

Emerald Saleyards Committee Meeting Minutes

22 February 2021

Meeting chaired by: Cr Joseph Burns

Present: Cr Anne Carpenter, Cr Natalie Curtis, Michelle Webster, Tim Maguire, Andrew Gissel, Steve Oppermann, Michael Silvester (10.12am).

Apologies: Matt Beard, Ian Burnett.

Minute Taker: Aimee Carson

Item	Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
		Meeting commenced 10.05am Cr Burns welcomed all members to the meeting.	
1	Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting	The minutes of the previous Emerald Saleyards Coordination Committee held on 30 November 2020 were confirmed.	
2	Business and Action Arising from Previous Minutes	Cr Carpenter asked about the defibrillator. Tim Maguire advised that they will be adding the cost to the operational budget.	
3	Conflict of Interest of Material Personal Interest	There was no conflict of interest reported.	

4	Workplace Health and Safety	<p>Tim Maguire advised the committee that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incident at the second sale where an agent was hit by a cow • was transported to Rockhampton Hospital • agent had a broken hip and has since had hip replacement completed • back at the saleyards two weeks later. <p>Michelle Webster advised that she attended the saleyards with the Manager Safety and Wellness the following week on Wednesday afternoon to seek and understand how this incident could happen. It was unfortunately one of those incidents that just occur when working with live cattle.</p> <p>Discussion moved to the previous incident where a contractor fell from the catwalks and Tim Maguire advised that funding to install additional stairs on the western side is awaiting Council approval at the next council meeting. The installation of these additional stairs will provide additional improvement and efficiencies.</p>	
5	Financial Update	<p>Andrew Gissel provided the financial update to the end of October 2020 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net earnings surplus to the end of January 2021 of \$63k which is \$140k better than expected (\$77k deficit). • Operating revenue of \$1,148k is \$396k or 53% ahead of budget (\$752k) with all major revenue lines contributing to the better than expected result. Feed sales and dipping fees in particular are exceeding all expectations, up by \$142k (70%) and \$126k (315%) respectively. • Operating expenses (\$893k) are \$256k or 40% ahead of budget (\$636k) with the overspend reflective of the increase in activity (feed sales, feeding, cleaning, pre-scanning). • Cattle numbers to the end of January of 55,381 head are up by 12,605 head or 29% on budget of 42,776 head. • Hay sales to the end of January of 3,202 bales are up by 1,221 bales on budget of 1,981 bales. <p>Dipping numbers to the end of January of 70,718 head are up by 52,888 head on budget of 17,830 head. The question of the unique number of cattle being treated as opposed to the simple count of number of cattle dipped was raised at the last meeting. The data is retrievable but is not currently being captured or collated. This is because our fees are structured in such</p>	

		<p>a way that a beast is charged each time it is dipped without any discount offered or required, i.e. we invoice 20 head of cattle dipped not 10 head of cattle dipped twice.</p> <p>Capital expenditure is in-line with the cashflow forecast with \$236k or 14% of the budget (\$1,667k) spent or committed. The main project for the year (construction of Spelling Yards) is at risk of completion by 30 June due to the impact of the appeals process on the project timeline, state and federal funding.</p> <p>BR2 will be recognising the gains in revenue to date but have kept the budget conservative for the remainder of the financial year.</p> <p>Tim Maguire responded to an enquiry from the previous meeting relating to the dipping numbers. The previous invoicing process recorded the total number of head that were dipped but there was no correlation between the amount being invoiced. Due to this issue, a new process was developed to record the total number of swims through the dip to better align with the amount of money being charged on the invoices.</p> <p>Michelle Webster clarified the risk with the spelling yard project is the fact that it won't be completed by 30 June, have been in contact with State and Federal funding to discuss the completion of the project within the funding terms. We have met milestones 1 and 2 of the funding requirements and reasonably confident that we will not have any issue with extending the completion date. At this stage we understand that the court date for appeal hearing may not be until June/July.</p>	
6	2020-2021 Fees & Charges	<p>Michelle Webster advised the committee that the information being presented is for engagement with our stakeholders. The committee is an advisory body only and Council will make the decision regarding saleyards fees and charges.</p> <p>Tim Maguire advised the committee that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current fees and charges have been reviewed and compared with other centres being Claremont, Warwick, Dalby, Roma, Gracemere, Charters Towers and Blackall • No big changes are required, proposing to increase the fees by the adopted CPI increase and some rounding. 	

