



SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

SECTION 5.9(2)(a) LGA 1995

Committee Brief

- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the strategic direction of the Saleyards;*
- *Make recommendations 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 recommendations 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
9.00am Tuesday 26 April 2017

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr J Oldfield, Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 226/15

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	ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER.....	2
6	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.....	3
6.1	MANAGER'S REPORT – 21 MARCH 2017 TO 18 APRIL 2017.....	3
6.2	SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2017	5
7	GENERAL BUSINESS	6
7.1	ALMA BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 2017 – REPORT BY MR M SKINNER.....	6
7.2	2017/2018 BUDGET AND FEES.....	7
7.3	SALEYARDS STRATEGIC PLAN	8
7.4	PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.....	8
8	NEXT MEETING.....	9
9	MEETING CLOSURE.....	9

Membership

Cr J Moir

Cr B Bell

Cr J Oldfield

Mr M Skinner

Cr L Handasyde (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

9.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr J Moir (Presiding Member)
Cr L Handasyde (Deputy for Cr Moir in his absences)
Cr B Bell
Cr J Oldfield
Mr M Skinner

Staff

Mr J Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Smith, Saleyards Manager
Ms E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Mr B Bell, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 28 March 2017 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 29 March 2017, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in the discussion on matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards until 30 April 2018.

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

5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER

Due to the restricted dispensation afforded to the Presiding Member, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Deputy Presiding Member for the remaining term of the Committee.

Cr J Oldfield nominated Cr B Bell for the position of Deputy Presiding Member and he indicated his willingness to accept the position. There being no further nominations, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Bell elected unopposed to the position of Deputy Presiding Member for the remaining term of the Committee.

6 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**6.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 21 MARCH 2017 TO 18 APRIL 2017****SALE DATA**

- Total sale numbers 3727 head.
- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- 23 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- One animal has been put down, none to pet food one to tip.
- 22 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 161 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Gate 2 Plate field day on 21 March at Willyung Farms had 300 attendees over the two days including 90 students from 6 different agricultural Colleges and High Schools. Sponsor displays and heifers and steers on view in the feedlot received significant interest. Stewart represented the Shire and Erika was MC for the day. The Schools Challenge was won this year by Harvey Agricultural School with Denmark runners up. Heifers were processed on 28 March and steers on 11 April. Presentation and dinner night will be at Southern End in Denmark on 19 May. Two names are required to be forwarded from the Shire to the Gate 2 Plate Committee as sponsors for the dinner.
- We have removed the curbing by the back door of the canteen as access was obstructed by the new tank.
- 30 March, sale day, a Friesian steer escaped and was recaptured at 8am the following day.
- 3 April Water Corp repaired the mains pipe leak between the main pipe and the meter. There should be no further issues with meter readings.
- 4 April Stewart and John Fathers attended the Biosecurity seminar.
- 6 April, 2115 head of cattle were in the yards with weighing starting at 1.55 am. 7am the power was disconnected for pole replacement. Although 95% of cattle had been weighed, no paperwork had been generated at that time. Temporary power was established with generator sets and compressors and the sale commenced on time. All cattle were vacated by 6am on the Friday morning.
- 10 April the new generator was delivered to the depot and is ready to be installed at the Saleyards. Mount Barker Electrics have been contacted to connect the generator to the power grid.
- With no sale over Easter the yards were thoroughly cleaned, all troughs dropped and scrubbed, ramps cleaned and the truck wash sump cleaned.
- 12 April, the Saleyards were attended by Darrel Drage, Hon Terry Redman, MLA, Cr Jeff Moir, Richard and Gloria O'Connor (local carriers) and John Fathers. Several issues were discussed, including the safety of ladders outside of public areas.

- The compound area and all ponds and banks have been sprayed for weeds in accordance with the license agreement.

Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner withdrew from the meeting.

Deputy Presiding Member Cr B Bell assumed the Chair.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

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

CARRIED

Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner returned to the meeting and Cr J Moir assumed the Chair.

