SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(a) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

The duties of the committee shall be to:

- Make recommendation to the Council regarding the strategic direction of the Saleyards;
- Make Recommendation to the Council regarding the Environmental Action Plan for the Saleyards;
- Bring to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, industry matters regarding the cattle industry that may not be readily available to persons external to that industry; and
- Make recommendation to the Council regarding development works on the site.

A Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324, 10.00am Tuesday 3 February 2015

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members
Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde - 248/13
Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 21/14
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Membership
Cr J Moir – Presiding Member
Cr B Bell
Cr L Handasyde
Mr M Skinner

Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for any member)
1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

10.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present
Cr Jeff Moir (Presiding Member)
Cr Brett Bell
Cr Len Handasyde
Mr Michael Skinner

Observer
Cr Gert Messmer

Staff
Mr Rob Stewart, Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager
Mrs Erika Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Mr M Skinner, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 9 December 2014 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr J Moir
Nature and Extent of Interest: Cattle Farmer - 100 head of cattle; and
Elders Employee – Work part time for Elders Rural Services

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Mr M Skinner
Nature and Extent of Interest: Cattle Farmer - 400 head of cattle

Authority to participate pursuant to Section 5.69 (3) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1995

Approval has been received from the Department of Local Government and Communities via a letter dated 19 December 2014, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 31 December 2015.

Mr J Fathers read aloud the letters, copies of which is attached to these minutes.
5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGER’S REPORT – 1 DECEMBER 2014 TO 27 JANUARY 2015

SALE DATA

- Total sale numbers:
  - Elders Breeders Sale - 390
  - Landmark Breeders Sale - 952
  - Landmark Bull Sale - 53
  - Landmark Herd Dispersal - 405
  - Sale Cattle - 19,599
  - TOTAL - 21,399

- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- 160 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- Four animals have been put down or removed.
- 180 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 1,171 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Double sales started on the 4 and 5 December 2014.
- We had the Livestock Biosecurity Seminar on 4 December, which was well received by those who attended and the feedback was positive.
- All the new signs are now up at both entry points as well as each end of the buyers’ walkways. It appears that a lot of people don’t read signs which has caused staff issues when you approach adults with children under the age of 10 years in the restricted areas. This process will be a little like the introduction of ear tags in that it will take the public a little time to adjust to the new rules.
- The compound pond area was slashed in early December to reduce the fire hazard.
- The Saleyards Christmas party was held on 18 December. Approx 40 people attended including a number of Saleyards Advisory Committee members. It was a jovial gathering. All the catering was done by the canteen this year which took the pressure off staff as we are all still working on double sales.
- The last sale for the year was on 19 December. Staff worked up to 23 December cleaning the yards and plumbing in the new ‘W’ pen troughs. We were back at work on 30 December to make ready for the busy season.
- The first sale back was Friday 2 January 2015. It was a weaner sale only (1539 head). This sale was worthwhile having as it took the pressure of the next couple of weaner sales.
- The Tuesday 6th January Landmark Black weaner sale was cancelled and was replaced by the Denmoore Charolais Herd Dispersal Sale due to the time of calving of those animals (405 head).
• With the cancellation of the black weaner sale it put pressure on the next couple of weaner sales with big numbers of weaners coming through. Landmark recognised that the black weaner sale concept needs to be maintained for all concerned.

• On 8 January at 7pm Cranes Transport from Esperance suffered a rollover of its ‘C’ train back trailer of which 54 head was on board. Six cattle died and the rest escaped into the Stirling Range National Park. Quite a number of these animals have now been recovered, and continued their journey to Esperance.

• The three new western pens with the feed access points (6 metres) had now been completed and working very well. With the completion of these pens, our capacity to hold animals on dirt has now increased to approximately 800 head.

• Tuesday 13 January the Elders Breeders sale was held (390 head). Prices were good. The top cow Pregnancy Tested in Calf (PTIC) pen made $1,660, top heifer PTIC pen $1,700 and top cow calf pen sold for $1,500.

• On Wednesday 14 January we received 150 weaners for the Harvey Beef Gate 2 Plate Feedlot Challenge. These animals were put into the new western dirt pens in lots of 60 and were fed silage. The balance of competition cattle arrived before 10am on Thursday morning. The process worked extremely well, without any problems. All cattle seemed to be weaned.

GWN attended the yards and did a story for the local news, which was on 5.30pm on Friday night. It seemed to be watched by a lot of people. This was a great promotion for the saleyards. We were also interviewed by Olivia Garnett from ABC radio rural report, which featured on ABC on Monday 19 January.

On Saturday 17 January, these animals were weighed and scanned and penned in their vendor lots for viewing by owners and spectators etc. It was a good opportunity for competitors to view how their animals compared to others. Erika, President of the Albany Agricultural Society opened proceedings and was then followed by a brief speech by Kim McDougall from Harvey Beef.

The feedback has been extremely positive, mainly to get information back. It was very surprising that no vendor asked about final price etc. Evonne kindly opened the canteen and managed the sausage sizzle with a gold coin donation which was donated to Beyond Blue ($316). A total of 177 cattle left the saleyards on Monday 19 January to the feedlot. Three animals were refused entry and sent home due to non-compliance.

