



SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(a) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the strategic direction of the Saleyards;*
- *Make recommendations 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;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding development works on the site;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the Saleyards Annual Budget; and*
- *Monitor the performance of the Saleyards and report back to the Council.*

A meeting of the
Saleyards Advisory Committee was held in the Committee
Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324
1.00pm Tuesday 23 August 2022.

Cameron Woods
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr J Oldfield, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde and Cr M O'Dea - 178/21

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	1
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	1
5	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	2
5.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – JULY / AUGUST 2022	2
5.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JULY 2022	9
6	GENERAL BUSINESS	10
6.1	UWA INVESTIGATION – WASTE WATER TREATMENT	10
7	NEXT MEETING	11
8	MEETING CLOSURE	11

Membership

Cr L Handasyde (Presiding Member)

Cr J Oldfield

Cr B Bell

Cr M O'Dea

Cr A Fraser (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.03 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr L Handasyde – Presiding Member
Cr B Bell
Cr M O’Dea
Cr J Oldfield

Visitors

Cr A Fraser

Staff

Mr J Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr G Moore, Saleyards Manager
Mrs E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr J Oldfield, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 28 June 2022 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – JULY / AUGUST 2022

Prime Sales

Cattle numbers for weekly prime sales have dropped significantly in recent weeks and prices have also come back slightly but are expected to remain quite strong on certain lines of cattle. The decline in numbers can be attributed to a number of factors such as less demand from re-stockers / feedlots, wet and water-logged paddocks hindering stock and vehicle movements to properties. There is also some delays in getting cattle slaughtered due to backlogging caused by Covid and staffing shortages.

Budget Items Outstanding

Three extra dirt pens – The contractor has begun the construction of all panels and has been onsite for meetings with myself. Saleyards staff have done the earthworks and plumbed in water pipes and troughs. Once construction of yard panels is complete they will be transported to site and erected.

Ablution Block and Staff Canteen

The building arrived on site on 9 August in a pre-fabricated kit form and construction commenced on the 10 August. Progress has been rapid and I would be expecting completion and commissioning of building by the time you get this report. I have included a progress picture for viewing.



FMD & LSD Information Seminar

In mid July, myself and Erika Henderson attended an information seminar hosted by DPIRD on FMD and LSD . This was a well attended workshop and gave a bit of a heads up on the current status of the FMD outbreak in Indonesia, more particularly Bali.

Rubber Floor Matting

As part of infrastructure upgrades for Boyanup saleyards, a purchase of several container loads of soft floor mats are being organised.

The option is open for the Shire to purchase half of a container load at a cost of around \$36,000.00. There would also be the cost of freight as well as installation. There is no current budget allocation but this is an opportunity that may not become available again. This is provided primarily for information and in case the Committee sees merit in seeking funds in a budget review to take advantage of it.

National Livestock Reporting Service

Saleyards staff would like to seek the view of the Committee on the value of the National Livestock Reporting Service, provided by Meat and Livestock Australia. The service costs approximately \$15,000.00 per year.

Attached is some information sent to the Shire regarding the relevance of paying for our market reporting system. Greg has spoken to a couple of the selling agents regarding what info if any they use from the current reporting service and both said they use very little of the report information that is put onto the radio and that it has minimal relevance to their marketing of their livestock.

