



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 canteen,
Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, Mount Barker WA 6324
8.30am Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Paul Sheedy
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

*Cr J Moir, Cr L Handasyde, Cr M O'Dea, Cr J Oldfield, Mr M Skinner – Industry Representative –
210/19, 252/19*

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 | REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS | 3 |
| 5.1 | MANAGER'S REPORT – MARCH 2021 | 3 |
| 5.2 | SALEYARDS FINANCIAL REPORT – 28 FEBRUARY 2021 | 5 |
| 5.3 | POLICY ADOPTION – SALEYARDS - ALLOCATION OF LOADING AND SELLING POSITIONS AND OTHER SPACE TO STOCK AGENTS..... | 6 |
| 5.4 | SALEYARDS – 2020 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT .. | 12 |
| 5.5 | EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - BULK SALE OF MANURE.... | 16 |
| 6 | GENERAL BUSINESS | 18 |
| 6.1 | 2021/2022 BUDGET AND FEES | 18 |
| 6.2 | PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION | 18 |
| 7 | NEXT MEETING | 18 |
| 8 | MEETING CLOSURE | 18 |

Membership

Cr J Moir (Presiding Member)

Cr L Handasyde

Cr M O'Dea

Cr J Oldfield

Mr M Skinner

Cr S Etherington (Deputy for any member)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**Members Present

Cr J Moir – Presiding Member
Cr L Handasyde – Deputy Presiding Member (from 8.50am)
Cr J Oldfield
Mr M Skinner

Leave of Absence

Cr M O’Dea

Visitors

Peter Hassell – Elders
Wayne Mitchell – Elders
Leon Giglia – Nutrien
Harry Carroll – Nutrien
Steve Harris – West Coast Livestock

Staff

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

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr J Oldfield, seconded Mr M Skinner

That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, held on 27 January 2021 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, Sport and Cultural Industries via a letter dated 9 March 2021, giving permission for Cr J Moir and Mr M Skinner to participate in the discussion and limited decision making at the Saleyards Advisory Committee on matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the meeting held on 10 March 2021.

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 – MARCH 2021

Cattle Sales

The last of the stud bull / female sales for the year were conducted on 24 February 2021. The next round of these sales will commence in December this year.

The last of the double sales, that being Thursday weaner sale and Friday trade sale have also finished. It must be said that it was an exceptional season for the weaner sales with some record high prices not seen before in WA saleyards. We now will be conducting only prime sales to be held on Thursdays.

Saleyards staff

One new casual employee has been employed to help with the maintenance and to look after the truckwash and its associated plant and equipment and we have been taking applications for a casual washdown employee. We have identified a short list of candidates and together with the HR department we will be conducting interviews based on availability in mid March.

Covid-19 Update

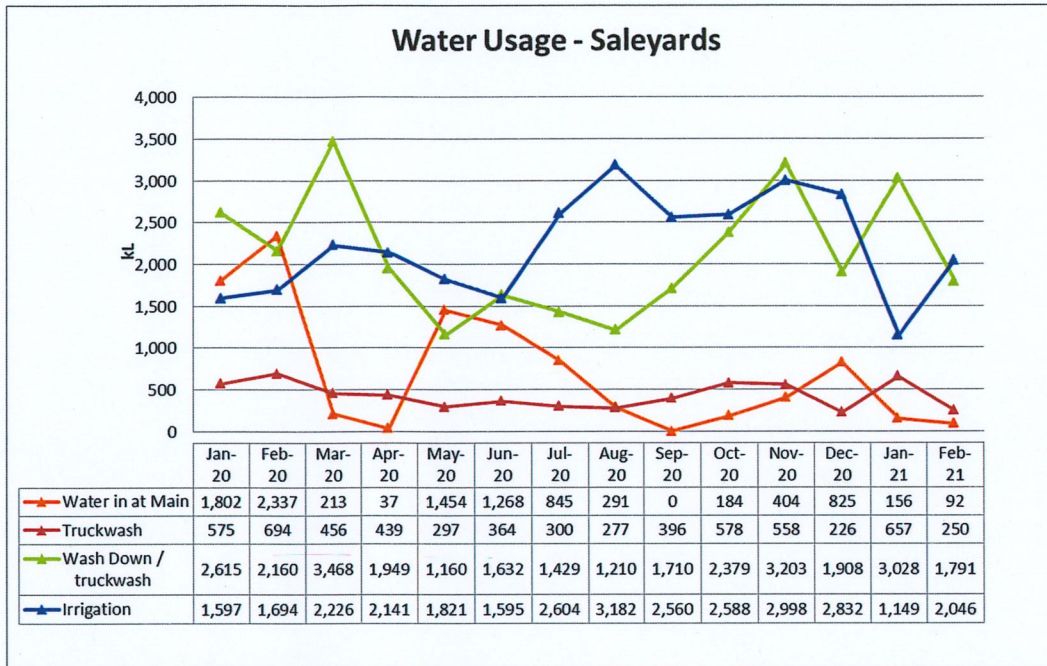
We still have some protocols in place for all stakeholders frequenting the yards:

- We are displaying social distancing signs throughout the facility.
- We have a hand wash / sanitiser station at the entrance to the selling yards.
- We have a contact register and scanning options at the entrance to the selling pens and at various locations around the facility.
- Entry to the yards is now channelled through one entry / exit point so as all people attending must go past the sign in / scan points and the sanitiser station
- Along with these protocols we are encouraging good hygiene practises and making sure toilets have adequate handwash available and encouraging anyone who may not be feeling well to go home or see a doctor.

Truckwash

Disappointingly, the new truck wash screens still have not arrived. I have had direct contact with the manufacturer several times to express my concerns and have been offered an apology and an assurance that he will make them a priority. I indicated the importance of getting them installed as soon as possible to him so hopefully we will get a result soon.

The latest water usage graph is shown below:



VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr J Oldfield, seconded Mr M Skinner

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 – 28 FEBRUARY 2021

File No: CA/126/1
Responsible Officer: Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 10 March 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to review the financial position of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards for the period ending 28 February 2021.

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 28 February 2021 position of operating and capital budget items is attached for information. Overall operating expenditure is \$559,926.00, which is \$42,879.00 below the YTD budget. While there has been higher depreciation than budgeted, the cash total is currently \$53,606.00 below the YTD budget.

There is still minimal expenditure on capital budget items at this stage.

Operating income is \$624,506.00, which is \$ \$93,065.00 above YTD budget, almost completely attributable to weigh and pen fees, due to strong early throughput.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Mr M Skinner, 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

5.3 POLICY ADOPTION – SALEYARDS - ALLOCATION OF LOADING AND SELLING POSITIONS AND OTHER SPACE TO STOCK AGENTS

File Ref: N54132
Responsible Officer: Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 10 March 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of new policy relating to the allocation of loading and selling positions and other space to stock agents at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards.

BACKGROUND

The Shire has received a request from AWN Livestock & Property for access to and use of the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards facility for auction sales. This application has been adjourned.

At the meeting held on 20 October 2020, the Chief Executive Officer was requested to prepare a draft policy position with regard to shared infrastructure and other relevant factors to mitigate occupational health and safety and other operating issues resulting from additional stock agents operating at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory implications for this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this report.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends the adoption of a new Council policy.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2017-2026 provides at Outcome 3.5 (Appropriate infrastructure that supports sustainable economic development) the following Strategy:

Strategy 3.5.5:

'Manage and maintain the Saleyards to ensure that the facility is successful and self-sustaining.'

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Strategic Community Plan.

OFFICER COMMENT

Selling Positions and Annual Rotation

The saleyards has been divided into three sections for loading and selling of cattle (one per agent). When the saleyards first opened, it was agreed that every 12 months (On 10 March each year, the anniversary of the opening of the facility) the two major agents (now Elders and Nutrien) would swap from the eastern side to the western side and vice versa. This was for reasons of equity in the use of the facilities. There are benefits in showing animals in the eastern pens as this is the access and congregation area for buyers.

The physical constraints of the saleyards are not conducive to three or more agents rotating. The 'middle' position should continue to be occupied by the agent(s) with the lowest average throughput. This is due to the location of the weighbridges to the selling pens and the logistics of moving cattle from dirt pens to the stacking pens and then to the weighbridges and interference with the other users coming off the opposing weighbridge.

