



SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(a) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the strategic direction of the Saleyards;*
- *Make recommendations 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;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding development works on the site;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the Saleyards Annual Budget; and*
- *Monitor the performance of the Saleyards and report back to the Council.*

A meeting of the
Saleyards Advisory Committee was held in the
Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324
9.00am Tuesday 10 March 2020.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

*Cr J Moir, Cr L Handasyde, Cr M O'Dea, Cr J Oldfield, Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative –
210/19, 252/19*

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Membership

Cr J Moir (Presiding Member)

Cr L Handasyde

Cr M O'Dea

Cr J Oldfield

Mr M Skinner

Cr S Etherington (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member
 Cr L Handasyde – Deputy Presiding Member
 Cr M O'Dea
 Cr J Oldfield (from 9.12am)
 Mr M Skinner

Staff

Mr J Fathers, Executive Manager Corporate Services
 Mr G Moore, Saleyards Manager
 Mrs E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager (from 10.03am)

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Mr M Skinner, seconded Cr M O'Dea:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 28 January 2020 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

MATTERS RAISED – MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2020**Tipper Truck**

Members considered that the financials were somewhat broad, especially as no depreciation was included. Could the table be amended for the next manager's report to include depreciation?

An amended table is provided below:

Type	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	Recurring
Communications Equipment	\$922.02	\$91.82	\$0.00	No
Diesel	\$2,990.43	\$3,251.51	\$1,964.39	Yes
Oil & Grease	\$81.75	\$139.07	\$18.96	Yes
Insurance	\$255.36	\$166.97	\$177.74	Yes
Parts	\$383.07	\$40.00	\$411.69	Yes
Registration	\$325.82	\$332.54	\$342.36	Yes
Repairs	\$226.36	\$483.17	\$0.00	Yes
Service (Internal)	\$995.32	\$334.64	\$371.27	Yes
Tyres	\$260.00	\$1,080.00	\$690.00	Yes
Depreciation	\$3,235.32	\$3,235.32	\$2,677.44	Yes
	\$9,675.45	\$9,155.04	\$6,653.85	

Manager's Ute

Members considered that should another Manager's ute be needed that it should be 2-wheel drive.

The utility is needed to drive in some areas within the irrigation area which can become very boggy, so it is considered that a 4WD vehicle is needed.

Hay Bales

Members raised the issue of hay bale sizes and whether bigger bales may be more efficient, especially if delivery could be included.

Smaller bales are preferred due to ease of transport, usability and on-charging. It would be more difficult with bigger bales to structure the pricing. We have recently bought some bigger round bales for custom eastern states orders.

Receival Ramp

Members noted an amount of \$3,602.00 for receival ramp modifications and sought further explanation for this amount for the next meeting.

Further discussion revolved around a number of issues including:

Was the concrete 'overworked'?

Does the receival ramp work as it is?

Is it an 'homogeneous mass'?

Are the new pens 'worse for slippage' than the others?

Have the grid lines been increased in depth?

In May 2019 the concrete at the new receival ramp was showing signs of excessive surface wear. It was thought that this applied to the surface layer, which may have been 'creamed' up too much. A meeting had been held with Hansons and some advice was expected to be received about possible treatments.

Independent core strength testing of the concrete flooring was subsequently carried out by the Shire. Eight core samples were taken for testing by a NATA accredited firm. The results are that all of the tests are above the 25 Mpa compressive strength specified. They range from 25.5 to 30.0 MPa.

A meeting involving Executive Manager Corporate Services, Executive Manager Works and Services, Saleyards Manager and the contractor was held on the 28 October 2019 to discuss possible repair options.

The Shire and the contractor agreed that he would arrange for the grid lines to be re-scored, on the basis of a cost and effort sharing arrangement. The eventual cost to the Shire was the amount of \$3,602.00 listed above. This work was done by the contractor in October 2019.

There have been a number of inspections of the concrete in ramp 7 over that time and since then. Our opinion is that the concrete was not overworked. There was no automated concrete leveller used. The contractors took care to level off the two areas and stamp the finished work at the best possible time.

