



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
9.00am Wednesday 6 November 2019.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr J Moir, Cr L Handasyde, Cr M O'Dea, Cr J Oldfield, Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 210/19

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS.....	1
2	ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER.....	1
3	ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER.....	1
4	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	1
6	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST.....	2
7	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	3
7.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2019	3
7.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 ...	8
7.3	TENDER C01-1920 – LICENCE OF MOUNT BARKER REGIONAL SALEYARDS CANTEEN	9
8	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	10
8.1	PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.....	10
9	NEXT MEETING.....	10
10	MEETING CLOSURE.....	10

Membership

Cr L Handasyde

Cr J Moir

Cr M O'Dea

Cr J Oldfield

Mr M Skinner

Cr B Bell (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

The Executive Manager Corporate Services invited nominations for the position of Presiding Member.

Cr J Oldfield nominated Cr L Handasyde, who declined the nomination.

Cr L Handasyde nominated Cr J Moir. There being no further nominations, Cr Moir was declared unopposed to the position of Presiding Member. Cr J Moir then assumed the Chair.

3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER

The Presiding Member invited nominations for the position of Deputy Presiding Member.

Cr J Oldfield nominated Cr L Handasyde. There being no further nominations, the Presiding Member declared Cr L Handasyde elected unopposed to the position of Deputy Presiding Member.

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member
Cr L Handasyde – Deputy Presiding Member
Cr M O’Dea
Cr J Oldfield
Mr M Skinner

Staff

Mr J Fathers, Executive Manager Corporate Services
Mr G Moore, Saleyards Manager
Mrs E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Mr M Skinner:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 10 September 2019 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

6 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Part 5 Division 6 Local Government Act 1995

Cr J Moir

Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)
Nature: Cattle Farmer and Employee of Elders
Extent: Sell cattle through the Mount Barker Saleyards on average six times per year. Average number of cattle held is 80 head.
Part time employee of Elders in a non-managerial position.

Mr M Skinner

Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)
Nature: Hold equity in a farming enterprise of which my son owns/farms approximately 400 head of cattle.
Extent: Son sells cattle through the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards approximately 8 times per year.

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, Sport and Cultural Industries via a letter dated 30 April 2019, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in the discussion and limited decision making at the Saleyards Advisory Committee on matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 30 April 2020.

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

7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**7.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2019****Receival Ramp #7 Concrete**

Independent core strength testing of the concrete flooring on receival ramp #7 has now been carried out and the results forwarded to the Shire. Eight core samples were taken for testing by a NATA accredited firm. The results are that all of the tests are above the 25 Mpa compressive strength specified. They range from 25.5 to 30.0 MPa.

A meeting involving myself, Executive Manager Corporate Services, Executive Manager Works and Services and the contractor was held on the 28 October 2019 to discuss possible repair options. The contractor will be providing us with some costings to re-score the grid lines into the concrete and the Shire will forward some information to the contractor on another concrete repair option.

Chain of Responsibility – (Load Managers)

Some issues relating to trucks leaving saleyards overloaded have arisen on the East Coast with one instance of a saleyards manager being fined for a stock truck leaving the facility overloaded. At the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards (MBRS), the situation varies somewhat in that saleyards staff do not load or unload the cattle from the trucks. This is done by the stock agents and the transport operators. MBRS supplies them with all relevant details of the consignment along with all weights of all cattle they will be loading.

Following discussion at a Committee meeting held in September 2019, Livestock Exchange has been asked to modify our livestock movement notice (transport waybill) to carry a disclaimer regarding our position on livestock movements (see example attached).

Waste Water Treatment

Following a recent presentation by the consultant, Dr Danny Burkett in relation to waste water treatment options, some questions arose at the planning session and subsequent to that in regard to the weeping wall option. The following advice has been received from Dr Burkett.

Q What sort of material would be used in the weeping wall and likely m² required?

A *The wall would be concrete for the areas in contact with the ground and bobcat manoeuvring areas and galvanized steel for the weeping wall slats as wood is unlikely to withstand accidental impacts from the bobcat. In the draft report (p4) an area of 5m * 32m has been stated although this has a generous offering of the 1 in 10 ramp into the pit for the bobcat.*

Q Can you comment on the capacity of the weeping wall system to keep the fines out. How effective is it in comparison to the concrete beds?

