



## 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 Special Meeting of the Saleyards  
Advisory Committee was held in the  
Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,  
12.00noon Tuesday 10 December 2013

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

### Committee Members

*Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde - 248/13*  
*Vacant – Industry Representative*

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**Membership**

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for any member)

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

12.00 noon 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

### Staff

Mr Rob Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

Mr John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager

Mrs Erika Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 19 November 2013 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.**

**CARRIED**

*The Committee was advised that a letter had recently been sent to Mr & Mrs Wood in connection with their complaint. Letters had also been drafted to Agents in regard to the culture of bullying that has developed at the Saleyards. The Saleyards Manager advised that the new penning density guidelines were working well.*

## 4 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

### **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 3 January 2013, 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 2013.

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 REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK MARKETS ASSOCIATION**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 10 December 2013

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider the nomination of a member of the Saleyards Advisory Committee to the Board of the Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA).

**BACKGROUND**

The Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and some members of the Saleyards Advisory Committee met with Ian Lovegrove, Northern Field Manager, ALMA on 3 October 2013 to discuss opportunities and assistance that ALMA may be able to give to the Shire. Mr Lovegrove indicated that the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Katanning, Dean Taylor had just been appointed to the Board.

At the meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 8 October 2013, the Chief Executive Officer indicated he would liaise with Dean Taylor, the newly appointed Western Australian representative on the Board about advocacy and benefits of representation.

At the meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 19 November 2013, the Committee discussed the possibility of future membership on the ALMA Board. It was suggested that the Shire of Plantagenet formally congratulate the Chief Executive Officer, Dean Taylor on his appointment to the Board and advise that the Shire will be interested in liaising on outcomes.

**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

There are no statutory implications for this report.

**EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with Ian Lovegrove, Northern Field Manager, ALMA.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council policy 'CE/CS/1 – Elected Member Expenses to be Reimbursed' applies.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Board members are entitled to an allowance from ALMA to cover costs of travel and accommodation of \$2,000.00 (plus GST) per year. The Board meets four times a year as well as the annual Conference and AGM. The annual costs would vary depending on how many meetings the representative attends and the amount of time spent getting to and from the meetings. Assuming each trip costs around \$1,500.00 and all meetings are attended, the overall cost to the Council could be up to \$5,500.00 per year.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023 provides at Outcome 3.5 (Appropriate infrastructure that supports sustainable economic development) the following Strategy:

*'Strategy 3.5.5: Manage and maintain the Saleyards to ensure that the facility is successful and self-sustaining.'*

## OFFICER COMMENT

Ian Lovegrove has recently advised that a further vacancy has arisen on the Board of ALMA. If the Shire is interested in nominating a member to the Board, an expression of interest should be submitted to the Executive Officer which would then go before the Board for confirmation.

The Board meets four times a year as well as the annual Conference and AGM. Board meetings are usually held in capital cities for ease of access. All meetings are notified months in advance to take advantage of cheaper fares.

The Board meetings start at 12.00 noon on the Thursday and finish at 1.00pm on the Friday, although some members do leave the meeting early to catch a connecting flight.

The next meeting is on the 27th/28th February 2014 with the location to be determined. There will be a Board meeting in May 2014 and the AGM and conference will be held in late July 2014.

Mr Lovegrove advises that if both the Shire of Plantagenet and the Shire of Katanning had members, there is every possibility that one of the meetings would be held in Perth. Not all Board Members attend every meeting, due to work commitments, but most do.

Mr Lovegrove has recommended that the Saleyards Advisory Committee give this serious consideration and added that *'it would be great to have added representation from Western Australia'*.

This matter is submitted for consideration by the Committee. If the Committee considers it appropriate to nominate a member, it is considered that person should be a member of the Committee. If necessary, a late report could be submitted to the Council meeting to be held on 10 December 2013.

The Committee could elect to wait until the present Western Australian ALMA member, Dean Taylor from the Shire of Katanning has had an opportunity to attend meetings and provide some feedback in regard to the benefits. The Committee could also elect to wait until the outcome of the appointment of an external industry person to its ranks.

## VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

## OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That consideration be given to the nomination of a member of the Saleyards Advisory Committee to the Board of the Australian Livestock Markets Association.

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

**That no nomination be made in respect to the current vacancy on the Board of the Australian Livestock Markets Association.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 MANAGER'S REPORT – 13 NOVEMBER TO 30 NOVEMBER 2013

### SALE DATA

Total sale numbers was 4,665.

There have been nil cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.

A total of 57 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

Seven animals were put down or removed.

