

From: [Anita Brojatsch](#)
Sent: Sunday, 28 November 2021 11:09:55 PM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195960 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 10:35:25 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the possible closure of the Millicent Saleyards and feel it would be to great detriment to our local community.

I have sold cattle through the yards for several years now and feel it is the only benefit I receive for the rates our family pays. I do not use the library, or swimming lake, we have to pay for rubbish collection, even though the garbage trucks drive straight past our bins, on 2 properties and my road barely sees a grader. The one asset that I do utilise is the Saleyards.

I also work in the farm supplies industry and can see how the potential to lose customers would be a possibility. If people attend Naracoorte or Mt Gambier sales, to watch their cattle sell, it wouldn't be long before they're buying their farm supplies in said towns as well, thus taking more money out of our town.

My local stock carrier would also be a loser of income, if the yards were to shut down, as he runs cattle in to Millicent, but doesn't have the capacity to service the further towns.

Making some quick money, from the sale of the yards, will have a long term negative effect on the town, as well as our faith in our council members and their ability to represent the people, so I hope the council members can see past the short term gain and uphold the long term future of our yards, by keeping them maintained and open for use.

Kind regards,

Anita Brojatsch

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LETTER NO: 1195993		FILE GF/ 4.37.1/3		PF/	
DATE RCVD		29 NOV 2021		REFER TO:	
				EA	
					FILE

Reasons we believe that the Millicent Saleyards should not be closed

1. Saleyards built from "Red Scheme" money many years ago on land purchased by the Council so no big debt was incurred.
2. Saleyard land sold off to private business and the income not put back to saleyard revenue for maintenance and improvements.
3. Wattle Range Council has a lot of overhead from free libraries, and wages that goes with them, up keep of pools, swimming lake, parks and gardens, playgrounds and tourist centres throughout the district, the council saleyards do bring in some income to cover their expenses.
4. Buyers, Agents, Stock sellers and farmers go to sales for fellowship, exchange ideas and improve the wellbeing for men's mental health.
5. Saleyards should make an income to help cover running costs and maintenance and should not be valued at inflated book value to suit accountants.
6. After cattle sales farmers and partners usually grocery shop, lunch, buy merchandise from local stores. Selling at other saleyards in the district will take money away from local traders because families will buy in that town while they are there.
7. If saleyards shut the extra expenses of sending stock to other centres to sell may make small holdings uneconomical, the bigger land owners or corporates buy the smaller holdings hence the population of Millicent will decline as families, stock agents and workers move away looking for employment. Local vets, rural suppliers, schools and shops will employ less employees or close their doors.
8. If saleyards close very little money will be recouped in the sale of secondhand panels and fittings. If the saleyards close will the council demolish them and sell off the steel?

How many councillors know the different breeds and stock quality that passes through the Millicent saleyards? Remember every animal sold outside the Millicent saleyards is money for other areas.

How many councillors rely on selling stock through the saleyards to make a living?

If sold what will happen to the yards and what will the land be used for?

*Kathleen & Brian Staudt
 PO Box 616
 Millicent 5280
 SA Aust.*

Archived: Friday, 26 November 2021 5:00:25 PM

From: [Catherine Allen](#)

Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2021 3:42:00 PM

To: [Sharon Cox](#)

Subject: EO2021/102946 - 4.37.1/3 - EI2021/195471 - 4.64.1/4 - Fwd: 9/02/2021 Council Meeting - Millicent Saleyards

Sensitivity: Normal

Dear Gavin and Sandy

Thank you for sending this through to Council. We did receive your initial email back in February 2021.

Kind regards

Catherine Allen
Executive Assistant
WATTLE RANGE
COUNCIL



ph. 08 8733 0900 f. 08 8733 4999
e. cpa@wattlerange.sa.gov.au
p. PO Box 27 Millicent SA 5280
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For more information visit www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au phone 08 8733 0900 or email council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au



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From: Gavin & Sandy Bell <gavinsandybell@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 November 2021 6:57 PM

To: Council <council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>; Sharon Cox <Sharon.Cox@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>

Subject: EI2021/195471 - 4.64.1/4 - Fwd: 9/02/2021 Council Meeting - Millicent Saleyards

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gavin & Sandy Bell <gavinsandybell@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 2021, 11:39

Subject: 9/02/2021 Council Meeting - Millicent Saleyards

To: <mayor@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>

Cc: <council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <sharoncox@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, John Drew <john.drew@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <dennismuhovics@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <moiraneagle@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <grahamslarks@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <peterdunncliff@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <kevinmcgrath@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <deanburrow@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <rickpaltridge@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <debagnew@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>, <daleprice@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>

To All Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor & councillors,

We are asking our Wattle Range Councillors, to keep the saleyards open, for our various beef producers, stock agents, livestock transporters & the surrounding business sector. The council/ratepayer owned asset, handled around 10,000 head of cattle over the past 12 months, & grossed around \$13.6 million dollars. The yards are a major necessity for our various farmers. The outside audit reports costs are alarming and seem grossly inflated.

We do not require the soft flooring, as suggested. The cattle are on dirt overnight, not concrete, which is less stress for our stock. They are not left on concrete for long, on sale day. There is a quick turnaround. Soft flooring, as suggested, are more dangerous for the animals. Once wet & covered with faeces, the animals have more chance of slipping over, in which they could potentially break bones, etc. As for covered yards, they are not required. The main steel structure, cement, dirt pens, and ramp areas are in reasonable working order. Regular maintenance is the key issue. Prior to Andrew Robinson, no maintenance was done within an appropriate time frame. Continual attempts to have it done, via the last manager, was ignored & he would be against any safety issues that were brought to his attention.

There may need to be an upgrade of the toilet / showers, but that is due to, again, lack of regular maintenance.

Roof over buyers roof requires again, regular maintenance.

An appropriate budget needs to be put in place for regular maintenance, in order to make our assets better & keep the the stock coming through our yards to prosper.

Once again, our producers, stock agents, livestock carriers & various businesses, will suffer, from the loss of our saleyards.