The specification indicates that the concrete should be a dense homogenous mass. This is taken to mean that across the pad, the concrete should be of a similar mass and structure. Concrete will most often exhibit a heterogeneous vertical profile.

As it currently stands, the new ramp is not worse for slippage than the other ramps. It is working and no recent negative feedback has been received from agents.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Part 5 Division 6 Local Government Act 1995

Cr J Moir

Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)
Nature: Cattle Farmer and Employee of Elders
Extent: Sell cattle through the Mount Barker Saleyards on average six times per year. Average number of cattle held is 80 head.
Part time employee of Elders in a non-managerial position.

Mr M Skinner

Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)
Nature: Hold equity in a farming enterprise of which my son owns/farms approximately 400 head of cattle.
Extent: Son sells cattle through the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards approximately 8 times per year.

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, Sport and Cultural Industries via a letter dated 30 April 2019, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in the discussion and limited decision making at the Saleyards Advisory Committee on matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 30 April 2020.

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 – MARCH 2020

RECIEVAL RAMP #7

Ongoing monitoring required. No visible signs of any further wear to concrete floor and grid lines post scoring appear to be holding their profile. No negative feedback has been offered from the agents currently using this ramp.

C – PENS WATER TROUGHS

Troughs were ordered through Elders Albany. We are still awaiting the arrival of these troughs which are ex – Tasmania.

NEW CATTLE CRUSH

After more thought and consideration, it would appear that I may have overstated our ability and resources in suggesting we could do the crush change out ourselves. I have sought a quote from a local contractor to carry out this project and am expecting this to be completed by the end of the March 2020. The cost of the removal of old crush and installation of the new one will be paid from surplus funds allocated to this project.

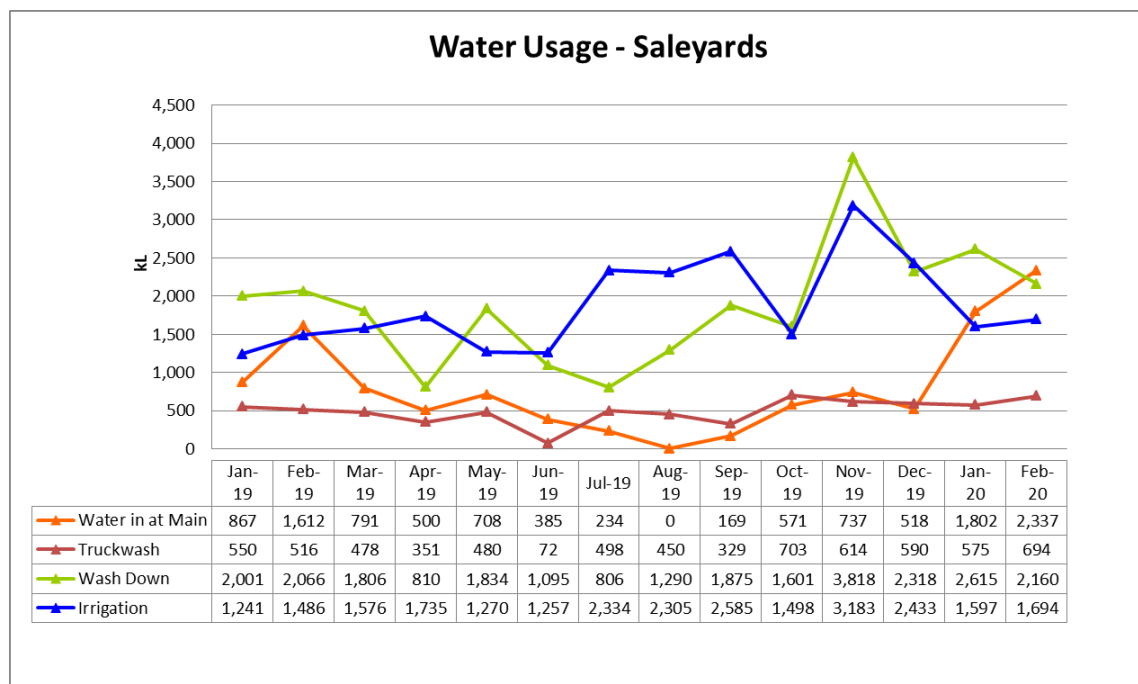
EFFLUENT SETTLING POND – CLEANOUT

This task is currently in progress and is expected to be completed by Friday 6 March 2020.

