



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,
10.00am Tuesday 19 August 2014

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

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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

10.00am The Chief Executive Officer declared the meeting open.

2 ELECTION OF ACTING PRESIDING MEMBER

In the absence of the Presiding Member, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stewart called for nominations for the position of Acting Presiding Member.

Cr Handasyde was nominated for the position of Acting Presiding Member for the meeting and he had indicated his willingness to accept the position.

There being no further nominations, Mr Stewart declared Cr Handasyde elected unopposed to the position of Acting Presiding Member for the meeting.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr Len Handasyde (Acting Presiding Member)
Cr Brett Bell
Mr Michael Skinner

Leave of Absence

Cr Jeff Moir

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

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes, as circulated, of the meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 15 July 2014.

It was pointed out that Saleyards Manager, Stewart Smith should have been recorded as an apology for that meeting.

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Mr M Skinner:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee held on 15 July 2014 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record, subject to Mr Smith being noted as an apology.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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 letters dated 15 April 2014, giving permission for Mr M Skinner to participate in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 31 December 2014.

Mr J Fathers read aloud the letter, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

6 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

6.1 ACTING MANAGER'S REPORT – 9 JULY 2014 TO 11 AUGUST 2014

SALE DATA

- Sale numbers total 1,921.
- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- Eighteen cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- One animal has been put down or removed.
- Two bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 30 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Simon has managed to clean all but three of dirt pens now. The dirt pens are still sloppy, due to the recent rainfall, however has improved in the last few weeks.
- On 16 July, we had a visit from Detective Sergeant Rex Tunks, Regional Crime Officer WA, to touch base with his role within stock theft. He was accompanied by Bevan Wooldridge, who is John Barden's equivalent at Muchea. I gave them a tour of the yards and a general run down of process. Rex indicated that from time to time he will attend the saleyards and have a look at the cattle being sold.
- We also had a visit from Sue from the Dept of Agriculture who was here to interview me for a DVD regarding working at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards. This DVD will be played in the Department of Agriculture trailer which does the Agriculture Shows around WA. The DVD will focus on careers in Agriculture.
- On 18 July a heifer calved in the yards. A vet attended as per advice from Elders. All went well with the heifer and calf being kept at the yards until Monday before going to their new home. Elders had a word with the vendor, who maintained that heifer was pregnancy tested empty, and was very sorry it happened.
- Recently, the aerators stopped working with no power to the power board in the shed. Mount Barker Electrics attended and found moisture in the plugs outside. Replacement parts have been fitted and Simon has made some covers so this shouldn't happen again.
- On 22 July there was a blow out of trough water on the end of the receivals line. Simon and Rachel have now fixed the problem. A kink in the pipe on installation failed.
- On 23 July, some mad bulls came in from Bluff Creek. After trying to jump out numerous times it was decided to put the big bulls through the system and pen for safety. They remained in that bull pen until they were loaded straight onto the truck on Thursday.
- On 24 July cow prices hit \$2.00 a kilogram.
- The Lawnmower went in for its first service.
- The sea container is working well now that some more holes have been drilled in the door to allow moisture to escape.
- Sgt Al Keogh rang last week to confirm that the man who stole the skid steer loader received a penalty of 10 months jail.

- I have been contacted by Megan Harrod, Regional Officer WA Livestock Biosecurity Network Pty Ltd who wants to conduct a follow up refresher seminar on Fit to Load (FTL) at the saleyards. This would be vendor based and agent based and would serve to confirm that everyone understands the FTL rules. She indicated that it would be low key, not publicised to the general public. We are not sure when this will happen but may be before weaner season.
- We have been doing some research on other saleyards with the Surefoot® mats, and have received replies from only one, being Warnambool Livestock in Victoria who put mats down in Nov 2010. They said that the mats have been really good. They haven't replaced any as yet, and the cattle are 'quieter and more relaxed' so this is good news. Only minor repairs have been undertaken, with some pins working loose and been replaced.

During discussion, 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.

Discussion also ensued in regard to the fact that Elders has not yet signed an amended agents' agreement and had commented that it was concerned about the continued affordability of the payment. Members considered that fresh agreements incorporating the \$1.00 per animal payment should be prepared for distribution to agents as soon as practicable.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Mr M Skinner, seconded Cr B Bell:

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

CARRIED

6.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 JULY 2014

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 19 August 2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the unaudited financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 31 July 2014.

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 31 July 2014 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$77,278.00, which is \$23,431.00 below YTD budget. There are no significant variances. No capital expenditures have been made to date.

Overall year to date (YTD) operating income is \$15,567.00, which is \$9,346.00 below YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are \$9,566.00 below YTD budget although reflect the current level of throughput and is not unusual for this time of year.

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

6.3 BUSINESS PLAN 2014 – 2023 – MOUNT BARKER REGIONAL SALEYARDS

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 19 August 2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Council the adoption of a business plan (2014 – 2023) for the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 12 April 2011, the Audit Committee asked the Saleyards Advisory Committee to prepare a business plan which would ensure that the Saleyards enterprise is successful and self sustaining.

