



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,
9.00am Tuesday 10 April 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

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.00am 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 7 February 2012 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 – 1 FEBRUARY 2012 TO 31 MARCH 2012

SALE DATA

- Total sale numbers during this time was 16,119 head.
- There have been no MSA cattle in this time.
- 148 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- 21 animals have been put down or removed.
- 106 bales of hay have been fed out over this time
- There have been 1406 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The strainer post in the gateway servicing the ponds has been replaced. We have also swung two galvanized gates (3.2mtrs) each, providing better and safer access increased security.

The Acting Regional Manager of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) recently visited the saleyards, along with other sites in the Shire, with the CEO and Deputy CEO.

We have been having problems with the pump at the truck wash, which recently burnt out. In the discussions following the 2011 visit to Muchea, it was suggested that when ours is due for replacement, it would be a good idea to upgrade to a similar size pump. The pump will be replaced with a bigger capacity pump, with a better throat clearance in it, which should stop blockages. It is an industrial grade pump, which is used in a lot of abattoirs. The electrical supply also has to be modified with an inverter to bring it to 3 phase. We hope to have up and running by the end of March. It is recommended that the cost be funded from Budget Item Mobile Feed Carts, which will now longer be required due to the additional yard space.

We have had the RCD testing done at the yards.

Marshall MacAleese has modified the eight slam gates on the delivery end of the yards. This is to stop animals from accidentally opening gates and was required due to a recent accident. He has been asked to provide a quote for modifying the bugles to increase the width to increase flow through and enhance safety.

The weeds around the ponds have now been sprayed.

A quote has been submitted from Thinkwater Albany for relocating all wash down pipes from underground to above ground. This has been listed for consideration in budget proposals.

The last vealer sale was held on the 23 February 2012.

The six monthly service for the compressors has been completed.

We have capped the overflow for the irrigation pond South West 1 so that should alleviate the problems with overflow and DEC.

The office building has been spring cleaned on the outside with walls, under side of roof and windows being washed and debugged. The office looks like a new office again. The insect sprayer will come at a later date to spray bugs and spiders around office and shed.

We have been replacing chains and D shackles on weighbridge gates, as the need has arisen.

We had 440 sheep arrive on 14 March 2012 belonging to Bruce Wright. We had issues with sheep in the ponds, so we have fenced the pond and pumphouse area off from the rest of the paddock. We supplied the wire and steel pickets and Bruce Wright supplied the contractor and strainers, and a good job has been completed.

We had the Agent changeover on 15 March 2012, but did not swap roster positions as previously agreed. Some representatives from Elders weren't happy about this. A meeting was held on 21 March with the three Agents and the Saleyards staff to discuss the issue and there seemed to be agreement until the following sale afternoon, when Elders were still not happy. Discussions with Elders' representatives are continuing.

AD Contractors are coming to extract the top-most sludge from the two primary ponds with the long reach excavator. This was required as we are getting pressure from the DEC to undertake sludge removal and in order to make room for the aerators. The challenge will be to store the wet sludge on concrete for drying out and removal.

We have cleaned out seven sumps at the end of selling pens and fixed one broken wash down pipe.

We have received new crush and waiting parts (floor and quick catch). We will hopefully get the old one out and the new one in by Easter.

The final effluent pond is nearly empty. It is the lowest in whole time I have been here.

On Wednesday 14 March, Elders employee Jai Newman had his ankle crushed between a bull's head and the second top rail. An ambulance was called and Jai was taken to Mt Barker Hospital with the x-ray showing a fractured ankle. Tom Marron from Elders thanked us for our support with Jai.

Last week, we used the new SMS texting system on the computer to let buyers and transporters know of numbers on the day before sale. This uses the same format as the Fire Ban notice that Andrew Buchanan uses. It seemed to work, although we have changed the text to read 'Mount Barker Saleyards' instead of 'GSRCSY'.

Now we are starting to organise rubber matting for receival ramps to go down, and for the new dirt pens to be built on the south western end.

