
**SALEYARDS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 8:30 AM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 p4 Livestock Feed Curfew Before Transport
- CL02 p19 Items raised by Councillor Scott Groat
- 6 p21 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Team Leader – Saleyards, Les Warren and Minute Secretary, Jessica Bertacco

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**SALEYARDS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 8:30 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, Team Leader - Saleyards, Les Warren and Minute Secretary, Jessica Bertacco

BY INVITATION

Gavin Evans (Spencer & Bennett), Jess Spencer (Spencer & Bennett), Brooke Cowan (Department of Primary Industries) (via Zoom)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Rodney Evans and Grant Elwin that an apology be received from Councillor Christine Stead.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Rodney Evans and Grant Elwin that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 October 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Proposed New Water Troughs

Les Warren requested that the Agents provide quotes for 25 x Livestock Troughs.

3.2 EID Tagging System/Software Programs

Brooke Cowan was invited to speak about the EID tagging system. The Committee discussed the efficiency of the EID readers, the available software options, and the program currently used at the Griffith Saleyards.

They further discussed the current software and noted the lack of support from Outcross Systems, along with the ongoing errors in the program.

Spencer & Bennett informed the Committee they tested a different software program called Agrinous, which they believe works better and is now used by most agents and saleyards in NSW. Mr Gordon will contact a representative from the Outcross System software and report back at the next meeting.

4 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 less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Brooke Cowan left meeting via Zoom at 9:13am

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 SALEYARDS BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS

Mr Gordon presented and explained the Saleyards Budget and Operation Costs report.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Rodney Evans and Grant Elwin that the committee noted the report.

Councillor Doug Curran left the meeting at 9:50am.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Donald Barbaro and Rodney Evans that the report be noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Roof Structure

Committee members discussed the need for a roof structure at the Saleyards. Mr Gordon noted that he has received a rough estimate for a skillion style roof without solar. This cost is expected to rise over time.

7.2 Landscape of Saleyards

The Committee discussed creating a masterplan to improve the Saleyards by adding more trees and improving the landscape.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Saleyards Committee is to be held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 8:30am.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 10:05am.

CLAUSE CL01

TITLE Livestock Feed Curfew Before Transport

FROM Graham Gordon, Director Utilities

TRIM REF 26/12858

SUMMARY

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has guidelines for Livestock curfew for rules and regulations before transporting. These recommendations are based on scientific research to optimise animal health and welfare, and food safety and meat quality.

Type of feed	Feed Curfew		Water
Lush pasture	Cattle 12 hrs	Sheep 24 hrs	Provide clean water up to time of transport
	provide dry feed source		
Dry feed/ pasture	No curfew		

RECOMMENDATION

Council to Draft a Policy based on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) guidelines.

REPORT

Please see flyer attached.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management, strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability resilience and informed decision making.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Livestock Feed Curfew Before Transport [!\[\]\(3292f5442e3b4027aa0bb60988f9fc82_img.jpg\)](#)  5
- (b) Facebook Comments - 25 January 2026 [!\[\]\(655843b308847eeb6852edac6d504d04_img.jpg\)](#)  7



LIVESTOCK FEED CURFEW BEFORE TRANSPORT

All livestock should have access to clean water up to the time of transport

Cattle and sheep should be taken off lush pasture and green feed for 12 and 24 hours respectively before transport. Consider the body condition, health status, age of the animal, transportation time and environmental conditions. An alternative dry feed source, such as cereal or pasture hay, should be provided when livestock are taken off lush pasture and green feed.



Provide clean water up to the time of transport



Take off lush pasture & green feed from 12 hours, and up to 24 hours before travel



Provide alternative dry feed source - pasture or cereal hay



You are responsible for the welfare of your stock

Maintaining animal welfare standards drives productivity and is your legal obligation

FEED CURFEW DURATION FACTORS TO CONSIDER



Animal factors:

Breed and age
Body condition
Reproductive status



Environmental factors:

Season
Temperature and humidity
Time of day



Management factors:

Transport stocking density
Handling and mustering method
Duration of transport

Type of feed	Feed Curfew		Water
Lush pasture	Cattle 12 hrs	Sheep 24 hrs	Provide clean water up to time of transport
	provide dry feed source		
Dry feed/ pasture	No curfew		

More information www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/livestocktransport.

LIVESTOCK FEED CURFEW BEFORE TRANSPORT



WHY?

Livestock are withheld from lush pasture and green feed before transport to help manage effluent production and reduce faecal contamination.



ACCESS TO WATER

All livestock should have access to clean water up to the time of transport. Make sure the total time without water meets the guidelines for the species and age of the individual animals.



FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Recommended curfew durations before the transport of livestock hinge on 3 factors:

1. Animal factors

Before implementing feed curfews, it is important to consider the breed, age, and class of the animal

- Lactating animals should have minimal curfew periods
- Livestock with low body conditions should have a maximum of 4 hours feed curfew and free access to water. Dry feed should be provided until the time of transport.
- Late pregnant animals should have minimal curfew, and a transport time of less than 4 hours to their final destination.