CATTLE SALES

As of Thursday 5 March 2020, we will return to one Prime sale a week. Recent sales throughout February have been very strong with local demand from feedlotters and backgrounding properties along with a strong influx of buyers sourcing cattle for a number clients in the Eastern States. I am expecting this trend to continue in the immediate future at least.

The latest water usage graph is shown below.



VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

During discussion, it was noted that the pond cleanout had been carried out. It was suggested that some testing be done to ensure an adequate clay layer was still intact near the edges.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M O'Dea, seconded Mr M Skinner:

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

CARRIED

Cr J Oldfield entered the meeting at 9.12am

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 29 FEBRUARY 2020

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Executive Manager Corporate Services
Proposed Meeting Date: 10 March 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 29 February 2020.

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 29 February 2020 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall operating expenditure is \$478,851.00, which is \$106,307.00 below the YTD budget. While there has been lower depreciation than budgeted, the cash total is currently \$85,593.00 below the YTD budget. Main factors are lower salaries & wages and maintenance / operating costs than predicted to this point in the year.

Capital budget items for the diesel motor (irrigation pump) and second hand skid steer loader have been carried out. There has also been a part payment on the new bull crush.

Operating income is \$562,758.00, which is \$48,656.00 above YTD budget, mainly due to higher than projected income on weigh and pen fees, due to the good early numbers that came through. The proportion of excess income is reducing as the year progresses.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

That the report of the Executive Manager Corporate Services, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED

5.3 SALEYARDS – 2019 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

File Ref:	CA/126/1
Attachment	2018 Annual Environmental Report (Separate Attachment)
Responsible Officer:	Rob Stewart Chief Executive Officer
Author:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date:	10 March 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the 2019 annual environmental report for the Saleyards, as prepared by the Shire and West Coast Analytical Services.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Annual Environmental Report has been prepared to satisfy conditions of the Licence Number L7407/1998/9. The reporting requirements as specified in the licence are: contained in Conditions 18-20, as follows:

'18. The licensee shall, using the data collected in accordance with conditions 12 and 14, determine the contaminant loads discharged over the irrigation area for the parameters stated in Column 1 of Table 3 at the frequency stated in Column 2 of Table 3 and in the corresponding units stated in Column 3 of Table 3'.

Table 3: Calculation of Contaminant Load

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Parameters	Calculation frequency	Units
(i) Total Nitrogen; (ii) Total Phosphorus; (iii) Biochemical Oxygen Demand; (iv) Total Dissolved Solids; and (v) Total Suspended Solids.	Monthly and Annual Loads	Kilograms per day
(i) Total Nitrogen; (ii) Total Phosphorus; and (iii) Biochemical Oxygen Demand.	Annual Load	Kilograms per hectare per year

19. *The Licence Holder shall provide the CEO, by 1 March each year, an Annual Environmental Report containing data collected for 1 January in the previous year to 31 December of that year. The report shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to:*
- (a) the total number of animals held on site on a monthly basis;*
 - (b) monitoring data or other collected data required by any condition of this licence (data should be provided in tabular and in graphical format);*
 - (c) an assessment of the data collected against all limits set in this licence;*
 - (d) an explanation of the data in comparison with past data collected over the previous three years, and known applicable guidelines and standards;*

- (e) *a discussion of the operation of the project, compliance with conditions, and environmental performance to date;*
 - (f) *any issues raised from inspections or incident responses during the reporting period together with details as to how these have been addressed or, if the required work has yet to be completed, how and when they will be completed; and*
 - (g) *any changes to site boundaries, location of groundwater monitoring bores, surface drainage channels and on-site or off-site impacts or pollution.*
20. *The Licence Holder shall by 1 March in each year, provide to the CEO an Annual Audit Compliance Report indicating the extent to which the Licence Holder has complied with the conditions of this Licence, during the period beginning 1 January the previous year and ending on 31 December in that year.'*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2017-2026 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.'

