



## **GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATTLE 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.*

An Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards  
Advisory Committee was held in the  
Councillors' Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,  
1.00pm Tuesday 6 November 2012

**Rob Stewart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### Committee Members

*Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde, Cr C Pavlovich, Cr M Skinner 238/11*

## 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 MEMBERS' INTERESTS	1
5	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	3
5.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – 19 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2012	3
5.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 OCTOBER 2012	5
6	GENERAL BUSINESS	7
6.1	PROGRESS ON AERATION RESULTS	7
6.2	LETTER FROM HARRY REEVES – 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATTLE SALES	7
6.3	INFORMATION SHEET – ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA	8
6.4	GRANT APPLICATION – OUTLOADING RAMPS	8
6.5	PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION	8
7	NEXT MEETING	9
8	MEETING CLOSURE	9

---

**Membership**

Cr M Skinner – Presiding Member

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr C Pavlovich

---

## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.00 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

## 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

### Members Present

Cr M Skinner (Presiding Member)

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

### Apology

Cr C Pavlovich

### Visitor

Mr Charles Williams (Environmental Contractor)

### 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 Cr B Bell, seconded Cr M Skinner:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 25 September 2012 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.**

**CARRIED**

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

*During discussion, it was advised that a report had been included on the Council agenda for 6 November 2012 in regard to revised Agent's Agreements, although only Primaries of WA had indicated a willingness to sign the agreement at the current time. The Chief Executive Officer tabled a letter from Elders in regard to its intention to sell Elders Rural Services, as part of a strategy to recapitalise Elders Rural Services business and strengthen its future.*

## 4 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr M Skinner

Nature and Extent of Interest: Farming - 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 via letter dated 9 January 2012, giving permission for Cr M Skinner and Cr J Moir to participate in matters relating to the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards until 31 December 2012.

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

## 5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

### 5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 19 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2012

#### SALE DATA

Total sale numbers from 19 September to 31 October 2012 were 5,844 (September 1,386 and October 4,458)

There have been no MSA cattle in this time.

A total of 52 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

Four animals were put down.

Thirty-eight bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

There have been 12 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

- A total of 700 rubber mats have arrived and we have laid mats in all six receival ramps; 17 mats per ramp. This has improved the temperament of the cattle coming off trucks, and has reduced slippage off the top decks and the drafting process. We also have laid mats around both paint boxes and lead up to scales, and this we feel will improve the process that the animals have to take to be marked. Both these areas have used up 180 mats out of our 700.

We are now in the process of laying the top end of the selling pens. With what mats are left we hope to do eight pens per selling race across the top end. Each pen was to use 6 ¼ mats but we consider that the mat pattern will work better for washdown, rain and urine drainage if the mats are laid at 90' so we are now using eight mats per pen, which covers the whole pen area.

Laying of the mats has been a challenge thus far, but the more we lay the better we get at it. The real challenge has been getting the large mats into the smaller raceways with the skid steer. It has also been hard on our knees.

- Work has begun on the new yard space. The earthworks have been completed in the southwest corner of the yards, and we have replaced the grated lids in this area with solid lids over the truck wash waste water pipes. Troughs have now arrived and are waiting to be fitted. We are hoping that this will happen next week.

Plantagenet Sheds and Steel are in the process of welding up the panels for the pens opposite the bull pens. Hopefully this will be completed by the 1 December.

- The weighbridges have been cleaned underneath in preparation for Mettler Toledo to calibrate in mid November.
- We have planted new plants in the carpark area, all still seem to be alive.
- Klenszyme F was used for the first time on 19 October, at 4kg per week. We have seen a slight improvement with suspended solids. We have also changed the configuration times for the aerators as per Charles Williams and John O'Loughlin's instructions.
- After consultation with the three agents, double sales will start on 29 November. This will give us five vealer sales before Christmas which we hope will take the pressure off January. We will have a vealer sale on 20 December which will be the last sale of the year. The first sale of 2013 will be 3 and 4 January.

- It appears we will have three breeder sales this season, with Primaries on 18 December, Elders on 15 January and Landmark on 22 January. Landmark are also having a special vealer sale on 8 January which is a Tuesday. So for four weeks we will be having triple sales (and little sleep).
- Simon has had his Q fever injection.
- We have had a few wayward cattle recently which has kept Simon busy on the welder fixing broken pen pipes. The team is working well in completing the usual general maintenance.
- The Albany Show is on next week which Erika is heavily involved with (as President of the Agricultural Society) so she will do the weighbridge next Thursday morning and then leave for the rest of the week. We will arrange for the saleyards banner to go in the Stud cattle display, and we will donate some hats and pens for advertising.

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:**

**That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to recent activities at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 OCTOBER 2012

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 6 November 2012

---

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to review the draft financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 31 October 2012.