There will be a field day at Willyung Feedlot on 17 March where vendors, Ag schools and sponsors etc can view the cattle mid-way through the process. All are welcome to this day.

• On Tuesday 20 January the Landmark Breeders Sale and Blue Ribbon Bull Sale was held. A total of 53 bulls and 952 breeders were sold. Top price for bulls was shared by four lots at $7,000 and the top heifer PTIC pen was sold for $2,060, top cow PTIC price was $2,160 and top unmated heifer pen made $1,440. Top Cow calf unit sold for $2,000.

• General running of the yards has been reasonably smooth, considering the number of animals coming through. Staff have worked a considerable number of hours to make it happen.
• We now have the north west pond ready to go for sludge removal by the excavator, which was booked at the end of November 2014 to arrive the first week in February 2015.

_During discussion, the Saleyards Manager presented updated figures to 31 January which indicated a total throughput of 25,412 cattle. The view was expressed that activities such as the Gate to Plate Challenge could be promoted using a drop down plate on the Albany Highway advertising sign._

_The Saleyards Manager also advised that the weighbridge scanners had been damaged by recent storm activity and scanning was being done by hand. The mother boards had been sent to Queensland for repair. The Committee agreed that an appropriate risk mitigation strategy warranted some investigation._

**OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION**

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Mr M Skinner:
That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to current activities at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

_CARRIED_

**COMMITTEE DECISION**

Moved Mr M Skinner, seconded Cr B Bell:
That a letter be forwarded to the Gate to Plate Committee congratulating them on their efforts.

_CARRIED_
5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 DECEMBER 2014

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 3 February 2015

PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 31 December 2014.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT
There are no statutory implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
There are no policy implications for this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
This report identifies the current operating position of the Saleyards.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS
There are no strategic implications for this report.

OFFICER COMMENT
A spreadsheet showing the 31 December 2014 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is $535,631.00, which is $26,001.00 below YTD budget. A significant expense is expected in February with the de-sludging of a further settlement pond.

There are no significant variances except for Depreciation – Furniture & Fittings which is $7,435.00 above YTD budget. This is due to additional depreciation on soft floor matting. No capital expenditures have been made to date, although works are in progress on the continuation of holding pens.

Year to date (YTD) income has been recalculated using an average of the monthly spread from the last seven years. Overall year to date (YTD) operating income is $282,643.00, which is $21,522.00 above the revised YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are $27,709.00 above YTD budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS
Simple Majority

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:
That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED
6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that, at its meeting held on 9 December 2014, the Audit and Risk Management Committee sought advice from the Saleyards Advisory Committee if there needs to be any special audit emphasis on the operations of the Saleyards.

During discussion, the Saleyards Advisory Committee was satisfied that no formal audit was required, given that the Committee will continue to monitor saleyards’ activities and that committee members have the appropriate experience to oversee the operations of the facility.

6.2 TRUCK WASH CONTROLLERS

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that advice had been received from Avdata that the truck was controllers were reaching the end of their useful lives and would need to be replaced in the near future. It was noted that a sum of approximately $4,000.00 would be listed for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.

6.3 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

• Greater use of chlorinated water / Water sustainability – At its meeting held on 27 May 2014, members agreed that the requirements specified in the letter from the Health Department of WA make the operation of the waste water re-use system unviable. A budget item for 2014/2015 has been included for an additional water source. A meeting has been held with a diviner / drilling contractor to seek a potential bore site.

• Agents Agreements – Primaries agreement signed by both parties. Landmark Deed of Agreement signed by both parties. Elders Agreement not yet received back. Not likely to be received until a new agreement drafted and discussion with agents about $1.00 contribution. Draft agreement has been received back from solicitor following feedback at the Saleyards Committee meeting on 11 November 2014.

• Concept design for Saleyards roof – A discussion was held in regard to expectations at the meeting held on 11 November 2014. The concept design and grant application have been submitted.

• Standard Operating Procedures – Draft procedures have been developed. It is expected that these will form an addendum to the new Agents Agreements.

• During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, it was agreed that some thought should be given to a public relations opportunity for the millionth animal to go through the saleyards, expected to be in late 2015.

• During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, members noted Cr Handasyde’s comments within his report on the ALMA Conference that it will be increasingly more and more important to secure a position on the ALMA Board in order to have the inside running on the National Issues. It was agreed to give further consideration to this matter.

• During discussion, at the meeting held on 9 December 2014, the Committee agreed that need for an independent power supply to run the sale and provide water to cattle was becoming more important. The Committee requested the Saleyards Manager to investigate options for a suitable on-site generator.
During discussion, at the meeting held on 3 February 2015, it was noted that the weighbridge scanners had been damaged by recent storm activity and scanning was being done by hand. The Committee agreed that an appropriate risk mitigation strategy warranted some investigation.

7  NEXT MEETING

3 March 2015.

8  MEETING CLOSURE

10.50am  The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED:  PRESIDING MEMBER__________________DATE:_____/_____/_____

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