



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 Advisory Committee was held at the
Saleyards, Albany Highway, Mount Barker WA 6324,
9.30am Tuesday 23 March 2010.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr B Bell, Cr M Skinner, Cr L Handasyde, Cr S Grylls 11/10

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Chairperson:

Cr M Skinner

Membership

Cr B Bell

Cr L Handasyde

Cr S Grylls

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.30am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr M Skinner (Presiding Member)
Cr L Handasyde
Cr B Bell
Cr S Grylls

Staff

Mr John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stewart Smith, Saleyards Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr L Handasyde:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 1 February 2010 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

Matters Arising

During discussion, the Saleyards Manager, Mr Smith advised that the 10 year function had to be put off until April.

4 DISCLOSURE 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 and Regional Development via letter dated 17 December 2009, 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 2010.

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 – FEBRUARY 2010

Sale Data

Total numbers including MSA since 22 January have been 13,833.
Jan – 2,125 Feb – 7937 March inc 18 - 3771.

166 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

11 animals have been put down or removed.

1363 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
From 22 Jan – 138, Feb – 428, to 18 March – 797.

There have been 2620 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.
From 22 Jan – 237, Feb – 1384, to 18 March – 999.

General Business

JANUARY

Mainly private weighs and feeding cattle going to the east.

FEBRUARY

Tim Beech commenced work on the 22nd February assisting with the wash down as Malcolm Spencer has left us.

Manure sales were up through February.

Double sales kept us busy especially when combined with a lot of private weighs and feeding cattle on hold to go to the east.

Two animals escaped off trucks. One has been retrieved and sent on, the other I know of its whereabouts and am keeping an eye on it.

Due to the large amount of feeding, 28 big square bales were purchased at \$40 per bale, plus transport.

On 14 February there were two people from a Victorian Saleyards looking at our yards and set up.

On 25 February the power went out during weighing, leaving animals still in stacking and weighing pens. A generator was hired out of Albany, but by the time we got it back and set up the power came back on.

MARCH

Another two animals escaped off trucks. Both have been retrieved and sent on.

Single sales commenced on 4 March and the agents swapped sides on 11 March – All seems to have worked okay.

Dirt pens were cleaned out and we used Mount Barker Hire. This was all done within 5 hours.

On 15 March another 200 small square bales were purchase at \$4.50 per bale. We are in the process of carting this ourselves.

The Fax machine was replaced.

22 January to 18 March 2010

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Eastern States buyers are still present and buying. This has increased the workload for looking after and managing these cattle until they are shipped east. Stewart is required to feed and monitor cattle seven days a week at the moment due to this.

Mount Barker Electrics have been helping us with the wash down pumps, we think it could have been a lightning strike that has caused a computer chip problem.

John Barden, the Livestock Compliance Officer from the Department of Agriculture and Food is still regularly attending the sales checking on compliance (ear notches, NLIS tagging and NVD's). No cattle have been sent home during this last period.

We are sending about 6 to 7 trucks a week to the Eastern States with cattle.

We are still using a lot of scheme water, due to the hot weather and large holdings.

We have been grazing around the ponds with sheep.

All parties involved with the sale yards seem to be happy, and no complaints.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

That the monthly report of the Saleyards Manager be received.

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 28 FEBRUARY 2010

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 23 March 2010

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the preliminary financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 28 February 2010.

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 reasonable range of the YTD budget. Overall YTD operating expenditure is \$35,568 under budget, with Superannuation being above YTD budget by approx \$2,000, Other Operating Costs being above budget by around \$500 and Building Maintenance above budget by approx \$1,300.

Overall operating income is \$18,981 under budget, Saleyard Weigh & Pen Fees comprising around \$15,200 of this figure.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

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

5.3 SALEYARDS - ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

File No:	CA/126/1
Attachment	2009 Annual Environmental Report - Saleyards
Responsible Officer:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author:	John Fathers Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date:	23 March 2010

Purpose

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

External 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.

Strategic Implications

There are no strategic implications for this report.

Officer Comment

The Executive Summary of the report states:

'Groundwater analytical results show relatively consistent physico-chemical properties of groundwater during the year. The minor fluctuations in groundwater quality can be attributed to seasonal rainfall infiltration. The variations in nutrient concentrations, however, range from a high in June and a low in December which is consistent with irrigation which ceased in June and may be correlated. Groundwater levels are calculated using field measurements of standing water in the bores and bore height survey data. Groundwater levels confirm that groundwater flows towards the south east of the site.

Surface water sample results from wastewater treatment ponds indicate varying concentrations of nutrients during 2009. Results from the SW1 location, representing irrigation water nutrient levels, have an average of 65mg/L total nitrogen, and 8mg/L total phosphorus.