No saleyards, no money for Millicent & the rest of the Wattle Range district.

Yours Truely

Garth & Shirley Huppatz & Gavin & Sandy Bell.

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Archived: Thursday, 25 November 2021 11:59:47 AM
From: [Ben Gower](#)
Sent: Thursday, 25 November 2021 11:19:35 AM
To: gavinsandybell@gmail.com
Cc: [ELT](#); [Councillors](#)
Subject: EO2021/103066 - 4.37.1/3 - RE: Newsletter, regarding the Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal

Hi Sandy and Gavin,

I have attempted to answer your questions below as best I can. My answers are highlighted in purple. I am also available to talk to all of these issues in more detail if you would like. My mobile number is 0402 177 247... Ben

From: Sharon Cox <Sharon.Cox@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 November 2021 7:52 AM
To: Ben Gower <bjg@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>
Cc: [ELT](#) <elt@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>; [Councillors](#) <Councillors@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>; Catherine Allen <cpa@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Newsletter, regarding the Millicent Saleyards

Hi Ben
Can we please supply some answers for Sandy and Gavin.

Thank you

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From: Gavin & Sandy Bell <gavinsandybell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:55:14 PM
To: Sharon Cox <Sharon.Cox@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Newsletter, regarding the Millicent Saleyards

Hi Sharon,

Sorry I did not reply to your e-mail, Friday 19 -11-2021.
I felt it was necessary, to read it again, and consider my views, etc, thoroughly.

Just a couple of questions before writing about the newsletter.
What happened to the money, when Council sold off land, near /close to the saleyards?
How much of this used for the Saleyards?

All income, whether it be rates, fees, charges or proceeds from the sale of assets goes into consolidated revenue and is reallocated out to fund Council's operations as per the Annual Business Plan and Budget. This is normal practice for any businesses. A retail shop does not put money aside from the sale of coffee to buy more beans – that money goes into the bank with all other sales revenue and is used to pay wages, rent and supplies etc. In exactly the same way, Council does not specifically put money aside from the sale of stock or assets at the Saleyards to reinvest back into the saleyards. The money is accounted for but it is not specifically earmarked that way.

The Saleyards are running at a loss each year to the tune of around \$250k. This means that any money that was raised through the sale of assets would have well and truly been spent by now. Ratepayers are augmenting the cost to operate the Saleyards – as they do for many other services that Council provides. In addition to this annual operating loss, there is a million dollar cost to upgrade aging infrastructure to bring it in line with Australian safety standards. This is the minimum cost to upgrade the infrastructure – it could and should be a lot more. This is a 45 years old site that cost \$17 million to build in today's dollars and sections of it are at end of life and need replacing. It is not a question of whether Council can afford this cost, it is a question of whether it is a prudent use of rate payer money.

I read through the newsletter, prior to the walk through. I noticed that there were a few issues, with what was written.
I was very disappointed/upset, that we had not seen a copy of this, till Sunday night, 14-11-2021. I also note, that it was written on the 10-11-2021.

Sections, of attached newsletter, has been highlighted.

I have a few questions and possible considerations, that council could answer, for us.

As I have written before, I and many others understand, that there are maintenance issues, that need attending.

The following questions are for the council.

What & how, has the original \$173,000.00, set aside, earlier in the year, been used, to this day?
Why, if, as stated on page 2 of the newsletter, has some of the work not yey, been done?
I believe, council has a worker, that is qualified to do the work, working for them. Why then, does the council, not contract him, to work alongside Andrew Robinson, to do / oversee the work, to be done?

Some of the work has been completed using Council staff and contractors. Replacement yard rails have been purchased and installed. Electrical works have been undertaken to make the site safe and work has commenced on replacing switchboards and lighting tower infrastructure. One of the SafeWork Notices has already been closed acquitted.

Some of the infrastructure is more specialised because of the Australian standards requirements and we will need to either purchase or fabricate these items through a suitable contractor. Council sought quotes through a formal tender process, and despite 28 business viewing the tender documentation and five turning up to the mandatory site briefing, no one tendered for the work.

The Affluent section, near truckwash area;
The area where the affluent flows through.
Why do council, not put a gate across, similar to a farmers gate?

Council can then padlock it, for safety. This would still allow accessibility, when required.

The truck wash down set up.

Has anyone, actually spoken to the truck drivers, that utilise these, on the delivery night?, not just one or two drivers either.

SafeWork SA Safety Improvement Notices require that the truck wash infrastructure meets Australian Safety Standards. Unfortunately, a truck drivers statement that they do not use the non-compliant stairs will not influence the requirement to comply with this Notice.

These drivers, would be more than qualified, to explain, why most, will not use the stairs, etc. They would also be better equipped, to explain what the problems, regarding the lighting, trip hazards, etc. These guys, male & female, have a lot more experience, then what we do, so again, they are more qualified, in noticing & pointing out, problems.

As for putting out for tenders.

Why did council wait till 3rd August, 2021, to put Requests for Tenders?

The SafeWork Notices were issued on the 23rd of July. It takes time to develop the scope and tender documentation required to put this to the market.

We attended a meeting, in February, about the saleyards. There was discussion about maintenance required to be done, as soon as possible. **Some of the work should have started back then. The council had even said, back then, that they were aware of some of the issues and would need to begin, very soon.**

Why the delay?

As explained above, maintenance work has been done where Council has had the internal or contract resources to do so. The design, fabrication and installation of ramps, yards pens and walkways is a specialist task.

Again, council has a person working for them, that is more than qualified to do the required work.

I also notice, that there was only 3 weeks allowed, for putting in a quote. Not very long, considering the extensive workload & timeframe, that needed to be considered.

The link to the tender, should have been to, All contractors, not select companies.

Council should be contacting many contractors, as do I, when needing work done.

Page 3 of newsletter

I was thrown, by council recognising an expression of interest, for purchase of our saleyards.

This part of the newsletter, really angered me.

If council, was true to their word, in trying to keep the saleyards open, **Why then, would they consider such an offer?**

In to make informed decisions, Council should and does consider all aspects of whatever it is they are considering.

