
**SALEYARDS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2025 COMMENCING AT 8:36 AM**

PRESENT

Councillor Scott Groat (Chair), Councillor Doug Curran, Donald Barbaro (Community Representative), Grant Elwin (Community Representative), Rodney Evans (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon and Minute Secretary, Jessica Bertacco

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Doug Curran and Donald Barbaro that apologies be received from Councillor Christine Stead and Team Leader - Saleyards, Les Warren.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

3 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Doug Curran and Grant Elwin that the Committee adopt the Terms of Reference attached to the report.

CL02 PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2025

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Rodney Evans and Donald Barbaro that the Committee note the proposed meeting dates for 2025.

CL03 INDUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - MANDATORY

The Committee noted that the Induction will be presented at the next meeting for the Saleyards Committee on 22 July 2025.

CL04 GRIFFITH LIVESTOCK MARKETING CENTRE - ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (EID) TAGGING SYSTEM

Mr Gordon provided the Committee with an update on the Electronic Identification (EID) Tagging System. He expressed his appreciation to the Saleyards Team for their efforts and cooperation during the transition to e-tagging.

Mr Elwin raised a request to explore the possibility of submitting vendor paperwork from their main office. Currently, they are required to send additional staff to the Saleyards to upload vendor details and the number of sheep being sold, which has been logistically challenging.

Mr Barbaro inquired about the timeline for when sales will begin to be officially recorded and when speaker systems will be installed. Graham has taken note of the matter and will investigate further.

CL05 GRIFFITH LIVESTOCK MARKETING CENTRE

Mr Gordon provided an update on the number of sheep processed through the Saleyards. The target is to reach 400,000 sheep by 30 June 2025, and as of now, 398,000 sheep have already passed through the yards.

Councillor Scott Groat asked how \$210,000 in revenue will be utilised. Mr Gordon explained that the long-term goal is to install coverings over the pens, with the total estimated cost being \$7.6 million.

Mr Gordon also informed the Committee that Council are applying for approval from Department Climate Change Energy Environment and Water to facilitate irrigation at the holding yards using treated water from the Water Reclamation Plant. The committee discussed ideas and strategies for moving this initiative forward.

Mr Barbaro requested that water troughs be installed, or made operational, in the front yard pens, highlighting that some clients bring sheep that haven't had water for a few days. Mr Evans supported this request, showing a photo example of water troughs at Ballarat as a potential model.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Fencing and Yard Maintenance

Mr Barbaro reported that sheep had pushed against a back post, splitting the pole, which will likely need repairs. In response, Graham Gordon suggested conducting an audit of the fencing throughout the yards to identify other potential issues.

Mr Evans raised concerns about the proliferation of weeds throughout the Saleyards, noting that the issue is becoming unmanageable. He specifically identified a weed known as Devil's Claw, which has grown to approximately hip height, and emphasised that immediate attention will be required to address the situation.

Request for Improved Communication

Mr Evans requested that there be more liaising and communication regarding ongoing projects and installations. He gave the example of the lift ramps, stating he was unaware of the installation plans and, as a result, could not adequately prepare for the changes.

Strategic Plan for Saleyards

There were discussions about developing a strategic plan for the future of the Saleyards. One idea raised was the potential removal of the cattle yards to create additional parking or yard space, though this remains a topic for further consideration and planning.

5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Saleyards Committee is to be held on 22 July 2025 at 8:30am.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 9:30am.