



## **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 Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324, 9.30am Tuesday 7 February 2012.

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

### *Committee Members*

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

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**Membership**

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr C Pavlovich

Cr M Skinner

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## **1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

9.30am 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  
Cr C Pavlovich

### Staff

Mr Rob Stewart, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 29 November 2011 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.**

**CARRIED**

## **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 – 2 NOVEMBER 2011 TO 31 JANUARY 2012**

#### **SALE DATA**

- Total sale numbers from 2 November to 31 January 2012 has been 23,390 head.
- There have been no MSA cattle in this time.
- 172 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- Nine animals have been put down or removed.
- 350 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 2742 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

A meeting was held with Deputy CEO, John Fathers and Charles Williams regarding the ponds and aerators on 3 November.

An agent meeting was held on 8 November regarding double sales and breeders sales. All went well, but things changed within the week, due to public holidays and breeders sales.

Erika attended the Albany Show on the 11 November as part of the Cattle Breed section. Samples of the rubber mats were taken down and put on display and a number of dairy farmers and one transport company have taken it on. The Boyanup Saleyards are looking at the product as well.

The scales were calibrated on 15 November. To do this we hired a forklift this year to get the weights from the edge of the concrete to the scale area. We had to use the skidsteer to put the weights on the scales and by doing this we halved the time taken to perform the task.

Stewart was interviewed by Owen Grieves from ABC Country Radio talkback show, for the Country hour on behalf of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards regarding non compliance with ear tags and earmarks. It seemed to go well, with plenty of positive feedback from people who heard show. It was repeated twice. He also talked about trialling the rubber matting. This was in a different interview and was also well publicised

Double sales started on the 1 December with numbers behind on last year's figures, possibly due to the amount of feed still available. Prices remained strong.

We have been having ongoing problems with weighbridge B scanner. Discussions were held with Aleis in Queensland and it was thought that there was a power problem so Mt Barker Electrics came and had a look for a couple of hours. We got them working and everything seemed to work until sale day, when they stopped working and crashed weighbridge A scanner. So we had to hand scan 2,800 which was very time consuming (and stressful). We went back to the drawing board with how to fix scanners and talked with Aleis again. We were told to reset the scanners by turning them completely off, which seemed to work, as we did a number of private weighs on the following Monday with no problems. Again at the next double sales, the scanners let us down and we hand scanned 1,400 animals.

We held the Saleyards Christmas party on 15 December, which was well attended, good early night was had by all.

The Breeders sale scheduled for 20 December by Primaries was cancelled and it was decided by all three agents that a vealer sale should happen on this date instead. This was due to there being a long break over Christmas. Numbers were approx 900 and prices were strong.

Simon and Erika finished on 22 December and returned on Tuesday 3 January. Stewart remained at work over the break to process private weighs and keep lawns watered and truck wash clean.

New employee Narelle Stoney informed Stewart that she was unavailable to drive the weighbridge at the next sale, which happened at 9.15pm the night before. So Erika and Stewart did the first two sales by themselves. It was decided to try and call Tim Beech to see whether he could help out at the next week's sales on the weighbridge, and tagging.

At the first sale back on Thursday 5 January, the scanners didn't work and we therefore hand scanned 2,500 animals. On the Friday 6 January trade sale, we discovered if we turned weighbridge B off we could get Weighbridge A to work and this halved our hand scanning whilst we tried to fix scanner B.

On 4 January the Optic Fibre connection boxes in weighbridge B and the disabled toilet needed to be replaced as Weighbridge A kept dropping out of the server connecting it to the main office.

A blue ribbon breeders sale and bull sale was held on 10 January and, in Stewart's opinion, the largest crowd ever seen attended the day long sale. We had an elderly person faint due to the heat and was attended to by Mount Barker Ambulance services. He was released from Hospital approx two hours later, with all being well.

Prices were very pleasing in the breeder's sale. The cow market was strong; heifers possibly back a little. Bulls sold well with only couple being passed in.

A vealers sale was held on 12 January and the scanner B did not work. We hand scanned 1,800 over the two sales.

On the Friday 13 January, in discussion with Aleis it was decided that the motherboard in the end box was faulty, and if we were going to send one back we should do all, in case the problem was deeper. Stewart sent all three motherboards via express air mail to Queensland. They Arrived in Queensland on Tuesday 17 and at that week's double sale we hand scanned 1,550 animals (we became quite proficient at it). Ten animals briefly escaped the yards and were in the compound area, one of which jumped the cattle grid at the main gate and was found wandering up the fence line towards Albany. All were recaptured and penned. Animals were found to be getting out through the feeders in Mitchells pen. The problem is being addressed by John Mitchell and Mount Barker Sheds and Steel.

