



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,
10.00 am Tuesday 27 May 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

10.09 am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr M Skinner Presiding Member
Cr K Forbes
Cr S Grylls (arrived at 10.14am)

Staff

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

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 22 April 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.

10.14am Cr Grylls arrived at the meeting .

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

5.1 MANAGERS REPORT - APRIL 2008

Sale Data

(1/4/08 – 30/4/08)

Total April numbers including MSA Sales were 6,715 head.

168 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.

5 animals has been put down or removed.

146 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.

53 cattle have gone through for Private/Shipper Weigh Cattle.

General Business

(16/4/08 – 21/5/08)

We are continuing to replace sprockets and bushes on the lift gates.

Mice became a problem in the weighbridges and offices and baits have been laid.

AD Contractors removed sludge from the settling pond to Woogenellup Road from 23 April to 8 May 2008.

Amanda Brown started work on 21 April 2008 as a casual staff member doing washdown, troughs and weighbridge backup. Former Manager, Warren Lloyd finished on 9 May 2008.

Irrigation has continued on the hay paddock whenever possible.

During discussion at the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards Committee meeting held on 27 May 2008, members expressed the view that as many sprockets as possible should be replaced over winter, including all of those on the weighbridge.

The Acting Manager, Ms Appleby also advised that nine cattle coming in from Esperance had died in recent weeks. Ms Appleby also advised that the pump (storm water dam to tank) had been causing problems and Westerberg irrigation had been engaged to repair it.

With regard to the recent work done by AD Contractors to remove sludge from the settling ponds, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fathers advised that this work had largely been carried out, however not all of the sludge had been removed as the drying site on Woogenellup Road had been filled to capacity. Mr Fathers called on the Principal Environmental Health Officer, Mr Howard to advise on recent investigations on options to deal with the remaining sludge.

Mr Howard outlined the limitations in transporting liquid waste and advised that he was in discussions with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and Coffey Environments in relation to the possibility of mechanically broadcasting the waste onto paddocks in neighbouring properties. Members agreed that this would be worth pursuing and endorsed further investigations, including such action being

trialled at the Woogenellup Road site, depending on the agreement of neighbouring owners, DEC and advice from Coffey Environments on nutrient loading.

5.1 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 APRIL 2008

File No: CA/126/1

Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 27 May 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards (GSRCS) for the period ending 30 April 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. Income 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 M Skinner

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 WATER SAMPLING BY CHARLES WILLIAMS

Further to the Committee's recent query on water sampling by Charles Williams, Coffey Environments have advised as follows:

'With regards to using Charles Williams' lab, the primary issue is that he does not hold National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation, and it is a specific condition of the licence for the site that the analyses are undertaken by a NATA-accredited laboratory (see <http://www.nata.asn.au/go/home>). In simplest terms, using his lab is not possible until he has this accreditation. In general, it is a relatively expensive process to gain accreditation, as facilities must show they undertake extensive quality control procedures, and undergo yearly audits, so small labs generally do not find it worthwhile. However, from a regulatory perspective, this accreditation provides confidence that the results accurately reflect the concentrations of the elements of concern, and that results from one accredited lab are comparable to results from another.'

In reviewing results provided by Charles Williams' lab previously, we have noted order of magnitude differences between results for nutrients, compared with long-term historical data for the ponds as analysed by a NATA-accredited lab. This raises some concerns, although, as indicated above, the lack of accreditation is the fundamental issue. Kate McCormack has discussed this with Charles on several occasions, and though he clearly feels he should be undertaking the analyses, from the standpoint of licence compliance, we do not agree with him on this.'

The Committee noted this advice and that Mr Fathers would follow up with Mr Williams as to when his laboratory would be fully accredited.

6.2 APPLICATIONS FOR SALEYARDS MANAGER

Mr Fathers advised that six applications had been received for the position of Saleyards Manager and that all six applicants had been interviewed. A short list of two was proposed, who would meet with Committee members on the afternoon of Tuesday 3 June 2008.

6.3 MONITORING OF WASH DOWN WATER

Mr Fathers advised that a response had not yet been received from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development about the Committee's request for RIFP funds to be directed to the proposal for a waste water re-use scheme. Mr Howard indicated that in his recent analyses of wash down water, a recent sample had an elevated level of micro-organisms. It was advised that any waste water re-use scheme should incorporate an automated disinfection system to mitigate health risks. Mr Fathers and Mr Howard would continue to develop this proposal, when the Department's advice is received.

6.4 RECENT ACCIDENT – LANDMARK EMPLOYEE

Ms Appleby advised that a Landmark employee had been kicked by a cow on the Wednesday prior to the last sale and had suffered a slight fracture of his arm. All of the necessary paperwork had been provided to be completed by that person.

7 NEXT MEETING

10 June 2008

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.00m The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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