2. Environmental factors

It is important to consider the season in which you are transporting animals, including the temperature, humidity and time of day. It is recommended to transport animals at dusk or dawn to avoid the heat of the day during hot weather.

3. Management factors

These factors can be influenced by the person in charge of the animals. Consider how the animals are handled and mustered to give them appropriate time to recover, total transport time and transport stocking density.

LEGISLATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal welfare is a shared responsibility of everyone in the transport chain, including stock owners and managers, transport operators, saleyard personnel, livestock agents and stockpersons.

Everyone must understand their roles and responsibilities under the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 \(POCTA\)](#). When transporting livestock everyone must comply with the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(Land Transport of Livestock\) Standards 2013](#).

[Welfare scoring nutritionally deprived beef cattle, dairy cattle and their crosses, sheep and horses](#) is a valuable resource, referred to under POCTA.

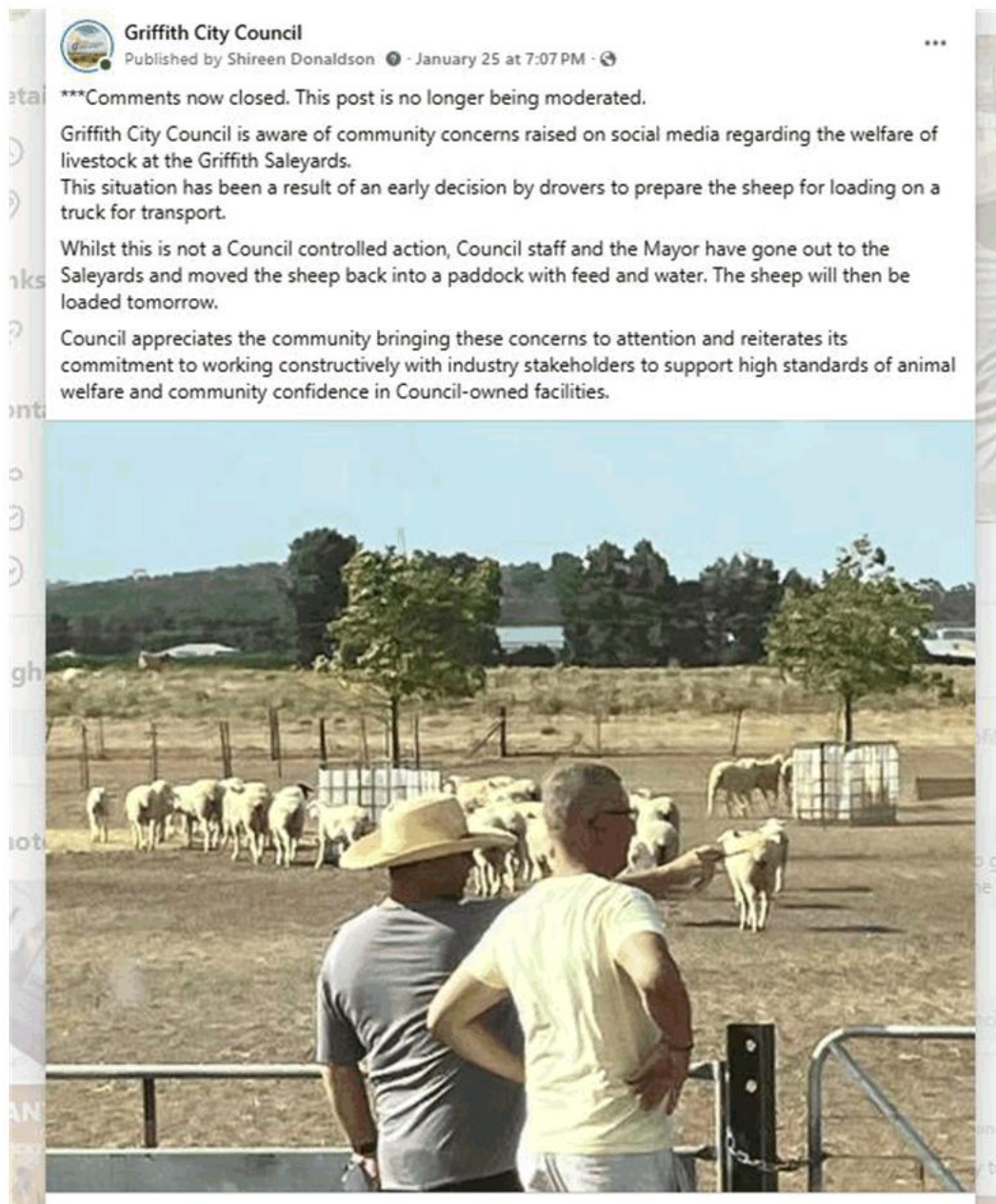
You have a legal responsibility to ensure livestock are prepared appropriately and are fit for transport.

FEED CURFEW FOR LIVESTOCK IN TOUGH TIMES

- Ensure continual access to water until the time of transport
- Where livestock have access to feed of only low nutrition, a maximum 4-hour feed curfew is recommended
- Livestock with low body condition should receive a maximum 4-hour feed curfew. They should be provided with good quality dry feed until the time of transport to help maintain their energy reserve
- Always assess the animal's body condition and if it is fit to transport
- When in doubt, leave it out!



