant discussed how various other markets are working to overcome these challenges, following her recent visit to the Toronto Market, Canada.
- **Gate 1 and National Flower Centre Traffic Management:** Management discussed the current market hours in place, and the processes that the MMA are implementing for an overall analysis of access cards, times of entry/exit and the access they currently have. Changes will be made at Gate 1, by installing an express lane to avoid any congestion, different coloured lights above Gate 1 to identify stationary vehicles (people out of their vehicle etc). Head of Projects, David Whitchelo mentioned to meet with the remainder of the committee to discuss the changes before implementing.
- **WorkSafe restraints - Electric vehicles:** The Worksafe directive for all electric market buggies and vehicles to be fitted with a restraint is nearing the deadline, having to be completed by 30 June 2023. Communications team are working on safety video content relating to the importance of abiding by the directive.
- **Vehicle registration:** Committee asked about the 2 separate vehicle registration charges by the MMA, and the reasoning as to why. Management confirmed there will be a reduction to the market buggy registration, to the new fee of \$20 per annum.
- **Cultural Transformation – “Stronger Together”:** Market induction to gain entry into the market has now been updated to ensure additional measures are in place for further diversity and inclusion, with the inclusion of bilingual languages. A new campaign will be presented for approval at the June Board meeting and once finalised shared with the market community. Management is highly supportive of this initiative and want to ensure the market is a “home away from home” and for all to feel welcome.



One Committee member has implemented a cultural program within their business as a progressive way forward to ensure cultural awareness and diversity.

- **A Better Choice:** The National Retailer Year of the award will be presented next week, so stay tuned for some exciting news by a Victorian Retailer.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Vacant Stands – trading floor:** Committee members have noticed 4-5 vacant stands on the trading floor that they have been utilising given it's absent (not being used). Management confirmed this isn't allowed and the reasoning why.
- **Additional (rubbish) bins (along the walls):** Committee have requested additional rubbish bins to be provided along the walls of the market.

#### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM CURRENT MEETING:**

- **Market Trading Hours:** Management discussed the processes in place that the MMA will be doing an overall analysis of all access cards, times of entry and the access they currently have. Gate 1, express lane will be installed, different coloured lights will appear above Gate 1 to identify stationery vehicles (people out of their vehicle etc).
  - Head of Projects, David Whitchelo will arrange to meet with the absentee committee members to discuss the changes to be implemented.

The Head of Projects closed the meeting at 8:35am.