



## **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 9 December 2014

**John Fathers**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### Committee Members

*Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde - 248/13*  
*Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 21/14*

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**Membership**

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Mr M Skinner

Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for any member)

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

9.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

## **2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

### Members Present

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

### Staff

Mr John Fathers, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager  
Mrs Erika Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 11 November 2014 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.**

**CARRIED**

## **4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

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 letters dated 15 April 2014, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 31 December 2014.

Mr J Fathers read aloud the letters, copies of which is attached to these minutes.

## 5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

### 5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 1 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2014

#### SALE DATA

- Sale numbers total 6,522.
- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- 41 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- One animal has been put down or removed.
- Four bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 255 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Erika had a week off for the Albany Show, which went very well. Rachel was part of the cattle section as well. She did quite well in the junior handling side and junior judging.
- A new phone was purchased for Stewart which has internet and email capabilities, which has been very good so far. Being able to utilise this device's capabilities after hours has been very beneficial to the operation of the saleyards.
- Stewart attended the Humane Destruction of Livestock and Weighbridge Accreditation as part of the Australian Saleyard Managers Association seminar and passed both courses. See attached report.
- The same week that Stewart was away, the Saleyards lost power due to a melting down of the fuse box on the Western power pole. Power was lost at 5.00am and Mount Barker Electrics was called soon after. Under instruction from Mount Barker Electrics, Western Power was called and logged a fault at 5.38am. A text message went out early that morning letting buyers, truck drivers etc know of the delay, to say that the sale would be held up for approx 1 hour. (This was assisted by Stewart's new phone which can now access emails and internet.)

Eventually Western Power fixed the fault at 11.35am and we were back up and running by midday. The sale started at 1.30pm, we finished weighing at 3.00pm and the sale finished at 4.30pm. All concerned were very supportive and even though the sale was late, it all went very smoothly.

A Western Power representative came and saw Stewart on the following Wednesday, after they received a complaint regarding the time it took from notification to finalization. We may need to look at getting a gen set to alleviate this from holding up the sale again.

- The two weighbridges have now been calibrated and the tolerances were within specification. We have had it under advisement that we seriously need to update our load cells and software that goes with them (This has been budgeted). The advice is that we should purchase the equipment shortly and install it before next year's calibration.
- Double sales start on 4 and 5 December. An advertisement appeared in the Farm Weekly, Albany Advertiser and Plantagenet News.
- A Livestock Biosecurity Network informative Session will be held at the saleyards on 4 December.

- The number of private weighs has increased recently which is boosting our throughput numbers.
- All weighbridge lift gates have been serviced/greased ready for the weaner season. Repairs are ongoing and we have done a number of repairs to chains on gates.

### **Sydney Seminar**

The ASMA Australian Saleyards Managers Association meeting took place last month in Sydney, attended by representatives from Queensland, South Australia, NSW and Victoria.

The meeting started at 12.00pm on 12 November. Some of the issues that were raised included signage of operations at saleyards. Stewart informed the meeting that Mount Barker had just tackled this issue with LGIS. We were currently waiting on all out signs from the sign writers (which have now arrived) and would be put up shortly.

Worksafe Victoria are requesting CCTV on all ramps and truck washes to try and catch people not wearing harnesses on the top and side decks of trucks. The view was that trucks are not our workplace and maybe better training in trucking staff would be more beneficial, and the ALMA board are looking into this issue.

Tony White (Secretary/Treasurer of ALMA Board) was in attendance also, and he informed the meeting that he is standing down from the ALMA board as of February 2015. He has held the position for six years which will be a sad loss for the organisation but has committed to guiding the next person to take on the job.

### **Humane Euthanasia and Identification of Sick/Injured Animals**

Mr Ted Vinson from Charters Tower Saleyards, a veteran of 24 years with the DPI in Eradication of Feral Animals in Northern Queensland/ Northern Territory and the Northern Part of Western Australia took the group in humane destruction of animals.

Went through the different types of ammunition for firearms used in saleyards. As it turned out, out of the twelve attendee's, 10 of which are cattle saleyards, there were six different calibres of firearms. Mount Barker Saleyards was the only users of a 30/30 calibre rifle, which is deemed by industry to be the correct calibre to destroy large animals. It uses a high impact - low trajectory, where as some of the other yards are using low calibre rifles on large animals. They would need to use multiple bullets to get the job done.

We also went though the most effective target head shots for quick death. A head shot between the eyes straight in, or side shot below the point of the ear at the back of the jaw, is used for doing older bulls due to the skull being so thick (ricochet). The last option was a heart shot on difficult or moving animals.

We also went though using either a rifle or captive bolt. Captive bolt has more of a push at the moment. This is ideal in sheep scenarios but when used in cattle, needs to have the animal restrained first. This causes OHS issues as getting an animal to a restrained box is not always possible or workable. We talked about using the 'Green Dream' but this needs to be administered by a professional and not always the safest option.

We did a lot of work on identifying different types of stresses on animals in saleyards and on whether to destroy or take further measures for recuperation. Documentation on destroying animals and possibly photographing prior to destruction needs to be a process, more so for justification, due to the animal activists.

We had a comprehensive session with a lot of accompanying photos on cattle arriving a saleyards (more pastoral types) and the types of injuries and stresses that are common.

We finished the first day with dinner which was hosted by ALMA at an Italian Restaurant. The meal was nice, and a lot of general conversation about issues in each others own saleyards. This was very informal with the main topics being Agents, NVDs, fees and transit animals.