These recommendations are based on scientific research to optimise animal health and welfare, food safety and meat quality. For more information, please visit [DPI Animal Welfare](#) or the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(Land Transport of Livestock\) Standards 2013](#). For industry information, please visit www.mla.com.au/transport-hub



 Griffith City Council allows profiles and Pages it mentions to comment on this post.

Most relevant ▾

 **Kristy Kulper**
Who do we need to contact to get the ball rolling to get some shade cloth or a proper roof put up to cover the pens out there for future summers?

1w Like Reply Hide Edited 30  

 **John Geltch**
Kristy Kulper All the concerned people donate for the project.

1w Like Reply Hide 25 

 **Girt Moonbria**
John Geltch Hi. can't the council pay ? Or whoever owns the sale yards..

1w Like Reply Hide Edited 5   

 **Holly Whiti**
Girt Moonbria they can't even fix the roads 🤔🤔🤔

1w Like Reply Hide 4  

 **Gana Heath**
That's how they live in nature ? 🧑

1w Like Reply Hide 

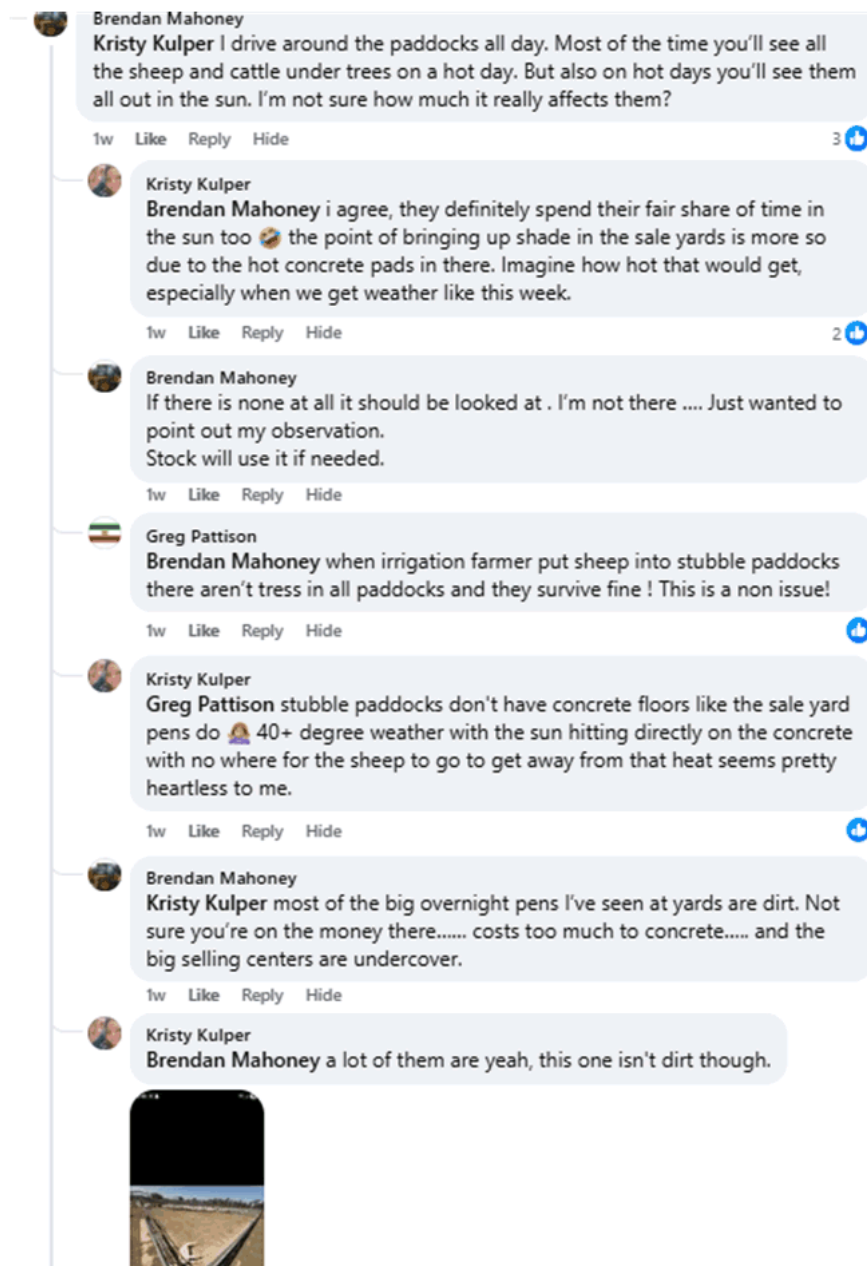
 **Gwen Friend**
Gana Heath They have trees to give them shade!!