In addition to this, the agents rotate selling positions each week (ie: which agent sells 1st, 2nd and 3rd.) For example, in week 1, the order will be Elders, Nutrien and West Coast Livestock. Week 2 will be Nutrien, West Coast Livestock and Elders. Week 3 will be West Coast Livestock, Elders and Nutrien.

This was introduced for reasons of fairness among agents as there is a benefit to selling earlier rather than later. In the event of a 4th agent, this same approach should apply. All of these things could be formalised in a policy position.

Office Space

There is a need for agents to have an office. The agents are responsible for the following, which requires a networked PC with access to the Shire's version of the LE Saleyards software (LESY):

Day before sale day:

- Agents enter in the NVDs onto LESY.
- Agents do online PIC check and Livestock Protection Assurance (LPA) check.
- Agents to provide NVD's to saleyards staff to scan them into the system.

Sale Day:

- Agents put in pen no's and mark no's into LESY and print penning sheets.
- Agents take buyers bids and enter into LESY.

- Agents liaise with saleyards staff to co-ordinate buyers and transporters among agents.
- Agents liaise with saleyards staff to confirm sale details in LESY are correct (saleyards staff then process the sale).

It is considered unlikely that agents will want to share office space and computers, due to potential access to each other's commercially sensitive information.

The policy position should be that, if office space is not available in the current building, prospective agents will seek approval to provide suitable accommodation with networked PC and access to the Shire's version of the LE Saleyards software, at their cost.

Allocation of receival ramps and pens

The allocation of receiving ramps and lairage/dirt pens are worked out on a throughput basis with figures based on the previous year's throughput (to 9 March), excluding breeder and special sales. Based on last year's figures:

- Nutrien has approximately 65% of the yarding they are allocated 4.5 receival ramps and one complete weighbridge with all stacking pens on that weighbridge.
- Elders with 32% have two receival ramps and share the other weighbridge with:
- WCL who have 3% of the throughput for the last changeover year and have half a receival ramp.

With their low throughput WCL, would be theoretically entitled to less than half a ramp (based on throughput share) but they are provided half at the moment as they need somewhere to unload their cattle. The lack of co-operation between agents has made this difficult and unworkable. From a policy perspective, it is considered that the market share allocation of ramps is appropriate, but that receival ramps (and adjoining drafting pens) not be shared; that is the allocation be rounded down.

Further, it is considered that all agents should have an allocation of a minimum of five lairage/dirt pens. While this gives smaller agents more pens in proportion to their cattle numbers, a minimum number of pens are required due to the variability of cattle sold.

Allocation of selling pens would be based on nominations, as is done currently.

As indicated in the report relating to the AWN application, permitting a fourth agent to operate at the saleyards is not supported by Saleyards staff without significant additional infrastructure.

Nevertheless, the following draft policy points are suggested if the Committee is inclined to recommend approval. It should be noted that the list is minimal as much of the decision making is operational and highly variable depending on particular circumstances. Further, some of the policy points are already well entrenched procedures.

Original Recommendation

If agreeable, the Committee could make a recommendation to the Council along the following lines.

That it be a recommendation to the Council that the following policy position be adopted with regard to saleyards operations and shared infrastructure to mitigate

occupational health and safety and other operating issues resulting from additional stock agents operating at the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards:

1. The saleyards is currently divided into three sections for loading and selling of cattle; Eastern, western and middle. On 10 March each year, the anniversary of the opening of the facility, the two major agents will swap from the eastern side to the western side and vice versa. The middle position will be occupied by the agent(s) with the lowest average throughput.
2. The stock agents will rotate selling positions each week (that is, which agent sells 1st, 2nd and 3rd etc). Whichever agent sells first one week, will sell second in the following week, with other agents moving up the order.
3. The allocation of receiving ramps and lairage/dirt pens will be determined on a throughput basis with figures based on the previous year's throughput (to 9 March), excluding breeder and special sales. Receiving ramps (and adjoining drafting pens) will not be shared; the allocation to be rounded down to the nearest single ramp.
4. Any agent participating in a sale will have a minimum allocation of five lairage/dirt pens.
5. If office space is not available in the current building, prospective agents will seek approval to provide suitable accommodation with networked PC and access to the Shire's version of the LE Saleyards software, at their cost.