A *With all of the options, there is a portion of suspended solids (i.e., fines) that are likely to flow through to the wastewater ponds. Typically, the amount of suspended solids influences the type and efficiency of the bacteria which breaks down the wastewater. The width of the slats in the weeping wall will influence*

the amount of suspended solids discharging into the wastewater ponds. There is a balance between retaining a significant proportion of the solid material and the area that is required of the preferred option for the captured solid material to dry out (or be able to be dry enough to be 'spadeable').

Q There is a concern that a weeping wall might get overloaded through more than average water flow or lack of maintenance. How does the design ensure that it doesn't let a whole load of 'dirty' water down into the ponds?

A *This is similar to my comment above (re balance) and can be included in the design capacity. As the use of the facility occurs during the day, this gives time for the wastewater to flow through the preferred option to 'dry' out during the night, irrespective of rainfall and having a duty/standby arrangement will assist in this regard. It is quite unlikely that a whole load of dirty water will drain to the ponds as each of the options, including the weeping wall, almost self regulates the flow by virtue of the fines and solids that settle in the base of the unit as the wastewater has to flow through this to get out.*

Whilst a sludge drying bed is almost a 'set and forget' option, it has a significantly larger area as the infiltration has to occur through sand and gravel rather than through the slats. This is an economical consideration that will require a decision to be made. It is likely that we will need to compile a preliminary cost estimate to assist with the decision making process.

Following agreement by the Committee on a preferred option, the Chief Executive Officer intends to instruct the consultant to prepare a detailed design.

Budget – Reallocation of Priorities

A Saleyards Planning Session was held on 17 September 2019. At that session, a possible reallocation of priorities was discussed and it was requested that a report be brought back to the Committee for a recommendation to the Council.

- **'W' – Pens, Yard Size Reduction**

After discussions with agents regarding the possibility of effectively halving the size of the 'W' pens (western dirt pens), it is no longer suggested this be a priority project. The agent feedback suggested that the pens in their current state are not too big and are able to be used as lairage or drafting pens, therefore this is no longer seen as an immediate priority.

- **Receival Ramp #7 (Additional Holding Pens)**

This proposal was to replicate the six holding pens associated with the loading ramps on the vacant ground immediately opposite ramp #7 and its pens whilst leaving the floor dirt. The thinking here was to make more receival pens available at the ramps for when all West Coast Livestock receivals are moved to the main receival end of the yards.

One of the steel manufacturing contractors in Mount Barker has provided a quote and I am still waiting for the second quote to be presented. The costings listed on the received quote were substantially higher than anticipated. I expect to be able to present both quotes at the upcoming meeting. The priority on completing this project in 2019/2020 may give way to other projects.

- ***Cattle Crush***

Approval and funds are sought to purchase a new cattle crush. The regulations pertaining to the NLIS tagging at saleyards is now being enforced more strictly than they once were, particularly with regard to larger livestock, that being large and difficult to handle bulls. The inability to safely and securely capture large bulls in our present crush has seen and will see more of the bull market lost to on-farm and direct to abattoir sales if we are not able to safely and securely tag bulls at the saleyards.

A number of quotes have been sought for manually operated and both hydraulic and pneumatic type crushes. I would put a very high priority on this project and believe it will enhance the level of our service at the saleyards for our customers.

- ***Addition of Water Troughs – ‘C’ Pens***

After discussions with staff and agents, a proposal has been arrived at to consider adding water troughs to some of the pens around the crush area known as the ‘C’ pens. (See attached map) this will increase the number of water pens we have available for receivals and lairage.

The water troughs have proven to be quite difficult to source and prices have varied considerably. We would carry out the installation process ourselves with only a requirement to purchase the troughs and associated piping and fittings. The pipe and fittings are available from local suppliers. This proposal also carries a high priority.

- ***Saleyards Tipper Truck***

I have identified the need and made a request for the saleyards to purchase a small tipper truck with a 3.5 to 4.0 tonne payload capacity. There are a number of key tasks that require a vehicle with tipping capabilities that are presently done with the saleyards light vehicle, as follows:

- Carcase transport / removal;
- Pen cleaning / manure removal;
- Carting in gravel and dirt;
- Hay transport from property of purchase to saleyards; and
- Movement of plant and equipment around yards and to and from works depot.

