



Fruit & Vegetable Growers Advisory Committee
Meeting held in MMA Boardroom & via Teams
Wednesday 29th November 2023
7:30am – 8:30am

In Attendance: Nick Patsuris (Chair), Vince Doria, Ricky Mazaris, Frank Attana, Anthony Pignataro, Mark Maskiell, Malcolm Lum & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Lauren Kitchener, Amanda Miceli, Rob Rotondi, Amy Dyer & Hermione Parsons.

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: MMA CEO welcomed committee members to the November Growers Advisory Committee Meeting & noted the apologies. Management discussed the Management report previously sent to the Committee. Minutes were confirmed from the meeting held in September 2023.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no Matters Arising from the previous meeting held in September 2023. All matters discussed during this meeting will be further discussed below in agenda items.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Kick Arse Fans:** CEO discussed the “kick arse fans” that Management are considering installing in the trading floor. Management confirmed they are in the process of further investigating alternate cooling solutions in this area to improve & make the trading floor more comfortable in the warmer climate.
 - Committee requested for Management to further investigate cleaning of the wall & roof vents on the trading floor.
 - Management to follow up as a high priority.
- **Cultural Transformation – “Stronger Together”:** Management discussed the awareness campaign, on the digital screens in the market. Committee mentioned they do not have access to viewing the campaign as there aren’t any TV screens located on the trading floor. Management did mention where the screens are currently located.
 - Management have taken this feedback onboard and will further investigate the possibility of installing a TV screen on the trading floor for future videos/ campaigns.
- **Trading Floor – Traffic Management Plan update:** Management confirmed the proposed traffic management plan is on hold at present, with further investigations in progress. Management have taken all feedback onboard.
- **Gate 1 and National Flower Centre Traffic Management:** Committee discussed trying to access the market recently at 9:52pm one evening and all lanes were blocked.
 - Management confirmed to further investigate this issue and the need for priority lanes for market access card holders to gain entry easily and more efficiently.
- **Market Trading Hours – Update:** Management confirmed this project is still in progress and further investigations and how a change in hours (*if to occur*) were to be implemented and how this would affect the market community. Management opened the discussion to the Committee to receive feedback on if a change were to occur and how it would directly affect them.
 - Management will provide further details to the market community in early 2024.
- **Eastern Boundary Development – Update:** Project is currently on hold and is sitting with Government to further progress.
- **Digital access cards:** Management provided an update on the digital access card project. The MMA team have been trialling the project and will be rolled out into the market community, coinciding with the annual access card renewal in April 2024. This will also be implemented with the new Melbourne Market induction.
- **FM Tender Contract:** Management confirmed of a new FM Contract provider, BGIS Pty Ltd will commence in February 2024.
- **Format of “future” Advisory Committee Meetings:** Committee discussed enjoying the combined Committee meetings. The MMA requested ideas of how they might be run in the future.
- **Optus Communications Outage – What would happen if this were to occur in the market:** CEO discussed the recent Optus power outage and mentioned “What would happen to the Market if a

similar outage occurred with Telstra"? Disruption to landline, mobile and internet systems would cause difficulty within the market, however, would not prevent it from operating. The markets internal telephones operate on a separate Telstra network from the mobile/internet network and therefore not be interrupted. Internal CCTV, security and access systems would continue to operate as they do not rely on internet services. Mobile communications between staff and operations would be required to rely on the internal two-way radios for direct contact and incident management.

- **Market Satisfaction Survey:** Management discussed the Market Satisfaction Survey which will be distributed in the coming weeks and encouraged all to complete the survey to voice their feedback and/or any concerns.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Nil

ACTIONS ARISING FROM CURRENT MEETING:

- **Warehouse 5&6:** Management to further investigate the cleanliness of the toilets in Warehouse 5&6. In particular, in Warehouse 5. Committee discussed not knowing who to contact if they do come across any issues in the toilet area.
 - Management will further investigate additional signage on who to contact for any issues.
 - Management to also further investigate the toilet cleanliness in all areas of the market.
- **Market WiFi:** Committee discussed the market Wi-Fi isn't overly stable and Management will further investigate these issues and concerns.
- **Trading Stands:** Committee discussed a general consideration for stand holders to surrender some of their stands given challenging economy times. It was noted that growers use other stands (not subject to their licence) to initially set up their market operations, and they generally don't use those additional stands to sell. Management will further consider and take on all feedback onboard.
- **Royal Children's Hospital:** Committee suggested an idea to support the Royal Children's hospital who provide an enormous amount of support for families, especially our market community. Committee suggested Melbourne Market to organise an event onsite to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The event onsite at the market could feature the following; a display of classic cars, a live cross on Channel 7 to the Good Friday Appeal, Julie Goodwin cooking demonstration onsite (fish dish), and involve A Better Choice program, also having a jumping castle onsite.
 - Management team will discuss with Lauren Kitchener and Hayley Williams, Marketing Team to further consider how the event could run.

The meeting was closed at 8:37am.