During discussion at the Saleyards Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 December 2020, members requested that this item be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting, with the following amendments:

Item 1 – The middle sentence be amended to read:

'On 10 March each year, the anniversary of the opening of the facility, and for the following 12 months, the agent with the highest throughput will operate from the eastern side and the agent with the second highest throughput will operate from the western side.'

Item 5 – In this instance, the policy note that the annual entry fee would not apply.

At the Saleyards Committee meeting held on 27 January 2021, the Deputy CEO circulated a proposed amendment to Clause 3 of the policy recommending that the application of that clause is to be at the discretion of the Saleyards Manager depending on the circumstances on any particular sale day.

At its meeting held on 27 January 2021, the Saleyards Advisory Committee resolved:

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That new Council Policy TU/S/1 – Saleyards - Allocation of Loading and Selling Positions and Other Space to Stock Agents, as follows:

OBJECTIVE:

To:

1. *Allocate Saleyards infrastructure to stock agents in a fair and operationally efficient manner and to mitigate occupational health and safety risks.*
2. *Determine a position with regard to office allocation in the event of additional stock agents requesting to operate at the facility.*

POLICY :

1. *The saleyards is currently divided into three sections for loading and selling of cattle; Eastern, western and middle. On 10 March each year, the anniversary of the opening of the facility, and for the following 12 months, the agent with the highest throughput will operate from the eastern side and the agent with the second highest throughput will operate from the western side. The middle position will be occupied by the agent(s) with the lowest average throughput.*
2. *The stock agents will rotate selling positions each week (that is, which agent sells 1st, 2nd and 3rd etc). Whichever agent sells first one week, will sell second in the following week, with other agents moving up the order.*
3. *The allocation of receiving ramps and lairage/dirt pens will be determined on a throughput basis with figures based on the previous year's throughput (to 9 March), excluding breeder and special sales. Receiving ramps (and adjoining drafting pens) will not be shared; the allocation to be rounded down to the nearest single ramp. The application of this clause is to be at the discretion of the Saleyards Manager depending on the circumstances on any particular sale day.*
4. *Any agent participating in a sale will have a minimum allocation of five lairage/dirt pens.*
5. *If office space is not available in the current building, prospective agents will seek approval to provide suitable accommodation with networked PC and access to the Shire's version of the LE Saleyards software, at their cost. In this instance, the annual entry fee will not apply.'*

be adopted.

At its meeting held on 23 February 2021, following a presentation by the team from Elders, the item was adjourned to enable the Saleyards Advisory Committee to consult with agents about the proposed policy. Elders made the suggestion that the agent that sells first in the weekly roster work from the eastern side; ie: a weekly rotation.

The Chairman has agreed that reps from each agent be invited make comment on and discuss for 5-10 minutes (in turn) the policy in general and Elders suggestion in particular.

At its meeting held on 10 March 2021, the Saleyards Advisory Committee met with all agents individually. Elders continued to advocate for a weekly rotation of agent selling position and that the allocation of ramps on sale days more reflect the daily cattle nominations. Nutrien fully supported the policy as recommended, subject to clarification that 'selling positions' in Clause 2 means 'sale order'. West Coast Livestock fully supported the policy as drafted.

The Saleyards Advisory Committee considered that the suggestion by Elders would create an unacceptable logistical and occupational health and safety issues and resolved to recommend that the policy be adopted, with two changes. Such changes are that the words 'selling positions' in Clause 2 be amended to read 'sale order'. Further, that Clause 2 be amended to incorporate a discretion for the Saleyards Manager to alter such selling order if the circumstances on a sale day warrant it.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Mr J Oldfield

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That the adjourned motion be amended in Clause 2 of the Policy by deleting the words 'selling positions' and replacing them with the words 'sale order' and adding the words 'The Saleyards Manager may, at his discretion, alter this arrangement if the circumstances on a sale day warrant it.' at the end of the clause.