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Strategic Community Plan.

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2016/2017 – 2020/2021 also includes Action 3.5.5.2 *'Ensure compliance with DEC environmental licence and other relevant requirements'*.

OFFICER COMMENT

The Executive Summary of the report includes the following comments:

Water Discharge

A total of 22,903 kl of water was discharged via the licensed irrigation system. Total volume discharge was approximately 2% higher than in 2018. The Saleyards was compliant with licence limits relating to total nutrient loadings in 2019.

Ponds Surface Water

Surface water quality observed in the ponds for 2019 was again within licence limits.

Overall, all water quality parameters for all ponds remained consistent with previous year's levels with the exception of the SW1 BOD which in December was a comparatively high but isolated result.

In ponds SW2 and SW3 the previously reported pattern of higher BOD levels in summer and autumn - e.g. December and March, was again evident in 2019 and with the exception of these results overall BOD levels in 2019 were typical and unremarkable for the site.

Total Nitrogen levels for all ponds were typical and largely unchanged with only slight average increase for 2019 compared to 2018.

Total Phosphorous levels increased for SW1 and SW3 in 2019 to reach an average level of 6.3mg/L and 0.65mg/L, respectively. Total Phosphorous levels in SW2 were variable but overall appeared to be consistent with results observed since 2015, notwithstanding the high result in December.

Monitoring Bores

Water quality for all MBs remained largely unchanged for 2019, compared to 2018. The most notable fluctuation was seen in December in MB5, (most notable) MB6 and MB7, and to a lesser extent MB4 with results rising for Total Nitrogen.

Total Phosphorous were variable with rises seen in MB4, whilst the levels MB5 and MB6 were in comparison to recent results for 2018 and 2019 typical for the site.

Compared to previous years, pH for all MBs was more consistent with a smaller range for 2019.

Irrigation loadings for 2019 are shown in the table below.

Waste Water Discharge	Actual Loadings discharged to irrigation
Nitrogen	152.05 kg/ha/yr
Phosphorous	16.17 kg/ha/yr
BOD	0.59 kg/ha/day

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

During discussion, the suggestion was made that a copy of the Environmental Report be made available to the Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA) Board to show what environmental requirements in WA involve. It was agreed to check the current status in terms of availability to the public and refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for advice.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Mr M Skinner:

That the 2019 Annual Environmental Report for the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be noted.

CARRIED

**5.4 SALE OF MANURE - REQUEST FOR FEE REDUCTION AND AMENDMENT
TO DELEGATION 2.5 DONATIONS, DISCOUNTS AND DEBT WRITE-OFFS**

File Ref: N50945
Attachments: Register of Delegations Amendment
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Executive Manager Corporate Services
Proposed Meeting Date: 10 March 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present a request from Great Southern Sands for the Council to reduce the cost for manure recently taken from the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards.

BACKGROUND

Great Southern Sands (GSS) was asked by Saleyards staff to take some manure in December 2019. This amounted to 154 buckets, which is charged at \$16.50 per bucket, totalling \$2,541.00 (inc GST).

In the letter GSS states:

'I would like to address our concerns on the invoice that we have received (and paid) (INV.13357), as well as working out a reasonable rate going forward.

Back in December / January we have received various urgent phone calls from Erika/Greg from sales yard requesting us to go and take away the manure for them asap. Our driver was even told on site that other contractor was going to charge the shire for removing the manure, and you were very appreciative that we took the immediate action to help out.

We had no intention to charge the shire for removing the manure nor to take them for free. However, we were very disappointed to be charged at \$16.50 plus GST per bucket for such a poor quality product. It was wet and sloppy and require a lot of work done before we can retail it.

