



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 Meeting of the Saleyards
Advisory Committee was held in the
Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,
8.30am Tuesday 13 October 2015

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde - 248/13
Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 21/14

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	1
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	1
5	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	2
5.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – 8 SEPTEMBER TO 6 OCTOBER 2015	2
5.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015	5
6	GENERAL BUSINESS	6
6.1	PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION	6
6.2	ALMA BOARD MEETING - ATTENDANCE BY MR M SKINNER	7
7	NEXT MEETING	7
8	MEETING CLOSURE	7

Membership

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Mr M Skinner

Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

8.30am 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
Mr Michael Skinner

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 15 September 2015 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

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

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Mr M Skinner
Nature and Extent of Interest: Cattle Farmer - 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 and Communities via a letter dated 19 December 2014, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 31 December 2015.

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 – 8 SEPTEMBER TO 6 OCTOBER 2015

SALE DATA

- Total sale numbers 3,041.
- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- Nineteen cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- Nine animals have been put down or removed.
- Nine bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 4 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

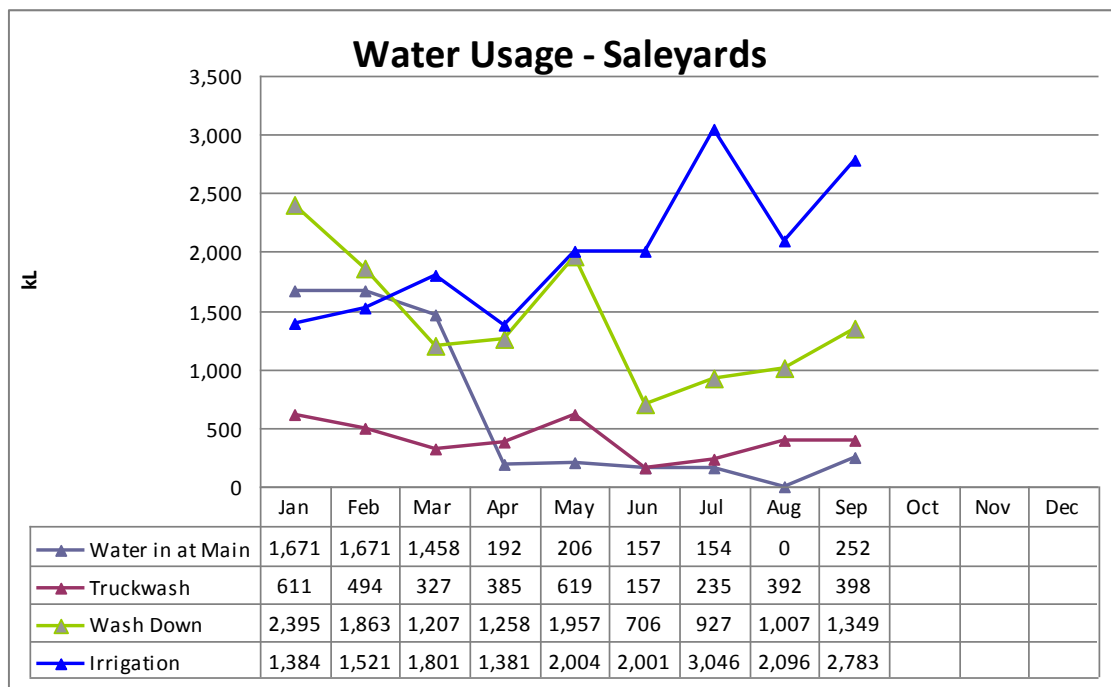
- During the sale on 10 September, a storm came through causing a loss of power at 11.15am. We didn't get power back until 3.00pm. Most of the sale data entry had been completed except for the last agent who was still selling. All went well considering and we managed to still complete the sale process around 4.30pm.
- On 17 September, a wash down riser in Pen 73 broke due to a cow kicking it. This was repaired enough to continue with wash down and was replaced after wash down was completed with no disruption.
- On 21 September, Mount Barker Electrics investigated the eastern and western light towers, due to tripping of those particular RCD switches. This is an ongoing process to find the issues with the electrics. It is suspected that water has compromised the poles.
- On 22 September Councillor Bell and Stewart left to attend the ALMA conference in Sydney, returning on 25 September. They did have some flight issues with the aeroplane having mechanical issues, so they caught the Midnight special so they would arrive on time, unfortunately with no sleep. See attached reports from Cr Bell and Stewart.