The Elders' Breeders sale was held on 17 January which was well attended. Cow prices were strong but heifers not as strong.

The scanners came back on Friday 20 January and were fitted on the following Monday. All is working very well from there.

We had a couple of broken wash down pipes which have been fixed as they happened. General maintenance has happened when time permitted. As we have only had the three of us over the busy time (and with Tim Beech's help) we have achieved everything good and bad that has been thrown at us.

Landmark has requested another Breeders sale on Monday 20 February 2012.

The new cattle crush has arrived, but not in place as yet. We will do so as time permits.

It is expected that double sales will continue until the end of February.

*During discussion, the Saleyards Manager outlined recent problems with high cattle numbers. While the extra yard space will somewhat alleviate this situation, the Committee was concerned about animal welfare issues and the saleyards' reputation. Members were of the view that an overall quota should be established, with each agent allocated a proportion of the quota. If any more animals than the quota are nominated, then they should be deferred to the next sale. Un-nominated cattle could be sold in the back pens. A quota of around 2,500 was discussed, with each agent possibly having no more than 1,000 head. The Saleyards Manager was requested to develop a draft policy in this regard.*

*In regard to the underground washdown / truckwash pipework, the Committee considered that it may be cost effective to replace these with above ground pipes, due to the work required in continually repairing breakages. It was requested that a quotation be sought for consideration in the 2012/2013 draft budget.*

*It was also noted that, when the new cattle crush has been installed, that tenders would be called for the sale of the old crush.*

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr C Pavlovich:**

**That:**

- 1. The report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to recent activities at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be received.**
- 2. Quotations be sought for the replacement of underground washdown / truckwash pipework, with above ground pipes, for consideration in the 2012/2013 draft budget.**
- 3. A draft policy be presented to the Committee in regard to the establishment of a quota on penning numbers.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 DECEMBER 2011**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 8 November 2011

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to review the preliminary financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 31 December 2011.

### **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 current position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$270,972.00, which is \$70,744.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$200,384.00, which is \$73,666.00 below YTD budget. The majority of expenditure budget items are below YTD budget and there are no over-expenditures of concern. Operating Income remains significantly below YTD budget, although this is on par with the under expenditure referred to above.

### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

### **OFFICER 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**



### 5.3 SALEYARDS - ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

File No:	CA/126/1
Attachment	2011 Annual Environmental Report - Saleyards
Responsible Officer:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date:	7 February 2012

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#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the annual environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, as prepared by the Shire and West Coast Analytical Services.

#### STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Annual Environmental Monitoring report has been prepared to satisfy Condition 8 of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Licence Number 7407/7. The reporting requirements as specified in the licence are:

##### *'CONDITION 8 - ANNUAL REPORT*

8 *The licensee shall provide the Director, by 31 January each year, an annual environmental report containing data collected between the previous 1 January to 31 December. The report shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to:*

- (a) monitoring data or other collected data required by any condition of this licence;*
- (b) the total number of animals held on site on a monthly basis;*
- (c) a discussion of the operation of the project, compliance with conditions and environmental performance to date; and*
- (d) an assessment of the data collected against any limits set in this licence.'*

#### EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this report.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic implications for this report.

#### OFFICER COMMENT

The Executive Summary of the report states:

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### **'Surface water**

*The average BOD level for SW1 increased over the year from 47 mg/l in 2010 to 57 mg/l in 2011 whilst the average BOD level in SW3 was elevated compared to 2010 (1.2 mg/l compared to 4.4) the main contributor being the elevated March result which as discussed, contributed to the total Nitrogen and Phosphorous level.*

*The average total nitrogen level for SW1 in 2011 was similar to 2010 levels 64.4 mg/l compared to 66.8 mg/l respectively.*

*The average total Phosphorous level in SW1 decreased from 15.75 mg/l in 2010 to 4.12 mg/l in 2011.*

### **Ground water**

*Generally the nutrient levels declined in ground water possibly as the weather returned to more seasonal patterns.*

*Management of Nutrients in Wastewater.*

*Efforts are continuing in line with the points raised in DEC letter (DEC ref L7407/1998/7) in relation to nutrient levels in irrigation and ground water and to improve waste water management and treatment process onsite.*

