



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,
11.30 am Tuesday 9 September 2008.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr K Forbes, Cr M Skinner, Cr S Grylls

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Chairperson:

Cr M Skinner

Deputy Chairperson:

Membership

Cr K Forbes - Rocky Gully / West Ward - Shire President

Cr M Skinner - East Ward

Cr S Grylls - Rocky Gully / West Ward

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr M Skinner Presiding Member
Cr K Forbes, AM
Cr S Grylls

Staff

Mr R Stewart Chief Executive Officer
Mr J Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Smith Manager – Saleyards
Ms C Appleby Assistant Manager – Saleyards

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr S Grylls, seconded Cr M Skinner:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee Meeting, held on 22 July 2008 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING

The Saleyards Manager, Mr Smith advised that the restricted truckwash times seemed to be working well and transporters seemed to have an understanding of the times applicable.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fathers advised that an insurance payment of \$900.00 had been received for the stolen generator. Mr Smith would be bringing back a proposal for a replacement generator.

Cr Forbes advised that Cr Hollingworth had been working with Westerberg Irrigation and the Department of Conservation and Environment on a proposal to use of waste water on his adjacent property. He would be submitting a formal proposal in due course. The view was expressed that the Council would need to assess how much spare water it will have, given the proposal for two cuts from the hay paddock per year.

4 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr M Skinner
Nature and Extent of Interest: Farming - 400 head of cattle

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr K Forbes
Nature and Extent of Interest: Cattle Producer - 240 head of mixed 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 Regional Development via letter dated 6 November 2007, giving permission for Cr K Forbes AM, Cr M Skinner, Cr B Hollingworth, Cr J Moir and Cr D Nye-Chart to participate in matters relating to the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards until 20 October 2008.

Mr John Fathers - Deputy Chief Executive Officer, read aloud the attached letter.

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT - AUGUST 2008

Sale Data

(1/8/08 - 31/8/08)

Total August numbers including MSA Sales were 1,544 head.
19 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
One animal has been put down or removed.
17 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
No cattle have gone through for Private/Shipper Weigh.

General Business

(19/8/08 – 2/9/08)

We have irrigated 1414 kl from 4 August 2008 to 2 September 2008. This has greatly reduced the water level in the dam.

We are currently waiting for quotes on the cost of fencing materials to be put up by Saleyards staff. We intend to put the fences up ourselves, and look at re-fencing the boundaries and a few small “pens/paddocks” around the dams. Confirmation is sought from the Committee on the detailed plans.

We have also been researching alternatives for a hay shelter, rather than a shed. We have requested a quote from Plantagenet Shed and Steel for the cost of a frame similar to the one below as we could use the tarps that we have for a short term solution. We are concerned that just using the tarp could result in an accident as it is quite heavy to shift on ones own. Also with the warmer weather the risk or snakes is greater. This was not provided for in the 2008/09 budget, however the Committee might like to reconsider budget priorities or consider funding this from the unspent Loan Funds.



We also intend to obtain some plants to put into the beds in the car park to make it look more presentable.

The rifle was taken into town to be repaired after it was damaged earlier in the year.

“Bunnybait” was laid on 22 August 2008 to help combat the large number of rabbits that have been in the yards.

There have also been ongoing problems with the truckwash pump.

An update has been sought from Coffey Environments on the Water Reuse Proposal and the outcome of the survey of monitoring bores. No advice has been received yet and we hope to update the Committee at the meeting.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 9 September 2008, the Saleyards Manager, Mr Smith advised that he was still researching options for a hay covering. Some of the hay cut previously would be lost and it was therefore desirable to keep it well covered in future. Members agreed that a cover sufficient for 2,000 bales would be appropriate, and suggested that the Saleyards Manager investigate the cost of a 6m x 9m wide span shed.

Mr Fathers advised that the following information had been received from Coffey Environments in relation to the Water Reuse Project and recent survey of groundwater monitoring bores:

“Chlorination

Coffey Environmental commenced work on the Water Reuse Project in August 2008, and have successfully determined the regulatory requirements from the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Department of Health. In addition, liaison with potential suppliers of chlorination unit systems has commenced with cost estimates to be received in mid-September. Following the receipt of these submissions, the different options will be evaluated and the results collated in a report to be completed by the end of September.

Survey

The groundwater bores were successfully by surveyed 35 Degrees South on Tuesday 22 July 2008. The survey data was collated and has been received by Coffey Environments. The data will be used in the compilation of the next annual report (due 31 January 2009) to assess the relative groundwater levels and hence groundwater gradients at the site.”

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr M Skinner

That the report of the Saleyards Manager for the month of August 2008, be received.

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 AUGUST 2008

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 9 September 2008

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 August 2008.

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. This report is preliminary as not all of the month end transactions have been processed.

Most items are within YTD budget. The survey of groundwater monitoring bores exceeded budget by \$400.00. Budget Item 'Environmental Services' is also tracking above budget by \$1,643.00. Operating Income is slightly lower than budget due to the slow start to the season.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr S Grylls

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

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 FORTNIGHTLY SALES OVER WINTER

Cr Forbes advised that due to the traditional low throughput over some of the winter months, that consideration should be given to going to fortnightly sales to maintain numbers on sale days. The recent low numbers have resulted in poor attendances and low prices being realised. It was noted that low volume periods do occur each year but are not necessarily at the same time due to seasonal conditions. It was agreed to raise this at the next meeting with agents to discuss a strategy.

6.2 SLUDGE PUMP PROBLEMS

Mr Smith advised that Westerberg Irrigation had replaced a capacitor on the sludge pump and it was now working.

6.3 SUMMER CROP

Mr Smith raised the option of planting a summer crop such as ryegrass on about six (6) ha of the paddock. The Committee agreed this should be done with a view to making hay in February or March. Mr Smith was requested to investigate the options for a crop and suggested he speak with Landcare to see if they could make any seed available.

6.4 PERIMETER FENCING

Mr Smith advised that he had obtained quotes for fencing and the best option was buying the materials from direct trade supplies with staff erecting the fencing. Members agreed that staff could erect the fencing as and when convenient and considered that the Albany Highway fence line was the highest priority, then the southern and western boundaries. Following that, the ponds could be fenced to enable grazing.

6.5 DIRT PENS

Mr Smith raised the option of putting in shredded pine chips into the dirt pens which should be better than other materials due to its lightness and antiseptic and water resistance qualities. It was advised that the RSPCA had endorsed the proposal. The Committee agreed to try this material on two dirt pens to assess its effectiveness.

6.6 RIDE ON MOWER

Mr Smith suggested that purchasing a second hand ride-on mower could achieve cost savings in grounds maintenance. The Committee suggested the matter be discussed with the Manager works and Services to determine when the Parks and Gardens mower will be traded, with a view to possibly purchasing that one.

6.7 NATIONAL SALEYARDS QUALITY ASSURANCE (NSQA)

The Committee requested that the Saleyards Manager report back to the Committee on the requirements necessary to achieve NSQA audit and accreditation.

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

12.34 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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