CARRIED

5.4 SALEYARDS – 2020 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

File Ref: CA/126/1

Attachment 2020 Annual Environmental Report (Separate attachment)

Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Author: John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: 10 March 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the 2020 annual environmental report for the Saleyards, as prepared by the Shire and West Coast Analytical Services.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Annual Environmental Report has been prepared to satisfy conditions of the Licence Number L7407/1998/9. The reporting requirements as specified in the licence are: contained in Conditions 18-20, as follows:

'18. The licensee shall, using the data collected in accordance with conditions 12 and 14, determine the contaminant loads discharged over the irrigation area for the parameters stated in Column 1 of Table 3 at the frequency stated in Column 2 of Table 3 and in the corresponding units stated in Column 3 of Table 3'.

Table 3: Calculation of Contaminant Load

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parameters | Calculation frequency | Units |
| (i) Total Nitrogen; (ii) Total Phosphorus; (iii) Biochemical Oxygen Demand; (iv) Total Dissolved Solids; and (v) Total Suspended Solids. | Monthly and Annual Loads | Kilograms per day |
| (i) Total Nitrogen; (ii) Total Phosphorus; and (iii) Biochemical Oxygen Demand. | Annual Load | Kilograms per hectare per year |

19. *The Licence Holder shall provide the CEO, by 1 March each year, an Annual Environmental Report containing data collected for 1 January in the previous year to 31 December of that year. The report shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to:*
- (a) the total number of animals held on site on a monthly basis;*
 - (b) monitoring data or other collected data required by any condition of this licence (data should be provided in tabular and in graphical format);*
 - (c) an assessment of the data collected against all limits set in this licence;*
 - (d) an explanation of the data in comparison with past data collected over the previous three years, and known applicable guidelines and standards;*
-

-
- (e) *a discussion of the operation of the project, compliance with conditions, and environmental performance to date;*
 - (f) *any issues raised from inspections or incident responses during the reporting period together with details as to how these have been addressed or, if the required work has yet to be completed, how and when they will be completed; and*
 - (g) *any changes to site boundaries, location of groundwater monitoring bores, surface drainage channels and on-site or off-site impacts or pollution.*
20. *The Licence Holder shall by 1 March in each year, provide to the CEO an Annual Audit Compliance Report indicating the extent to which the Licence Holder has complied with the conditions of this Licence, during the period beginning 1 January the previous year and ending on 31 December in that year.'*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2017-2026 provides at Outcome 3.5 (Appropriate infrastructure that supports sustainable economic development) the following Strategy:

Strategy 3.5.5:

'Manage and maintain the Saleyards to ensure that the facility is successful and self-sustaining.'

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Strategic Community Plan.

The Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2016/2017 – 2020/2021 also includes Action 3.5.5.2 *'Ensure compliance with DEC environmental licence and other relevant requirements'*.

OFFICER COMMENT

The Executive Summary of the report includes the following comments:

Water Discharge

A total of 27,838 kl of water was discharged via the licensed irrigation system. Total volume discharge was approximately 21% higher than in 2019. The Saleyards was non-compliant with licence limits relating to total TN and TP loadings in 2020.

Ponds Surface Water

Surface water quality observed in the ponds for 2020 showed variable trends in SW1 and SW2 for BOD with declines in the former and rises in the latter. BOD levels in all ponds were elevated in March.

Rises in nutrients were seen in SW1 and SW2 whilst the levels declined in SW3 and were characterised by elevated levels in late summer with the levels not as elevated in SW2.

Water quality parameters were variable whilst the levels for the same parameters in SW3 were typical and unremarkable.

Total and Suspended Solids levels were variable and also characterised by elevated levels in early and late summer.

Monitoring Bores

Overall, water quality across all MBs was variable in 2020 when referenced to 2018 and 2019. The most fluctuation was seen in MBs 5, 6 and 7, with results mostly varying for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorous whilst fluctuations were also seen in salinity levels in bores 2, 5, 6, and 7.

At variance to previous years, ranges for pH for all MBs were not remarkable and a larger range was evident compared to 2019.

Total Nitrogen levels for the Bores MB4, MB5, MB6 and MB7 typically remained higher than their boundary located counterparts MBs 1, 2 and 3. The most significant change was observed in MB4, and to a lesser extent MB7 which displayed a rising trend with recent results being higher than years past.

Total Phosphorous levels for all MBs were variable with moderate rises seen in MBs 1, 2, 3 with the previously reported rising trend seen in MB4, and MB6.