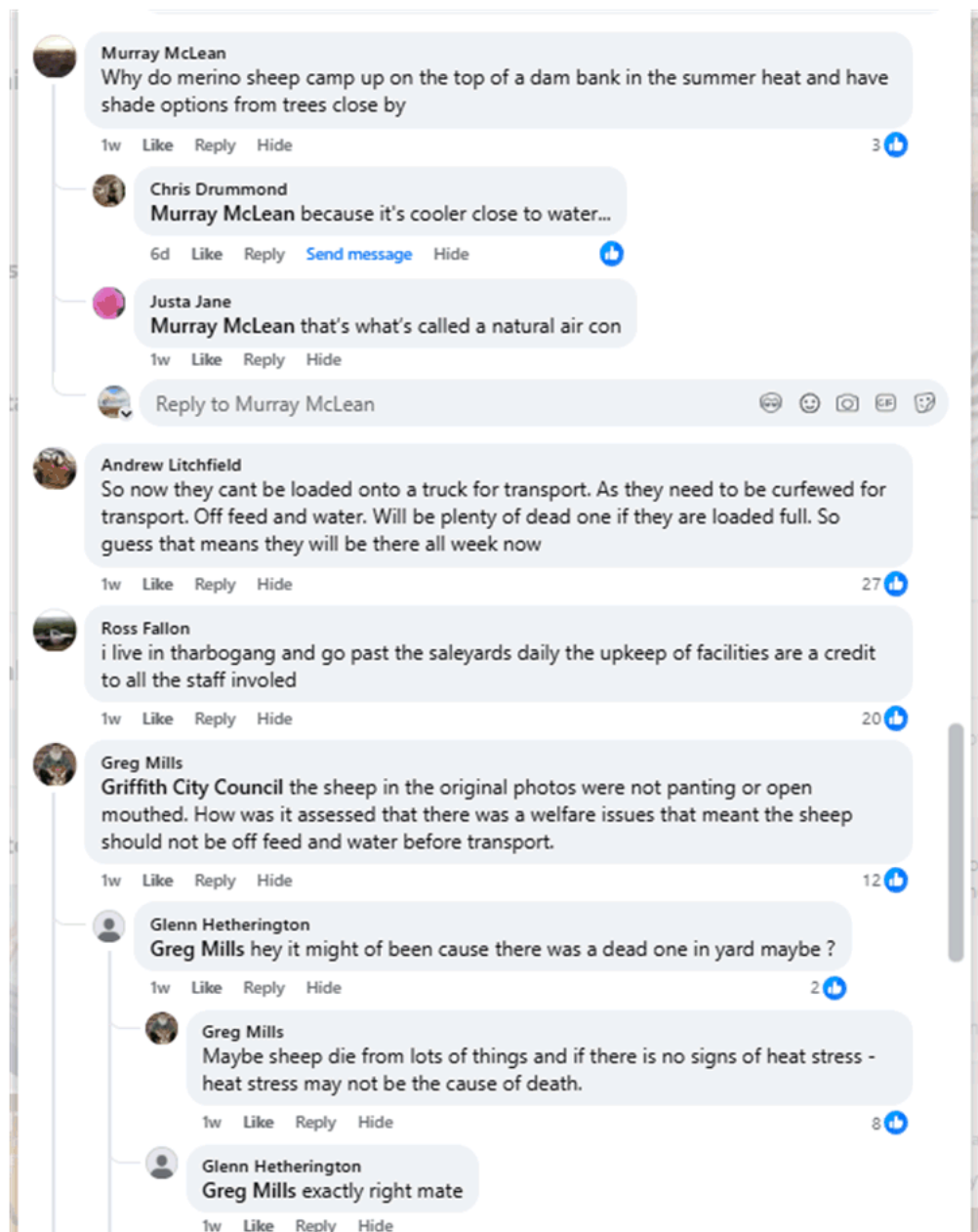
1w Like Reply Hide

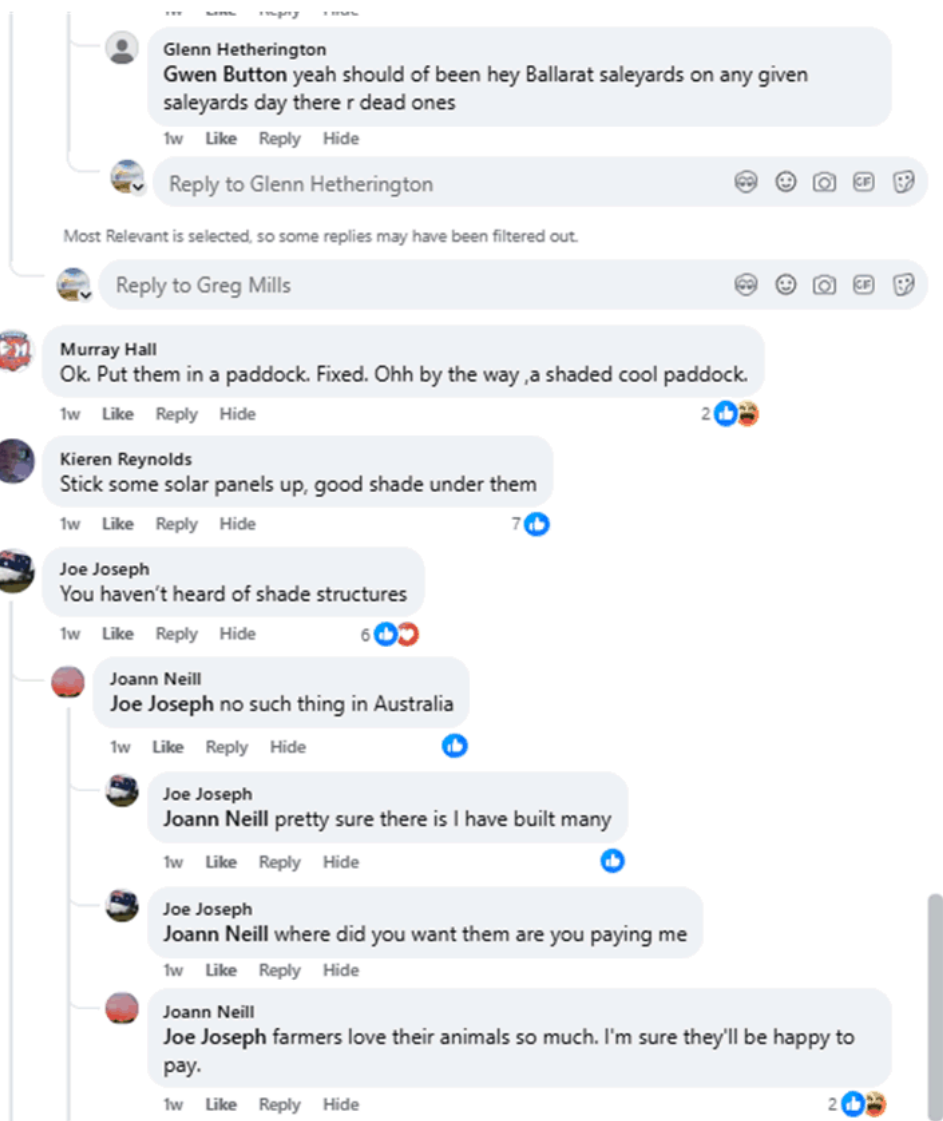
 **Gana Heath**
They don't necessarily sit under trees in nature at all


1w Like Reply Hide 

 Reply to John Geltch     









 **Laura Andersen**
The sheep will be loaded tomorrow? Poor sheep 🐑

1w Like Reply Hide 8 🐑🐑🐑


 **John Scobie**
If you have never seen stock transported with full bellies. I have and it is not a pretty site at the end of the journey. So you all understand what happens, have a big meal and a lot of water to drink then bounce up and down on the spot for half an hour, don't stop because you feel unwell keep going and then open your mouths on transporting stock. The hours off food and water was worked out with animal welfare, transporters and farmers who know what happens to stock, especially so on really long trips, spelled (as it is called) so they get a chance to walk around, lay down if they want. If they have been off water for a really long time, they can drink as they come off the trucks but then have to be taken off water again. Years ago when loaded with stock the truck drivers were allowed to drive longer hours so as the stock got where they where going sooner, the driver's had good rest periods prior to loading or two up ed (2 drivers) back then. Hiways people usually did not stopped loaded stock trucks but as soon as they were unloaded they had to rest. In my time of running a big property our drivers would load late in the afternoon and travel through the night, when it was really hot. It was kinder on the stock and the trucks and drivers. When the temperature is 40 degrees C your tyres and equipment is going to be well over 50 degrees C. Trucks also work better when it is cooler as the air is not as thin so their power is up. The air moving through the crates is cooler for the stock.

