



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 Committee
held in the Meeting Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,
1.30pm Tuesday 12 February 2008.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr K Forbes, Cr M Skinner, Cr S Grylls

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	1
3	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	1
4	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (RELATING TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS)	1
5	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	1
6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
7	DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS	1
8	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	3
8.1	MANAGERS REPORT - DECEMBER 2007 & JANUARY 2008	3
8.2	SALEYARDS – GUIDELINES TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING	6
8.3	SALEYARDS - ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT	10
8.4	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT - 31 JANUARY 2008	12
9	GENERAL BUSINESS	14
9.1	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS	14
10	NEXT MEETING	14
11	MEETING CLOSURE	14

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

1.45 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr M Skinner Presiding Member
Cr K Forbes
Cr S Grylls

Visitor

Cr J Moir

Staff

Mr R Stewart Chief Executive Officer
Mr J Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr W Lloyd Manager - Saleyards
Ms C Appleby Assistant Manager - Saleyards

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (RELATING TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS)

Nil

5 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr M Skinner:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee Meeting, held on 9 October 2007 and 7 December 2007 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

7 DECLARATION 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 - 220 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, 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 the next local government elections in 2007.

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

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

8.1 MANAGERS REPORT - DECEMBER 2007 & JANUARY 2008

Sale Data

(1/12/07 – 31/12/07)

Total December numbers were 6,538hd.

40 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

136 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

There have been 530 cattle gone through for Private/Shipper Weigh Cattle.

(1/1/08 – 31/1/08)

Total January numbers including Special & MSA Sales were 15,417hd.

135 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

4 animals has been put down or removed.

373 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

There have been 825 cattle gone through for Private/Shipper Weigh Cattle.

General Business

(1/12/07 – 31/1/08)

Mettler Toledo visited on 3 December 2007 with everything going well.

We finished carting the hay at the start of January and purchased a tarpaulin from CBH Katanning for \$75 to cover the bales.

Claire & I attended a 'Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace' course on 5 December 2007.

Double sales started on 6 December and are planned to finish on 22 February 2007.

I attended a meeting with Saleyards WA in regards to the Animal Welfare Act which hopes to be completed in two more meetings.

A progress meeting was held on 11 December 2007 with the Department of Environment and Coffey Environments to discuss the Saleyards current position.

A new hot water system was installed after the old one stopped working.

Great Southern Soil Supplies have taken approx 40tonnes of manure over this time, local contractor NJ Healy has taken approx 12tonnes and the Shire has also approx 10tonnes.

We have been and are continuing to replace the bolts on chain sprockets on the lift gates as the bolts are wearing out. More replacement bolts will be needed.

There has been no irrigation done during December & January as the water motor was being repaired, irrigation will begin again in February.

Saleyard staff have been working longer hours and weekend due to the three weeks of triple sales.

Aquasol returned on 9 January to continue cleaning out the effluent pond, enquiries have been made with AD Contractors to get a long reach excavator in to assist in the clean out.

Repairs made on a wash down outlet required the use of a jackhammer to get through the concrete.

The stock squad visited in January with no complaints.

Tensions rose between myself and Landmark in regards to the penning density on 17 January, as a General Animal Inspector for Animal Welfare I was concerned over the number of stock being held in the pens. I consulted with Ray Parry over the issue and also had several complaints from Transporters, Producers and Buyers over their concerns who all were in agreement with me.

We are training Steve Brown to work the weighbridge as John Stoney is leaving the first week of February.

The Esperance Weaner Sale was a success and both Elders and the Vendors were very pleased with the facilities and the outcome of the sale.

We have also discussed changing the order of selling so that every agent sells, first then second then third. The roster is attached. We propose that when Landmark and Elders swap sides in March the agent who sells in pen one will start the roster and it will continue from there. The same will happen the next year; who ever starts in pen one starts the roster.

The Agents have been invited to attend a meeting with members of the Committee for a briefing on the possibly buy-out of the yards / financial assistance package by the State Government. It is also suggested that the following issues be broached with agents and their views sought:

- Agents Roster;
- Penning Densities / Cap on Vealers; and
- Alert Agents to review of Fees and Charges - 2008 / 2009 Budget.

During discussion at the meeting of the Great Southern Region Cattle Saleyards Committee held on 12 February 2008, members noted the discussions with agents in relation to the agents roster and agreed that from 6 March 2008, the roster would be simplified and subject to a weekly rotation. Thereafter, the roster would be swapped annually with Elders following Primaries one year and Landmark following Primaries in alternate years.

Discussion ensued in relation to the de-sludging works in progress and a fax from Aquasol dated 7 February 2008 was tabled wherein they requested the Shire to

pay an additional 25% progress payment, which would greatly assist them in completing the job.

