



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,
9.00am Tuesday 4 March 2014

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

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	DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS	2
5	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	3
5.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – 30 JANUARY TO 24 FEBRUARY 2014	3
5.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JANUARY 2014	5
6	GENERAL BUSINESS	7
6.1	SOFT FLOOR MATS	7
6.2	ELDERS WEEKLY ARTICLE ON BOYANUP SALEYARDS	7
6.3	BETTER BEEF FIELD DAY	7
6.4	EXERCISE ODYSSEUS 2014	7
6.5	FEEDLOT CHALLENGE	7
6.6	PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION	7
7	NEXT MEETING	8
8	MEETING CLOSURE	8

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

9.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr Jeff Moir – Presiding Member
Cr Brett Bell
Cr Len Handasyde
Mr Michael Skinner

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

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That Clause 7.1 of the Standing Orders Local Law 2008 be suspended indefinitely to enable members and staff to be referred to by their first name.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 4 February 2014 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

The Committee was advised that the Department of Environment Regulation had responded to the Shire's 2013 Environmental Report, although it raised no significant issues.

4 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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 letter dated 4 February 2014, giving permission for Cr J Moir to participate in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 31 December 2014.

Mr J Fathers read aloud the letter, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Department of Local Government and Communities also advised in an email dated 27 February 2014 that:

'As the Saleyard Advisory Committee has no delegated powers to make decisions for the Shire of Plantagenet's Council and its duties are of advisory and information only to Council, an approval to participate under Section 5.69 of the Act is not required. Mr Michael Skinner is able to fully participate in the discussion and recommendations as a member under the category of "Other Industry Person" at the Saleyards Advisory Committee meetings.'

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 30 JANUARY TO 24 FEBRUARY 2014

SALE DATA

- Sale numbers from 30 January to 24 February 2014 total 8,904 (Note that this does not include the last sale date for February 2014)
- There have been 0 cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- 87 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- 4 animals have been put down or removed.
- 43 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 277 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh Cattle

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The wash down pipe in selling pen 5 is broken again. It has been broken a number of times and has now been capped off.
- The small hand scanner has been sent away to Queensland for repairs. Aleis reported it had a battery failure. It has been repaired and returned.
- The gate in Weighbridge A caused an issue at the Weaner sale in February. The ram blew the main seals preventing it from going up and down. Al Curnow attempted to fix it however ended up taking a ram off one of the stacking pen gates and fitting to weighbridge in the gate to keep the process going. Repairs have not yet been completed due to the rams being outdated making it difficult to source seals.
- During the Weaner sale in February, an issue arose with Reland Pty Ltd, (Glyn Bevan) who sent in 130 animals for the sale. As he used a disbanded pic NVD book, he was unable to sell cattle at this sale. Elders were informed that he needed to pay his membership and renew his pic before the cattle could go through the system. This all happened half an hour before sale.

The Elder's agent in question approached Stewart regarding letting the matter go and sorting it after the sale. He was informed that this was not the procedure; that it was illegal and that the animals would be pulled from the sale until such time as the correct paperwork was supplied. The agent immediately became verbally aggressive towards Stewart regarding the matter.

As it turned out, the vendor had provided the incorrect NVD for his cattle and faxed the correct one moments before the sale, which went ahead in the correct manner. His 130 cattle did get sold on that day, but the agent returned on Friday after the Trade sale and confronted Stewart again, in the office and in public view, citing our inflexibility in the matter.

- On Friday 7 February 2014 a private weigh was undertaken around 3.00pm involving 60 head of cattle. As they were being unloaded off the bottom deck, the truck driver proceeded to open the gate between B and A trailers, and did not secure the gate properly. As the last of the animals were coming off the truck a rogue heifer decided to return to the truck, putting the vendor and truck driver up the fence. It got back on the truck and through the open gate out onto the pavement where it ran around the compound fence, before jumping the cattle grid and proceeding onto the main

highway. Stewart rang the police who managed to get vehicles and support vehicles on the highway with flashing lights, warning oncoming traffic of the hazard. The animal was herded down a concealed driveway, where it was destroyed and removed to the tip.