### **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 GSRCS.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategic implications for this report.

### **OFFICER COMMENT**

A spreadsheet showing the draft 31 October 2012 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information (This has been done before the end of month close off). Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$201,112.00, which is \$31,541.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$98,678.00, which is \$38,489.00 below YTD budget.

The majority of expenditure budget items are below YTD budget and there are no over-expenditures of concern. Operating Income is below YTD budget, particularly for pen fees, although this is to be expected with the relatively low throughput to date. Nevertheless, the gap between expenditure and income has widened in this month. With double sales starting in November, it is expected that will be gradually clawed back.

### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

*During discussion, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that the final sales in October yielded an additional \$16,000.00 (approx) in income, although this would be reflected in the November figures.*



**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 Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1 PROGRESS ON AERATION RESULTS

- We have achieved an encouraging reduction in Total Keldal Nitrogen (TKN) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (on some days) over the baseline data.
- In the first week with the initial settings, there was a higher count on Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and much lower Amonia (Nh3). The water in all areas of the pond initially appeared quite turbid compared to prior the installation of the aerators. This was noticeable on collecting the samples. Otherwise, they did not appear remarkable compared to baseline data.
- On Thursday of the first week (sale day/high loading day) Charles (environmental contractor) took a sample and gave it a light spin in the centrifuge (3 min @2200 rpm) and the TKN was 31 ppm (a significant reduction) but the sample still had some suspended solids but obviously not as much as prior to the spin.
- John O'Loughlin (aerator supplier) indicated that it was good news that the ammonia had gone so quickly, which means nitrification is going really well. We now need to work on the denitrification. Settlement is an issue as it appears more than half of TKN is associated with solids, and it doesn't appear as yet that extended settling is helping this separation.
- As a result of a discussion between Charles Williams and John O'Loughlin, the aeration mixing settings were changed on 8 October 2012. The cycle was changed to reduce the aeration times by two hours each aeration period, and then adding one hour to mixing only, and one hour to settling.
- It was indicated that if after this there are still settlement problems, then perhaps the enzymes may assist, or some artificial aid in a smallish dose. We started to add the enzymes (Klenzyme F) on 24 October 2012.
- On 25 October 2012, John O'Louglin provided details on a dosage formula to assist the settlement problems involving a mixture of tap water, pond water, Microchem HCT and blood and bone. Microchem is a freeze dried bacterial culture to increase the flocculation of the biomass and hopefully aid settlement. This mixture needs to be aerated in the 2 x 200 litre drums for 24 hours with air sparges before dosing at various points around the pond, especially in front of the aerators for good mixing.

*During discussion, Mr Williams provided some additional advice on the latest sample results, as attached.*

### 6.2 LETTER FROM HARRY REEVES – 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATTLE SALES

The attached letter from Harry Reeves has been received.

Members may recall that this matter was previously considered in February 2012. Mr Reeves was advised that it is worth marking the occasion, but it was suggested that it would be good to hold off for the time being until two significant improvements which are currently in the pipeline have been carried out (dirt yards and matting). It was proposed to hold an open day prior to the vealer season next year to celebrate these achievements and the 75th anniversary. Subsequently, the Shire did place an advertisement in the Plantagenet News marking the occasion (See attached).

*During discussion, the Committee agreed that an Open Day (barbecue lunch) be held at the Saleyards on a Wednesday in early to mid February, which would celebrate the 75th anniversary of cattle sales in the district and promote recent achievements. This would also afford an opportunity to formalise the proposed new name of the Saleyards (Mount Barker Regional Saleyards) and if possible, the new Albany Highway signage should be completed by then.*

## **COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr M Skinner:**

**That an Open Day (barbecue lunch) be held at the Saleyards on a Wednesday in early to mid February.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.3 INFORMATION SHEET – ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA**

The attached information sheet from Animal Health Australia has been received, via the Australian Livestock Managers' Association. If members would like any further detail, please advise the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, John Fathers.

### **6.4 GRANT APPLICATION – OUTLOADING RAMPS**

*During discussion, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that a request had been received from the Livestock Transporters' Association (LTA) in regard to preparing a joint funding application for Federal funds for the saleyards. The federal government agreed to commit \$10 million to safety upgrades at saleyards, following negotiations with the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.*

*Information had been passed onto the LTA for a proposal to fund modifications to the load out areas at the Saleyards. Members noted the intention to make modifications to one ramp initially to test the effectiveness of the design, before proceeding with any more. This would be the case whether the project is eventually grant or Shire funded.*

### **6.5 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Saleyards Signage.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan.
- Saleyards Name Change – Council Report.
- Agents Agreements.
- MediaWiz Advertising Proposal.
- Procedure for dealing with sick and injured animals.

**7 NEXT MEETING**

TBA

**8 MEETING CLOSURE**

2.11 pm        The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

**CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_