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr M Skinner:

THAT:

- 1. The Department of Environment and Conservation be requested to approve an alternative scheme to de-sludge the ponds at the saleyards by the use of a long reach excavator and carting the material to the old saleyards site on Woogenellup Road to enable it to dry there and sold from that site.**
- 2. Aquasol be advised that no further payment will be made as they have not honoured the minimum agreed tonnage with the advice that they should complete the project as soon as possible or withdraw from it.**
- 3. Subject to approval in Part 1 above, AD Contractors be appointed to remove the waste with a long reach excavator at an hourly rate.**

CARRIED

Discussion ensued in relation to the (National Saleyards Quality Assurance (NSQA) program and the Saleyards manager advised that he intended to engage a local NSQA auditor to assess the yards, however he considered that the support of the agents would be required to become a quality assured saleyards, particularly in the area of staff inductions.

The Saleyards manager raised the possibility of attending the Wagin Woolorama again and members agreed that it was an appropriate time to promote the yards in that area.

8.2 SALEYARDS – GUIDELINES TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 12 February 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider adopting guidelines for the operation of the Saleyards in order to alleviate recent overcrowding issues.

BACKGROUND

As indicated in the Saleyards Manager's report for December 2007 and January 2008, there was a disagreement between the Saleyards Manager and a Landmark agent in regards to the penning density on 17 January 2008. There was a concern over the number of stock being held in the pens. Cattle were finding it difficult to reach water and were becoming stressed.

The Saleyards Manager consulted with the Shire's Ranger (also a General Animal Inspector), Ray Parry over the issue and also had several complaints from transporters, producers and buyers who also voiced concerns about the number of cattle in pens.

Consultation

There has been consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, Rob Stewart and the Saleyards Manager, Warren Lloyd.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no current policy implications for this report, however it is recommended that guidelines be adopted.

Strategic Implications

The Saleyards Strategic Plan is silent regarding Animal Welfare.

Officer Comment

It is the experience of the Saleyards Manager that the problems with overcrowding arise to some extent every summer with vealer sales. The problems with receiving too many cattle into the yards are seen to be as follows:

- Cattle find it more difficult to get to water and potentially become distressed.

- Agents have to sell from delivery pens making it more difficult to manoeuvre cattle around the yards.
- Reduction in the space available for delivery cattle.
- Cattle standing around in mud and waiting longer for delivery as the number of cattle cannot physically be moved overnight.
- Delivery more difficult for transporters.
- Additional cost to the Council with staff feeding cattle on weekends.

It is possible to use lane pens, however these are often needed for un-nominated cattle.

Three proposals are recommended in order to alleviate this situation, being the standardisation of nomination times, implementing maximum penning densities and putting a cap on vealer sales

Live weight sale nominations currently close at 1.00pm on the day before the sale. However, it is the practice of at least one of the agents to advise non-curfew nominations as late as 8.00pm on the day before the sale. In cases where there is likely to be more cattle than desirable, this leaves no time to organise additional staff or liaise with agents and transporters to arrange the re-scheduling of some cattle to another sale date. It is therefore recommended that the nomination time for all sales be 1.00pm.

The penning densities stated by the Australian Standards for Export through the Australian Code of Practice for the Selling of Livestock are listed below. Working on the Great Southern Regional Saleyard pen size of 17.5m² we can allow for the amounts of cattle stated below.

Average Weight (kg)	Space Allowance per Animal (m ²)	Cattle per Pen Maximum (GSRCS)
200	.77	23
250	.94	19
300	1.11	16
350	1.28	14
400	1.45	12
450	1.588	11
500	1.725	10
550	1.863	9
600+	2	9

In addition to this, the Saleyards Manager believes that the operation of the facility can be managed efficiently if a cap of 2200 vealers is placed on the yards. This figure would minimise the selling of cattle from delivery pens.

The impact of these proposals may be that double sales would take place for an extra two or three weeks. There may also be adverse reaction from agents which will need to be managed.

With the support of the Council, the Saleyards Manager continues to promote the yards as a well run operation. The inability to control cattle numbers could undermine that work. It is considered that the Council has a responsibility to purchasers and producers to protect cattle from stress by enforcing sensible guidelines.