1w Like Reply Hide 6 👍


 **Rosi Snaidero**
Could the drover that delivered them not have put them somewhere that there is shade? Or, held off until the day before the sale?

1w Like Reply Hide 8 👍

View 1 reply

 **Patrick McGuinness**
Regardless of this event the yards need to be covered and bought up to specifications of modern sheep selling facilities. Similar to the Yass complex

1w Like Reply Hide 3 👍

 **Snoopy Brown**
A drover main character is the welfare of its animal
Townies second guessing then is just stupid
Sheep are tough and a drover would never neglect an animal
It's not a career but a life
To care and work with animals

1w Like Reply Hide 6 👍🐑

Michael Poidevin
Just curious why can't you travel sheep that have been on feed and water...

1w Like Reply Hide

Matthew Tonkin
Michael Poidevin sheep with full bellies will often get travel sickness and lay down in the truck, the other animals walk on them and cause them injuries and sometimes they smother.

The other reason is they will defecate and urinate all over each other in the truck when loaded full, not a great deal experience for anyone, usually overnight curfew is adequate however they may need longer if going greater distances.

On arrival it is best practice to have plentiful clean cold water in hand and hay in racks, hold the animals in containment for 12 to 24 hours and they are then good to go back onto pasture or feed.

1w Like Reply Hide 5

Michael Poidevin
Thanks for the reply.

1w Like Reply Hide

Reply to Matthew Tonkin

Stuart Vearing
Michael Poidevin when their full they go down and will smother

1w Like Reply Hide 4

Most Relevant is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.