During one collection our driver spotted there were some nicer and dryer product stockpiled on site however was informed that it had been reserved for someone else, which we later on found out the prices were the same.

I found this is quite unfair to us after we put in our effort changing our schedule to suit your urgent collection requests, and turned around got charged on such high rate for such poor quality product.

Since we are working quite well with Greg on site we don't want to refuse him when he asks us to clean out the manure. However we appreciate a more reasonable price to be offered to enable us keep offering the service in the future.'

It is noted that on 19 February 2020, Great Southern Sands took 63 buckets of manure, totalling \$1,039.50 (inc GST).

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.12(1)(b) permits a local government to waive or grant concessions in relation to any amount of money owed to a local government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council's 2019/2020 annual budget provides for income of \$5,000.00 from the sale of manure. The preliminary figures to the end of February show income totalling \$5,456.36.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications do not apply for this report and it is the opinion of the author that policy development is not required.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2017-2026 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.'*

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Strategic Community Plan.

Further, the Shire's Corporate Business Plan 2019-20 - 2022-23 incorporates the following actions under this strategy:

- 3.5.5.1 Manage and maintain the Saleyards in accordance with the Strategic Plan and Business Plan for the facility.
- 3.5.5.2 Ensure compliance with environmental licence and other relevant requirements.
- 3.5.5.3 Operate the Saleyards as a self-sustaining business unit.
- 3.5.5.4 Market the Saleyards as the best in Western Australia.

OFFICER COMMENT

The fee in the budget for sale of manure at the saleyards has been established based on a fair value for small quantities, mainly for household use. It is not necessarily appropriate for larger quantities supplied to soil conditioning firms, particularly when there is a benefit to the Shire in such firms removing the manure at the Shire's request.

A discussion with GSS indicates that, in this instance a fair price would be at a 50% discount. They assert that they could buy similar amounts of chicken manure for about one third of the price.

In the circumstances, it is recommended that a 50% discount be granted (50% be written off) and that the CEO be authorised, via formal amendment to Delegation 2.5, to negotiate a price in similar circumstances in the future.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That:

1. The request by Great Southern Sands to discount the cost of manure be approved and a sum of \$1,155.00 (plus GST) be written off.
2. An amendment to Delegation 2.5 Donations, Discounts and Write-offs (as attached) within the Register of Delegated Authority dated 21 May 2019, be endorsed.

During discussion, it was agreed to recommend that the amount requested be written off. It was further agreed to recommend that Delegation 2.5 be amended until its review date in June 2020 and in the meantime, consideration be given to an amended fee for bulk manure sales, to be effective from 2020/2021.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Mr M Skinner:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That the request by Great Southern Sands to discount the cost of manure be approved and a sum of \$1,155.00 (plus GST) be written off.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr M O'Dea, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

An amendment to Delegation 2.5 Donations, Discounts and Write-offs (as attached) within the Register of Delegated Authority dated 21 May 2019, until the delegation's review date in June 2020, be endorsed.

CARRIED

Mrs E Henderson entered at 10.03am

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 2020/2021 BUDGET AND FEES

A draft budget is provided, incorporating a throughput of approximately 65,000 head and two options for fee increases, being approximately 1% and 2%. A five year projection is also provided.

The Consumer Price Index (All Groups Perth) has increased by 1.6% from December 2018 to December 2019. The most recent Local Government Cost Index figure (November 2019) was also 1.6%. Recent throughput, CPI and fee increases are shown below:

Year	Throughput	CPI	Fee Increase
2013/14	69,010	2.5% (2012/13)	4%
2014/15	69,661	3.3% (2013/14)	3%
2015/16	62,657	1.2% (2014/15)	3%
2016/17	65,039	0.5% (2015/16)	2%
2017/18	67,711	0.7% (2016/17)	2%
2018/19	68,230	1.3% (2017/18)	1%
2019/20	55,122 to February 2020	1.6% (2018/19)	

Overall, each 1% fee increase would result in approximately \$7,000.00 more in income.