- Mt Barker Electrics has been out to test and tag RCD's, repair the Bain Marie and move a couple of power points.
- On 12 February 2014 AD Contractors' excavator started work on south west pond, with three semi tippers removing sludge. After 51 hours this pond was completely emptied, the top layer of the north east pond was removed and the silt trap in the dam cleaned. It is estimated that 3,200 tonnes of manure has been removed, which is a great result.
- The final of the two day sales finished on the 20-21 February 2014. The Curfew Prime Sale Thursday 10.00am start commenced from 27 February 2014.

During discussion, members agreed that a letter be sent to the agent involved in the Glyn Bevan case outlining the concerns regarding abusive conduct. It was agreed that it would be preferable to hold a meeting with agent representatives who have some authority over the conduct of staff to discuss the issues.

Discussion ensued in regard to the further actions now that one of the ponds has been cleaned out. Members agreed that further investigations be made into progressing the Environmental Action Plan. It was also agreed that the original plans be checked to see what sort of solids screen was originally used in the effluent pipe near the ponds.

The Chief Executive Officer queried whether the Committee was happy with the current cattle grid arrangements. Members agreed to hold over the matter regarding the escaping heifer to the next meeting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to activities at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards from 30 January 2014 to 24 February 2014, be received.

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JANUARY 2014

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 4 March 2014

PURPOSE

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

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory implications for this report.

CONSULTATION

There has been no consultation in relation to 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 January 2014 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$411,358.00, which is \$3,119.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$408,492.00, which is \$39,479.00 above YTD budget. Most of the operating accounts are within or around budget figures.

The Employee Costs - Salaries account is \$22,324.00 above YTD budget due mainly to additional staffing requirements over the busy summer period. Depreciation of Furniture and Fittings is \$10,509.00 above budget, due mainly to the increased depreciation on soft floor matting. Depreciation of Plant and Equipment is \$7,222.00 above budget, due mainly to the updated 'fair' values.

The removal of sludge from the southern pond (and removal of silt and mud from the dam) is expected to cost around \$30,000.00.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 SOFT FLOOR MATS

The Committee congratulated Saleyards staff for their efforts in installing all of the remaining soft floor mats.

6.2 ELDERS WEEKLY ARTICLE ON BOYANUP SALEYARDS

The Committee raised concerns about comments by the Minister for Agriculture in a recent Elders' Weekly article about Boyanup Saleyards, which stated that cattle numbers were in decline and generally put saleyards in a bad light. It was agreed that a suitable letter of concern be sent to the Minister.

6.3 BETTER BEEF FIELD DAY

The Saleyards Manager advised that a Better Beef Field Day is being held on 18-19 March 2014 Chimera feedlot, Woogenellup.

6.4 EXERCISE ODYSSEUS 2014

The Saleyards Manager advised that as part of Exercise Odysseus (2014 National livestock standstill exercise program) DAFWA is organising a number of regional saleyard workshops to raise awareness of what a livestock standstill is and how it would impact on industry if there is ever an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Australia. A workshop will be held on Wednesday 19 March 2014 at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards canteen.

6.5 FEEDLOT CHALLENGE

The Saleyards Manager advised that the Albany Agricultural Society has proposed a 'Gate to Plate Feedlot Challenge' exercise aimed at getting feedback for vendors on cattle weight gain at feedlots.

It has been proposed that the Saleyards be used as the collection point. Cattle would be weaned, fed hay and forwarded to one feedlot. The idea needs to be promoted sufficiently enough to secure a truck load of cattle. While it was proposed for vendors to meet weighing fees and feed costs, it was suggested that the Council could waive day to day penning fees while the cattle were being weaned.

The Committee agreed to support the proposal and suggested that the waiving of day to day penning fees be considered as a donation in the budget process.

6.6 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water / water sustainability.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan.
- Agents Agreements (Landmark has now returned the signed deed).
- Concept design for Saleyards roof.
- Standard Operating Procedures.
- Suitability of Cattle Grid.

7 NEXT MEETING

1 April 2014

8 MEETING CLOSURE

9.55am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ____/____/____