



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 at the Saleyards, Albany Highway, Mount Barker WA 6324, 9.00am Tuesday 8 November 2011.

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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Presiding Member:

Cr M Skinner

Membership

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr C Pavlovich

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.00am The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Fathers 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 John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager

Visitors

Mr Bob Pumphrey, Landmark
Mr Harry Carroll, Landmark
Mr Ray Norman, Elders
Mr Jai Newman, Elders
Mr Maurice Molton, Primaries
Mr Charles Williams, West Coast Laboratories

3 ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

Mr Fathers called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member.

Cr Skinner was nominated for the position of Presiding Member and he indicated his willingness to accept the position.

There being no further nominations, Mr Fathers declared Cr Skinner elected unopposed to the position of Presiding Member.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 6 September 2011 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION 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 10 December 2010, 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 2011.

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

6 MEETING WITH AGENTS

A meeting has been scheduled with agents at 9.00am to discuss the following matters:

- Proposal to implement soft floor instead of additional holding pens

During discussion, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that while an allocation of \$120,000.00 had been made in the 2011/2012 budget for additional dirt holding yards on the western side of the saleyards, the views of agent representatives were sought on a partial allocation of this money towards rubberised soft floor, which was being trialled at the saleyards.

The consensus among agents was that the extra yards were most important, with the extra animals coming though, and requested the Council to progress these urgently. The Saleyards Manager advised that quotations had been sought for wire rope style holding yards and agents were supportive of this.

It was further acknowledged that the feedlotters were looking a soft floor environment and the consensus was that soft floor should be installed in six loading ramps and around the paint boxes. This would roughly equate to a B-Double truck worth of matting, at a cost of around \$30,000.00. This would leave approximately \$90,000.00 for the holding yards. Subject to this working well, the soft floor could be gradually installed from east to west within the saleyards over the next few years.

- Timing of vealer sales and joint advertising campaign

During discussion, it was agreed that vealer sales start in the first week of December. A vealer sale would be held on 26 January 2012 (Australia Day), with a trade sale on Friday.

- Non compliant cattle and Transit cattle

During discussion, the Saleyards Manager advised that transit animals, particularly private kills, were becoming an increasing problem from the point of view of compliance with National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) requirements and the saleyards administration not being advised of such activities, which impacts upon available pen space. It was noted that NLIS legislation required such transactions to be registered and attendees therefore agreed that all transit animals should be processed though the National Livestock Identification System.

Discussion ensued in relation to arrangements and tagging fees for big bulls. It was noted that the Shire had placed an order for an improved crush. The view was expressed that the tagging fees for bulls should be increased, although there are fewer problems with stud bulls than the killer side.

- Saleyards Security

During discussion, the Saleyards Manager advised that there was an increasing concern about security at the premises, particularly the possibility of animal theft with cattle prices being quite high at the moment. Suggestions such as a boom gate and CCTV were made. Attendees were generally of the view that a CCTV camera located high above the cattle grate may be the most effective deterrent. The Shire was requested to further investigate this matter.

7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

7.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 1 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER 2011

SALE DATA

- Total numbers from 1 October to 1 November 2011 was 3655.
- There have been no MSA cattle in this time.
- 46 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- Two animals have been put down or removed.
- Four bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- 74 cattle have been processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Firebreaks have now been all sprayed around yards and dams/ponds.

Fire extinguishers have been serviced by Protector Fire Services.

We repaired the truckwash which had the end of a garden hose stuck in pump outlet. It is now working as normal.

Two broken pipes have been repaired, one being a water trough supply pipe, and a washdown standpipe, both under the concrete. A jackhammer was required.

Simon has slotted into general maintenance with all gates being greased and serviced. He is now welding chains on gates in preparation for the vealer season.

Mettler Toledo will be here in November to service and calibrate the scale houses.

Erika has been spending lots of time on the lawnmower, keeping grounds looking nice.

The large hand wand has been serviced.

A new casual employee, Narelle Stoney started this week to operate the weighbridge.

A lot of issues have been experienced with non-compliance of animals with no ear marks (45). Every animal found with no earmark was sent home by the Department of Agriculture and Food compliance officer, Alex Stewart.

