



## 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 held in the  
Committee Room, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324  
9.30am Tuesday 30 January 2018

Rob Stewart  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

#### Committee Members

*Cr J Moir, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde, Cr M O'Dea, Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative – 225/17*



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**Membership**

Cr L Handasyde - Presiding Member

Cr B Bell - Deputy Presiding Member

Cr J Moir

Cr M O'Dea

Mr M Skinner

Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for any member)

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

9.30am The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**Members Present

Cr L Handasyde (Presiding Member)  
Cr B Bell (Deputy Presiding Member)  
Cr J Moir (9.30am to 10.26am)  
Cr J Oldfield (Deputy for Cr O'Dea)  
Mr M Skinner (9.30am to 10.26am)

Apologies

Cr M O'Dea

Visitors

Cr B Lang

Staff

Mr R Stewart, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr J Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mr S Smith, Saleyards Manager  
Mrs E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Mr M Skinner:**

**That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 14 November 2017 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.**

**CARRIED**

**4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Part 5 Division 6 Local Government Act 1995

Cr J Moir

Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)  
Nature: Cattle Farmer and Employee of Elders  
Extent: Sell cattle through the Mount Barker Saleyards on average six times per year. Average number of cattle held is 80 head.  
Part time employee of Elders in a non-managerial position.

Mr M Skinner

- Type: Financial/Indirect Financial Interest (Section 5.60 (A) and 5.61 LGA)
- Nature: Hold equity in a farming enterprise of which my son owns/farms approximately 400 head of cattle.
- Extent: Son sells cattle through the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards approximately 8 times per year.

**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.



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**5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS****5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – 1 NOVEMBER 2017 TO 23 JANUARY 2018****SALE DATA**

- Total sale numbers 29,060 head (24,511 sale cattle, 4,549 special sales etc)
- There have been no cattle eligible for MSA sales in this time.
- 230 cattle have received replacement NLIS tags over this time.
- Twenty animals have been put down, 14 to pet food, 6 to tip.
- 471 bales of hay have been fed out over this time.
- There have been 1,603 cattle processed for Private/Shipper Weigh.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

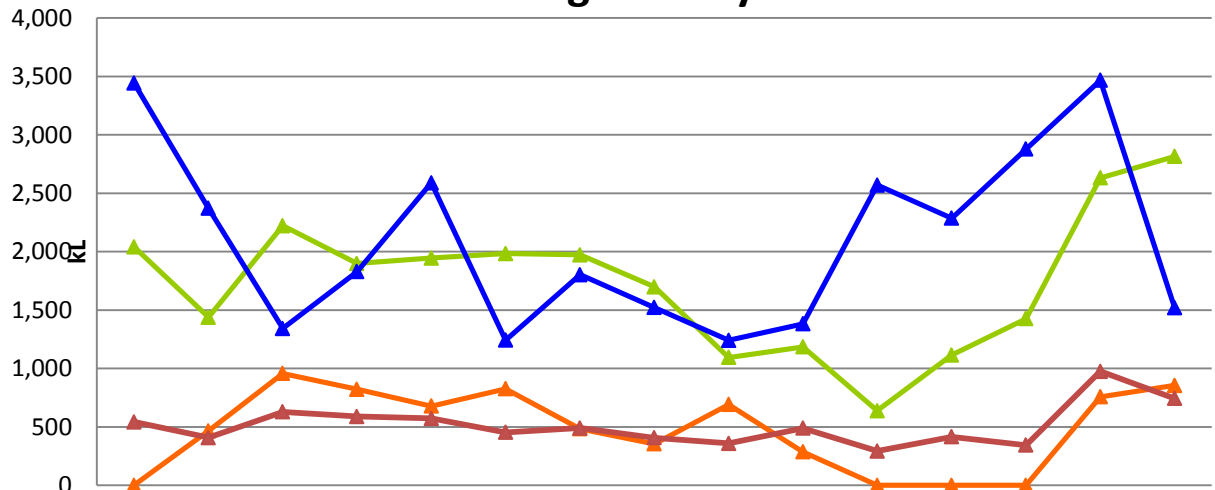
- On 10/11 November, the Albany Show was held at the new grounds with 75 head being shown at the cattle marquee. It was reported as the most number of people going through the cattle section in a long time. The Gate 2 Plate had a stand with Mount Barker Regional Saleyards banner being displayed on the ring.
- On Friday 17 November, one steer cut its right flank while being loaded on farm. It was sent to the yards and was pulled from the sale and was to be returned home. When the vendor came to collect animal in a trailer, the animal escaped and was last seen at the property next door. Paul's Pet Food attended onsite to destroy the animal but it had disappeared from that location. The police and ranger were informed of the stray and it was located on a small property with other cattle on Mount Barker Hill.
- On Saturday 18 November, seven bulls and two steers arrived at the yards for the following week's sale all the way from Wiluna, due to the vendor seeing our TV advertisement while on holiday in Esperance. He had the opportunity to send these cattle down when there was a truck in the area. He was very pleased with the service provided.
- On 23 November, the last prime sale was held before moving into double and triple sales. WA College of Agriculture year 10 students attended the sale.
- On 27 November, Plantagenet Sheds and Steel did some repair work to the Mitchell Yards. All costs were borne by Mitchells.
- On 28 November, the weighbridges were calibrated by Mettler Toledo with no issues.
- 30 November / 1 December was the commencement of Weaner Trade Sales. Numbers were 2,389 for the two days with 156 private weighs.
- On Saturday 2 December, all staff (Stewart, Erika, Simon and Brodie) worked in preparation of the Elders Special Weaner sale held on the following Tuesday 5 December. A total of 989 head were recorded with the average price 317.09 c/kg - \$1014.49 per head.
- On 11 December, while cleaning the manure under the fence opposite the office, the skid steer glass door was broken. It has now been replaced with a complete new door assembly as the old one was rusted.