*Advice has been sought and obtained from Patrick Charles and Klen International Pty Ltd, for implementation of the initial stage of the site action plan which includes to acquisition of two aerators for nutrient and BOD reduction in SW1 coupled with enzymatic treatment.*

*Recently, advice has been received that works approval will be required from DEC for the site action plan to proceed and the anticipated commissioning of the initial stage scheduled for February has been deferred until approval is granted. The approval process is expected to take some 8-12 weeks from date of submission which is expected in late January 2012.*

*The higher volumes of waste water delivered to the irrigation area in 2011 has flagged a need for closer monitoring of volumes as the loadings for Nitrogen and Phosphorous have exceeded the licence loading rate limit in 2011.*

*A significant reduction of nutrient loadings delivered to the irrigation area is expected to be achieved on commissioning of the aerators and enzyme applicators.*

*In addition a means of tracking leachate and water flow from the surface ponds into ground water is under investigation and assessment for use at the site.'*

*The report indicates that there has been a threefold increase in the water being irrigated onto the hay paddock. This was a direct result of the requirement not to allow the pond 3 to overflow. This additional irrigation has caused additional nutrients to be delivered to the paddock, slightly in excess of the allowed levels.*

*This constitutes a breach of licence condition 2 and this will be included on Section B of the report, which requires details of non-compliance to be noted.*

*More frequent and closer monitoring of volumes delivered and nutrient loadings will be undertaken in the future in order to ensure compliance with licence limits. In addition, it is hoped that reduced nutrient levels from the proposed aeration and use of enzymes combined with a gradual reduction in water usage due to the implementation of rubber matting in concrete areas (as detailed in the draft Environmental Action Plan), will also assist in preventing further breaches.*

## **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

*During discussion, the Committee was concerned that the high volumes of water used in washdown activities and at the truckwash were contributing to the environmental issues and increased likelihood of breaches of the DEC licence. It was also noted that more trucks are using our truckwash facility as the Esperance truckwash has been closed by DEC and the Fletchers Abattoir truckwash is comparatively difficult to use. It was agreed that measures to achieve reductions in water usage be investigated and that possible grants be sought to subsidise the truckwash operations.*

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That the 2011 environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be noted and endorsed.

## **COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Cr C Pavlovich, seconded Cr M Skinner:**

**That:**

- 1. The 2011 environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be noted and endorsed.**
- 2. Increasing levels of environmental compliance be noted with concern and the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate issues regarding:**
  - a) The greater use of blowers and/or bobcat with a brush to assist in yard cleaning;**
  - b) Less frequent washdown in winter;**
  - c) Availability of funding to subsidise the truckwash, noting that it is a regional facility.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.4 SALEYARDS - ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Attachment** Environmental Action Plan - Saleyards  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 7 February 2012

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present a draft Environmental Action Plan for the Saleyards.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Committee will recall that a letter was received from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in response to the Shire's letter about its environmental strategy, in which DEC sought the development of an Environmental Action Plan.

In early December 2011, a preliminary draft Action Plan was prepared to support the Shire's Environmental Strategy for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards and sent to DEC.

### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

There are no statutory implications for this report.

### **EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with a DEC Environmental Officer.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for this report.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this report.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategic implications for this report.

### **OFFICER COMMENT**

DEC responded in late December 2011 as follows:

*'Thanks for that. DEC has reviewed the draft environmental action plan and has the following comments for your consideration:*

- *Advice from head office has been sought and it has been confirmed that the following works/upgrades trigger the need for a works approval:*
  1. *the introduction of Klenzyme F;*

2. the installation of 2 aerators;
3. the reconfiguration of ponds;
4. the installation of a clay barrier; and
5. the installation of pond liner and gravity filter.