Erika has now been appointed the Assistant Manager of the Saleyards.

We hope you all have a safe Easter.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr M Skinner:

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

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2012

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 10 April 2012

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 March 2012.

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 \$391,067.00, which is \$94,074.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$423,455.00, which is \$80,583.00 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'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr C Pavlovich:

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 LETTER FROM AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK MARKETS ASSOCIATION

At its meeting held on 7 February 2012, the Committee resolved 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.

A letter was sent to ALMA in this regard and a response has been received, although it does not provide very much more information that we were aware of previously. Nevertheless, a sum will be incorporated into the budget for membership.

During discussion, members noted the limited direct benefits of joining the Association. It was agreed to leave the amount in the draft budget, but not join until further consideration is given to this matter.

6.2 DEC LICENCE UPDATES

The re-issue of the licence for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards contained the following new conditions.

4. *The licensee shall, by 31 March 2012:*
 - (a) *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; and*
 - (b) *notify the Director in writing and provide photographs and any other relevant documentation to support that the gauge has been correctly surveyed and established.*
5. *The licensee shall, by 31 March 2012:*
 - (a) *permanently block or remove the overflow discharge pipe from the storage pond so that discharge cannot occur through this pipe; and*
 - (b) *notify the Director in writing and provide photographs and any other relevant documentation to support that the pipe has been adequately blocked and water can no longer flow through.*

These actions have now been carried out as shown in the attached images.

The licence also stipulated that vegetation (emergent or otherwise) is prevented from growing in the WWTS ponds or on the pond embankments. The shire has lodged an objection with the Office of the Appeals Convenor, which will adjudicate on this (see attached).

6.3 BUDGET

At this stage, the following have been suggested for capital works for 2012/2013, excluding carry forward projects:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Electrical Upgrade | \$ 25,000 |
| • Soft Floor (Stage 2) | \$ 50,000 |
| • CCTV at Entrance | \$ 8,500 |
| • Convert Washdown Pipes to Above Ground | \$ 40,000 |

- New Signage – Albany Highway \$ 10,000
- Bugle Changes Awaiting Quote
- Total \$133,500**

There is currently approximately \$92,500 in the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Reserve. Any surplus of income over expenditure in 2011/2012 will be transferred to this reserve for the purposes identified in that reserve.

A draft operating budget is also attached for consideration. The estimated actual 30 June 2012 figures will be refined as the year progresses.

During discussion, members agreed that the electrical upgrade was the highest priority project. The other projects were supported, with members agreeing to fund a modification to one outloading ramp for now. It was agreed to list all of these items in the draft budget. Final allocations would depend on reserve amounts and funds carried forward.

6.4 BUDGET FEES AND CHARGES

Possible budget fees and charges are listed below for consideration.

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	
Description	Last	Current	Proposed	% Adj
Cattle Weighing & Penning - Per Head	\$7.75	\$8.25	\$8.60	4.24%
Cattle Penning Only - Per Head	\$7.75	\$8.25	\$8.60	4.24%
Cattle Weighing Only - Per Head	\$3.30	\$3.50	\$3.65	4.29%
Private Weighs - Per Head	\$3.30	\$3.50	\$3.65	4.29%
Shipping Weighs - Per Head	\$3.30	\$3.50	\$3.65	4.29%
Private/Shipping/Weighing only (per head – under 20 Cattle)	\$4.50	\$4.95	\$5.15	4.04%
Stud Bull Sale - Per Head	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$11.50	4.55%
Feed - Per Bale	At Cost Plus \$4.00	At Cost Plus \$4.00	At Cost Plus \$4.15	3.75%
Removal - Per Head	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$115.00	4.55%
Agents Levy - Per Head	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	0.00%
Wash Down Fee - Per Minute - Minimum Charge \$5.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.52	4.00%
Manure Sales - Per Bobcat Bucket	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	0.00%
NLIS tagging services (per head / without permit – no evidence of previous tag)	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$34.00	3.03%
NLIS tagging services (per head / without permit - evidence of previous tag)	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$17.00	3.03%
NLIS tagging services (per head / with permit)	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.50	4.55%
NLIS tagging services - Bulls (per head)	Various	\$50.00	\$50.00	0.00%
Transit Cattle - Per Head - Per Day	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.30	4.55%
Crush Fee - Per Head	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.30	4.55%
Agistment Fee (per head/per week)	\$0.33	\$0.33	\$0.35	6.06%