Council cannot deny their interest in selling part of/or all, of the site.

It is in writing. **The other issue I have with this, the offer came a couple of days prior to end date,** of Requests for Tenders, for maintenance and repairs to saleyards.

This tells me, and no doubt others, that council, have made a decision already.

I reiterate again that no decision has been made.

Hence, why the reaction received from the users of the saleyards, on the evening of 16/11/2021. **We have a right, to expect council, to keep our saleyards open.**

As the attached sign says, MILLICENT SALEYARDS **Grow it Local, Sell it Local.**

What happened to, Look LOCAL First?

We expect everyone else to support Our Local businesses, yet council have made it clear, that they get to pick and choose, who and how much, they support the Locals.

As I stated in my previous letter to Council, **8/02/2021. There are major repercussions, to All, involved.**

Council come across, as if this only impacts them. Not true. This impacts on Everyone.

Finances are not the only thing impacted.

Council have been heard, saying about their growing concern, for the large amount of suicides within our communities, job losses, financial hardships, Family breakdowns, etc. **These are some of the things the Council has to very seriously,**

take into consideration, when making decisions, that do not just impact front-line workers at the yards, but the ripple effect, community wide.

Closure of Sheeppark Ramps & Holding Yards.

I feel that there should be work done, to better assist, in this situation.

The Truck drivers have to have a point place, to unload stock, when travelling vasts distances. They are required to do so, under the Animal Welfare laws.

Millicent Saleyards, is a perfect location/position, to assist in this area. I realise, that there needs to be work done, to satisfy Worksafe, but does not mean it cannot be done. **This is the same for cattle, as well.**

We will be discussing effluent management options with the EPA to see if we can reactivate this service in the future. At the moment, the sheep yards are not included in the EPA approved WIMP and holding stock there places the entire site in jeopardy.

I have been reading through the Millicent Saleyards - Risk Register/Hazard ID, that Councillors were given, at the 16/11/2021, walk through.

I will continue to do so, then forward feedback.

Thank you Sharon, for asking for my feedback. I can only hope you gain an insight, in how the newsletter, was perceived by me, and possibly others.

Kind regards

Sandy Bell

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From: [John Chay](#)
Sent: Monday, 29 November 2021 10:38:35 AM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195984 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 1:35:32 PM

To the mayor and elected members,

Once again I urge you to consider the social, mental health and well being of the Wattle range ratepayers not to mention the economic benefits to the wattlerange business house and the community in general.

I ask you to fund infrastructure upgrades at the saleyards that is long overdue!!

I urge you to scrap the number ceiling imposed on the yards and give the ratepayers clarity on the future of the saleyards.

I urge you to get council employees (CEO and the like) to consult with users of the yards to make better decisions on any upgrades ..

I look forward to a positive outcome for the saleyards for wattle range ratepayers, business owners and community in general !!!

Your sincerely
John Chay
0439332729

Sent from my iPhone

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Archived: Friday, 26 November 2021 11:19:42 AM

From: [Hodgens, Mark](#)

Sent: Friday, 26 November 2021 8:07:37 AM

To: [Council](#)

Cc: [Sims, Peter](#)

Subject: EI2021/195877 - 4.37.1/3 - Saleyards submission of support / K&S Fuels

Sensitivity: Normal

Hi.

K&S Fuels support and encourage council to maintain a regular stock market at Millicent.

Reasons why the saleyards / Cattle sales should be supported.

1. It definitely brings a noticeable economic benefit to our business around sale days , we get stock carriers buying fuel and food , we get a influx of farmers that come to town on Sale days and buy lubricants , welding gas and household gas .
2. The cattle sale (and once upon a time sheep sale) is a focal point amongst the farming community and a regular point of conversation as we mingle with our farming customers and I believe that it plays an important role in the keeping the fabric of our community strong.

K&S Fuels encourage the Wattle range council to support keeping the Millicent saleyards Open.

Regards.

Mark Hodgens

Branch/Area Manager | K&S Fuels

Cnr Mt Gambier & Williams Roads, Millicent SA 5280

p: (08) 8733 3133 |

e: mark.hodgens@ksgroup.com.au | www.ksgroup.com.au



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Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 10:34:31 AM
From: [Kaye White](#)
Sent: Sunday, 28 November 2021 5:10:23 PM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195959 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal

We are writing in regard to the closure of our Millicent Saleyards. This would be very disappointing for our district. The unrest of the closure of the Saleyards seems to have been going on far too long. This has already caused some people to sell elsewhere. The sale of our sheep at the Millicent site has already been taken away from us and we would like to see its return. The Town is looking really nice and Im sure that Tourists driving through would agree. Dont you all as a Council want this area to flourish. Once a venue like this is closed its gone forever. Farmers who sell their stock go into Town and spend. Not everyone uses this facility, we understand that but a lot dont use the playground, swimming lake, library or the many other wonderful things in our Town. But to close these things would be unthinkable. Not everything at the Saleyards needs to be done at once. Fix the important issues first using local people and businesses. About time we all stood together to make this place great. LEAVE OUR SALEYARDS OPERATING.

Rob and Kaye White

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LETTER NO: 11145878		PF/		
FILE GF/ 4.37.113		PF/		
DATE RCVD	26 NOV 2021	REFER TO: EA		
CEO	DCS	DDS	DES	FILE

Hodgens, Mark

From Mark Hodgens.

Saleyards Submission of Support to maintain regular stock markets at Millicent.

1. The agriculture sector surrounding Millicent would have to be the largest industry and revenue stream for the wattle range council and with capital evaluations set to rise, rates for this sector should rise also. I therefore believe that council should provide support and infrastructure for all our various industries and given Agriculture plays such a big part in the Millicent and surrounding areas this support should be granted in keeping the Millicent saleyards open.
2. I suggest a stage by stage maintenance program to undertake the array of repairs and upgrading required. Work with safework and EPA to develop say a five-year plan targeting the most important issues first and budget for this work accordingly.
3. Not sure if the old canteen is even required , perhaps fence it off and again budget down the track for its demolition ?
4. Do we need the whole area of the cattle pens to maintain a regular sale ?
5. I would like to see the sheep yards kept on even if just for a transfer point when sheep are bought and sold .
6. The stock sale is also a very important part of our social environment as a rural based community.