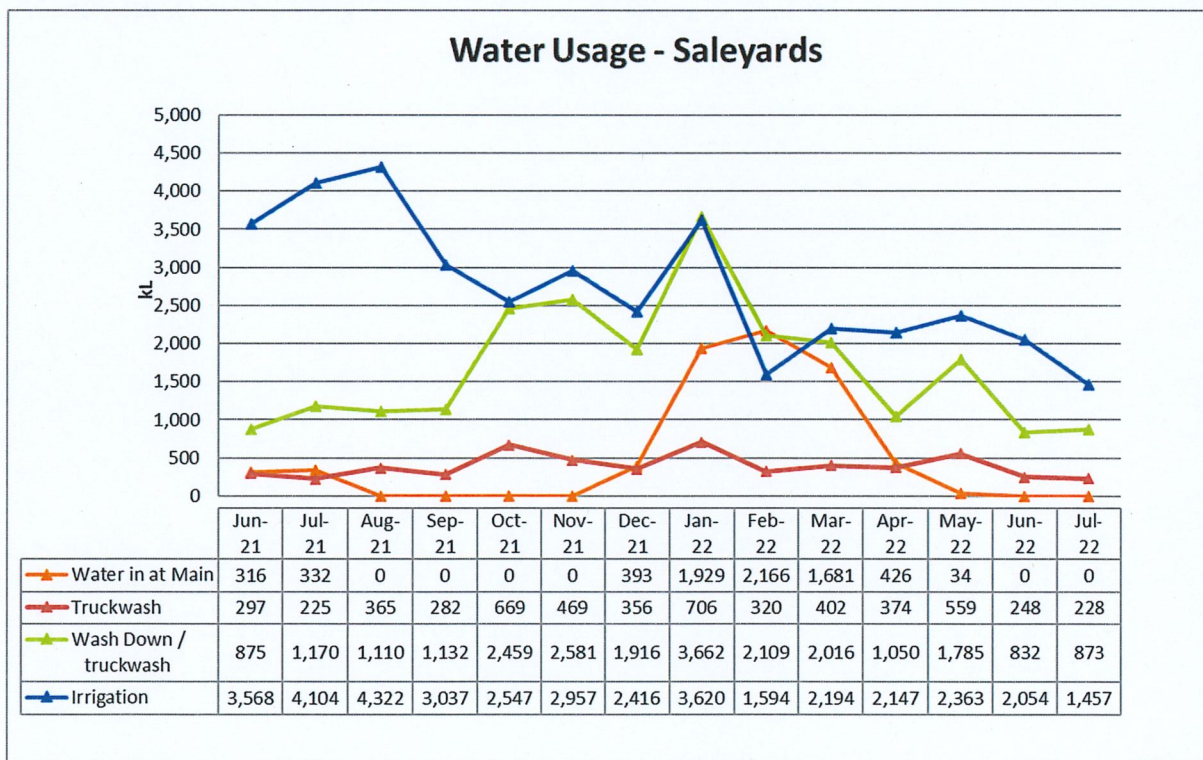
ALMA Conference and Expo / Leadership Masterclass

See attached report.

Cattle Mortality Statistics

2016/2017	45
2017/2018	62
2018/2019	41
2019/2020	48
2020/2021	29
2021/2022	25
2022/2023 (to date)	1

The latest water usage graph is shown below:



VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

During discussion in regard to the National Livestock Reporting Service, members were generally of the opinion that market report has outlived its usefulness and had been taken over by electronic advice services provided by stock agents. Nevertheless, it was agreed to write to agents to seek their advice prior to a decision being made.

During discussion in regard to the opportunity to purchase half a container load of soft floor mats, it was agreed that this was a worthwhile opportunity and there was agreement to submit a request to the Council to adopt a budget reallocation to enable this purchase to be made.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M O'Dea, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to current activities at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M O'Dea, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That a budget reallocation be authorised to enable an opportunity to purchase half a container load of soft floor mats at a cost of \$34,500.00 (ex GST), plus freight.

CARRIED

ALMA CONFERENCE AND EXPO / LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS

The leadership masterclass was a one day seminar focusing on *Dealing With Difficult Customers In Saleyards*. This course centered around people's "colour spectrum" which I was not familiar with but now see as a tool for assessing people's personality and character makeup and why some people react aggressively in some situations. The course was a combination of theory and hands on practical exercises. I found the practical exercises to be quite interesting and participated in some valuable scenario based exercises. My summary of this course would be that there are no dot point answers for solving escalating situations as such, but more about trying to understand why a person may be acting in an aggressive or hostile nature by identifying and underlying issues or external problems that I may not be initially aware of. I will provide details of course subject matter to John Fathers for any one interested.

