

MARKET CIRCULAR NO: 539

DATE: 3rd March 2011

Theft in the Market

In the lead up to Christmas, reported theft in the market reached alarmingly high levels causing concern within all sectors of the market community. In response to the concerns, the Melbourne Market Authority (MMA) has taken steps to reduce the risk of produce being stolen. Several market users have been banned from entering the market and others face potential banning depending on the outcome of legal proceedings.

The MMA is determined to reduce the thefts in the market and several new initiatives have been introduced to address the problems.

High Tech Remote Cameras

High tech remote cameras, not reliant on the limitations of the optical fibre network, have been placed around the market. These cameras can be moved to different locations without the need for additional cabling. The imagery recorded by the high tech cameras is far superior to previously used equipment and they can operate under a broader range of lighting conditions. Camera locations are changed regularly which increases the chances of a person being caught for theft.

GPS Fork Lift Tracking trials

Forklifts have been fitted with GPS tracking devices that allow the monitoring of movements throughout the market. The tracking devices record the loading and deliveries of produce from specific locations. They also allow for monitoring of speed and dangerous driving.

If a device is tampered with, a signal is sent to the control centre.

Delivery Locations

The MMA is also monitoring the delivery of produce in the markets. It has been noted that a large number of deliveries have been sent to the wrong location within the market. Pallets have been wrongly delivered to a location in the East section when they should've been delivered in the West section.

Greater care should be taken by market users to ensure pallets are being delivered to the right location and addresses on labels are filled out correctly.

The MMA is very focused and determined to stop the thefts in the market. The increased surveillance efforts by the MMA, substantially and effectively raises the chances of a person being caught for stealing produce.

A person caught stealing at the market may be prosecuted and permanently banned from entering the market.

The MMA would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Fresh State Theft Committee in helping to reduce the levels of theft in the market community. The result of working together has caused a substantial decrease in the number of thefts occurring in the market this month.



Allan Crosthwaite
MMA CEO