I encourage councillors to support the continued operation of the Millicent saleyards.

From: [Mick Brennan](#)
Sent: Monday, 29 November 2021 11:49:51 AM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195977 - 4.37.1/3 - Sale yards
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 12:38:00 PM

Dear councillors.

It's disappointing that the morgority of you seem to have forgotten that we are a rural farming community. Everything that closes in a rural town hardly ever gets back. If the yards go you can bet there will be a couple more shops up the Main Street go with it. There's plenty of life left in the sale yards if there is a change in attitude towards them and not just a beast that inherited four years ago.

Cheers

Mick Brennan

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Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 10:43:02 AM
From: [Kayla Chambers](#)
Sent: Monday, 29 November 2021 9:22:39 AM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195961 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal

To Whom it may concern.

We have a small cattle farm on the outskirts of Rendelsham and are in favour of seeing the Millicent Saleyards remain open.

Closure would see us having to have our cattle transported to Mt Gambier or Naracoorte, which isn't a viable option for us. It would be a shame to see such a well ran facility close and the detriment it would have on the whole community.

Thank you,

Phil Chambers
0439854303

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Archived: Monday, 29 November 2021 12:44:23 PM
From: [Tim Moyle](#)
Sent: Monday, 29 November 2021 12:02:32 PM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195980 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal

To Wattle Range Councillors,

I am writing to you to encourage you to keep the Millicent Sale Yards operating.

I believe that they provide a highly valued service to Millicent and surrounding districts.

I liken the saleyards to other council services such as Library's, Boat Ramps, Swimming lakes, each extremely valuable in their own way.

The flow on benefits of employment and contractors from the saleyards keep families in the town and businesses open. As a business owner and employer in this town I understand the need to keep as many businesses and services within Millicent. As seen in many other country towns around South Australia, once they are gone, they never return.

It is most disappointing to hear of the lack of maintenance on the saleyards over the last decade. I suspect that few other council assets have been treated this way.

I have also been told that \$462,000 has been spent on a feasibility study on new council chambers, if this is correct, I cannot see how maintenance and long term operation on the Millicent Saleyards is not justified.

I look forward to a positive outcome from the special council meeting

Regards

Tim

Tim Moyle
Director

North Terrace, Millicent SA 5280 Australia
T: +61 8 8733 4966 M: 0448 883 812
W: www.millicentfarmsupplies.com.au



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SECTION 1 | CONTACT DETAILS

Name:	Bev Copping		
Company Name (if applicable):			
Postal Address:	PO Box 1090		
Town:	Millicent SA	Postcode:	5280
Phone:	049809870		
Email:	bev.copping@gmail.com		
Please note: All feedback forms including names of those responding will be tabled at the next Council meeting unless otherwise indicated.			
Please redact my contact details in future Council reports: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

SECTION 2 | FEEDBACK TYPE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Question
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SECTION 3 | FEEDBACK

Describe your feedback:

It is regretted that the WRC have after many years of neglect at the saleyards now want to close them due to lack of maintenance.

The WRC have breached there duty of care to the ratepayers and the farmers wanting to use them.

MILLICENT SALEYARDS

FEEDBACK FORM

GF/4.64.1/4

SECTION 1 | CONTACT DETAILS

Name:	A. Jeff John		
Company Name (if applicable):	MC Hard		
Postal Address:			
Town:		Postcode:	
Phone:			
Email:			
Please note: All feedback forms including names of those responding will be tabled at the next Council meeting unless otherwise indicated.			
Please redact my contact details in future Council reports: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

SECTION 2 | FEEDBACK TYPE

<input type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Question
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SECTION 3 | FEEDBACK

Describe your feedback:

Keep Saleyards Going.

SECTION 1 | CONTACT DETAILS

Name:	[REDACTED]	
Company Name (if applicable):	[REDACTED]	
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]	
Town:	[REDACTED]	Postcode: 5280
Phone:	[REDACTED]	
Email:	[REDACTED]	
Please note: All feedback forms including names of those responding will be tabled at the next Council meeting unless otherwise indicated.		
Please redact my contact details in future Council reports: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

SECTION 2 | FEEDBACK TYPE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Question
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SECTION 3 | FEEDBACK

Describe your feedback:

My wife and I who are the contractors who handle the livestock at no stage have been consulted on any of the hazards listed. to my knowledge there are no reports of injury from tripping or falling from walkways in the 18 yrs while we have been the livestock contractors this is OHS out of control!
The maintenance at the Saleyards has been non existant for 12yrs thus the problems.
Shame WRC.

also the councillors should never forget they are servants to the people who elected them.

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Millicent Sale Yards

Two points I would like to raise with the Wattle Range Council over cost savings at the Millicent Sale Yards and trying to keep our yards operational.

1. As the yards are operating fortnightly for sales, why do we need to employ a full time member to run the yards? Surely we could employ someone here in a dual role. At the sale yards as time permits (more during sale weeks) and have them doing other duties throughout the council district.
2. There is a state election due in 2022. Shouldn't there be someone in administration trying to source funding through government grants to get our yards up to standard and be kept operational and for that person to keep trying for future funding at all times.

Lets not bury our heads in the sand with this as once it is lost, we will never get it back.

Sincerely,

Garry Schulz
Hatherleigh Rate Payer.

LETTER NO: 1/195914		FILE GF/ 4.37.1/3		PF/	
DATE RCVD		26 NOV 2021		REFER TO: EA	
CEO	DCS	DDS	DES		FILE

Garth & Shirley Huppertz
 Rendelsham. SA 5280
 Phone: 0427 354 217

25th November, 2021.

Council Special Sale Yard Meeting
 Tuesday 30th November, 2021 at 5pm
 RSL Hall
 Ben Gower, Mayor, Des Noll, Deputy Mayor and all Councillors.
 Wattle Range Council.