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- On Thursday 14 December, there were 2,335 head for the weaner sale, followed up with Christmas party which was well attended with the majority going home by 8.00pm.
  - On Friday 15 December, the last trade sale for the year had 1,080 head. All staff worked on Saturday 16 December in preparation for the Elders Breeders sale on the following Monday 18 December.
  - On Monday 18 December, Elders Breeders sale was held with 516 head offered. Top price for Cows Pregnancy Tested in Calf (PTIC) was \$2,000.00, top price for Heifers PTIC \$2,175.00 and top price for Cow Calf unit was \$2,125.00.
  - On Thursday 21 December the last weaner sale was held for the year with 1,275 head offered.
  - On Friday 22 December, washdown was completed and all troughs were cleaned and emptied as there was a good chance of getting rid of excess algae.
  - On 27 December, Simon worked for half day doing truck wash and keeping the lawn alive.
  - On 29 December, all staff were back on deck in preparation for New Year's Day receivals.
  - On Monday 1 January, Stewart and Erika worked as we had 1,500 cattle here ready for the Landmark Special Angus Weaner sale the following day with 1,974 head, with average 328.02c/pkg - \$1,092.27.
  - On Wednesday 3 January, Gate 2 Plate cattle started arriving with all animals in the yards by Thursday 4 January. A total of 183 head were put in the new western yards on silage.
  - On Saturday 6 January, the Harvey Beef Gate 2 Plate field day was held with approximately 100 people in attendance to view competition cattle and listen to industry speakers. Sponsor displays enhanced the yards set up on the day which was well received by all. The furthest team came from Walkaway in the north to Esperance in the east. Forty different breed combinations were displayed. Gate 2 Plate animals left the yards on Monday via Zambonetti Transport to Willyung Feedlot for induction.
  - On Saturday 13 January, all staff again worked in preparation of the Landmark Breeder and Blue Ribbon Bull sale the following Tuesday. Bull pens went up on the lawn as normal and washdown was completed and troughs cleaned. Most of the breeder cattle arrived on Monday and were fed.
  - On Tuesday 16 January, the Landmark Breeder and Blue Ribbon Bull sale was held with 747 breeders offered. Top price for Cows PTIC was \$2,520.00, top price for Heifers PTIC \$3,020.00 and top price for unmated Heifer was \$1,700. A total of 61 bulls were offered with 47 sold and a number sold after the sale. Top price was Charolais \$8,750.00 at an average \$5207.45.

The sale started in the morning and so did the rain and as the sale progressed so did the rain. A total of 22.5mm was recorded at sale time. The rain finished when the sale did and then the sun came out.

- On Wednesday 17 January, all bull pens were dismantled and stacked back in shed.
- On Monday 22 January, Mount Barker Electrics were onsite to repair the main switch for the wash down pumps as it burnt out which has now put us behind with clean up from last week.
- On Thursday 25 January, there will only be a weaner sale with no trade sale on Friday because of Australia Day.
- Manure on site has been sold and removed in keeping with the environmental license, with 6 semi loads going out December/January.
- The irrigation diesel pump has been serviced; it has now done 8,737 hours.
- There has been a considerable push for repairs and maintenance over the last two months with many chains and troughs being broken, air lines letting go etc. There has been no real issues other than the volume of usage at this time of year always puts pressure on the facilities.
- Air conditioning has been very well received by all over the summer months.
- The LE Saleyards program has now been upgraded to the latest version with only Landmark's computer having issues. It will be resolved shortly.
- The entrance security camera has not worked for a period of time with Jason Thomas from '3point it' Denmark on site to diagnose and repair. We are waiting on parts for the repairs to be finalised.
- Depot staff were onsite to repair potholes in bitumen near the dispersal ramps.
- A new casual employee, Natalie Meade was appointed late last year to drive the other weighbridge and has handled the work with ease. She has been very positive throughout and has taken all issues in her stride. She only works on sale days being Thursday and Friday (no special sales).
- The latest water usage graph is shown below.