The Western Australian Meat and Livestock Association has advised that animal welfare issues are considered to be the responsibility of the yard owners. Without the support of the Council, the Saleyards Manager will continue to find it difficult to run the yards efficiently and protect the Council's interests in this regard.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the following guidelines for the operation of the Great Southern Regional Cattle saleyards be adopted:

- 1. The nomination time for all sales be 1.00pm.**
- 2. The following penning densities apply:**

Average Weight (kg)	Space Allowance per Animal (m2)	Cattle per Pen Maximum (GSRCS)
200	.77	23
250	.94	19
300	1.11	16
350	1.28	14
400	1.45	12
450	1.588	11
500	1.725	10
550	1.863	9
600+	2	9

- 3. A maximum of 2200 vealers be nominated per sale day.**

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr S Grylls:

THAT:

- 1. The nomination time for all sales be 1.00pm on the day prior to any sale.**
- 2. The following recommended penning densities be noted:**

Average Weight (kg)	Space Allowance per Animal (m2)	Cattle per Pen Maximum (GSRCS)
200	.77	23
250	.94	19
300	1.11	16
350	1.28	14
400	1.45	12
450	1.588	11

500	1.725	10
550	1.863	9
600+	2	9

CARRIED

Reason For Change:

Members considered that the penning densities be noted until they become legally binding. The proposal to set a limit on vealer numbers was considered to be unworkable and the yards should be able to accommodate the numbers being brought in.

8.3 SALEYARDS - ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

File No:	CA/126/1
Attachment	2007 Annual Environmental Report - Saleyards
Responsible Officer:	Rob Stewart Chief Executive Officer
Author:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date:	12 February 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the annual environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, as prepared by Dr Susie Brown of Coffey Environments.

Statutory Environment

The Annual Environmental Monitoring report has been prepared to satisfy Condition 8 of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Licence Number 7407/7. The reporting requirements as specified in the licence are:

'CONDITION 8 - ANNUAL REPORT

8 The licensee shall provide the Director, by 31 January each year, an annual environmental report containing data collected between the previous 1 January to 31 December. The report shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to:

- (a) monitoring data or other collected data required by any condition of this licence;*
- (b) the total number of animals held on site on a monthly basis;*
- (c) a discussion of the operation of the project, compliance with conditions and environmental performance to date; and*
- (d) an assessment of the data collected against any limits set in this licence.'*

Coffey Environments have already forwarded the Report to the Department of Conservation and Environment.

Consultation

There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications for this report.

Officer Comment

The overall summary of the report identifies that groundwater analytical results are generally consistent with those from the previous year. Groundwater levels are calculated on the basis of an old survey and confirm that groundwater flows towards the southeast of the site. Three rounds of quarterly surface water results are available for 2007. The concentration of nutrients decreases from the first to the second half of the year.

The daily irrigation volumes are collated to provide monthly irrigation volumes for the site. This information, together with data for total nitrogen, total phosphorus and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is used to calculate the applied nutrient loading rate for the portion of the irrigation area that was utilised. The loading rates for the 6ha irrigation area have been calculated as 90.2kg/ha/year of nitrogen, 17.5kg/ha/year of phosphorus and 1.2kg/ha/year BOD, which are all within the loading rates specified in the licence.

It is advised that in 2008, groundwater and surface water monitoring should continue with adjustments to bring the laboratory analytes and sampling frequency into accordance with the licence. Consideration should be given to reinstalling bores MB6 and MB7 and to methods to reduce the phosphorus concentration in the treated wastewater.

The 2006 report identified that the Council should consider the following to ensure the continuation of monitoring in accordance with the licence, and to gain the maximum benefit from the data collected:

- Investigate methods to redevelop or reinstall bores MB6 and MB7 to ensure the collection of samples can be continued in accordance with licence conditions.
- Undertake a survey of all groundwater monitoring bores onsite so that local groundwater flow direction can be determined.

The Council has allocated funds in its 2007/08 budget and advice has been sought from Coffey Environments in order to progress these works.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That the 2007 environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, as prepared by Coffey Environments, be noted and endorsed.

CARRIED

8.4 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT - 31 JANUARY 2008

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 12 February 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) to the period ending 31 January 2008.

Statutory Environment

There are no statutory implications for this report.

Consultation

There has been consultation with Warren Lloyd, Manager Saleyards.

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. Most items are within budget. Budget Item 'Grounds Maintenance' is above expected as at 31 January due mainly to pump repairs which have to date cost \$5148.00.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

During discussion at the meeting of the Great Southern Region Cattle Saleyards Committee held on 12 February 2008, members noted that the installation of the electric pump from the dam to the pump shed would cost more than anticipated. It was agreed to defer the proposal to build a hay shed and re-evaluate this in deliberations for the 2008/09 budget.

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

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

A letter dated 11 February 2008 from Coffey Environments was tabled.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr M Skinner:

That further advice be sought from Coffey Environments on the installation of a water re-use system, in particular to advise on the cost and / or seek quotes for a system that would enable treated waste water to be used for the truck wash or yard wash and whether such a scheme would be eligible for grant funding.

CARRIED

10 NEXT MEETING

To be advised

11 MEETING CLOSURE

2.48 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE: ____ / ____ / ____