Dear Sirs,

We are asking the Wattle Range Councillors and staff to keep these Council owned sale yards open.

These facilities are vital to the success, prosperity and wellbeing of the district and town businesses of Millicent. No sale yards, no prosperity. We will loose family owned stock agents, livestock carriers, contractors, yard workers, and manager. What other business can earn \$1.3 million dollars on sale day in Millicent?

Producers are supporting the yards and are meeting the sale target of cattle through at 8,500 by the council. We agreed on a higher yard fee to help with the maintenance, but council has not maintained the up keep of the maintenance. Work safe SA has now audited the sale yards and identified 5 very serious danger areas. We have a very good saleyard manager In Andrew Robinson who carries out what maintenance can be done, but very little maintenance has been done for many years prior to Andrew's involvement.

With Andrew's advice and some council workers ability a lot of Work Safe SA dangerous issues could be rectified within the Council at minimum costs.

SHEEP YARDS:

The ramp sidewalks rails must be fixed but only one ramp with the new electric winch is needed:

Only portion of yards needed to be used. No public present only driver.

I noted in the Saleyard News 10/11/21 – Major Risk: Contaminated waste water runoff. What a joke!! Yards used 3 or 4 times a year with several hundred sheep. These sheep have been emptied out of farmers trucks or trailers and reloaded next day on livestock carriers. No poisons or chemicals extruded to cause ground contamination and natural cleaning by rain fall. Work Safe are wrong – they are just scare mongering councillors and staff by grading as extreme Safety Risk and ordering closure of the sheep yards. The estimated over inflated costs to repair most of these repairs could

be completed by council staff or local on an hourly rate. The tender forms and regulation are daunting and need simplifying with less paperwork.

CATTLE YARDS:

1. Major Ramp Up grade
2. Lighting
3. New Wooden Rails. Hardwood or Tanan? Tantanoola pine. Not green treated pine Full 6" x 2" not 1.5' timber. The new treated *pine* seems very strong with little smell.
4. Truck wash, side rails on cement steps and rubber non slip steps tread, and open water pits with gates surrounding and signs.
5. Public entrance to central selling area from car park, or relocated cattle crush and make public entrance. *there to centre auction area.*

CANTEEN:

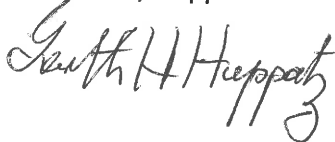
1. New roof and close off top – or remove top story. New roof to keep offices and Toilets. *Dry-*

Once again, our producers, stock agents, livestock carriers and various businesses, will suffer, from the loss of our sale yards/

No saleyards, no money for Millicent and the rest of the Wattle Range district. Plus a lot of mental health issues for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Garth and Shirley Huppertz



LETTER NO: 17195970		FILE GF/ 4.37.113 PF/	
DATE RCVD 29 NOV 2021		REFER TO: EA	
CEO	DCS	DDS	DES
			FILE

Ian & Christine Baker
181 Nitschke Road, Tantanoola

Wattle Range Council

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our objections to the closing of the Millicent Sale Yards. As ratepayers and farmers in this area who utilise these yards frequently we think that they should be kept open and maintained by Council.

The CEO, Mr Ben Gower seems to be able to find funds for what he wants but isn't interested in the views of the local farmers and surrounding community.

The Sale Yards not only service the farming community but the local business as well. When farmers go to watch their stock sold they also go to town and contribute to local businesses, e.g coffee shops, retail and supermarkets.

If they have to travel to Mt Gambier or Naracoorte they will take their business there thus causing Millicent businesses to miss out on valuable patronage.

Our local Sale Yards are an essential service for the community and should be kept open at all cost. There are other services in our Council area that have been maintained so why should the Sale Yards be any different. We need to keep local business and services going in Millicent. It appears that Mr Gower doesn't think that all the farmers (who pay a significant amount of the council rates) should be considered.

If there is so much need for a new Council Chambers, it should also be considered about the conditions about the condition of the roads and the local Sale Yards.

There have already been a number of services lost in the Millicent area, please don't make it any worse by closing the Sale Yards. Also, it will be more expensive for farmers to deliver their stock to Sale Yards further away. Some of the smaller farmers will suffer significantly.

The CEO Mr Ben Gower doesn't seem to care about the local farmers and community otherwise this problem wouldn't be arising.

We care about our local community and don't want it ruined by the Local Council and the hierarchy that run it. The Sale Yards should have been kept maintained and this problem would not be occurring now.

Ian & Christine Baker,
Trading as Nitschke & Baker.

I. Baker

C. J. Baker

Brian & Pat Kain,
Trading as BE & PJ Kain.

BEK

PJ Kain

COLIN NITSCHKE

Colin Nitschke

LETTER NO: 1/195905		FILE GF/ 4.37.1/3		PF/	
DATE RCVD		26 NOV 2021		REFER TO: EA	
CEO	DCS	DDS	DES		FILE

MILLICENT SALEYARDS

PJ Lucas
 PO Box 787
 MILLICENT SA 5280

19th November 2021

Wattle Range Council
 PO Box 27
 MILLICENT SA 5280

Mayor Des Noll and Elected Councillors.

I have a very simple request; please DO NOT close down the Millicent Saleyards.

The Sale Yards complex is a wonderful asset for our district; not only does it provide employment for a number of people but it provides an outlet for the local farming community to sell their cattle and to catch up and discuss farming issues with fellow farmers. Yes, we could all send our stock to other markets, but the few extra dollars we may get certainly does not cover the extra cartage costs we have to pay.

I would assume that the CEO and all the Councillors in attendance at the "Walk Around" on Tuesday evening, 16th November, would have got a very clear message from the many upset and angry local farmers who rallied at the Sale Yards – and this was at the mere whisper of this facility either being sold or closed down.

I have a question: ***why do the Sale Yards have to run at a profit?*** From all the discussions that I have heard and read about over the past few years, the topic of cattle numbers passing through the local markets and the revenue raised has been noted as being insufficient. This has been coupled with the threat that if the cattle numbers did not increase then the complex would be closed down.