Reply to Michael Poidevin

Geoff Hyder
The council get plenty of money out of the sheep sales might be time to put something back into the place the money wasted on loading ramps would have put some shade up

1w Like Reply Hide 10

Gary Newman
Geoff Hyder the old loading ramps were in need of repair.

1w Like Reply Hide

Gary Newman
Geoff Hyder in what way

1w Like Reply Hide

Gary Newman
Geoff Hyder the idea is to leave flaps in and shut the gate, lower the ramp so the flaps slide out, once past the gate pull them out.

1w Like Reply Hide

Reply to Gary Newman

Geoff Hyder
Gary Newman they still are

1w Like Reply Hide

Most Relevant is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.

Reply to Geoff Hyder

Leslie Girdler
So who is responsible? Who looks after the sale yards

1w Like Reply Hide

Samanthaa Anne
Leslie Girdler idk about down there but in Nowra for example the sale yard was privately owned not council owned.

1w Like Reply Hide Edited

Reply to Leslie Girdler

Gana Heath
They need to be off food and water to transport in the best condition. People need to stay in their lane when they have no idea. Council shouldn't be trying to appease people who have no idea. Now they will travel horribly after getting a gutful in them. Have a look at stock ready for travel requirements that should be followed. And yes I have carted livestock for more than long enough. Have a been on the land too. People need to get a grip.

