



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 Saleyards
Advisory Committee was held in the
Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,
12.30pm Tuesday 11 June 2013

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 M Skinner – Presiding Member

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr C Pavlovich

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

12.35 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr Michael Skinner (Presiding Member)
Cr Brett Bell
Cr Len Handasyde
Cr Chris Pavlovich

Visitors

Cr Jeff Moir
Mr Charles Williams – West Coast Analytical Services
Mr Harry Carroll - Landmark
Mr Charlie Staite - Landmark
Mr Ray Norman - Elders
Mr Jai Newman - Elders
Mr Terry Zambonetti – Primaries of WA

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 30 April 2013 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATION 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 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 MANAGER'S REPORT – 23 APRIL TO 31 MAY 2013

SALE DATA

Total sale numbers was 6,104 (710 transit cattle).

There have been no MSA cattle in this time.

A total of 58 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

Three animals were put down or removed.

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

There have been 375 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no sale on 25 April due to Anzac Day.

We have replaced a number of airlines in the weighbridges. Any spare time that Charlie and Rachel have is taken up with branding fluid removal on concrete and steel work. They are mainly concentrating on weighbridge A at the moment.

Rachel Williams started on 2 May. She comes from a Stud cattle background and has been employed on a casual to operate one of the weighbridges. She understands cattle, knows the agents and has a good computer understanding.

All saleyards staff attended the Muchea Open day on 6 May 2013. This was very beneficial and it was good to see the workings and atmosphere of another Saleyards in comparison to Mount Barker. We came away with some good ideas on how to fix personal gates (ie springs)

We had to fix the chain on weighbridge B out-gate as the chain snapped.

All the ponds area has now been sprayed (including the banks to the waterline) and around the perimeter of the compound. We have also slashed and mowed the whole compound area and around the ponds.

New road signs and office block signs have now been installed with new name and logo. The feedback has been very positive.

On 23 May a 2 year old child fell from the top walkway onto the concrete near pen 11. The child fell into the raceway where there were no cattle. He landed on his back and then hit his head. He suffered no broken bones, but a possible slight concussion. No saleyard staff saw the accident. Stewart was informed approximately 10 minutes later and did try to catch up with family but they had already left for the hospital. The father rang Stewart back around 6.30pm that evening and assured us that all was well. He advised that there was no issue with the Saleyards but thanked Stewart for the follow up call. These people had cattle in the sale. All paper work has been done and submitted and the CSO was informed soon after the event.

We have had complaints about the receival ramps where the agents draft with the rubber matting. It has been quite slippery of late, so we have are now trialling a revised mats layout (mats turned 90`) in one ramp and completely removed mats from another.

Staff are trying to digest the new Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (Identification and Movement of Stock) Regulations 2013, which will come into effect on 1 August 2013. This will become an Australia wide standard.

During discussion, the Chief Executive Officer advised that he would be raising the matter of the child's accident with the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the LGIS Regional Co-ordinator. It was likely that the Council would need to adopt a position with regard to restrictions on attendance of children at the saleyards. It was suggested that Muchea Saleyards be contacted to ascertain its policy in this regard.

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 APRIL 2013

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 11 June 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the draft financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 30 April 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 April 2013 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$512,870.00, which is \$139.00 below YTD budget. Operating income is \$538,539.00, which is \$3,423.00 below YTD budget.

The majority of expenditure budget items are below YTD budget, although some areas are approaching YTD levels and there are some areas that have exceeded or will exceed budget, as raised in the April meeting.

Operating Income is still marginally below YTD budget, and the net surplus is only \$3,284.00 below YTD budget.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MEETING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTOR

Charles Williams has been invited to attend the meeting at 1.00pm to discuss the outcome of recent testing on pond water samples, and possible actions to reduce levels of Phosphorus in particular.

Mr Williams arrived at 1.05pm.