Irrigation loadings for 2020 are shown in the table below.

| Waste Water Discharge | Actual Loadings discharged to irrigation |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nitrogen | 215.36 kg/ha/yr |
| Phosphorous | 37.29 kg/ha/yr |
| BOD | 0.75 kg/ha/day |

Three breaches in licence conditions were reported:

The loading rate limit for Nitrogen is 180 kg/ha/yr, whereas the actual loading rate was 215.36 kg /ha/yr. The loading rate limit for Phosphorous is 20 kg/ha/yr, whereas the actual loading rate was 37.29 kg /ha/yr. A number of factors have contributed to the breaches.

During the year, the coagulant caused a blockage in the washdown pipework running into the concrete bunker and the Anycoag dosing system was taken off line. At this stage the system is still offline, pending a review of March Phosphorous levels. This is expected to be a contributing factor towards higher than normal Phosphorous levels in March and December in particular.

Further, the second primary pond was also cleaned of sludge in March 2020 and the system was not put back online, pending expectation of possible works being carried out.

This was further exacerbated by above average irrigation volumes in 2020. This was due to exceptional mid year rain events and higher than normal wash down requirements making it difficult to keep pond levels below the maximum level. There is little leeway due to limited freeboard and prevention of overflow.

Where possible, irrigation is being minimised, although we still need to keep SW1 pond levels below the licence requirement. The system is again running with one fully

clean pond running to the irrigation pond. It is hoped that the TN and TP concentration will be reduced accordingly.

It was noted that the Shire and UWA have been in discussion about solutions and improvements to the waste water treatment system and have agreed on a brief for the project and have entered into a research agreement to take place throughout 2021.

Some weeds and grasses emerged on the pond banks. The spraying program has been largely successful, however, has not completely prevented all emergent weed and grass growth.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Mr M Skinner

That the 2020 Annual Environmental Report for the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, be noted.

CARRIED

5.5 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - BULK SALE OF MANURE

File Ref: CA/126/1
Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Author: **John Fathers**
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Proposed Meeting Date: **10 March 2021**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of expressions of interest for bulk sale of manure from the saleyards.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 8 December 2020, the Saleyards Advisory Committee resolved *'that expressions of interest be called for the bulk disposal of manure.'*

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

The Council's annual schedule of fees and charges includes provision for sale of small quantities of manure.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Council's 2020/2021 annual budget provides for income of \$5,000.00 from the sale of manure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Current income for the sale of manure is \$55.00. The ability to bulk sell manure should result in a substantial increase in income.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications do not apply for this report and it is the opinion of the author that policy development is not required.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Shire of Plantagenet Strategic Community Plan 2017-2026 provides at Outcome 3.5 (Appropriate infrastructure that supports sustainable economic development) the following Strategy:

Strategy 3.5.5:

'Manage and maintain the Saleyards to ensure that the facility is successful and self-sustaining.'

Accordingly, the recommended outcome for this report aligns with the Strategic Community Plan.

OFFICER COMMENT

The fee in the budget for sale of manure at the saleyards has been established based on a fair value for small quantities, mainly for household use. It is not necessarily appropriate for larger quantities supplied to soil conditioning firms or other potential users, particularly when there is a benefit to the Shire in such persons removing the manure at the Shire's request.

Advertising of the expressions of interest has now been carried out and closed on 4 March 2021. General conditions of the expression of interest were as follows:

- The actual amount taken on each occasion will be agreed between the purchaser and Saleyards Manager.
- The prospective purchaser will be under no obligation to take manure when offered, but if manure is taken it will be at the cost made in this offer.
- The period of validity of the offer is for the period from Council determination (anticipated March 2021) until 30 June 2022.
- The highest or any offer will not necessarily be accepted. Multiple offers may be accepted.

Two submissions were received, as follows:

- Nial Twigger \$5.00 per m³ (incl GST)
- Geoff Mather \$2.00 per m³ (incl GST)

Both submissions indicated that they have the equipment needed to load bulk manure. Neither submission had any other conditions or requirements.