The Australian Model Code of Practice for Livestock Saleyards and Lairages was released. We have one copy at the moment and trying to get more. Michael Skinner was elected to the ALMA board unopposed. It was pleasing to see Rob Bushell (Saleyards Manager, Katanning) and Andrew Holden (Deputy CEO, Shire of Katanning) in attendance. Stewart Smith was also elected as the WA representative on the ASMA (Australian Saleyard Managers Association) Committee.

- During the sale day on 24 September, there were six animals destroyed, four from one vendor.
- On 30 September, the main wash down line between the new taps that we had installed failed on a PVC join. This caused the truck wash to be turned off, with Thinkwater Albany attending to investigate and fix the breakage. With Stewart's insistence, they completed the repair that evening. The truck wash and wash down was back in use first thing Thursday morning.
- On 30 September, four animals arrived on the back of an 8 x 5 trailer (animals weighed 1,500kg) with one animal down and another animal trapped with its back leg protruding through the weld mesh sides. Thankfully we managed to get

the animal’s leg back in without breaking it (we did have bolt cutters ready to use).

- On 1 October, we had two mature bulls arrive from Esperance with penis issues. The agent was going to put them back on a truck home to Esperance but was stopped by Stewart. Stewart spoke to the agent and made it clear that they would not be moving off the premises without a Vet Certificate. A vet from Mount Barker Veterinary Surgery attended and issued a permit for one to go direct to slaughter, trucked in its own pen, with the other to be destroyed on site.
- On 2 October, a weaner heifer jammed its head between the fence and concrete trough (This is the first time this has happened). The animal was freed by Mitchell’s drivers but had a broken neck and was destroyed shortly after.
- The Works Crew has assisted with repairing pot holes in the bitumen around the complex.
- Mount Barker Electrics will complete the AVDATA upgrade by 6 October.
- There will be articles published in the Farm Weekly regarding the ALMA conference in Sydney in the 8 October issue. An advert relating to the Saleyards will also feature in that issue.
- The latest water usage graph is shown below.



During discussion at the meeting held on 13 October 2015, it was suggested that the Shire should take the opportunity to educate and advise producers on common animal welfare issues. The Chief Executive Officer agreed that it would be appropriate to erect a sign at the saleyards, together with a mailout to all producers who have used the saleyards pointing out the expectations under the Code of Conduct and what will happen to cattle which arrive at the saleyards that are not fit to sell.

Members noted that producers are able to claim for losses associated with unfit animals that are destroyed and that as a result, there is no financial disincentive to send unfit animals into the sale process. It was therefore also suggested that the Shire take up this matter of with the Insurance industry. The Chief Executive Officer agreed that it would be appropriate to liaise with Local Government Insurance Services in the first instance.

The Committee also requested to be kept informed of actions taken in regard to the cattle over-loaded on the box trailer.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

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

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 13 October 2015

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the preliminary financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 30 September 2015.

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 30 September 2015 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$245,287.00, which is \$69,105.00 below YTD budget. There are no significant variances, although it should be noted that the expected 2nd tranche of insurance costs has not yet been paid.

There was an overspend of approximately \$4,000.00 on the bull pens project. The additional cost has mostly come about from the installation of two additional gates which has enabled an area to be set aside as a biosecurity pen. In addition, an extra rail was required to be added to Mitchell's pens, to match the height of the remaining bull pens.

