



SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

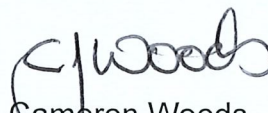
MINUTES

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;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding development works on the site;*
- *Make recommendations to the Council regarding the Saleyards Annual Budget; and*
- *Monitor the performance of the Saleyards and report back to the Council.*

A meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee
was held in the Committee Room,
Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324
11.30am Tuesday 20 December 2022.



Cameron Woods
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr J Oldfield, Cr B Bell, Cr L Handasyde and Cr M O'Dea - 178/21

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Membership

Cr L Handasyde (Presiding Member)

Cr J Oldfield

Cr B Bell

Cr M O'Dea

Cr A Fraser (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

11.30 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members Present

Cr L Handasyde – Presiding Member
Cr B Bell
Cr M O’Dea
Cr A Fraser (Deputy)

Apologies

Cr J Oldfield

Staff

Mr J Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr G Moore, Saleyards Manager
Mrs E Henderson, Assistant Saleyards Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 25 October 2022 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**5.1 MANAGER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022****Ablution Block**

This facility is now semi operational. All toilets, showers and washroom services are in use but the staff lunchroom is not. It still requires some sealing of the walls and floor covering to be done.

Soft Floor Matting

The matts have now been paid for and are ready for pickup and delivery to the yards. Zambonetti Transport will be engaged to transport the mats at a quoted price of \$1,200. We are aiming to have the mats on site some time before the new year, dependent on Zambonetti schedule.

Insurance Enquiry

A vendor / stakeholder has made enquiries / suggestions that the Saleyards should be financially responsible for payment for one of his animals that was destroyed at the yards after breaking its leg. The person concerned was informed that the Shire (saleyards) does not carry insurance to cover the cost of animals not owned by the Shire. It is the vendor or the purchaser's responsibility to take out transit insurance to cover any losses from livestock that are destroyed at the yards. He disagreed and believes it should be our responsibility.

DPIRD Weather Station

The weather monitoring station has now been installed at a site agreed upon at no cost or responsibility to the Shire.

Saleyards Annual Barbeque

After some discussion with the DCEO and the CEO, along with operating agents, we agreed to postpone this event to a more convenient time, that being after weaner/multi sale season. Late February or early March 2023 has been identified as the preferred time.

Container Roofing

I am still looking at options for this project but have contacted a local firm who produce various options for container roofing and asked them for a quote but they have not got back to me. I have tried to make contact several times but have been unsuccessful to this point so will keep looking for other options and report accordingly.