The mere fact that the Sale Yards does bring in some income for the Council is a bonus. Why can't the Sale Yards be viewed as providing a service to the local rural community; in comparison, the swimming lake, public library and a number of

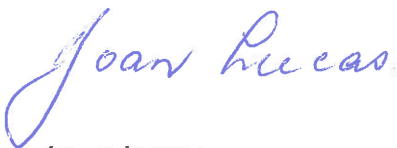
other facilities which also provide services, do not raise any income and are used far more by people living within the actual town than those living outside of the town area.

I also believe that over 75% of the Wattle Range Council rate income comes from the rural community. I do know that with the huge increases in land valuations over the past few years I, (and probably every other land owner in the district), am paying far more in rates than I am happy about. I do get the roads running past my property graded a couple of times a year, but feel quite miffed that this is really the only thing I get from paying a huge slice of my annual income to the local council.

If we also consider that very little has been spent on maintaining the complex over the past 40 plus years, coupled with the current need to comply with modern improvements in health, safety and environmental issues, then spending extra dollars to upgrade this facility isn't monumental; divide the whole cost by 40 and it won't seem to be such an expense.

I might also mention that I do sell my cattle through the Millicent Sale Yards.

Thanking all in anticipation that you will make the decision to keep and maintain this facility for the benefit of our town and district.



Joan Lucas

Submission to Council re Millicent Sale Yards from John Mullins

When attending sales at the yards, the number of cattle, vendors, buyers and onlookers continues to show the importance of this facility to the farming community of our area.

We need to be considering the things we need to do to enhance this involvement with our yards instead of dwelling on the challenges and instil confidence in the users and potential users of the facility.

All identified issues regarding the state of the cattle yards must be planned and carried out so that the facility is up to safety standards and fit for purpose.

We need to do whatever has to be done so that the sheep yards can be used as a drop off and pick-up point with a yard fee attached to this service. Any other party who may wish to use the sheep yards on a regular basis should do so under a formal agreement and for a fair remuneration to Council.

We need to look at the reinstatement of a space with toilet and shower facilities that can be used by all participants who use the yards: agents, farmers, truck drivers and motorbike training.

While the estimates to do the repairs to bring the yards up to standard may seem daunting, the work can be staggered over the coming years and be addressed in a planned approach. Grants should be applied for to assist with this process.

We need to see this as an opportunity for this area and stop viewing as a problem.

John Mullins,
88 Boandik Drive,
Millicent
November 27th, 2021

Archived: Friday, 26 November 2021 4:31:22 PM
From: [Kym Sullivan](#)
Sent: Friday, 26 November 2021 1:16:00 PM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/195907 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal

Friday 26th November 2021

Attention Elected Members Wattle Range Council

Mr Mayor Noll & Councillors,

I am writing to express my concern again, at Council's focus on reviewing the sustainability of the Millicent Saleyards complex.

I certainly want Council to know that I support the continued operation of the Millicent Saleyards by Wattle Range Council. As a user of the Saleyards and as a rate payer I seriously hope that you, our councillors, vote to keep our Saleyards OPEN.

If the swimming Lake has a structural or any issue the council fixes it.
If there is an issue that requires mending at any of the playgrounds, the council fixes it.
If the Beachport boat ramp needs work done to get it up to standard, the council fixes it.
The library is also a free to use facility and if at anytime it requires renovations or repairs or upgrades, the council fixes it.

Why then are we even looking at closing the saleyards due to it's OVERDUE maintenance? Maintenance that has been overlooked by this council for 10 years.

Like the swimming lake, playgrounds, boat ramp & libraries the Saleyards have never been for "Profit" making but a service to our town Millicent & surrounds.

Taking an economic rationalist approach to considering the future of the Millicent Saleyards is the easy solution. HOWEVER, when you consider the historic positive returns provided by the Saleyards to Council's budget and the flow-on economic and social benefits, including mental health, it provides to our community then it's value cannot be overstated. The Millicent Saleyards MUST continue to operate.

People of our town & surrounding area's are aware of council's spending. In a response to wanting of New Council Chambers a comment was said which I thought it was well put, " a wooden door handle will open a door just the same as a brass one!" Sure you need more office space but it does not need to be a grand/opulent space. Save some money to spend on the saleyards maintenance!

I will certainly be totally disheartened in the members of my council should you vote to close this towns Saleyards. Remember you are elected members of the whole Wattle Range Council area and not just your respective wards.

I await for a positive outcome of the meeting to be held Tuesday November 30th 2021.

Mrs Kym Sullivan
Wattle Range

and to those naysayers out there who say "Just close the Saleyards" they obviously don't utilise the Saleyards or are aware or indeed care about the repercussions of the closure of the Saleyards.

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25/11/2021

LETTER NO: 1/195896		DATE RCVD: 26 NOV 2021	REFER TO: EA
FILE GF/ 4.37.1/3 PF/			
CEO	DCS	DES	FILE

To wattle range councilors,

As third & fourth generation graziers in this region .We are really concerned disappointed and angry with the prospect of the Millicent sale yards being closed down.

Was very disappointed that at the meeting at the sale yards the other night granted you got our councilors to stand out the front but you did not introduce them by name or ward you just assumed that we knew them and many of us do not and still don't.

Millicent started as a service town for farmers & fisherman a fact that seems to be unrecognised or forgotten by many councilors as the rates that you collect from the rural community is astronomical and seriously on the surface we don't appear to get much in return our roads graded a couple times a year if lucky no kerbing no lighting no rubbish collection.

We have had very limited use of the childcare centre the swimming lake the library to name just a few and not for a moment have we thought that you as a council should not fund them because we do not use them.

The sale yards is the one facility that we do use and rely on . Granted that due to lack of maintenance over a number of years you are looking at \$\$\$\$ needing to be spent but that is not the farmers or the agents fault that you as a council have not done the up keep.

Just looking at today's market 25 Nov that we sold in \$1,608,435.40 totals how in all honesty as a council can you walk away from that sort of turnover and the amount of jobs that these sale days create .