It is considered that the saleyards should have some sort of security system, either CCTV or AVDATA Key system on a boom gate. There is a risk of cattle being stolen after hours. The Committee's thoughts on this are sought. If agreeable, an appropriate form of security can be investigated and costed.

Issues have arisen with transit animals, lifetime traceability and compliance. We have not been charging for some transit animals at this stage, mainly because we are not being informed when and how many are coming in. The Department of Agriculture and Food is working with us to solve the problem.

Erika has been updating the QA audit booklet and we are getting close to this being finished. It is intended to seek a mock audit before applying the NSQA certification.

The new cattle crush has been ordered (with head immobilizer bit and crush squeeze) from Commander Agquip. It is due here by the beginning of December.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

During discussion, the Saleyards Manager outlined recent problems in regard to transit cattle. As discussed with agents, members were of the view that all transit animals should be processed though the National Livestock Identification System. Nevertheless, sale bulls should be at the discretion of the Saleyards Manager, due to the special circumstances. In addition, it was agreed to recommend to the Council that all other untagged bulls, should incur a fee of \$50.00 for tagging, due to the extra work involved.

The Saleyards Manager advised that an approach had been received from West Coast Livestock for the opportunity to use the saleyards. It was suggested that the company submit a formal request to the Council. The Chairman also suggested that the current agent agreements are out of date and should be renewed.

The Saleyards Manager advised that a trucking firm had made a verbal approach to contribute funds towards the additional yard space. It was suggested that the company make a formal proposal in this regard.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, 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. All transit animals should be processed though the National Livestock Identification System; and**
- 3. It be recommended to the Council that the fee for putting ear tags on untagged bulls be increased to \$50.00.**

CARRIED

7.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 OCTOBER 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

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 October 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 YTD operating expenditure is \$187,622.00, which is \$60,194.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$101,529.00, which is \$35,866.00 below YTD budget. The majority of expenditure budget items are below YTD budget and there are no over-expenditures of concern, given the overall result.

This information should be viewed as preliminary at the moment as some end of month processes have not yet been undertaken, such as administrative services allocation and fuel allocation.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POWER REQUIREMENTS

For information, a letter from Mount Barker Electrics has been enclosed which has provided some preliminary advice on power requirements and possible upgrades for the saleyards. It is intended to seek an indicative price from Western Power on the upgrades. Norm Burren has advised that his labour component would be in the vicinity of \$20,000.00.

8.2 DEC LETTER

For information, a letter from the Department of Environment and Conservation has been received in response to the Shire's letter about its environmental strategy. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Saleyards Manager have met with environmental contractor Charles Williams to formulate a response.

8.3 GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL GRANTS SCHEME

For information, letters from the Great Southern Development Commission are enclosed which advise that the Shire was unsuccessful in obtaining grants for the additional yard space and roof over northern dirt pens under the Royalties for Regions, Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

8.4 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Energy audit / additional power requirements.
- Membership of Australian Livestock Managers' Association.
- Saleyards Signage.
- Saleyards Strategic Plan.
- Progress of Environmental Strategy.

8.5 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

A meeting has been scheduled with environmental consultant, Charles Williams at 10.00am to discuss the progress in regard to Stage 1 of the Shire's environmental strategy.

During discussion, Mr Williams provided some background on the investigations thus far and advised that the combination of aeration and enzymes would provide the best and most cost effective solution to achieve the results and flexibility required. The proposal for the supply of at least one or perhaps two aerators was discussed. Mr Williams confirmed that the supplier, Patrick Charles Pty Ltd had a good track record in this regard and favourable reports had been received from WAAMCO and Fletchers International Exports.

The Committee was supportive of purchasing two aerators, subject to confirmation of electrical setup costs and that there is sufficient available power on site to run the units 24 hours a day on non-sale days. It was expected that this information could be confirmed with a further meeting to be held to discuss the outcome in the near future.

It was noted that the additional power and enzymes would have some impact on ongoing operational costs, however this was likely to reduce somewhat over time, when an equilibrium situation is reached.

9 NEXT MEETING

TBA

10 MEETING CLOSURE

11.05am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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