The main revenue items fee (cattle weighing and penning - per head) could be raised by 1%. Low value or low use fees (Cattle Weighing Only, Private and Shipping Weighs, Transit Cattle and Agistment Fee) were raised last year, so could remain the same this year.

This scenario results in an operating surplus (excluding non-cash items) of \$132,991.00 at the end of 2020/2021. It should be noted that the arrangements to provide for 10% of the surplus to be transferred to the Operating Loss Reserve and 90% to be made available for capital works have now ceased as the limit of \$300,000 has been reached.

The estimated end of 2019/2020 position of the Capital Improvements Reserve is \$223,314.00. The estimated end of 2019/2020 position of the Operating Loss Reserve is \$298,268.00.

These estimates have been based on all of the current approved capital works being carried out. Further, as discussed with the Committee previously, the transfers to and from the reserves will now be fully carried out in the relevant financial year (rather than carrying forward the transfer of surplus operating funds into the following year – hence the large discrepancy between budget and Estimated Actual closing reserve balance).

A five year capital works scenario has been included, with the predicted closing balance of the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund shown in orange. The predictions provide for at least, an unallocated sum of \$50,000.00 in years 1 and 2 and \$100,000.00 in years 3 to 5.

The scenario includes the following:

Current / Ongoing Items

- Additional Outloading Ramp Bugle Modification (\$17,000.00). One to be done in 2019/2020 and the last one done in 2020/2021.
- Bitumen Repairs. It is expected that approximately \$5,000.00 will be required per annum long term.
- A sum of \$50,000.00 was allocated for transferring pond pipework and then removed in the budget review. A review is being undertaken on additional waste water treatment system modifications. This is subject to further discussion by the Committee and will also require a works approval by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. There will likely be a need for a substantial additional funding allocation. At this stage, it is suggested that \$50,000.00 again be pencilled in.
- Painting of Galvanised Elements - Roof and Walkways (\$25,000.00). Ongoing project which could be done in the next five years, but is not particularly urgent.
- Desludge Ponds - A sum of \$30,000.00 has been added to the operating budget. The southern most pond has recently been cleaned out, however the northern pond also has a large amount of sludge within it. It is suggested that the next program of such works include re-shaping the pond so that a smaller solid capture area can be made (which may require a DWER works approval).
- Pneumatic Ram Replacement (\$7,000) – Last year, it was noted that some of the pneumatic rams are leaking and, while suppliers trying to source seal kits, there will be a need to replace some rams going forward. It is proposed to continue to buy two new rams at \$3,500.00 each, so that the old ones can be swapped out when required.
- Saleyards Lunch Room Extension – The current budget includes a sum of \$20,000.00 for a covering over the generator and providing a covered deck adjacent to the lunch room. A design has been carried out and quotes are currently being sourced. This proposal will be brought back to the Committee when the quotes are to hand.

It should be noted that the original intention was to have a small covered area for staff under the tree on the north east corner of the building. Staff require room where they can remove themselves from their very challenging work area to eat meals. The staff are required to work in a very unpredictable and challenging environment and often working long shifts in extreme and varying weather conditions well outside the standard 7.6 hour days.

The current proposal merged this idea with the need for additional space for customers as the canteen does often get full during busy times. Further, there is the issue of customers wishing to bring food to eat, so the extension would not form a part of the licensed area of the canteen.

If the quotes for the current proposal are well above budget, consideration should be given to reverting to a smaller structure for staff.

New Items

- **Building Extension** – As discussed previously, an extension to the building is proposed, which would include additional showers, toilets and enable the office to be extended into the current disabled toilet. The current shower and toilet facilities are becoming inadequate for the demand. The location within the office

block is also problematic for office security, potential future demand for the corner office and the amount of dirt brought in by those attending to shower and change. The office is considered too small and there are also privacy issues with the current layout. The size and accessibility of the existing office is currently unworkable, particularly on sale days. It should be noted that when two of the current agents merge, the intention is to take over one of their current offices.