*The above works do not need to be covered by separate works approvals, and can in fact be covered under one works approval with stages within it; however the Shire would need to know the details of all works to apply for one works approval in this manner. From reading your report there appear to be further investigations required for the final 3 changes. Given that, perhaps the best approach would be to apply for a works approval for the first two items, then go from there. It is up to the Shire how they wish to arrange the approval/s, but all items would need to be covered by a works approval before implementing.*

- *DEC notes from the report the possibility of leaking from existing ponds. The investigation of leaks must be considered a priority in this action plan. Leaking ponds are a discharge to the environment which is an offense and not allowed under the licence for the site. If leaks are identified, their repair (or relining of ponds) must also be prioritised. The measures proposed to reduce nutrients in ponds are fully supported by DEC but do not ameliorate any need to address unauthorised discharges through leaks. DEC recommends a review of the action plan with investigation into pond liner condition being considered in the shorter term. An investigation would not require a works approval.*
- *Notwithstanding the above, DEC acknowledges the efforts which have gone into investigating innovative improvements for the wastewater treatment system and all proposed improvements are strongly supported by DEC.*

*As I know you proposed the introduction of enzymes and aerators in early 2012, I have attached the required forms to start the works approval application off. The “application enquiry form” is the form which is normally filled out initially to determine whether an approval is required or not. I do still need you to complete this form in retrospect for the paper trail. The “proponent scoping meeting” form is the main form in which detail is required on what the proposal is and how environmental risks are going to be managed during the changes and afterwards.*

*If you have any queries in relation to these forms please let me know. Once DEC receives them we will either call a scoping meeting (i.e. if more info is required) or request the information provided be submitted in the form of an application (can be a document or just be a detailed letter, as long as it has your letterhead and signature) and issue an AIN (application identification number) for the application to be lodged online.’*

The scoping document was forwarded to DEC on 27 January 2012. The following email was subsequently received from DEC:

*‘I’ve had a look over the scoping form, thanks. I don’t think a scoping meeting is necessary for such small works; however I do have some comments listed below for your consideration. There will need to be an actual application document prepared for this application containing the same information as was put in the scoping form (a bit repetitive I know, but we need something with your own letterhead on it but you can just paste the contents of the table into it) and please ensure the following is also addressed in the application:*

1. *What is the size/model of the aerators proposed? (and justification that the size will achieve results)*
2. *DEC is concerned at the proposal to install aerators in the final pond – it is possible that this will result in a significant spike in total suspended solids (TSS) which is a payable discharge (annual fee) and may block irrigation equipment. The Shire needs to be comfortable that the irrigation equipment can handle the extra solids and the Shire is aware of the requirement to pay fees on any additional discharge (0.5 fee units per kg/day of TSS discharged, with a fee unit being worth \$29.20 on and after 1 July 2012). In irrigation setups, aerators are typically used in initial/primary ponds with settlement occurring in the final pond.*
3. *What are the outputs from Klenzyme F and WW1623 themselves (i.e. given that these are being added to the ponds)? Is there any more detailed information on Klenzyme F (e.g. what are the actual wetting agents within it?) What additional chemicals will actually end up in the water?*
4. *It is noted that the key indicator for success will be levels of contamination in the groundwater – does this mean that the Shire is confident that the ponds are leaking? This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. If this is not the case DEC would consider that the key indicator would be the levels of contaminants in the final pond.*
5. *It is noted that contingency strategies (i.e. spillage of chemicals) will be developed – please note these must be developed before and included in works approval (WA) application.*
6. *Where will the chemicals be stored (i.e. will there be a hardstand and/or bunding?)*
7. *What are the dosages of WW1623 and Klenzyme F actually proposed? This is vague in the form but does need to be specified in the WA application.*
8. *My reading of the PCPL datasheet is that it appears to recommend 5 x 10kW units – is this correct? Either way the WA application should interpret PCPL's recommendations for the site with relevance to how the actual size of the two units will be adequate.*
9. *What is the reason for the incorporation of WW1623? Is there an odour problem at the site? It is stated in the MSDS that it will harm organisms and therefore presumably the enzymes that are being added into the ponds also. Has the Shire considered this?*

*Please give me a call if you have any queries on the above. If you feel there is significant information to go over/query what is required, perhaps it is best that we call a scoping meeting and discuss it in person. Otherwise if you could prepare a draft WA application document and forward it through for me to check we can go from there. '*

These issues are currently being raised with the equipment and enzyme providers.

A revised Action Plan has been prepared, as attached. The plan will be updated as actions take place and updates will be sent to DEC on a regular basis.

In addition, the installation of aeration equipment and enzymes has been deferred in order to prepare the necessary works approval documentation.

## **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION**

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

**That the attached Environmental Action Plan, dated January 2012, for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, be noted and endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

## **5.5 SALEYARDS - ENVIRONMENTAL LICENCE RENEWAL**

<b>File No:</b>	<b>CA/126/1</b>
<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Correspondence from DEC and new draft licence</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Rob Stewart Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Proposed Meeting Date:</b>	<b>7 February 2012</b>

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider additional requirements on the DEC licence for the saleyards, as proposed by DEC.