During discussion, members agreed to present the draft fees to a meeting with agents, subject to the following changes:

- Manure Sales - Per Bobcat Bucket \$15.00
- NLIS tagging services (per head / with permit) \$17.00

6.5 PROGRESS WITH AERATORS

Following a number of queries, DEC in Albany were satisfied that we had provided sufficient information in regard to the aerators to enable a formal Works Approval to be lodged, which was done on 7 March 2012. The following emails were subsequently received.

Email 1

The application for works approval is currently with head office for their validation prior to accepting for assessment. They are requesting more information regarding the level of nutrient reduction that will be achieved using these chemicals i.e. what concentration are you aiming for? This will need to be provided to meet the nutrient reduction objectives in the Environmental Improvement Plan. In addition to nutrients, DEC will also need an understanding of the changes to TSS, BOD, COD and TOC concentrations in the effluent being irrigated as a result of this proposal.

Additionally, is there an MSDS available for Klenzyme F? I thought I had asked for this but now going through our correspondence I don't think I did after all.

Can you provide a response to the above? Hopefully that is everything.

Email 2

Unfortunately one more, despite the response given under number 9 in the application document, head office still has concerns about the incorporation of WW1623 and its impact on the Klenzyme F. The concentration of 5 – 50mg/L is not really considered insignificant. Rather than calcium nitrate, it is the sodium chlorite which has the ability to injure the effluent treatment organisms. As stated in the MSDS as little as 1 ppm of chlorine is toxic to all fish. A concentration of 50mg/L would result in a concentration of sodium chlorite of 2 ppm. Although enzymes themselves are proteins, Klenzyme F is full of beneficial bacteria that could be injured by the sodium chlorite.

Subsequently head office is requesting further justification for the use of this product. Is it integral to the achievement of fewer nutrients in the irrigated wastewater? There are concerns that if the product does harm the bacteria which is being added, the result may be chemical addition with no positive outcomes on contaminants. This is not to say that your original response is incorrect, head office is just requesting more detailed justification for the chemical, for DEC's consideration.

Charles Williams has been liaising with the providers in this regard and we have now provided a response to DEC.

The aerators have been constructed and are now at the Shire's Depot, awaiting approval.

6.6 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Saleyards Signage.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan.
- Progress of Environmental Strategy.

6.7 REQUEST FOR SELLING ACCESS – WESTCOAST LIVESTOCK

A late item of correspondence was tabled from Westcoast Livestock, seeking formal access to conduct weekly sales at the saleyards, commencing from the first selling day of July 2012.

During discussion, members agreed that, in principle, the firm could be granted access as requested, subject to meeting minimum conditions and entering into a formal agreement under the same conditions as existing agents. It was agreed that the existing agreements need to be reviewed, with a view to all agents entering into new agreements by 1 July 2012. The existing agreements are to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Committee. Relevant conditions also need to be formalised. Westcoast Livestock representatives should also be invited to the next meeting to meet with the Committee and staff to discuss the necessary arrangements.

Thereafter, members considered that a meeting should be held to notify existing agents on a Wednesday afternoon at the saleyards to discuss this matter, draft 2012/2013 fees and any other issues.

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

That approval, in principle be granted to Westcoast Livestock to sell cattle at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards from 5 July 2012, subject to an Agent's Agreement being formalised and Westcoast Livestock agreeing to meet the Shire's minimum conditions.

CARRIED

7 NEXT MEETING

1 May 2012

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.03am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE: _____ / _____ / _____