Saleyard Throughput Comparison

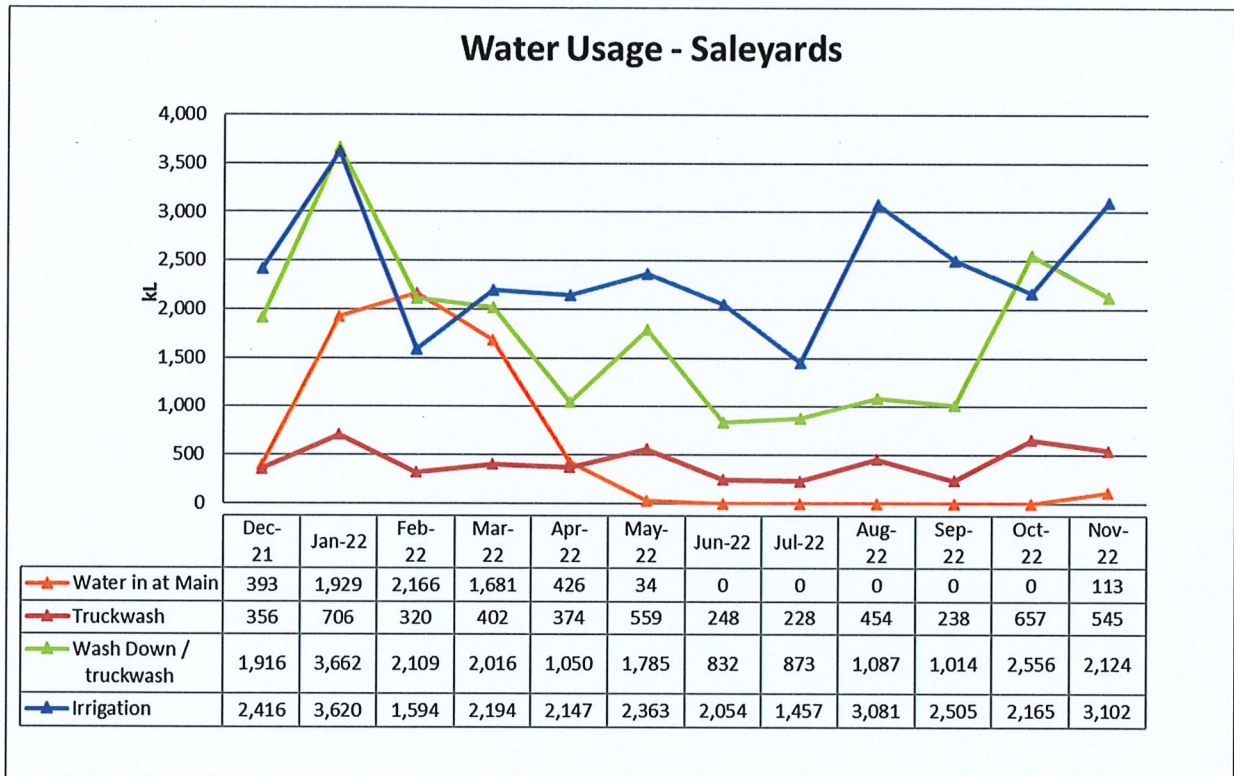
I have included this comparison as a guide for how saleyard numbers have been tracking and to give a better understanding of how lean the last couple of years has been.

- July 2022 to November 2022 = 12,920 head
- July 2021 to November 2021 = 19,316 head
- July 2020 to November 2020 = 23,147 head
- July 2019 to November 2019 = 23,923 head

Cattle Mortality Statistics

2016/2017	45
2017/2018	62
2018/2019	41
2019/2020	48
2020/2021	29
2021/2022	25
2022/2023 (to date)	10

The latest water usage graph is shown below:



VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

During discussion in regard to the insurance matter, a related query was raised about liability for cattle deaths during mass stock standstills. The administration was requested to seek advice from the Shire's insurers LGIS in this regard.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr A Fraser, seconded Cr M O'Dea:

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

CARRIED

5.2 SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 NOVEMBER 2022

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Cameron Woods
Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 20 December 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 30 November 2022.

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 30 November 2022 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information.

Overall operating expenditure is \$367,912.00. This is \$59,653.00 below the YTD budget.

There has been expenditure totalling \$229,834.00 on capital budget items to date, being the outloading bugle ramp (\$18k), canteen / ablution block (\$154K), soft floor mats (\$36k) and new pens (\$21k).

Operating income is \$199,502.00, which is \$4,285 below YTD budget; saleyards fees are now only \$1,114.00 below YTD budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr B Bell, seconded Cr J Oldfield:

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

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 UWA INVESTIGATION – WASTE WATER TREATMENT

During discussion at the meeting held on 23 August 2022, the Deputy CEO advised that he would seek advice from the Shire's environmental analyst as to whether he is in a position to carry out any of this testing.

Mr Williams from West Coast Analytical Services has been provided with the information and has taken some samples and begun the analysis, although it is early in the process.



The first samples are shown in the photograph, with the untreated sample on the left with all samples settling out after 4 hours.

The ones to the right are in sequence the same sample with increasing quantities of settling agent applied with the dark one on the end treated with activated carbon. There was very little difference after 24 hours.

A wider range of settling agents needs to be tried in Mr Williams' view and he is sourcing those. He has also attempted to clarify some issues with UWA, but it is assumed that UWA have begun their Christmas break.



In the above photo of a later test, the sample on the right shows settling achieved with the addition of Ferric Chloride.