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 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 110.6kg/ha/yr of nitrogen, 10.7kg/ha/yr of phosphorus, and 0.201kg/ha/day BOD for 2009, which is within the site licence conditions.'

Based on the information in this report, Coffey Environments have recommended that the following points be considered for 2010:

- *'Continue to undertake ammonia-N and NOx-N analysis for bores MB5, MB6, and MB7;*
- *Review the extent to which groundwater down-gradient of the waste water treatment ponds is affected by increased nutrient levels, based on data available at the end of 2010.*
- *One of the two facultative ponds was de-sludged during 2008 however water quality in down-gradient bores remains elevated compared to other bores. Consideration should be given to the de-sludging of the second facultative pond. This might be undertaken during spring 2010.*
- *Undertake a mid-year review of the nutrient loading rates. If total phosphorus levels exceed 20mg/L in SW1, the site may exceed its annual loading limit, if irrigation rates are not managed.'*

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the 2009 environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, as prepared by Coffey Environments, be noted and endorsed.

During discussion, the view was expressed that further investigation should take place with the Department of Agriculture in relation to a hay crop, such as deep rooted perennials, which may remediate the nutrient levels identified by Coffey's report.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That:

- 1. The 2009 environmental report for the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards, as prepared by Coffey Environments, be noted and endorsed.**
- 2. The Saleyards Manager be requested to seek advice from the Department of Agriculture in relation to an appropriate treatment which would reduce nutrient levels and also produce a hay crop.**

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 WASTE WATER PROPOSAL – STIRLING COMPOST

An unsolicited submission has been received from Iain Allen from Stirling Compost in relation to various proposals for removal of sludge and treatment of water at the saleyards' settlement ponds. The claims made within the General Outline in this document are unsubstantiated and to some extent disagreed with.

Nevertheless, this information is provided for discussion as it is considered that some thought needs to be given to the reduction of manure entering the ponds and a long term solution for sludge removal (assuming the yards remain with the Shire of Plantagenet).

For information Ian Allen was involved with Aquasol, the company engaged to remove sludge from the ponds in 2007/2008. The method used by Aquasol involved mixing a flocculent into the pond water and then removal via a suction pump. This was not successful and a long reach excavator was eventually used to remove the sludge.

It is considered that, subject to the outcome from the Saleyards market sounding exercise, the Shire should seek input from an environmental engineer in this regard. It should be noted that the quotations are currently being sought for environmental services for the next 12 months for both the tips sites and saleyards.

During discussion, members agreed that this report be noted and that no further action be taken until the future of the ownership of the saleyards is more certain.

6.2 2010/11 FEES AND CHARGES

At its meeting held on 1 February 2010, the Committee agreed that it should review fees and charges at its next meeting, with further consideration to be given to an equitable fee for transit animals. The fees charged over the last five years are shown below. Fees charged in Midland are being sourced by the Saleyards Manager.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Cattle Weighing and Penning per head	\$6.60	\$6.60	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Cattle Penning only (per head)	\$4.80	\$4.80	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Cattle Weighing only (per head)	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.20
Private Weighs (per head)	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.20
Shipping Weigh (per head)	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.20
Stud Bull Sale (per head)	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Feed (per bale)	\$1.80	\$1.80	At cost plus \$2	At cost plus \$2	At cost plus \$2
Removal (per head)	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Agents Levy (per head)	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10
Wash down fee (per minute - min. charge \$5.50)	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40
Manure Sales - per bobcat bucket	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
NLIS tagging services (per head / without permit)	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$16.50
NLIS tagging services (per head / with permit)	N/A	N/A	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25
Transit Cattle (per head)	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10
Crush Fee (per head)	N/A	N/A	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.20

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr B Bell:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That the fee for transit cattle be raised to \$2.00 (plus GST) per head per day, to be implemented as soon as possible.

CARRIED

During discussion, members agreed that consideration of the remaining fees be held over until the next meeting.

6.3 CAPITAL BUDGET ITEMS

It is requested that consideration be given to capital items for the 2010 /2011 draft budget.

During discussion, members agreed that this matter be held over until the next meeting.

6.4 LETTER FROM MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The attached letter was received from the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Terry Redman MLA in February 2010, in response to a letter from the Shire in relation to funding options for the saleyards. The letter is self explanatory and somewhat superseded by subsequent market sounding workshops.

During discussion, the Chairman advised that he, the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer had recently had a meeting with Mr Redman in relation to this issue. Whilst the Shire's position was again put to the Minister, he was adamant that the current market sounding process would be followed through.

7 NEXT MEETING

4 May 2010.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.20 am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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