### Water Usage - Saleyards



	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17
Water in at Main	0	466	958	822	678	827	484	355	693	287	0	0	0	758	855
Truckwash	543	409	630	589	573	454	491	407	360	489	294	416	345	976	745
Wash Down	2,041	1,439	2,222	1,899	1,946	1,984	1,973	1,699	1,095	1,185	639	1,115	1,427	2,632	2,815
Irrigation	3,445	2,372	1,343	1,830	2,589	1,243	1,803	1,522	1,242	1,383	2,571	2,287	2,878	3,468	1,521

*During discussion, the average cattle mortality rate for truck transports was raised again. Further to the discussion at the meeting held on 14 November 2017, the Chief Executive Officer was requested to publicise fit to load requirements with a media release, within the Cattle Tales publication and on the Saleyards' website. Further that the TV advertisement be amended to include a scrolling message and that it be raised at the next series of meetings with stock agents.*

**5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

**File No:** CA/126/1  
**Responsible Officer:** Rob Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** John Fathers  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 30 January 2018

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to review the preliminary financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 31 December 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 December 2017 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall year to date (YTD) operating expenditure is \$545,550.00, which is \$36,320.00 below YTD budget. There are no significant variances.

Overall YTD operating income is \$279,703.00, which is \$9,459.00 above YTD budget. Weigh and Pen Fees are \$19,323.00 above YTD budget.

*During discussion, a query was raised in respect to the proposed irrigator, in particular whether it would be suitable for irrigating a crop. The suggestion was made that it may be beneficial to produce a crop which could effectively export nutrients off the property. It was also suggested that expressions of interest could be called for the waste water, which possibly could be utilised for nearby agricultural uses. It was agreed that a first course of action would be to identify the tenure of adjoining land.*

## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6.1 NEW SALEYARDS ROOF - NOISE**

Following a request from a member of the Committee, Manager Development Services Peter Duncan attended the site on 14 December to investigate the noise levels being produced by the weaners on sale day. His initial view was that there is not a serious noise issue.

He attended the yards twice on 4 January (7.30am and then at 11.00am), a weaner sale day. There were many weaners in the yards and although there was noise evident, he did not consider it an issue requiring remedial action.

He discussed the matter with Stewart and suggested that if any person had a problem with the noise, he could provide them with disposable ear plugs (which he has on site).

It was noted that any form of noise cancelling headphones would represent a possible danger as a person in the pen areas with these on, would not be able to hear an animal that was 'running amok' in the pens or the runs to be able to take evasive action. This is not the situation with the disposable ear plugs.

It is not planned to take any further action in this regard.

*During discussion, the view was expressed that the practice of not weaning calves before transporting to the Saleyards was likely having a weight loss impact. Experience from northern WA indicated that it may be in the interest of producers to wean calves from this perspective and that the Shire should advocate for weaning of calves.*

### **6.2 CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY**

*During discussion, a query was raised about the Shire's obligations in respect to new Chain of Responsibility laws and how this might relate or conflict with animal welfare requirements. Some direction was sought in this regard.*

### **6.3 2019 ALMA CONFERENCE**

*Following the discussion at the meeting held on 14 November 2017, Mr Skinner advised that Katanning Saleyards Manager has endorsed the idea of advocating for the 2019 ALMA conference to be held in WA and he will raise that with the Shire of Katanning administration. The Shire of Katanning could cater for it (Dome Hotel). There would be a focus on cattle and sheep. It was suggested that an ideal date would be later than normal, say late September 2019. Depending on the interest, Mr Skinner suggested that a joint working group be formed with the Shire of Katanning to co-ordinate.*

## 6.4 WEIGHBRIDGE ROOF - CORROSION

*During discussion, the Presiding Member identified that there was some corrosion on the cross bracing and some 'Z' purlins in the roof structure over the weighbridge area. It was suggested that some remedial work would be appropriate and that this might include cleaning down and application of Cold Gal paint. The Chief Executive Officer was requested to provide advice and possible budget allocation.*

## 6.5 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 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 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.
- 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, the Saleyards Manager indicated that he had not been able to identify any better type of machine that fits the requirements. The current skid steer has done about 3,000 hours so still has some life left. By the time it needs to be changed over, a similar machine would be most suitable.*

- At the meeting held on 14 November 2017, Mr Skinner advised that the Shire of Dubbo was installing new moulded bar soft floor matting into 220 new pens. It was requested that we attempt to get a sample of the new matting, which may be appropriate for the paint box areas.

## 7 OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS / VOTING

### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner withdrew from the meeting at 10.26am.

**Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr J Oldfield:**

**That:**

- 1. That the report of the Saleyards Manager, relating to current activities at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.**
- 2. The report of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, relating to the current financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be received.**

**CARRIED**

**8 NEXT MEETING**

27 February 2018.

**9 MEETING CLOSURE**

10.27am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

**CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_**