We currently rely on Works and Services staff to undertake these tasks or we borrow their truck and do it ourselves. Having our own tipper would eliminate any issues with time, scheduling and inconvenience to both departments that can arise when sharing equipment.

The saleyards light vehicle is currently used for these tasks and in my opinion presents some real OH&S concerns from overloading or incorrect load positioning which could result in a vehicle roll over or damage to the structural integrity of the vehicle and its tray body. We have had some discussion with the Executive Manager Works and Services with regard to securing a 3.5 tonne tipper they have that is possibly up for replacement. The price would be subject to external assessment, with a transfer to the Plant Replacement Reserve to be effected. Medium to high priority.

- ***Reticulation***

This project has a lower priority than some others that have been identified. The \$6,000.00 could be made available for reallocation.

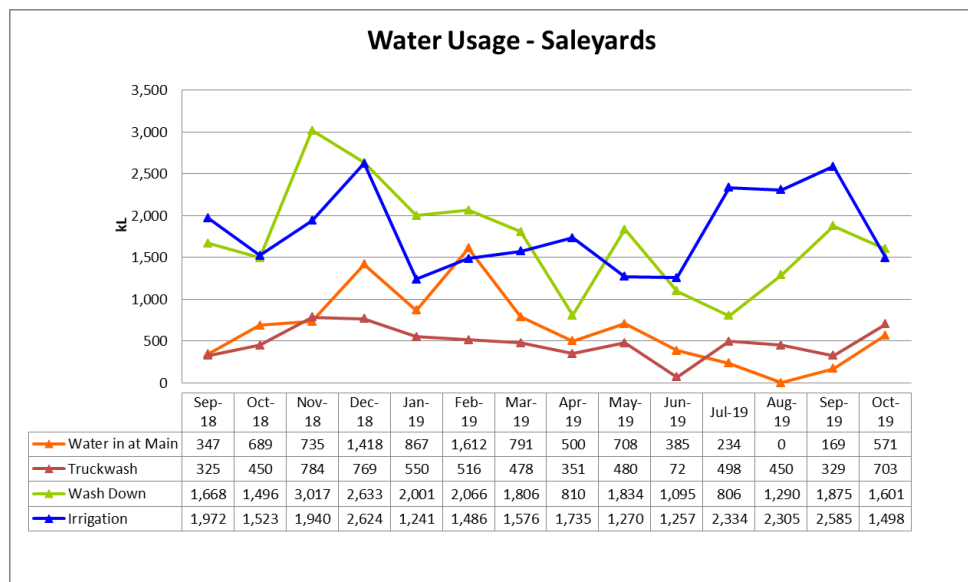
A table showing the adopted budget is shown below. Added to that are some new proposals, all of which have been prioritised (1 Vital, 2 Urgent, 3 Important / Rolling Plan, 4 Nice to Have, 5 Low Priority) in terms of an allocation this year.

	Account number	2019/20 Adopted Budget	Comment	Priority	Recommended Adjusted budget
CATTLE SALEYARDS					
Capital Expenditure					
Outloading Ramp Bugle Modification	51538.0253	\$ (17,000)	Rolling plan	3	\$ (17,000)
Long Wand and Data Logger	51722.0006	\$ (7,000)	Spent some funds on wand	1	\$ (7,000)
Aeration Ponds - Waste Water Treatment System Modifications	51754.0253	\$ (50,000)	Project not yet to design stage. Possibly won't all be spent in 2019/2020	3	\$ (50,000)
Painting of Galvanised Elements - Roof and Walkways	51755.0253	\$ (28,001)	Rolling plan	3	\$ -
Diesel Motor - Irrigation Pump	51756.0253	\$ (6,500)	Complete	N/A	\$ (5,067)
2nd hand skidsteer loader	51801.0006	\$ (40,000)	Purchased	N/A	\$ (37,713)
Undercover area - Generator and Lunch Space	51802.0253	\$ (20,000)	Quotes being sought	2	\$ (20,000)
Pneumatic Ram Replacement	51803.0253	\$ (7,000)	Vital equipment for yard operation	1	\$ (7,000)
Steelwork Modifications (incl Extend Yards and New Gates)	51804.0253	\$ (14,000)	Quotes for new pens over budget. Recommend spend \$3,500.00 on troughs in C pens. Remainder c/fwd	1-3	\$ (14,000)
Reticulation - Lawn area	51805.0253	\$ (6,000)		4	\$ -
Purchase bull crush	New	\$ -		1	\$ (25,000)
Purchase Tipper Vehicle	New	\$ -		2	\$ (20,000)
Total Capital Expenditure		\$ (195,501)			\$ (202,780)