7	2020-2021 Capital Projects	<p>Tim Maguire advised the committee that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with stakeholders has been completed the proposed capital projects have been prioritised • Eight projects identified that will be reviewed and considered for the 2020-2021 financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roof over draining pen at the dip ○ Roof over the selling pens (significant cost to achieve this) ○ Renew old scale platform on the half deck weighbridge ○ Front fence and grid entrance ○ Replace scanner to half deck weighbridge ○ Water harvesting off saleyard roofs areas ○ Total keys and security system to the yards (operational project due to the cost) ○ Resealing of carparking area ○ Security camera system <p>Cr Carpenter asked whether there were a lot of facilities with rooves over the selling pens?</p> <p>Tim Maguire advised that greenfield facilities are constructing saleyards with a roof structure and soft flooring, Dalby, Casino and facilities at Central NSW. There would be a significant cost to achieve a complete roof structure over our facility.</p> <p>Michelle Webster mentioned that we would potentially look at organising capital expenditure to fully scope the project to shovel ready status which will allow us to seek funding submissions.</p> <p>Cr Carpenter questioned the reason for a roof over the drainage dip?</p> <p>Tim Maguire advised the main issue is the chemical losses due to evaporation.</p> <p>Cr Burns asked whether there is any requirement for security cameras?</p> <p>Tim Maguire advised that it was suggested that there should be cameras on the ramps, to confirm the counting of cattle on and off trucks. Other thoughts around someone could load up cattle but the discussion of installing a cattle grid and secured fence would be no need for the cameras.</p>	
---	----------------------------	--	--

8	Saleyards Manager Update	<p>Tim Maguire advised the committee that:</p> <p>Operational Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The saleyards continue to operate with 2.4 FTE. • Recruitment process was completed in December but have been unable to finalise the recruitment at this stage. • Hoping that the recruitment can be finalised next month. • The cattle sales commenced in January with 1,500 head and had our biggest yarding for the year last week at 2,500 head. • Claremont has commenced holding sales on a fortnightly basis which may impact our numbers. • March/April is the start of weaning, if it continues to be dry, we may see an increase in numbers. <p>Capital Work Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 5 capital projects for the financial year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NLIS lot ID scanner for full deck weighbridge – completed ○ Elevated hay feeding bins – completed, there has been a significant reduction in time and labour since the installation of the feed bins ○ Reconcreting draft – completed ○ Reseal of truck turnaround – scheduled to be completed end of March/early April • Truck turnaround – looking to be end of March early April • NLIS readers on full deck weighbridge • Major delivery yards with elevated feeders working very well – time and labour have been cut down since this installation • Reconcreting of the draft completed • Installation of the stairs 	
7	General Business	<p>National Heavy Vehicle Regulator</p> <p>Steve Opperman advised that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator are reviewing livestock, looking to line up Qld regulations with NSW/VIC which will mean reduced numbers on the trucks and increase the truck numbers in and around the yards.</p>	

		<p>Roma Saleyards</p> <p>Cr Carpenter discussed her visit to Roma saleyards and the impressive office building which includes an interactive tourist attraction. Could we look down the track if the existing building needs to be renewed that we look at incorporating something similar.</p> <p>Michelle Webster mentioned that the Weekender had featured the Roma Saleyards and the tourist attraction.</p> <p>Visitor Information Centre</p> <p>Michelle Webster informed the committee that she had recently been to the visitor information centre and they advised that they receive requests for information on the saleyards. Organising for a brochure to be developed for distribution.</p> <p>Saleyards Master Plan</p> <p>Michelle Webster advised the saleyards master plan is many years old, will need to look at reviewing the master plan. Not in the budget at this point but we would need to ensure that we go through the exercise at some point.</p>	
		Meeting Closed at 11.08am	