Agents ,stockman, truckies ,secretarial staff weight staff. Our yards go so do these jobs . Which has flow on effects to our township supermarkets delis fuel stock firms the list is endless and Millicent cannot afford to loose any busines.

If we have to use Mt gambier & Naracoorte it will be jobs with their towns not ours.

I urge you to really think carefully about your decision here and the bigger impact not just the amount it is costing to run it and what you are actually saying to to your rural community if you still choose to close it.

As for many of us that use it regularly are not in the position or have the numbers for selling on line or over the hooks and unfortunately the graziers that do have the large numbers to make a real impact or difference on our yard also have the numbers that are required for the alternate selling options. Also one other point that you seem to forget that has had the greatest impact on the yards is the amount of land that was sold over to blue gums.

Leon & Helen Slape
Diamond Swamp Pastoral Co
PMB 57
Millicent 5280

Leon Slape *Helen Slape*



Millicent Business Community Association Inc
PO Box 859, Millicent SA 5280
millicentbca@gmail.com
ABN: 80 490 830 814

26 November 2021

Ben Gower CEO
Wattle Range Council
P.O. Box 27
MILLICENT SA 5280

Dear Ben,

RE: Saleyards Future

I refer to the advice sent into social media whereby Council will be considering the future of the Millicent Saleyards on the 30 November 2021.

The Millicent saleyards are like many other government funded beneficial enterprises that have a commercial flavour and include waste facilities, parking facilities, childcare facilities, pools, sport complexes, gymnasiums, and regional airports.

Many local government funded beneficial enterprises enable funds derived from ratepayers to build partnerships with private enterprise to provide an opportunity to leverage profit; or as a minimum, enable a fiscal knock-on benefit for the whole community.

The basic question to be asked is if farmers have travel to Mt Gambier or Naracoorte for stock sales, are they going to continue to buy their fuel, buy farm materials, buy clothes, frequent supermarkets here in Millicent?

The Millicent Business Community Association has 100 members. Despite the very short time frame given to engage with our members, a survey was conducted with several simple questions. These were:

1. Do you oppose the sale of the saleyards? Council should continue to manage the saleyards facility. [Agree/ disagree]?
2. Do you support the sale of the saleyards as this facility should **not** be supported by Council? [Agree/ disagree]

I advise that our MBCA members (who are business owners) provided an overwhelming response to this survey.

Our members were unanimous (100%) in their view to oppose the sale or closure of the saleyards and were forthright that Council continue to manage the saleyards facility.

No response was received that supported the sale or closure of the saleyards.



In summary, should Council members support the sale or closure of the saleyards, they will be defying the views of the business community within Millicent and its surrounds.

I have requested a deputation at your Special Council Meeting to relay the response to our consultation and I intend to elaborate on the assertions and views of our members in a professional manner.

We thank Council for the opportunity to respond and again state our support of this important regional facility reaffirming that the Saleyards has a significant economic flow, together with a mental health and social benefit to the Wattle Range District.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Morgan', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lee Morgan

Chairperson

Millicent Business Community Association

M: 0419850258



Millicent and Surrounds Health Support Group

"A local initiative supporting & advocating for the improvement of health services"

Mayor Des Noll OAM
Wattle Range Council

26th November 2021

Millicent Saleyard Future

Dear Mayor,

The MASHSG believe that the Millicent Saleyards has in the past and can into the future play a significant role in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing of our farming communities within the Wattle Range Council area.

Mental health for farming communities in today's constantly changing world is professionally researched and documented as being a critical issue for rural families. Isolation and difficulty accessing support services are some of the challenges facing our community.

Social inclusion opportunities that present at the Saleyard markets allow for engaging with friends and peers, it is well documented that this is a key component in mental wellbeing.

This was highlighted last month on the ABC with a report from rural NSW about a mental health campaign targeting farmers at saleyards "where they 're comfortable"

We would anticipate that the report to be considered by the Council includes a full analysis including Strengths, Challenges, Options, Responses and Effectiveness has been conducted, including costing of Safework SA and EPA requirements for safety and environmental management of on-site remediation.

We strongly support the continued operation of the Millicent Saleyards considering the working targets set by the Council in February this year and the importance of social inclusion opportunities that an operating saleyard provide to our farming community.

Yours sincerely

Ron Wood
Secretary.

Box 686 Millicent SA 5280
mashsginc@gmail.com

From: [Peter And Anne Bateman](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 November 2021 10:27:59 AM
To: [Council](#)
Subject: EI2021/196031 - 4.37.1/3 - Millicent sale yards
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Tuesday, 30 November 2021 10:32:01 AM

I strongly support that the Millicent sale yards remain open. My reasons are similar to the recommendations that were debated at the sale yards the other day. I am a livestock producer.

Unfortunately I am an apology for tonight's meeting as I am on Eyre Peninsula.

Regards
The
Peter Bateman
Millicent phone 0429442769

Sent from my iPad

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To Whom It May Concern

As a local farmer & ratepayer, I would like to address some issue surrounding the Millicent Saleyards

I feel the saleyards should not be closed because they are unviable, and list below my reasons

Council provides numerous other community facilities and services that cost money and run at a loss, for instance the library, which is not subject to running at a profit, and neither should the saleyards, I believe it should be included in this criteria

We pay rates for the council to provide such facilities and the improvement and upkeep of those facilities

It is my opinion there should be a list of upgrades needed to the saleyards ranked in importance. Start at the top of the list and work down.

Of high importance is to get a part of the sheep yards with at least one ramp in working order again as they are very valuable as a "depot" for people to bring their small lots of sheep in for the trucks to pick up numerous lots of sheep at the one pickup.

Low on the list would be the canteen / agents office building. Do we even need it? At least for the time being

I also think that a change of the sale day is an absolute must for the improvement of through put of stock numbers. That day should be a Monday. By doing this the sale changes from being at the end of the week where buyers are just trying to fill loads or have to hold their purchases over the weekend somewhere for the following weeks kill, to the start of their week.