A total of 11 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

There have been 361 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- The new canteen lady (Evonne Mitchell) started with a bang. Reports so far are good. The food is excellent and customers are having to wait for a seat.
- The Parks and Gardens Department have taken three truck and trailer loads of manure away.
- The weighbridges have now been calibrated with no issues. The tolerance was 4.5kg between the two bridges. Mettler Toledo again thanked us for a clean and pleasant work environment.
- The 30/30 rifle has now been serviced by CBS Firearms at Narpanup.
- The troughs in the new west pens have now been plumbed in and are working well.
- Plantagenet Sheds and Steel are currently erecting the second stage of the west pens, which should be finished by the end of the selling year.
- Stewart and Erika attended an Animal Welfare video linkup with Perth regarding the Act and Standards in relation to direction notices. (Stewart is an Animal Welfare Officer with these powers).
- Rachel Williams is away in New Zealand for 10 days competing in the National Junior Handlers Cattle Competition as she came 2nd at the Perth Royal Show. We wish her well, and it's nice to have the younger generation with passion about cattle working at this facility.
- Staff have been working on the soft floor mats when they can. There are 120 selling pens completed with the rest to be done in the next three weeks.
- An issue arose on the last single sale on 28 November 2013 with cattle being sold out of Agent sequence (Elders ->Primaries ->Landmark). Due to the number of animals yarded (2139) most of the older cows were penned down at the receival end of yards. The bulls were sold first which is the norm and then it was decided that the cows should be sold after that while the buyers were all there and ready to go (Saleyards staff are unsure who instigated this).

This then meant that the cows could be moved off concrete to dirt pens, loaded onto trucks and transported. No saleyard employees were present when the bulls were being sold, so they were unaware that this process was going to take place. (This selling of animals in receivals has happened before when we have had larger numbers).

Jai Newman and Ray Norman from Elders had an issue with the way that the sale continued after the bulls. By the time Stewart was notified, Primaries had already sold three pens of cows. The buyers (Greg Jones, Campbell Nettleton and John Gallop-all cow buyers) made it very clear that this was a good thing and they would not be moving to pen 1 until these animals were sold.

Stewart has spoken with Terry Zambonetti (Primaries) Bob Pumphrey (Landmark) and Jai Newman (Elders) regarding this issue. Bob and Terry both said that it was talked about at the bull pens, and that's why the sale proceeded as it did. My understanding is that Dean Wallinger (Elders) had also indicated with a shrug that he agreed with the idea that while the buyers were there close it made sense to sell the cows next and to move them off concrete.

It must be noted that when cows are sold in receivals it slows the cleanup process for the saleyard staff, so selling early and moving animals was also in our favour.

Councillors are reminded about the Christmas BBQ for the saleyards which is on 12 December at 5.30pm onwards.

*During discussion, the Committee expressed concern at the level of aggravation and uncertainty being shown by Agents in regard to incidents described by the Manager. The Committee considered that a set of standard operating procedures needed to be developed and signed off on a regular basis by the Shire and Agents.*

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

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

**That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to activities at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards from 13 November to 30 November 2013, be received.**

**CARRIED**



**5.3 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 NOVEMBER 2013**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 10 December 2013

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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 2013.

**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 Saleyards.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategic implications for this report.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

A spreadsheet showing the 30 November 2013 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$286,019.00, which is \$26,281.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$192,898.00, which is \$2,757.00 above YTD budget. Most of the operating accounts are within or around budget figures. Depreciation of Furniture and Fittings is \$7,506.00 above budget, due mainly to the increased depreciation on soft floor matting. Depreciation of Plant and Equipment is \$5,159.00 above budget, due mainly to the updated 'fair' values.

## 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1 MEETING SCHEDULE

*Committee Members agreed to schedule 2014 Saleyards Advisory Committee meeting dates to coincide with Council meeting dates.*

### 6.2 PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENT / MEDIA RELEASE

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, John Fathers tabled a draft advertisement following a request from the Presiding Member to promote the recent achievements at the Saleyards which are having a beneficial impact on animal welfare.

*During discussion, it was suggested that the Farm Weekly or Countryman could be asked if they wanted to do a story on these matters. It was also suggested that this information be forwarded to the relevant politicians so that they could be kept abreast of the work the Shire is doing.*

### 6.3 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan.
- Agents Agreements / Standard Operating Procedure
- Concept design for Saleyards roof.

## 7 NEXT MEETING

4 February 2014.

## 8 MEETING CLOSURE

12.37 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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