It should be noted that the original budget predicted a total of \$52,488.00 remaining in the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Capital Improvements Reserve at 30 June 2020. The September budget review reduced this amount to \$28,612.00. This is enough to cover the over budget expenditure outlined above, also bearing in mind that the aeration ponds project will likely be mostly (if not all) carried forward.

It is proposed that a budget review be presented to the Council, following deliberations on these items.

The latest water usage graph is shown below.



During discussion at the Saleyards Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 November 2019, members noted the progress with rectification of the concrete ramp.

There was considerable discussion in relation to the waste water treatment proposal, with the Committee seeking further information on the percentage of solids likely to be removed, time taken for solids to settle and capacity requirements of sludge pit given the volumes of water from wash down and truck wash. It was requested that

further work on a design be put on hold and, if possible, a site meeting be arranged for a site with a comparable weeping wall and water flow.

Members agreed that a new bull / cattle crush was a priority to maximise efficiency and safety of cattle handling operations. Thereafter, the meeting was called to a close due to lack of time and it was agreed to arrange a special meeting of the Committee to finalise the discussion on budget re-prioritisation.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

7.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Executive Manager Corporate Services
Proposed Meeting Date: 6 November 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 30 September 2019.

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 30 September 2019 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall operating expenditure is \$266,465.00, which is \$54,304.00 below the YTD budget.

Capital budget items for the diesel motor (irrigation pump) and 2nd hand skid steer loader have been carried out.

Operating income is \$116,256.00, which is \$ \$23,348.00 above YTD budget, mainly due to higher than projected income on weigh and pen fees.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Executive Manager Corporate Services, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

**7.3 TENDER C01-1920 – LICENCE OF MOUNT BARKER REGIONAL
SALEYARDS CANTEEN**

File Ref: N49730
Attachments: Licence – Saleyards Canteen
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Executive Manager Corporate Services
Proposed Meeting Date: 6 November 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider tenders received for the licence of the canteen at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Section 5.23 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following aspect(s) of the Act being applicable to this matter:

- (c) a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

- At the meeting held on 14 November 2017, Mr Skinner advised that the Shire of Dubbo was installing new moulded bar soft floor matting into 220 new pens. It was requested that we attempt to get a sample of the new matting, which may be appropriate for the paint box areas.

At the planning session held on 17 September 2019, it was noted that the matting at Dubbo had been moderately successful, however was prohibitively expensive for this application.

- At the meeting held on 30 January 2018, a query was raised about the Shire's obligations in respect to new Chain of Responsibility laws and how this might relate or conflict with animal welfare requirements. Some direction was sought in this regard.

During discussion at the meeting held on 29 November 2018, there was consensus on waiting to see how the Australian Livestock Markets Association tackles this issue at a national level. This has been reflected in the report of the Saleyards Manager on his conference attendance.

During discussion at the meeting held on 10 September 2019, the implications of Chain of Responsibility legislation on saleyards operations was raised. While it was noted that the Shire cannot pass on its legal responsibilities in the transport chain, the provision of cattle weight and number information to transporters was seen as a good measure. The view was expressed that suitable wording should be included on waybills to further reinforce that it is primarily the responsibility of transporters to ensure that cattle are loaded safely.

- During discussion at the meeting held on 27 March 2018, the Committee requested pricing for modular and permanent toilet options, for consideration in 2019/2020.

During discussion at the meeting held on 29 November 2018, the view was expressed that grant funding avenues be explored for this project.

A proposal was raised at the meeting held on 26 February 2019 for an extension to the building, which would include two showers, two toilets and a larger office. The suggestion was made that grant funding for a new roof over the eastern dirt pens could incorporate this project as well.

A local consultant has been asked to provide a proposal for a grant submission to a forthcoming Building Better Regions Fund round, which would include preparation of a concept plan for the structures.

9 NEXT MEETING

12 November 2019.

10 MEETING CLOSURE

10.07am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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