

NARACOORTE LUCINDALE COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR NARACOORTE REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
BOARD MEETING HELD ON
2 April 2019

COMMENCED: Meeting commenced at 5.30pm in Naracoorte Council Chamber, DeGaris Place, Naracoorte

PRESENT: Mr O’Loan, Mr England, Cr Grundy, Cr McLachlan (Presiding member), Cr Schultz

APOLOGIES:

ON LEAVE:

OFFICERS

Trevor Smart
Steve Bourne
Richard James
Fiona Standley

CEO
Director Operations
NRLE Manager
Administration Officer

MEDIA

REPRESENTATIVES:

ITEM 1 COMMITTEE MEMBER’S DECLARATION OF INTEREST (IF ANY)
(Section 74, Local Government Act, 1999)

ITEM 2 PUBLIC FORUM

(The Public Forum is an opportunity for community members to ask questions, or to address the Committee on matters relating to the Committee’s activities.)

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MOVED MR OLOAN
SECONDED CR GRUNDY**

That the Minutes from the meetings held on 5 February 2019 and the Special Board meeting held on 19 March 2019 are taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED

ITEM 4 MATTERS LAID ON THE TABLE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ITEM 5 REPORTS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

5.1 FINANCIAL

YTD Report

The financial report to 28 February is attached. The first 8 months have been stronger compared to last year with cattle ahead and sheep and lambs just behind. YTD revenue is strong and on target to achieve budget forecast. The bottom line is very positive at present but note that we will have major expenses in the last 3 months with the cattle pens project and waste water treatment plant.

A budget review was presented to the February meeting and following the approval of the Upgrade Cattle Selling Pens project budget, the Long Term Financial Plan has been updated. It is important to note the LTFP are a dynamic document that are used to ensure sustainability in the longer term. The update does not impact this financial year, but has an impact on 2019/20 forecasts with additional approved expenditure for the Cattle Selling Pens project. Members will recall the LTFP presented last year allowed for capital upgrades to be delivered over 7 years, with 3 years available to push project back if the financial position dictates.

The LTFP is an important document that provides a forecast of impacts of increases and decreases in expenditure and revenue. A live document will be available at the meeting to review the impacts of adjusting future expenditure.

REFER TO ATTACHMENTS 5.1

- Financial report to 28 February
- NRLE Long Term Financial Plan

**MOVED CR GRUNDY
SECONDED MR ENGLAND**

That;

- **the NRLE financial report as at 28 February 2019 is noted; and**
- **the revised NRLE Long Term Financial Plan is presented to the Audit Committee for review**

CARRIED

**MOVED MR O'LOAN
SECONDED CR GRUNDY**

That Council administration prepare the NRLE 19/20 budget based on a 2% increase on revenue and expenditure as reflected in the Long Term Financial Plan.

CARRIED

ITEM 6 OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Capital Works

Contract 201819-16 Upgrade Cattle Selling Pens was awarded at Council's March meeting, endorsing the Board's February recommendation. It is anticipated that construction will commence in early April as per the successful tenderer's timetable.

6.2 Operations

Usage Report

Cattle throughput is 69,730 up from 60,666 and sheep and lambs 361,028 compared to 363,013 to the end of March.

- Troughs have been installed in the soft standing HD sheep holding pens.
- Completed fence line in cattle paddocks C1 and C2
- Mullbarton has taken solid waste from ponds and yards.
- Repairs to irrigation system

Manager Richard James will be in attendance to discuss operational matters.

REFER TO ATTACHMENT 6.2

- Usage Report February 2019
- Usage Report March 2019

6.3 Management

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Replacement parts for the solid waste separator have been delivered with Factor UTB planning to commence installation shortly. Options for sand removal at the truckwash will be reviewed with them and a project scope developed to address the sand issue. The effluent ponds have been cleaned of solid waste using an excavator. We have been investigating pumping the water from the ponds back through the solid waste separator to improve water quality in the ponds and remove the solid waste.

Site Visit Ballarat Saleyards

NRLE Manager Richard James and Director Operations Steve Bourne visited the new livestock exchange at Ballarat in February, following the Australian Livestock Saleyards Association meeting. The new facility is state of the art and is the 7th major facility constructed by the Regional Infrastructure Pty Ltd supported through Palisade investment funds. The facility cost approximately \$31M to construct.