### **Weighbridge Accreditation Course**

On Friday 14 November the weighbridge course was attended by all. The course included weighbridge setup, operation and how often they should be calibrated and correct weighing procedures. Also having a known weigh to use for monthly checks is a must. We went through the saleyard responsibilities and obligations to the users. All attendees passed the course and are waiting on confirmation certificates.

General discussion included weighbridge load cells and when they should be replaced. Moss Vale is in the process of renewing their cells after 18 years. The meeting was informed that we are also in the process of updating our loadcells.

*During discussion, the Committee was advised that changes to Western Power operating procedures could result in the more frequent power outages on catastrophic fire days. Also, on such days, if the power does go out, new rules prevent power being returned. The need for an independent power supply to run the sale and provide water to cattle was therefore becoming more important. The Committee requested the Saleyards Manager to investigate options for a suitable on-site generator.*

*The Committee also endorsed the proposals of the Saleyards Manager in regard to the weighbridge loadcells.*

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

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

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

**CARRIED**

**5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 NOVEMBER 2014**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 9 December 2014

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 30 November 2014.

**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 November 2014 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$434,502.00, which is \$42,975.00 below YTD budget. There are no significant variances except for Depreciation – Furniture & Fittings which is \$6,196.00 above YTD budget. This is due to additional depreciation on soft floor matting. No capital expenditures have been made to date, although works are in progress on the continuation of holding pens.

Year to date (YTD) income has been recalculated using an average of the monthly spread from the last seven years. Overall year to date (YTD) operating income is \$157,827.00, which is \$28,865.00 below the revised YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are \$14,460.00 below YTD budget.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION**

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

**That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.**

**CARRIED**



## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6.1 GRANT APPLICATION – SALEYARDS ROOF**

Further to discussions at the meeting held on 11 November 2014, the concept design and grant application for the Regional Grants Scheme are in progress. A concept and preliminary costings from designer John Maxwell are attached for information.

*During discussion, the Acting Chief Executive Officer advised that the option was still open to seek a grant for \$250,000.00 towards a roof over part of the northern dirt pens (total cost approx. \$500,000.00) or a grant for \$300,000.00 towards a roof over all of the pens (total cost approx. \$600,000.00). The Committee agreed to try for the larger sum.*

*It was noted that if a grant was secured, the Shire would need to have funding and detailed plans in place by 30 June 2015, as this would be a condition of the grant funding.*

*Members noted the potential operational savings associated with a new roof in terms of cleaning out dirt pens, cleaning out water troughs in dirt pens, collection of storm water and the for potential increase in income from throughput. The suggestion was made that the Council should consider borrowing the whole sum to take advantage of the current low interest rates, thereby leaving some capital in reserve in case it is required for other purposes.*

*Thereafter it was noted that the detailed design of the roof should consider the possible re-design of the outloading ramps and also the possible future extension of the roof over the selling pens.*

### **6.2 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*The Saleyards Manager advised that a Saleyards Christmas Party would be held on Thursday 18 December 2014. It would be organised by the canteen operator.*

### **6.3 FEEDLOT CHALLENGE**

*The Saleyards Manager advised that entries to the 'Gate to Plate Feedlot Challenge' had closed and there had been a good response. The challenge would start on 14 January 2015.*

### **6.4 ADDITIONAL WATER SOURCE**

*The Acting Chief Executive Officer advised that one diviner (Dominic Sawyer) had found a water source running through the Saleyards site and had suggested that a suitable location for a bore was between the dam and the pump shed. Quotes were being sourced for the installation of a bore and pump.*

*The Committee requested that a further diviner be engaged to see if those results can be verified and such information be provided to the Committee.*

## 6.5 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water / Water sustainability – At its meeting held on 27 May 2014, members agreed that the requirements specified in the letter from the Health Department of WA make the operation of the waste water re-use system unviable. A budget item for 2014/2015 has been included for an additional water source. A meeting has been held with a diviner / drilling contractor to seek a potential bore site.
- Agents Agreements – Primaries agreement signed by both parties. Landmark Deed of Agreement signed by both parties. Elders Agreement not yet received back. Not likely to be received until a new agreement drafted and discussion with agents about \$1.00 contribution. Draft agreement has been received back from solicitor following feedback at the Saleyards Committee meeting on 11 November 2014.
- Concept design for Saleyards roof – A discussion was held in regard to expectations at the meeting held on 11 November 2014. The concept design and grant application are in progress.
- Standard Operating Procedures – Draft procedures have been developed. It is expected that these will form an addendum to the new Agents Agreements.
- Signage Updates – Quotations have now been sought for the preparation of the signs which will be installed by Saleyards staff. An order has been issued to Jason's Signmakers and most of the signage has now been received. Staff will erect in due course.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, it was agreed that some thought should be given to a public relations opportunity for the millionth animal to go through the saleyards, expected to be in late 2015.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, members noted Cr Handasyde's comments within his report on the ALMA Conference that it will be increasingly more and more important to secure a position on the ALMA Board in order to have the inside running on the National Issues. It was agreed to give further consideration to this matter.
- During discussion, at the meeting held on 9 December 2014, the Committee agreed that need for an independent power supply to run the sale and provide water to cattle was becoming more important. The Committee requested the Saleyards Manager to investigate options for a suitable on-site generator.

## 7 NEXT MEETING

3 February 2015.

## 8 MEETING CLOSURE

9.55am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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