ALMA CONFERENCE / EXPO

The annual ALMA conference and expo for 2022 was held in Cairns in July and due to Covid this is the first conference since 2019. Noticeably attendance was significantly lower than in 2019. There were many speakers over the 2 days, many relevant some not so much, so I have reported on what I took away as being most relevant. There were also a number of networking opportunities with other Saleyards managers and Saleyards operators I had met previously and a number of new acquaintances. FMD was obviously at the forefront of most discussions and my understandings from these talks is the level of concern is wide and varied in Australia's ability to stop FMD entering Australia.

Dr ALISON CROOK – DPI Veterinarian QLD

Dr Crook gave a lengthy talk on Emergency Animal Disaster updates and how FMD will impact on our industry from her talk my three main concerns that I take away are:

- The Producer – Loss of Income or severely reduced income
- The supply chain – breakdowns in production, fragmentation and higher costs of materials and labour.
- Mental Health - Industry wide concerns.

Dr Crook spoke very well and was a world of knowledge. I gained the most from her than any of the other speakers with all due respect to them.

MARK HARVEY – SUTTON , CEO AUSTRALIAN LIVE EXPORT COUNCIL

Mr Sutton's topic was managing livestock and welfare in export lairages. This topic was interesting although mainly relevant to export depots and lairages but interestingly Dr Sutton suggested that Australia has and sets the highest animal welfare standards in the world.

CYE TRAVERS – CEO LIVESTOCK EXCHANGES AND AAM INVESTMENT GROUP.

Mr Travers gave presentation on *Dealing with Unacceptable Behaviour in Saleyards*. There were several common themes among many of the saleyards represented that regularly occur in saleyards.

- Lack of respect for facility / property.
- Lack of respect for Saleyards staff.
- Perceived right of entry to facility, particularly during Covid restricted access times.
- Young children running around seemingly unsupervised.

It is fair to say that we experience all four of those problems here at Mount Barker from time to time. Mr Travers also stated that he has created a promotional video addressing these issues and I have spoken with him with regard to his video being available to other yards and he will be happy to share that with us.

As mentioned, there were many speakers over the two days but I will make my final mention to a topic that really tugged at the heart strings and left a lasting impression on me that will remain for many years to come I anticipate.

BRAD WILLIS – OPERATIONS MANAGER NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE – CASINO, NSW.

Brad Willis gave the most remarkable presentation of the entire conference on utilizing Saleyards during emergencies and natural disasters – Casino bushfires and Casino floods. This presentation showed footage from inside burning homes by those who chose to stay and defend their property or who were too late to evacuate. This was absolutely heart wrenching to watch. Basically Brad identified a need for a location to assemble all wandering livestock so they could be given treatment and drafted for return to their rightful owners, so the saleyards became the epi-centre of relief efforts and animal welfare.

The vision of hundreds and hundreds of burnt stock laying in piles up against burnt out gates and fence lines was nothing short of horrendous, then came the floods, need I go on. So congratulations to Brad for having the forethought and drive to make the Casino yards available and his council for supporting the project.

The final day of the conference involved a visit to Australia's most northern Saleyards, Mareeba Saleyards in far north QLD. I have photos of my visit and will make them available for viewing.

After all is said and done, my assessment or summary of all that was spoken about is:

- don't panic, remain calm.
- be vigilant.
- react and respond to government directions and requirements
- have systems in place – but we must remember that systems are only as good as your level of commitment them.

In closing I will say for me it was an extremely worthwhile exercise and I learnt a few things along the way, I would like to see Mt Barker represented at future conferences.

I would also like to thank Cameron Woods – CEO and John Fathers – DCEO for supporting and allowing me to attend this year's conference and to the Saleyards Advisory Committee for endorsing and encouraging my attendance.