Work undertaken so far has highlighted the lack of documentation at a strategic level as well as the need for a detailed business plan for the facility. Work has been undertaken 'in house' to finalise both of these documents.

In 2011/2012, Councillors undertook a planning exercise to identify the Council's strategic goals for the facility. The results of those exercises have guided the preparation of this document.

At its meeting held on 24 June 2014, the Council adopted the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Strategic Plan 2014 – 2023, which summarises the outcomes of this document.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications for this report.

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.'

The Shire's Corporate Business Plan 2013/14 – 2017/18 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 DEC (Now known as DER) 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

Saleyards feature as important and significant assets to regional farming communities and townships, providing a hub for employment, economic activity and trade. The Mount Barker Regional Saleyards is a leading cattle selling centre in Western Australia. The facility is a significant asset to the Plantagenet economy and clearly delivers an important service to the cattle industry in the region.

The Saleyards is a complex and specialised operation which presents some financial and operational risks and challenges, not faced by many local governments in Western Australia. The facility requires dedicated staff and a good relationship with stock agents and other stakeholders to be successful.

This plan contains a lot of background information and reasoning behind many of the current operational processes and constraints. It also provides some detail and justification on the way forward in terms of operations, business development, environmental controls, marketing and capital works.

This plan has been undertaken 'in house' with limited specialist information on things like competition, market intelligence and market forecasting. Primary production is subject to many factors that are out of the Shire's control including the vagaries of world prices. Nevertheless, the plan does focus on the things that the Shire can reasonably do over the next ten years bearing in mind its resource constraints.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Mr M Skinner, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Business Plan 2014 – 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK MARKETS ASSOCIATION INC AGM AND CONFERENCE

A report from Cr Handasyde is attached. Stewart's report will follow when he is back from annual leave.

Cr Handasyde and Mr Smith discussed various elements of the conference. It was advised that Mr Smith had joined the Board of the Saleyard Operators Australia. A lot of issues were currently on the table and a further report would be provided in this regard.

Members noted Cr Handasyde's comments that it will be increasingly more and more important to secure a position on the ALMA Board in order to have the inside running on the National Issues. It was agreed to record this matter on Proposals for Further Consideration.

Members also agreed with Cr Handasyde's comments that the Council should consider spade ready projects for the saleyards and work to secure funding for the work required. These projects should contribute to the long term sustainability of the saleyards and address the four key areas of animal welfare, environment factors, occupational health and safety and funding, with the roof over the selling pens being the most important to progress.

It was suggested that a request be forwarded to Federal MP, Rick Wilson MP for assistance with an invitation to tour the saleyards.

7.2 FEEDLOT CHALLENGE

The Saleyards Manager referred to the proposed a 'Gate to Plate Feedlot Challenge' exercise aimed at getting feedback for vendors on cattle weight gain at feedlots. It was advised that total sponsorship of \$35,000.00 had been secured. The challenge would take place in January 2015, with animals being fed and watered at the saleyards for five days. Mitchell's pens would be used following which the animals will be sent to Willyung Feedlot. The challenge would be limited to three (vendor bred) animals per vendor.

The Committee agreed that the challenge would attract some good publicity and a waiver of the transit fee would be an appropriate form of sponsorship from the Shire.

7.2 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 2014/2015 has been included for an additional water source.
- Saleyards Strategic / Business Plan – The Strategic Plan has been adopted by the Committee and is being presented to the Council. Draft of Business Plan completed and ready for adoption.
- Agents Agreements – Primaries agreement signed by both parties. Landmark Deed of Agreement signed by both parties. Elders Agreement not yet received back.
- Concept design for Saleyards roof – No action to date.

- Standard Operating Procedures – Stewart beginning to review current procedures to assess where the gaps are in terms of agent's and Shire responsibilities. A meeting has been held with Margaret Hemsley about how to deal with inappropriate behaviour at the Saleyards, which somewhat requires Standard Operating Procedures and behaviours to be developed. Stewart and Erika have provided a draft to the DCEO for further action.
- Signage Updates – Detailed signage proposals have been developed. The Shire has sought legal advice on the wording on the proposed new signs, to ascertain if the wording is appropriate and 'reasonable' in terms of the issues raised by LGIS. Advice has been received and has been considered by the Committee.

During discussion, a number of changes were put forward to the signage wording. Also, a query was raised as to who were the 'authorised persons' noted in sign 2B and whether it included the buyers and sellers who currently enter the saleyards to shift cattle. The Chief Executive Officer advised that further consideration would need to be given to the question of who should be authorised to handle cattle and if everyone should receive a formal induction.

- 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.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 19 August 2014, members noted Cr Handasyde's comments within his report on the ALMA Conference that it will be increasingly more and more important to secure a position on the ALMA Board in order to have the inside running on the National Issues. It was agreed to give further consideration to this matter.

8 NEXT MEETING

16 September 2014.

9 MEETING CLOSURE

10.45am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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