



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
was held in the Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324,
1.35 pm Tuesday 22 July 2008.

**John Fathers
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Committee Members

Cr K Forbes, Cr M Skinner, Cr S Grylls

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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

Present

Cr M Skinner Presiding Member
Cr K Forbes, AM
Cr S Grylls

Observer

Cr B Hollingworth

Staff

Mr J Fathers Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ms C Appleby Acting Manager – Saleyards
Mr E Howard Environmental Health Officer

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr K Forbes, seconded Cr M Skinner:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee Meeting, held on 24 June 2008 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

A Financial Interest was disclosed by Cr K Forbes
Nature and Extent of Interest: Cattle Producer - 240 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 20 October 2008.

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

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGERS REPORT - JUNE 2008

Sale Data

(1/6/08 – 30/6/08)

Total June numbers including MSA Sales were 4,698 head.

63 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

Three animals has been put down or removed.

25 bales of hay have been fed out.

There have been 22 cattle go through for Private/Shipper Weigh Cattle.

General Business

(18/6/08 – 14/7/08)

Robert Bush returned to rip up and sow the hay paddock. He chose to put in some ryegrass in the end as he had to spray so heavily to kill the weeds that were in there.

The grassed area where the Landmark bull pens go was extended to allow them to sit evenly. We spread some grass seed and fertilizer to help it become full in time for the January sale.

Three more sprockets were replaced on the lift gates and we have sent three more away to be modified. We have developed a way to replace the sprocket by just using one person safely with the use of a 1 tonne winch.

1500 NLIS tags have been ordered as we were starting to run out.

We have made some modifications to the crush as cattle were not holding tight enough and were beginning to cause damage and cause strain when using it. A new NLIS tag applicator was also ordered.

Badly broken air lines which were affecting the weighing time have been replaced. Others which aren't as badly broken will also be replaced.

The platform at the truckwash screen has now largely been installed. Marshall McAleese plans to come back on 19 July 2008 to add some finishing touches.

The dirt pens continue to be cleaned out and gravel added where needed.

We received some major storm damage over the weekend of the 11 – 14 July with the tree outside the office losing most of its branches, the pump shed near the effluent dam lost its roof and the old hay shed near the truckwash caused/received the most damage which flew around and sliced some of the water irrigation lines in the Mitchell's dirt pens. We have arranged for Plantagenet Shed and Steel to repair the pump shed. An insurance claim will be made for this and the outcome reported to the Committee. The hay shed is beyond repair.

We would like to arrange to close the truckwash for six hours every Monday and Tuesday so we are able to run the irrigation non stop to reduce the water level in the dam and give the crop a good start. We would advise the truck drivers that for example, the truckwash will be closed from 7.30am to 1.30pm every Monday and Tuesday until further notice. We do not believe that this will unduly affect the running of the truckwash; it will be more of a precaution. Not many trucks come in on Mondays and Tuesdays and when we do they are mainly in the afternoon.

Westerberg Irrigation came out to work on two of the pumps, the one at the truckwash and the one on the stormwater dam recently. A new auto flush system was installed on truckwash pump as it was not running properly and on the stormwater dam, they replaced the pressure controller on the pump as it was not running effectively.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 July 2008, members agreed with the proposal to close the truck wash at times indicated and to review the matter depending on the reaction of transporters.

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 JUNE 2008

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 22 July 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the unaudited financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 30 June 2008.

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 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 again above expected due mainly to pump repairs which to date have cost \$5,148.00. As a result of analyses carried out into the Asset register, depreciation charges are also higher than budget. Income continues to be well above budget due to the larger than expected volume of cattle passing through the yards this year.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MONITORING OF WASH DOWN WATER

At the last meeting of the Committee it was advised that a letter had now been received from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development advising that the Department would be prepared to consider a reallocation of funds from the unspent grant funds to the waste water re-use project. Formal approval would not be forthcoming until firm quotes are submitted to the department. Coffey Environments had therefore now been asked to obtain firm quotes for this work. Health Department approval of the work, or a statement that formal approval is not needed, would also be required.

The Department was not prepared to consider further grant funding for the irrigation system pump until this other matter had been progressed to ascertain whether there would be any funds from the initial project remaining.

Susie Brown from Coffey Environments has advised that a formal proposal will be written up for this project, specifying that they will liaise with the DoH and DEC regarding a chlorination system, and take their suggestions to get together three quotes from suppliers who can provide systems that will meet DEC/DoH requirements. They will be able to get started on undertaking the liaison process in August and in the meantime will work on providing quotations.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 July 2008, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fathers tabled an email from Kate McCormack from Coffey environments dated 22 July 2008 with a formal proposal to undertake the work. The Committee agreed to engage Coffey Environments as previously discussed.

In relation to Ms McCormack's comments about the hay paddock and level of water in the treatment ponds, members noted that the hay paddock had in fact been planted with oats and ryegrass approximately three weeks ago. It was stressed that this should be done earlier in future to achieve the best result. Discussion ensued in relation to the level of the water in the treatment ponds and how this should be managed.

6.2 APPOINTMENT OF NEW SALEYARDS MANAGER

Mr Stewart Smith has now signed the contract of employment and will start on 28 July 2008. It is proposed that drinks be held with Committee members and agents on the afternoon of his first sale, being 31 July 2008.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 July 2008, members agreed to have a lunch time barbeque with agents on Wednesday 6 August 2008 to introduce and welcome Mr Smith.

6.3 RECENT STORM DAMAGE AND THEFT OF GENERATOR

The generator at the saleyards was recently found to have been stolen. It is likely that it was taken on a sale day when the shed door has been left open. In the future large equipment will be kept behind the shed's inner door with the bobcat parked against it. Steve Player has done what he can to reinforce and fit better locking mechanisms to the outer and inner doors. An insurance claim has been made but it is likely that only \$1,500.00 will be received, due to the excess. A new generator with welding lead set is required at a cost of around \$2,700. Approval is sought to allocate the remaining costs to Budget Item Saleyards Capital Improvements.

During the recent storm, the small hay shed was flattened and the pump shed had its roof blown off, with damage to some of the electrical conduits. We have engaged Plantagenet Sheds and Steel to fix the roof and Mount Barker Electrics to check and repair the electrics. It is not intended to replace the hayshed. An insurance claim will also be made for this damage.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 July 2008, members agreed to hold off on purchasing a new generator until the matter can be discussed with the new Saleyards Manager.

6.4 WASTEWATER SLUDGE DISPOSAL

A memorandum from Environmental Health Officer, Eric Howard, is attached for information and discussion.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 22 July 2008, Mr Howard gave an update on the discussions to date with Coffey Environments, the Department of Environment and adjoining landowners on disposal of waste slurry. It was advised that a strategy would continue to be developed in this regard.

Cr Hollingworth indicated that, as an adjoining landowner, he would be prepared to accept appropriate waste material as a fertiliser for the adjoining plantation and Mr Howard was requested to meet with Cr Hollingworth to discuss the concept.

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

2.28 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** _____ / _____ / _____