Given that only two submissions were received, but that they are unconditional, It is considered that both expressions of interest be accepted. The higher value submission from Mr Twigger would be given the first option on each occasion. If he is not in a position to take the manure, Mr Mather be given the opportunity.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr L Handasyde, seconded Cr J Oldfield

That it be a recommendation to the Council that:

That the following expressions of interest for bulk disposal of manure from the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards, for the period from acceptance until 30 June 2022, be accepted:

1. Nial Twigger \$5.00 per m³ (incl GST);
2. Geoff Mather \$2.00 per m³ (incl GST).

CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 2021/2022 BUDGET AND FEES

It is intended to present the budget proposals at the next meeting. In the interim, the usual information is provided, with options at 1% and 2% increases.

The Consumer Price Index (All Groups Perth) has decreased by 0.1% from December 2019 to December 2020. WALGA will not be releasing an update to the Local Government Cost Index until the medium term outlook becomes more certain.

Recent throughput, CPI and fee increases are shown below:

| Year | Throughput | CPI | Fee Increase |
|---------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2013/14 | 69,010 | 2.5% (2012/13) | 4% |
| 2014/15 | 69,661 | 3.3% (2013/14) | 3% |
| 2015/16 | 62,657 | 1.2% (2014/15) | 3% |
| 2016/17 | 65,039 | 0.5% (2015/16) | 2% |
| 2017/18 | 67,711 | 0.7% (2016/17) | 2% |
| 2018/19 | 68,230 | 1.3% (2017/18) | 1% |
| 2019/20 | 75,943 | 0.1% (2019/20) | 2% |
| 2020/21 | 49,444 to February 2021 | | |

Overall, each 1% fee increase would result in approximately \$8,000.00 more in income. Guidance is sought on appropriate fee movements, given continued strong pricing and recent fee increases. Last year, the main cattle weighing and penning fees increased by around 2%. NLIS tagging, transit cattle and crush fees have increased consistently over the last few years.

During discussion, it was agreed to bring this matter back to the next committee meeting. Further, costings and information was sought on a proposal to complete the south western pens and split up some of the bigger western pens.

6.2 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- 8 December 2020 – That a further quotation be sought from Modus to fully install the building as shown in its proposal and the CEO be requested to finalise design drawings of the endorsed building concept so that quotations can be sought for further consideration and funding.
A quote from Modus has been sought received. Information has been provided to a building designer to prepare drawings.
- At a recent meeting, it was agreed to hold meetings with agents in June 2021.

7 NEXT MEETING

April 2021.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

11.53am The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

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



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

Our ref PL1-7#05; E2112497
Enquiries Adam Ford
Phone (08) 6552 1701
Email Legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Mr John Fathers
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Plantagenet
PO Box 48
MOUNT BARKER WA 6324

Dear Mr Fathers

I advise that I have approved your request to allow Cr Jeff Moir and Mr Michael Skinner to fully participate in the discussion and decision making on matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards at the meeting of the Saleyards Advisory Committee (Committee) of 10 March 2021.

My decision to approve your request is made on the basis that the Committee is not afforded any decision making ability (apart from procedural related decisions) and that all matters for decisions relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards are referred to Ordinary and Special Meetings of the Council.

This approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The approval is only valid for the Committee meeting of 10 March 2021;
2. The approval is not valid for any matter of the Committee that may lead to expenditure from general revenue in excess of that advertised in the Annual Budget. However, if Council considers that Cr Moir or Mr Skinner should be allowed to participate in Committee discussions that may lead to expenditures in excess of those indicated in the Annual Budget, then Council should seek a further approval and provide reasons for the request;
3. Cr Moir and Mr Skinner must declare the nature and extent of their interests at the Committee meeting when the matter is considered, together with the approval provided;
4. The CEO is to provide a copy of this letter of approval to Cr Moir and Mr Skinner;
5. The CEO is to ensure that the declarations, including the approval given and any conditions imposed, are recorded in the minutes of each Committee meeting, when the relevant matters are considered; and
6. The approval granted is based solely on the interests disclosed by Cr Moir and Mr Skinner made in accordance with the application dated 03 March 2021. Should other interests be identified, these interests will not be included in this approval and the financial interest provisions of the Act will apply.

Please note that this approval does not extend to Cr Moir's participation in matters relating to the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards considered at Council meetings. This would be subject to a further request for approval under the Act.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Adam Ford, Legislation Officer via the details provided above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Holbrook".

Jodie Holbrook
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

9 March 2021