This decision making process should not include stock agents, as it would mean that they would need to work on Sundays, and this would influence their willingness to change

Millicent Saleyards

To CEO Gower, Mayor Noll and Wattle Range Elected Members,

I farm in the Furner region within Wattle Range council and also Naracoorte/Lucindale Council. I farm with my wife Sally and six children Arlan, Jameson, Luca, Dakota, Alaska and Digby. Our farm is primarily a breeding operation running a self-replacing flock of Merino and First Cross Composite Ewes and Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn Cows. I see a very bright future in the livestock industry and think it is great to see a new younger generation coming through with a passion for livestock. My children thoroughly enjoy driving around the farm with me and they take great interest in what I do and are always asking when the calves and lambs are being born, ask when the young stock are being weaned and marked and ask when and why I'm selling animals. I remember driving around as a kid with my father Peter and late grandfather, Murray, who was always a big supporter of selling and visiting the Millicent Saleyards.

In recent years, the divide between city and agriculture has grown larger. As a kid myself, I recall hoping in the truck with dad to take sheep and cattle to the Millicent Saleyards. I always wanted to be the one to wash the truck out afterwards. My Cousins from Canberra would often visit for Christmas and also use to hop in the truck with Dad or my uncle to cart stock in. They got first hand experience of seeing stock arrive and be sold at Millicent Saleyards. Without local saleyards, experiences like this for all of our city cousins will be missed and that divide between city and agriculture will grow. Here in the Wattle Range Council, we experience a wide variety of Agriculture commodities and we do it well. It would be a shame to lose our local yards and see that divide grow further.

I recently put a post on Australian Livestock Trucks FaceBook page with a photo of the truck wash facilities asking people who use it to give the post a like or comment. In less than 6 days, the post had 128 likes and 21 comments of support. Some comments said:

- Hands off and leave the truck wash open with rules and regulations we as truck drivers don't have the extra hour to visit facilities.
In NSW there is money available to build new wash out facilities where required to stop effluent spillage from trucks and stop the spread of disease so why are our operational washes shutting in SA
- Do not shut truck washes down, they are an integral part of the industry!!!!
- Leave it please. Way it's going I'll have no where to wash out
- One of the best wash out facilities going, a must for the future. Maybe they will let us come shower at the council chambers
- One of the best washes I have used pressure wise. Apart from that it's a long way out of the way to go to either Mt Gambier or Naracoorte and out of the way as there is a lot of livestock in this area of the south east. Transport is hard enough let alone putting that extra pressure on operators

These are just a few comments from people from out the Millicent region. If you want to read along the comment, please look them up on the Facebook page. These comments and likes go to show that the Saleyards and its facilities (including truckwash) are some of the best around and used and enjoyed by lots of people.

I believe the Saleyards building have asbestos in them that require removing. Any building in the council region is likely to have asbestos and it's just unfortunate that this building is at the sale yards site, so falls into saleyards costs. If it was any other building, it wouldn't be an issue to remove and fix the problem. The sale yard office and shower toilet facilities are used by many as a place to have a shower and rest, especially truck drivers, as there is plenty of room to park large vehicles without being an inconvenience being parked on the side of the road. There is nowhere else to park a truck and use a public toilet in Millicent.

The cost of the ramp upgrades is very necessary. A safe loading area is required for drivers. As Millicent Saleyards don't have the larger numbers of stock throughput these days as it did once, not every single ramp would need to be replaced or fixed. This would save a considerable amount of money. New ramps from a specialised livestock handling manufacturer would be the best money spent, as these businesses know all the requirements and specs needed to be met. I would advise of discussion from livestock operators on ramp location and needs.

Naracoorte and Mt Gambier Saleyards would not have the capabilities to take on the extra stock from the Millicent region if we were to have our Saleyards shut down. Some weeks, Naracoorte and Mt Gambier are at full capacity, so how would they take on extra stock. It would be the Millicent farmers who miss out on the sale of their stock, potentially missing out on strong markets and having to feed stock for another week could have devastating affects if feed supplies have run out. Farmers would also miss out on sale of stock as there would be no way the stock from Millicent area would be able able to get delivered. Logistically, there is no way all the stock would be able to be carted from farm to Naracoorte or Mt Gambier saleyards. Local carriers are already busy enough on Millicent Market nights.

The role of Elected Members for councils stats that Elected Members and Mayors are elected by the local community to represent the interests and needs of the community. I feel this isn't happening with in our community. Not too many people want to see the sale yards shut down. Local farmers want it, local (and non local) truck drivers want it and local businesses that rely on local clientele want it. Why are Elected Memebbers ignoring their job and why are they not supporting the local ratepayer? Why? I would suggest every Elected Member do a google search on the role of Elected Members in local government and represent the people they need to represent

Regards,

Robbie Bateman on behalf of my wife Sally and children Arlan, Jameson, Luca, Dakota, Alaska and Digby

Batchell Ag

PMB 34 Millicent SA 5280

Phone 0400 065 139

Robbiesally8@gmail.com

From: [Chris Sims](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 November 2021 8:53:48 AM
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Nat Robbins](#)
Subject: EI2021/196017 - 4.37.1/3 - Saleyards
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Tuesday, 30 November 2021 10:34:01 AM

To whom it may concern,
Being a rate payer and business owner the handling of the sale yard complex by council has been nothing short of criminal.
Absolutely disappointing how you as council can run a community asset into the ground only to justify shutting it. I utilitise this for not only cattle but sheep as well.
There are several other community facilities that run at a complete loss however these are immune to your mentality of shutting them!
Where was the council when the state government was handing out cash for mount sale yard ramp upgrades?? \$300000 odd grand in grants to upgrade ramps. This just proves how incompetent this current council is as there is clearly money available for upgrading our sale yards.
I fully support our yards and anything less than a solid plan for its future will bring forward the investigation of a overturning of our council and incompetent CEO
If you need money for the ridiculous council office then look elsewhere as the saleyards are hands off !!

Chris Sims
lbalehaysupplies
0434006254

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