Overall YTD operating income is \$66,878.00, which is \$16,649.00 below YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are \$8,746.00 below YTD budget as throughput impacted by wet weather and stock availability.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Mr M Skinner:

That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Greater use of chlorinated water / Water sustainability – At its meeting held on 27 May 2014, members agreed that the requirements specified in the letter from the Health Department of WA make the operation of the waste water re-use system unviable. A budget item for 2015/2016 has been included for an additional water source. A meeting has been held with a diviner / drilling contractor to seek a potential bore site.

A second diviner was being sourced, however Dominic Sawyer is the only diviner who we have been able to locate to date. Stewart has spoken to Phil Putland, who recommended Dominic Sawyer, as he does not provide this service. Committee members suggested Ken Mears or contacting Main Roads, Water Corporation or the Department of Water.

- Agents Agreements – The new agreements have now been sent out to agents.
- Standard Operating Procedures – Draft procedures have been developed and form an addendum to the new Agents Agreements.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, it was agreed that some thought should be given to a public relations opportunity for the millionth animal to go through the saleyards, expected to be in late 2015.

At its meeting held on 28 April 2015, the Committee considered that a similar event to what has been done previously to promote the yards would be appropriate, with a plaque, speeches and sash around the 1 millionth animal. Some thought will need to be given to how the animal is chosen. The Committee is happy that the throughput calculation is based on the total of sale cattle, private weighs and transit cattle.

- During discussion at the meeting held on 9 December 2014, the Committee agreed that need for an independent power supply to run the sale and provide water to cattle was becoming more important. The Committee requested the Saleyards Manager to investigate options for a suitable on-site generator. The Saleyards Manager has made some initial enquiries.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 3 February 2015, it was noted that the weighbridge scanners had been damaged by recent storm activity and scanning was being done by hand. The Committee agreed that an appropriate risk mitigation strategy warranted some investigation. The Saleyards Manager has discussed this matter with the Aleis who have indicated that this was an unusual incident and there should be no need to protect the equipment from this type of surge. Stewart has spoken to Norm Burren and Aleis (while in Sydney) and the consensus is that this was a freak accident and did not recommend buying expensive earthing equipment or replacement electronics.
- At its meeting held on 3 March 2015, the Committee noted the Chief Executive Officer's intention to investigate and provide advice to the Saleyards Advisory Committee in regard to options for the purchase and / or lease of a skid steer loader, with such advice including a history of the current machine, most appropriate machine and a cost benefit analysis of leasing versus other procurement / trade-in options.

- During discussion at the meeting held on 21 July 2015, the view was expressed that there may be a need to discuss the condition of Mitchells Transport's yards, as the yards may require some maintenance or upgrading before the end of the next five year lease term. The Saleyards Manager was requested to provide comment on the condition of these yards for further consideration and it was also agreed to review the lease conditions in this regard.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 13 October 2015, the administration was requested to provide an ongoing spreadsheet with the detail of expenditure on the Saleyards Roof project.

6.2 ALMA BOARD MEETING - ATTENDANCE BY MR M SKINNER

The Deputy CEO advised that, following the Council decision to nominate Mr Michael Skinner to the board of the Australian Livestock Markets Association Inc. (ALMA), Mr Skinner was successfully appointed to the Board at ALMA's annual general meeting in September 2015. The first meeting will be held in Brisbane on 26 - 27 November 2015.

ALMA has previously advised that it would expect the Shire's representative to attend only two of the four meetings per year, but there would be an opportunity to attend via teleconference for the other two meetings. Mr Skinner was of the view that it would be appropriate to endorse his attendance at this first meeting.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That:

1. **Mr Michael Skinner be authorised to attend the Australian Livestock Markets Association Inc. Board meeting to be held in Brisbane on 26 - 27 November 2015; and**
2. **The expenditure be initially charged to Budget Item Saleyards – Conferences and Training – 21320.0029 and recouped from the Australian Livestock Markets Association Inc.**

CARRIED

7 NEXT MEETING

11 November 2015.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

9.24am The Presiding Member thanked all of the Committee members and staff for their efforts over the last two years and declared the meeting closed.

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