The Ballarat yards use blowers and scrapers for manure removal in sheeyards, rather than washing. This has been trialled though with no obvious advantage for the NRLE.



The sales at Ballarat are lives streamed with off site viewing and bidding available. This service is being offered at a number of saleyards now. This has been discussed with the Naracoorte Combined Agents, who have used this with on farm sales but not at the NRLE. ALSA offered to support trials at saleyards two years ago and the offer was put to the Combined Agents but was not accepted. The operators of Ballarat are receiving good attention through their on line service. The costs for providing this service vary and can be up to \$4 per head. A report on providers, cost of service and infrastructure requirements will be provided to the next meeting.

Sheep EID

On 25 March, Minister Whetstone announced \$7.5M package to grow the red meat industry and improve biosecurity in South Australia. Of particular interest to the NRLE, is the introduction of voluntary electronic tags for sheep, with the program funding to support installation of readers and systems for sheep in key saleyards. No further information is available at this stage.

6.4 Promotion and Marketing

Nil

6.5 WHS and Risk Management

No incidents have been reported.

6.6 Compliance

EPA

We have had regular correspondence with the EPA regarding the non-operation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. They are being kept informed of progress and are urging the NRLE to meet the requirements of the Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan. A visit is planned for the week of this meeting.

Chain of Responsibility (CoR)

The Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) has written to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) regarding saleyards and the responsibility of the saleyard owner within the Chain of Responsibility. Their position is that the owner of the facility has a clear responsibility for the provision of safe, suitable infrastructure. Their position was published in their March newsletter reproduced below.

ALRTA has written to NHVR about the application of chain of responsibility laws at saleyards.

NHVR is conducting an internal review of the application of CoR laws at NSW saleyards. The review was commenced in the wake of mass-related infringements issued to Forbes and Dubbo saleyards by NSW Roads and Maritime Service and changes to CoR laws that subsequently occurred on 1 October 2018.

The ALRTA has challenged the position of the Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA) that regulators should not apply the definition of 'loading manager' to saleyard owners (that do not also operate the facility).

Livestock saleyards are purpose-built facilities at which livestock are unloaded, sold and reloaded. The infrastructure that comprises a saleyard is fundamentally designed to handle goods (in this case livestock) and accommodate heavy vehicles.

All professional livestock carriers would agree that the design, positioning, quality and availability (or absence) of livestock handling infrastructure at saleyards has a very significant influence on heavy vehicle unloading and loading tasks. This includes direct on-site safety risks (such as slips, trips, falls, cuts, bruises etc) and on-road fatigue and mass risks (arising from slow loading, physical effort, frustration or poor precision).

In some cases, the installation of new infrastructure may be the best way to control known risks – particularly at major loading facilities where additional costs are reasonably proportionate to risk reduction.

It is important for NHVR (and other regulators) to understand that responsibility for the provision of saleyard infrastructure, including capital and maintenance budgets, rests solely with the owner of the facility (even when such decisions are made in consultation with the facility operator and/or users of the facility).

In our view, absolving saleyard owners from 'loading manager' CoR duties would have serious negative ramifications for the entire transport supply chain.

If this was to occur, it would be possible for unscrupulous entities to deliberately establish legal structures that separate the business of owning a facility from the business of operating a facility.

In other words, there would be a 'safe harbour' for parties who are more concerned about infrastructure cost than driver safety. Transport operators could expect Infrastructure spending to decrease while safety risks increase – an outcome completely at odds with the 'shared responsibility' principle that underpins CoR laws.

The outcome of the NHVR review will have broad implications for the overall success of the long-awaited CoR reforms – not only at Australian saleyards, but at all distribution centres.

ALRTA trusts that NHVR will carefully consider these views as part of the review process.

The NRLE has new cattle loading ramps and high quality sheep ramps. The cattle unloading facilities were modified 3 years ago following a Safework SA notice regarding the safety of delivery agents branding cattle as they are unloaded. No concerns have been raised over the safety of these ramps by transport operators. The ramps are programmed for replacement with the overall upgrade of the cattle pens.

ITEM 7 PUBLICATIONS / DOCUMENTS / INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES

ITEM 8 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

8.1 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

8.2 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

8.3 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

8.4 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ITEM 9 MATTERS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENCE

ITEM 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 5.30pm

ITEM 11 MEETING CLOSURE

CLOSURE: Meeting closed at 6:34pm.

.....CONFIRMED

.....DATE