### **BACKGROUND**

DEC has recently advised that it is preparing for the renewal of the Shire's licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. At this stage extra requirements are proposed, as detailed in the attached correspondence from DEC.

### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

The Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards is subject to a licence under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (Licence Number 7407/7).

### **EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with a DEC Environmental Officer.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for this report.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this report.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategic implications for this report.

### **OFFICER COMMENT**

On Page 4 of the DEC Environmental Assessment Report, it is noted that the DEC is intending to *'further strengthen environmental management at the site'*.

There are a number of minor amendments such as definition and numbering changes which are acceptable. There are also some changes which the Shire is already doing. Any changes to environmental monitoring should also be achievable according to Charles Williams, although there is a new requirement to sample the downstream soak point (SW2) along with the other surface waters already sampled (final pond and stormwater dam) given the evidence of leaching in the groundwater from annual reporting. This will involve additional resources to sample and report on and will also be more costly for the Shire. There are also additional reporting requirements in the annual environmental report.



The following comments are made in regard to those remaining:

- Throughput has been capped at 90,000 head, which is a new standard condition based on the original proposal to DEC. It is thought that this should be acceptable.
- A new requirement is that the waste water treatment system shall be managed such that:
  1. *a minimum freeboard of 400 millimetres is maintained;*
  2. *there is no discernible seepage loss from the WWTS ponds; and*
  3. *vegetation (emergent or otherwise) is prevented from growing in the WWTS ponds or on the pond embankments.*

Point 1 is achievable. Point 2 may be an issue if there is a leak from any of the ponds, although this would be a breach anyway. Point 3 would be virtually impossible and should be resisted.

- The Shire shall, by 31 March 2012, install and thereafter maintain a surveyed freeboard gauge for the storage pond, to enable the minimum internal freeboard level of the pond to be visually recorded at any time. This is feasible and arrangements have already been made to do this using the Shire's in-house surveyor.
- The Shire shall, by 31 March 2012, permanently block or remove the overflow discharge pipe from the storage pond so that discharge cannot occur through this pipe. DEC have rejected the Shire's previous requests in relation to this, although they have advised that, in the event of emergency rainfall levels the Environmental Protection Act would allow the block to be broken to stop an overflow over the banks.
- The Shire shall direct uncontaminated stormwater run-off away from stock holding paddocks and facilities and the WWTS (including ponds). This is acceptable.
- The Shire shall ensure that contaminated run-off and wastewater from all stock holding operations and sheds is drained to the WWTS. This is acceptable and occurs now.
- The Shire shall dispose of any dead animals within 24 hours of becoming aware of their death to a premises licensed for the receipt of animal carcasses. The O'Neill waste site is licensed for this. This is acceptable and occurs now.

It is recommended that the Shire resist the condition relating to vegetation in ponds and, due to the 2011 irrigation loading results, seek an extension to the irrigation area, in order to assist with meeting loading rate requirements.

## **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

*During discussion, it was noted that the 400mm survey mark had now been installed. The Saleyards Manager indicated it would be possible to keep water levels below that mark, although this would require a much greater degree of irrigation than at say 300mm. This could cause further problems with the amount of nutrients being pumped out onto the irrigation area. The Committee agreed to seek a further modification to the draft licence such that a minimum freeboard of 300 millimetres is maintained at the waste water treatment system from September to March, and at other times a minimum freeboard of 400 millimetres is maintained.*

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That the intention of the Chief Executive Officer to advise DEC as follows in regard to the new conditions proposed on the licence for the saleyards, be noted and endorsed:

1. While the Shire does attempt to minimise vegetation in ponds, the Shire objects to the condition as it considers that it would be impossible to be fully compliant all the time.
2. Due to the 2001 irrigation loading results, the Shire seeks an extension to the irrigation area to the east, as shown on attached plan.
3. The remaining changes to conditions are acceptable.

## **COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Cr C Pavlovich, seconded Cr B Bell:**

**That the intention of the Chief Executive Officer to advise DEC as follows in regard to the new conditions proposed on the licence for the saleyards, be noted and endorsed:**

- 1. While the Shire does attempt to minimise vegetation in ponds, the Shire objects to the condition as it considers that it would be impossible to be fully compliant all the time.**
- 2. Due to the 2001 irrigation loading results, the Shire seeks an extension to the irrigation area to the east, as shown on attached plan.**
- 3. An amendment be sought such that a minimum freeboard of 300 millimetres is maintained at the waste water treatment system from September to March, and at other times a minimum freeboard of 400 millimetres is maintained.**
- 4. The remaining changes to conditions are acceptable.**

**CARRIED**

## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6.1 LETTER FROM AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK MARKETS ASSOCIATION**

A letter has been received from ALMA regarding the Shire becoming a member.