6.2 NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE

During discussion at the meeting held on 23 August 2022 in regard to the National Livestock Reporting Service, members were generally of the opinion that market report has outlived its usefulness and had been taken over by electronic advice services provided by stock agents. Nevertheless, it was agreed to write to agents to seek their advice prior to a decision being made.

During discussion at the meeting held on 25 October 2022, the view was expressed that the Shire should retain the service for now, but ask MLA whether a streamlined service could be available.

Further, as this data is utilised for the compiling of the WA Young Cattle Indicator, the query was made as to whether the Boyanup saleyards also be represented. Therefore it was agreed that clarification be sought from MLA on the formulation of the 'WYCI'.

The following questions were posed to Meat & Livestock Australia.

1. Can you confirm that the market report data is used for compiling the WYCI and what other saleyard data is used to compile this. Our understanding is that the WYCI is a seven-day rolling average of young cattle from Muchea and Mount Barker. If that is correct, how did this arrangement come about and why would a key WA saleyards like Boyanup not also be represented in that pricing indicator?
2. Whether there are options for the level of service, and in particular whether a streamlined service could be available.

A response was received from MLA as follows:

To answer the two questions you have posed.

- 1. 'Yes, Mt barker is involved in the compilation of the WYCI and relies on the NLRS coverage to maintain this indicator. If you were to discontinue with the service, the WYCI would cease, as it then would only be reporting on Muchea cattle data. Boyanup was in the WYCI, however we had our market reporter retire and we have only just put in place a new LMO. We will endeavour to cover Boyanup in 2023, if they wish to be covered by the NLRS again. The specifics of the WYCI indicator can be found here western-young-cattle-indicator.pdf (mla.com.au) (See attached).*
- 2. We do not have different levels of service. Who pays the Mt Barker fee? The council? Some saleyards split fees between council and agents if that's helpful. The \$225/market is only a partial cost recovery for us, with full costs above \$600/day.*

Yes, the radio report is by far the most popular with all levy payers across the country for all markets.

Attendees, like agents, probably don't rely on the market report as much, however we do aim to appeal to all segments of agriculture and in particular levy payers/producers and in many circumstances this independent report would be crucial.'

During discussion, the Committee considered that the service represented a benefit to the cattle industry and that the fee should be met by the Shire and continue to form part of the fee structure. Nevertheless, it was considered that a representation be made to MLA that the Boyanup saleyards should also be included to more accurately reflect WA cattle prices.

6.3 AGENTS AGREEMENTS

Agents agreements are due to expire in January 2023. Staff have examined the agreements and propose to make two amendments, as shown on pages 5 and 8 of the attached, and comment from the Committee on these changes would be welcome. The reasoning is as follows:

Section 5.1 Delivery and responsibility of cattle.

Agents have agreed in consultation with the Saleyards Manager that weaner sales will now commence at 11.00am Thursday instead of 1.00pm so the earliest arrival time could now be made 6.00am the day prior to sale day.

Section 5.15 Employees

It is the responsibility of the selling agents to provide adequate staff numbers on the ground during the selling process ie. A minimum of two staff, one to paint mark any cattle for re-weighing and at least one other to remove those marked out cattle and present them to the sale yard staff for re-weighing It is not the responsibility of saleyards staff to remove these cattle for reweighing on completion of reweighing process. Saleyards staff will return animals to agent employees for putting back in pens.

One of the agents often does not have enough staff on sale days to perform their expected duties and we have been having to carry this out for them and on a few previous occasions they have not even had any one on the ground to paint mark these cattle and we also have done this for them in the interests of getting the sale completed and having all cattle ready for transporters but it is solely their responsibility.

The Shire should probably have a fee in place for such work if it is required.

During discussion, the Committee agreed with the proposed amendments and also supported the provision of a fee for work done by Saleyards staff that is the responsibility of agents.

7 NEXT MEETING

TBA.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

12.26 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: PRESIDING MEMBER _____ DATE: ___ / ___ / ___