6.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2017

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 26 April 2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 31 March 2017.

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 March 2017 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$768,973.00, which is \$82,862.00 below YTD budget. Of this, \$28,195.00 relates to non-cash expenditure. There are no significant operating variances. Overall YTD operating income is \$555,897.00, which is \$30,027.00 above YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are \$11,549.00 above YTD budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner withdrew from the meeting.

Deputy Presiding Member Cr B Bell assumed the Chair.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr J Oldfield, seconded Cr B Bell:

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

CARRIED

Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner returned to the meeting and Cr J Moir assumed the Chair.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS**7.1 ALMA BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 2017 – REPORT BY MR M SKINNER**

Board Meeting on the 23rd and 24th of February 2017 at Pullman Hotel, Brisbane.

ACCC SALEYARDS REPORT - ALMA's position is that it is not ALMA's role to be more visible in their discussions as it is not involved in operations of buyers and agents.

National Livestock Reporting Service - Kate McGilvray notified the Board that the National Livestock Reporting Service was still delayed in receiving throughput figures from West Australia and South Australia.

ANIMAL WELFARE - Welfare continues to be one of the Industry's greatest risks. Animals Angels has again contacted ALMA raising concerns and detailing animal welfare issues in saleyards - examples of unfit animals including hernia, uncut claws, blindness, animals in pain and with broken horns.

NSW FARMERS ASSOCIATION Q FEVER WORKSHOP.

Policy Issues - It's important not to look at Q fever as an occupational disease, we should frame it as a RURAL HEALTH issue. Doctors don't learn this as part of their undergraduate training, they're only exposed to it if they start working in a rural practice, where they're shown how to carry out and interpret the test.

Q fever has a much higher rate of notification (600 a year) than other zoonoses (around 20 a year). Q fever is the number one zoonosis in Australia and notification numbers are rising. Chronic Q fever has a mortality rate of 30 per cent, but health policy focus is on other diseases, e.g. meningococcal - there are 241 cases of meningococcal nationally as opposed to 206 of Q fever in NSW alone last year.

There are increasing notifications of Q fever caught from animals other than livestock. About 10 per cent of breeding cats carry the disease, and it is prevalent in macropods and bandicoots. People mowing lawns, groundskeepers and landscape gardeners have caught Q fever from kangaroo droppings. Ticks that bite kangaroos can carry Q fever - north coast unit identified 18 people whose only exposure to Q fever was from ticks. National Park rangers, wildlife carers and bushwalkers are also at risk. Recent work by a vet student looked 10 years of data from NSW, finding an increase in proportion of cases associated with wild animals from 2 to 20 per cent, urban areas are showing the greatest increase in Q fever cases.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS- Board numbers review.

The current Board has 12 members including an Australian Saleyards Managers (ASMA) nominee . All 2 year terms with 6 to stand down each year and can re nominate. They are looking at the option of going down to 9 or 7 members. A recommendation to go from the May meeting to the 2017 AGM in July.

Building Better Regions Funding (BBRF) \$297.7 million Australian Government funds. This program provides funding for infrastructure projects, e.g. new loading ramp. Stream open on 18-1-2017 and closed on 28-2-2017.

During discussion at the meeting held on 26 April 2017, it was suggested that ALMA and the Building Better Regions Fund be advised of the Shire's interest in securing funding such as this for a new loading ramp for the Saleyards.

Thereafter, Mr Skinner requested that consideration be given to his attendance at the ALMA AGM in July 2017, following which he will not be re-nominating for the Association.

7.2 2017/2018 BUDGET AND FEES

Similar to previous years, the administration has prepared a draft budget incorporating a throughput of approximately 62,000 head and a fee increase of 2%.

The Consumer Price Index (All Groups Perth) has increased by 0.4% from December 2015 to December 2016. The Local Government Cost Index has increased by 1.0% over the same period.