The suggestion has been made that grant funding for a new roof over the eastern dirt pens could incorporate this project as well. Availability of grant for a building extension on its own would be unlikely. Designs are currently being drawn up for this, for presentation to the Committee. An annual budget allocation could be made to serve as a Council contribution to this project. This has been included in the draft budget table as an '*allocation to roof/office project OR other projects*'.

- **Additional Water Tank**– It is considered that an additional 250,000 litre water tank should be provided near the irrigation ponds to increase wash down capacity. An estimated cost of \$25,000.00 has been included in Year 1, the priority resulting from potential savings in scheme water usage.
- **Replace Alies Panel Scanners** – Advice has been received from Alies that the current weighbridge scanners are obsolete and are becoming difficult to service. These are essential items to have working properly. Two new scanners would cost in the region of \$94,000.00, but it would be cost efficient to replace both at the same time. Two tranches of \$47,000.00 have been included in Years 1 and 2.
- **Surefoot Mats** – The mats put down in selling pens several years ago are gradually wearing out. Approximately 50 pens have some mats that need to be replaced. The Shire has 130 left in stock, which should enable replacement of the worst mats over the next year or two. The most efficient way of having mats delivered from the eastern states is via sea container. A 20 foot sea container holds about 350 mats, the cost estimated at \$4,000.00.
- **Water Fountains** – It is considered that two drinking water fountains should be provided for customer usage, one near the office and one in the yards. The estimated cost is \$2,500.00 each.
- **Four Pens adjacent to Ramp 7** - There has been previous discussion on the opportunity to extend the yards adjacent to the new ramp to provide for additional receival pens. An estimated cost is \$20,000.00. This would provide additional space and flexibility for cattle storage during busy times.

During discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the Council that:

- *The saleyards fees be increased across the board by 2% for the 2020/2021 financial year;*
- *The following budget items be endorsed for the 2020/2021 financial year:*
 - *Additional Outloading Ramp Bugle Modification (\$17,000.00);*
 - *Painting of Galvanised Elements - Roof and Walkways (\$25,000.00);*
 - *Bitumen Repairs (Advice to be sought from Executive Manager Works and Services on requirements and costings);*

- *Waste Water Treatment System – Subject to further investigations, including Roma Saleyards (\$50,000.00);*
- *Pneumatic Ram Replacement (\$7,000);*
- *Additional Water Tank (\$25,000);*
- *Replace Alias Panel Scanners, subject to other supply options being investigated (\$47,000);*
- *Water fountain to be considered as part of new ablution block plans.*

It was further agreed that planning be continued for roofing of the eastern dirt pens, information be sought on the provision of another fresh water dam and that the plans to provide a cover for the new tipper truck be endorsed.

6.2 ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

There was considerable discussion in regard to the review of Animal Welfare Act. The question was raised as to whether the Shire should take a position in regard to the criteria for appointment of animal welfare inspectors. Members were agreed that they were happy with how that is dealt with.

6.3 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- During discussion at the meeting held on 27 March 2018, the Committee requested pricing for modular and permanent toilet options, for consideration in 2019/2020.

During discussion at the meeting held on 29 November 2018, the view was expressed that grant funding avenues be explored for this project.

A proposal was raised at the meeting held on 26 February 2019 for an extension to the building, which would include two showers, two toilets and a larger office. The suggestion was made that grant funding for a new roof over the eastern dirt pens could incorporate this project as well.

A local consultant was asked to provide a proposal for a grant submission to a forthcoming Building Better Regions Fund round, which would include preparation of a concept plan for the structures. However, the Federal Government announced that Round 4 is a key round of the Australian Government's drought response and the entire \$200 million is available for 'shovel-ready' projects supporting communities and regions affected by drought.

A consultant has now been engaged to prepare concept drawings of the saleyards roof and an external shower/toilet block, for grant funding purposes.

7 NEXT MEETING

31 March 2020.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.58am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER _____ **DATE:** ____/____/____