During discussion, Mr Williams advised that since the aerators have been installed, the primary pond loading figures (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) had reduced from an average of around 60ppm to less than 10ppm. In terms of secondary loadings, the Total Nitrogen loadings had reduced from 50-60ppm to 16ppm in March and 11ppm in June, which is a good result and improves the ability to remain compliant with the DEC licence. However, the levels of Phosphorus have been more difficult to reduce, and trials of enzymes and other chemicals have had little success in this regard.

Mr Williams indicated that the DEC had previously raised concerns about high levels of Phosphorous in monitoring bore 6, and expressed concern that this could be a result of leaching from the ponds. Mr Williams indicated that Phosphorous levels were trending downwards in that bore, although there is a possibility that DEC could require more action in terms of its previous correspondence in April 2010 seeking a reduction to ANZECC guidelines for water quality.

Mr Williams indicated that some more consideration should be given to removing sludge from the ponds to improve their effectiveness. In addition, if the Shire is requested to take more action to reduce Phosphorous levels, options such as a centrifuge or diffused air filtration system should be investigated.

The Committee indicated its willingness to continue to investigate options for sludge removal and lowering Phosphorous levels, noting that it would not need to take further action unless a licence compliance issue arose or requested by the DEC.

Mr Williams departed at 1.33pm.

6.2 MEETING WITH AGENTS

Agents have been invited to attend the meeting at 1.30pm to discuss fees and charges, forthcoming budget items and any matters of general interest.

The Committee moved into the Council Chambers to meet with representatives of stock agents at 1.35pm. Crs Clements, Etherington and Messmer were also in attendance.

Following a welcome by the Chairman, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer provided information to agents in regard to proposed 2013/2014 capital expenditure proposals and fees for the saleyards.

Mr Newman advised that the current agent offices are too small. Discussion ensued in regard to the soft floor mats. While these were seen as a positive move, some issues had been experienced in loading ramps and saleyards staff were experimenting with different configurations, which would be worked through with agents.

Agents expressed concern at the increase in fees and the view was expressed that this would be particularly problematic for clients with regard to lighter cattle. Councillors advised that the Saleyards facility was required to stand alone financially and increasing fees were needed to cover increasing costs and infrastructure maintenance.

Agents raised the matter of the possible entry of another agent into the Saleyards and expressed concern about the minimal entry fee. Shire representatives advised that the Council cannot differentiate between agents with regard to entry and annual fees.

The stock agents departed at 2.07pm and the meeting returned to the Committee Room.

6.3 2013/2014 BUDGET CAPITAL ITEMS

During discussion at the April meeting, the Committee requested the Chief Executive Officer to seek quotations for the replacement of roof guttering and soft floor mats (1 and 2 pallets). Thereafter, the Committee agreed that the following projects be included in the draft budget, subject to further quotations being received on the two items mentioned:

- Convert Washdown Pipes to Aboveground;
- Vehicle – Saleyards Manager;
- Outloading Ramp Bugle Modification;
- Soft Floor (Stage 2) – Awaiting a quote. We cannot achieve previous prices. Likely prices are around \$44,000 per container load (350 mats).
- New Lawnmower;
- Roof Guttering Replacement (Awaiting quotes).

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the following revised list of projects be included in the draft budget:

- **Convert Washdown Pipes to Aboveground - \$40,000.00. (This project to be held off until the Committee is satisfied that the income from throughput is sufficient to be able to fund this item);**
- **Vehicle – Saleyards Manager - \$22,887.00 (Net);**
- **Outloading Ramp Bugle Modification - \$15,000.00;**
- **Soft Floor (Stage 2) – \$90,000.00 (This is a priority item. Authority to be sought at a Council workshop to pre-order two container loads);**
- **New Lawnmower - \$7,000.00;**
- **Roof Guttering – Minimal cost to undertake minor repairs to be funded from the Maintenance Account.**

CARRIED

6.4 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan.
- Agents Agreements.
- MediaWiz Advertising Proposal.
- Procedure for dealing with sick and injured animals.

7 NEXT MEETING

TBA

8 MEETING CLOSURE

2.40 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER_____ **DATE:**___/___/___