This scenario results in an operating surplus (excluding non-cash items) of \$105,412.00. It should be noted that the current arrangements provide for one third of the surplus to be transferred to the Operating Loss Reserve and two thirds to be made available for capital works.

That would result in the following amounts being transferred / available:

Saleyards Reserve Fund - Capital Improvements	\$70,275
Saleyards Reserve Fund - Operating Loss	\$35,137

Given the state of the economy and that the current income levels are meeting requirements, it is considered that a 2% increase in fees would be sufficient as it is that expenditure can be contained to approximately this level and assuming the current throughput remains steady.

The scenario includes the following new capital budget requests:

- Bitumen Repairs- \$25,000 - Additional – ongoing program.
- Outloading Bugle Ramp #6 - \$17,000 - Additional ramp since successful completion of first two ramp modifications in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.
- Installation of air-conditioning throughout the office block at a cost of approx. \$9,000.00.
- Replacement of lights on light towers to LED types as they are getting very dull at night. There are approximately 25 at \$1,000 each. A staged program over five years is proposed at \$5,000.00 per year.
- Long Wand and Logger – the long wand will cost approximately \$4,300.00; a price is being sourced on the data logger.
- Replace guttering on the weighbridge roof which is rusting out. – A price is being sourced for this.
- Install New Unloading Ramp – This was discussed with agents and a contact has been made with Opus for a design. This is flagged for information at this stage as grant funding will be sourced.

During discussion at the meeting held on 26 April 2017, members generally supported the proposals, with the exception that the lighting should be done all at once, instead of spread over five years. It was requested that a final budget be submitted to a meeting to be held in May 2017.

7.3 SALEYARDS STRATEGIC PLAN

Following the strategic planning session on 25 October 2016 and meetings with representatives of all three agents, this matter is placed before the committee for further consideration.

The amended draft Strategic Plan has been attached separately, as well as rough notes from each of the above sessions. Some further amendments have been suggested to assist in finalising the plan and input from the Committee is sought on the changes.

A summary of the changes is as follows:

- Photos have been updated.
- The Strategic Plan Framework section has been updated in several areas as a result of the above sessions. The main additions are:
 1. Be flexible in accommodating special sales and holding cattle for shipping trade.
 2. Aim to achieve higher cattle throughput, while recognising limitations and variables outside our control.
 3. Maintain a fee structure that suits relevant stakeholders.
 4. Continue to develop proposals and seek grant funding for the development of new infrastructure which meets strategic and/or operational goals.
 5. Consider opportunities for interfacing with electronic selling systems (AuctionsPlus and the like).
- The Performance Measurement section has been updated to remove successful de-sludging of settlement ponds as this has been carried out.

During discussion at the meeting held on 26 April 2017, members were satisfied with the draft strategic plan, with the exception that the photo on Page 5 should be changed and minor wording change in the 'Mission' to delete reference to 'state-of-the-art'. It was noted that the plan would be submitted to the Council for endorsement.

7.4 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.

Ruhi Ferdowsian provided a report in this regard, which provides some drilling options. The Saleyards Manager will arrange for the drilling tests to be carried out.

During discussion at the meeting held on 6 December 2016, members requested that a copy of this report be provided for the next meeting, so that the cost benefit of the likely water yield can be examined. The report is attached for information. During discussion at the meeting held on 31 January 2017, members considered that it was worthwhile to undertake drilling to assess the yield.

- Agents Agreements – The new agreements have now been sent out to agents. Draft procedures have been developed and form an addendum to the new Agents Agreements.
- 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.
- At its meeting held on 3 March 2015, the Committee noted the 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. Some preliminary enquiries have been made and one machine tested. An ideal machine has not yet been identified.
- During discussion at the meeting held on 21 June 2016 regarding advertising signage, the Committee considered that this matter be held over until the new roof has been constructed, with a view to determining advertising opportunities that may be realised on the new structure.

8 NEXT MEETING

23 May 2017.

9 MEETING CLOSURE

10.00am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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