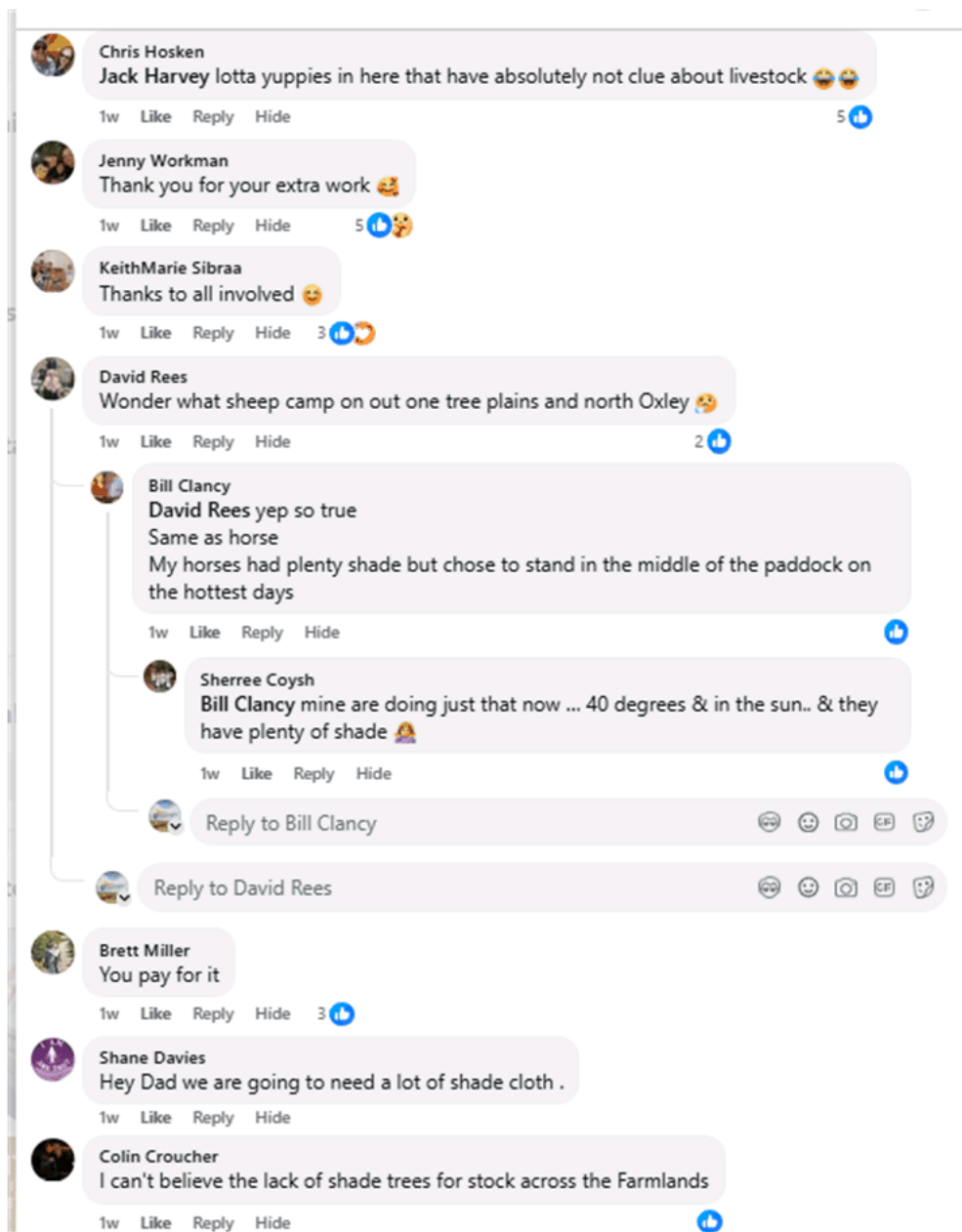
1w Like Reply Hide

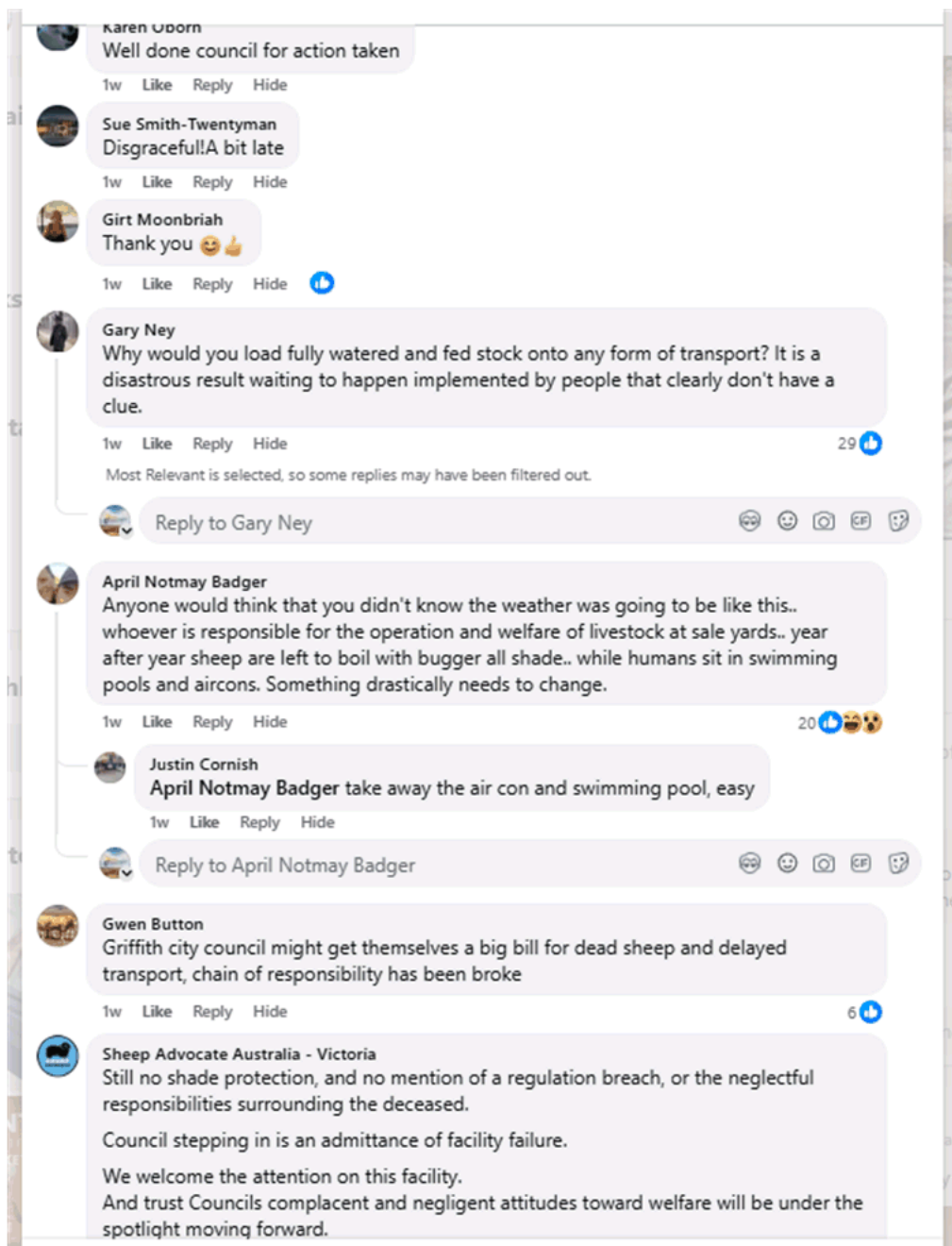
Wayne Lyons
Going to run out of shade cloth to cover all the paddocks across the country!

1w Like Reply Hide

Kristy Kulper
Wayne Lyons majority of paddocks have some trees for shade but no-one is talking about paddocks, we're talking about sale yards. There are a lot of sale yards around the country that have a roof for some cover, it's not such a crazy idea especially for summer let's not forget that paddocks also don't have concrete pads like the sale yards do.

1w Like Reply Hide Edited





We welcome the attention on this facility.
And trust Councils complacent and negligent attitudes toward welfare will be under the spotlight moving forward.
Vested interest is clearly a fault.

1w Like Reply Hide 3

Don Fe'ao
Sheep are VERY resilient... they're not wrapped in cotton wool... lol. There's also something called natural mortality

1w Like Reply Hide

Wayne Blenkiron
Don Fe'ao an old farmer told me years ago, "if you have livestock you will get deadstock"

1w Like Reply Hide

Wayne Blenkiron
Don Fe'ao I've worked as a shearer throughout the Pastoral area in both NSW and SA.