While Cr Skinner, Mr Smith and Mr Fathers were at the ALMA conference in July 2011, we were spoken to several times about formally joining the Association. The strength in numbers theme was mentioned a couple of times by conference speakers as well. The throughput of our yards would mean an annual fee of around \$3,000.00.

Stewart has become a member of Saleyard Managers' Association. In his opinion GSRCYS should become a financial member of Australian Livestock Markets Association as there is the possibility of further funding as well as legal support, better lobbying, lots of opportunities in saleyards matters. If we joined we would be the only saleyard in Western Australia to be a member.

*During discussion, the Committee considered that the membership cost be listed in the draft budget. It was suggested that the Shire could join up for one year and see how it goes. In the meantime, information should be sought on the additional benefits from such membership, such as support for grants.*

### **COMMITTEE DECISION**

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

**That a sum of \$3,000.00 be listed for consideration in the 2012/2013 draft budget for membership of the Australian Livestock Markets Association and in the meantime, information be sought on the additional benefits from such membership.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 SALEYARDS BUSINESS PLAN**

At its meeting held on 12 April 2011, the Audit Committee resolved that the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee be requested to meet with the Shire's auditors to discuss the implementation of a business plan which would ensure that the saleyards enterprise is successful and self sustaining.

The Saleyards Committee has discussed this matter and intended to meet with the Shire's auditors after the Saleyards Strategic Plan had been further progressed.

As a result of this matter being raised by the Audit Committee again, Mr Stewart, Mr Fathers and Mr Webb had a meeting with the Shire's auditor, Russell Harrison on 6 December 2011. A range of issues were discussed:

- Economic Benefits of the saleyards.
- Strategic Planning process and intention to conduct a Marketing Plan.
- There are things we can control to take care of cash flow (maintenance, operating costs, predicted capital expenditure, policy on reserve transfers).
- The Saleyards is subject to variable costs and throughput; difficult to calculate sensitivity on pricing.

- Perhaps the most important parts of a business plan require expert advice. Primary production is subject to the vagaries of world prices.
- All sorts of factors influence such as price, competition, climate, carbon tax, freight, risk.
- Information such as volumes, trends, analysis of competition, market intelligence, market forecasting, quantity surveyor estimates on the infrastructure, etc would be required.

At the end of the discussion, Mr Harrison concluded that Lincolns would not be in a position to undertake this report as it would require industry expertise they do not possess. It was suggested that we seek advice and assistance from the Great Southern Development Commission.

A meeting was held with the CEO of the Great Southern Development Commission, Bruce Manning on 3 January 2012. We spoke about the desire to develop a plan to ensure future sustainability of the yards. Mr Manning was not in a position to assist in the way that Mr Harrison had envisaged and his take on it was to see if there could be added value from the site (or Yerriminup) through additional usage or opportunities for innovation. He undertook to try and find previous feasibility studies in this regard.

The results so far have not been as expected. The discussions have not only highlighted the complexity of the issues and the difficulty in undertaking this exercise in a meaningful way. It is anticipated that the Chief Executive Officer will speak to the Committee about this matter.

*During discussion, the Committee noted that the Chief Executive Officer intended to develop a draft strategic plan for the saleyards based on the workshops conducted so far. The Committee suggested that the plan should cover the following points:*

- *The plan should be proactive;*
- *It should meet environmental requirements;*
- *A marketing plan should aim to keep customers at least at current levels and maintain a high quality service and infrastructure.*
- *Consider the infrastructure requirements for a throughput of 90,000 head.*

### **6.3 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Energy audit / additional power requirements.
- Membership of Australian Livestock Manager's Association.
- Saleyards Signage.
- Saleyards Strategic Plan.
- Progress of Environmental Strategy.
- CCTV over cattle grate.
- Investigate replacement of underground washdown pipes with aboveground.
- Report required on proposed yard quota policy.
- Seek information on benefits of joining ALMA.

## **7 NEXT MEETING**

TBA

## **8 MEETING CLOSURE**

11.29am        The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

**CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON**\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_