Greg Moore
Manager, Mount Barker Regional Saleyards





5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JULY 2022

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Cameron Woods
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 23 August 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 31 July 2022.

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 July 2022 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information.

Overall operating expenditure is \$82,568.00. This is \$12,152.00 below the YTD budget.

There has been expenditure totalling \$18,161.00 on capital budget items to date, being the outloading bugle ramp.

Operating income is \$22,821.00, which is \$313.00 above YTD budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr J Oldfield, 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 UWA INVESTIGATION – WASTE WATER TREATMENT

During discussion at the June 2022 meeting, the Committee considered it appropriate to progress on a step by step basis with investigations into the recommendations in the report. It was agreed to initially to focus on the recommendation at page 8 of the report which indicates that some testing should be done to ascertain the settling characteristics, time-to-spadability and clogging characteristics of the manure.

The administration was requested to ask UWA if there are defined tests which the Shire's water analyst could carry out, or otherwise how that testing can be progressed.

Liah from UWA has advised as follows:

'I have conferred with Andreas (my PhD student) and we recommend the following:

We have provided a brief answer in bold before addressing the specifics of the three tests in the numbered items.

The settling test recommended is called a "Batch Settling Test" (point 1 below) and is quite common for slurries, but not so much for water quality, so we suggest you enquire about it.

Time to spadability may already be obvious to the operators, but if not, it can probably be judged from a batch settling test by assessing the settled sludge.

If the vertical slat spacing will be designed as fixed, then we recommend assessing clogging characteristics as in point 3; it cannot be accurately modelled or assessed offsite unless an equivalent system somewhere can be used as a template. This uncertainty could be accommodated with the calibration suggested in point 3 or with a variable gap system, but otherwise would require reducing efficiency, oversizing, or potential future modifications.

1. *A batch settling test will allow solids removal to be calculated from residence time (a basic protocol, for WAS, from the internet is attached). This requires a slurry sample which is representative of washdown slurry entering the solids trap, rather than water. If it is impractical to get it tested, the test is extremely simple to perform yourself.*

The curve of settled volume vs. time may show some settling inhibition which could impact design criteria. Also, this is an ideal method to test the physical effect of flocculants – though their effect on phosphorus may not be economical, they could reduce the size of the solids trap significantly.

2. *How long the manure takes to become spadable determines how the solids trap can be managed e.g. can it be emptied by tractor the day after washdown? The consideration here is that because the current trap has a low residence time, the particles it captures will probably be quite big and their dewatering characteristics possibly more favourable than for a high efficiency trap.*

The committee might already have a feel for this, but if further confirmation is required, then we recommend the following:

- *After performing a batch settling test, wait for an additional day (or the desired washdown/sludge-removal duration), then siphon off the supernatant. The spadability of the remaining sludge can then be judged.*
 - *Alternatively, if inconclusive or the sludge volume is insufficient to make this assessment, this effect could be assessed in the current solids trap during a very low volume washdown when the residence time is much higher. This may have to interrupt normal operations slightly to maximise the solids retention in the current trap so that it mimics a high efficiency solids trap.*
3. *Understanding clogging characteristics will help design the gap spacing for the solids trap so the residence time can be optimised i.e. without overflow, while maximising solids retention: a basic tank or tub, vertically near to scale i.e. 1m high, can have a few vertical gaps installed. When it is filled up with slurry, the clogging of different gap sizes can be tested over a few hours to see how the flow is impeded through the slats by solids accumulation.*

Hope this helps, and, of course, if you need any further clarification we are more than happy to where we can.'

During discussion at the meeting held on 23 August 2022, the Deputy CEO advised that he would seek advice from the Shire's environmental analyst as to whether he is in a position to carry out any of this testing.

7 NEXT MEETING

25 October 2022

8 MEETING CLOSURE

2.03 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER _____ **DATE:** ____ / ____ / ____