1w Like Reply Hide

Reply to Wayne Blenkiron

Reply to Don Fe'ao

Simone Cocking
Sam Cocking

1w Like Reply Hide

Gwen Friend
Those troughs are a disgrace with warm water and dirt! If you need someone to clean them, I am happy to come in and clean them, so sheep have fresh, clean water!! Not hard to do!

1w Like Reply Hide 2





Barry Chapman
Gwen Friend
Do you know sheep also drink out of dams. Have you ever seen how brown the water us in some dams. In the bottom of the dam is dirt/clay.

1w Like Reply Hide

Reply to Gwen Friend

Most relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.


Griffith Free Local News's Post

👍👎❤️ 259
💬 216 comments
📤 53 shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
📤 Share

Most relevant ▼



Top fan


Locky Miller

Sheep live in the sun. Sometimes with no shade. They have wool that insulates them from the heat and also helps them to keep cool. Just saying.

1w Like Reply

33 👍

View all 4 replies



Scott Groat

I have been in contact with the agents
The sheep were brought in from the shade at 2.30 to be loaded tonight there was a sick sheep when they were yarded and has since died.
It's common curfew to get sheep off feed 10 hours before they are loaded normally this isn't an issue.
Myself and other councillors are pushing for better facilities at the saleyards especially a roof over the holding pens and this does highlight the need.

1w Like Reply

82 👍

CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **Items raised by Councillor Scott Groat**

FROM **Scott Groat, Councillor**

TRIM REF **26/13021**

SUMMARY

See attached items received from the chair, Councillor Scott Groat for discussion by the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

For the committee to discuss.

REPORT

See attached items received from the chair, Councillor Scott Groat for discussion by the committee.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Agenda items raised by Councillor Groat  

20

Jessica Bertacco

From: Cr Scott Groat
Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 10:09 AM
To: Jessica Bertacco
Subject: Re: Call for Agenda Items - Saleyards Committee

Hi Jessica

Please include the following agenda items to be discussed at the next saleyards committee meeting.

All fences need repairing or replacing in stages in between paddocks and surrounding boundaries

Main highway fence needs to be made a security fence.

Cattle grids at both entrances.

More water troughs in paddocks and yards and larger troughs for bigger mobs

Larger paddocks to be split into smaller paddocks.

Cattle yards can be utilised for smaller mobs of sheep with minor modifications.

Shade trees and shelters for western paddocks.

Shade sails in holding yards are an essential priority.

The agents in general are consistently complaining of lack of maintenance and general cleanup of facilities and small jobs

eg. panelling gates and broken posts. And noxious weed spraying that is not done.

Have the water troughs that were requested in the front yards been installed.

After the recent incident of sheep being yarded without shade on a 45 degree day, which made WIN news and caused extreme angst amongst the public,

And the Mayor being forced to let the stock out ,this highlights the need for better facilities being shade in the holding yards.

We are being scrutinised by the public, and some buyers have threatened to leave the Griffith saleyards selling complex because of animal welfare and dehydration of animals causing poor meat quality.

Regards

Scott

Sent from my iPad

Scott Groat
Councillor

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 26/13448

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Action Report [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\)](#) 

22

Saleyards Committee Action Report 10 February 2026				
Date of Meeting	Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer	Comment
9 December 2025	7.2 Landscape of Saleyards	The Committee discussed creating a masterplan to improve the Saleyards by adding more trees and improving the landscape.	Graham Gordon	
9 December 2025	3.2 EID Tagging System/Software Programs	Mr Gordon will contact a representative from the Outcross System software and report back at the next meeting.	Graham Gordon	
21 October 2025	Outstanding Action Report	Mr Barbaro questioned overall costings, profits and losses. Mr Gordon to bring a breakdown of budget and operational costs to the next meeting.	Graham Gordon	2/12/2025: To be reported at the next meeting.
21 October 2025	CL03 Proposed New Water Troughs Design	(a) The Committee accept the 20 water trough design plus an additional 5 troughs. (b) Capital funding be reallocated to support the water trough project.	Graham Gordon	11/11/2025: At the Council Meeting held on 11 November 2025, the below recommendation was adopted from the Saleyards Committee Minutes.
21 October 2025	CL02 Saleyards Solar Feasibility Report	Mr Gordon to contact Essential Energy to confirm whether solar panels at the Saleyards could feed into the grid via the substation while still providing 100% energy credit to the Water Reclamation Plant. If feasible, he is to explore funding eligibility with OLG. Mr Gordon to enquire with Essential Energy to confirm whether the Saleyards solar panels can receive 100% energy credit for the Water Reclamation Plant.	Graham Gordon	2/12/2025: Letter sent to Essential Energy requesting response regarding 100% energy credit for the Water Reclamation Plant.

22 April 2025	CL04 Griffith Livestock Marketing Centre - Electronic Identification (EID) Tagging System	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.	Graham Gordon	16/07/2025: EID mandated for 1 Jan 2025. Speaker System to be installed in 2025.
22 April 2025	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.	Graham Gordon	16/07/2025: Audit to be carried by December 2025.