

From: [Gavin & Sandy Bell](#)
To: [Mayor](#); moiraneagle@wattlerange.sa.gov.au; dennismuhovics@wattlerange.sa.gov.au; [John Drew](#); [Sharon Cox](#); deanburrow@wattlerange.sa.gov.au; debagnew@wattlerange.sa.gov.au; [Council](#); daleprice@wattlerange.sa.gov.au; premier@sa.gov.au; minister.scriven@sa.gov.au; mackillop@parliament.sa.gov
Subject: EI2023/213365 - 4.64.1/4 - Millicent Saleyards
Date: Thursday, 4 May 2023 5:43:26 PM

Dear Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors & Representatives,

Once again, the future of our local Saleyards has been brought to our attention. We have only recently been informed of the impending situation, regarding the potential decision of possible saleyard closure.

We are asking our council members, to keep other saleyards open, for our various cattle producers, stock agents, livestock transporters and the surrounding business sector.

I would like to point out to the council members, whilst I appreciate it might cause some inconvenience, but you have a lot of our e-mail addresses on file, yet we do not receive any notification regarding the saleyard decisions, till last minute.

There has been limited time, to communicate with others, that may further assist, in helping council understand the necessity, in keeping the saleyards open. The limited timeframe, is to our detriment . Council should be willing to allow a better timeframe, for such discussions to take place.

There is no justifiable reason, for Council excluding the community, from having more open public discussion, as it affects them, as well.

I have been trusting, that our local Saleyards Advisory Committee, would be delegating on our behalf. Obviously, reading through some of the meeting minutes, there has been some issues with attendance, to gain worthwhile progress.

The saleyards are a necessity for our local farmers. I understand that the throughput has not been what council see, as a major number, but does not mean it will not improve.

I find, that the survey put on the council facebook website, not only ineffective, but also disturbing and disheartening.

Disheartening, because it is written, like it is a token gesture.

I say ineffective, due to it being aimed at one particular group of people, not opened to non-users of these yards, (the business community). This is how it reads, not only to myself, but to others.

I also added disturbing, because there was no mention of these recent turn of events, until recently.

This seems to be a regular pattern.

I would like to know, why there wasn't a public meeting held?

Where has the money, if memory serves me correctly, council said at a previous public meeting, would be used to begin necessary maintenance of the Millicent Saleyards, being used?

From what I have read in the meeting minutes, the work has continued to be held off. Why is this happening?

I myself, have not noticed any work being done, within the saleyards. I have attended every sale held at the saleyards.

The markets have been showing, that demand for the fat market is making a comeback. Unfortunately, it will take at the very least, a couple of years for numbers to pick up.

If councils continue to close saleyards, then farmers might as well close up. Smaller farmers will struggle/cannot afford, the cartage rates for small amounts of cattle to be sent outside of their district, which include us.

I am writing, to reiterate, what I had written in an e-mail to you previously, dated 8th February, 2021.

My Husband, Gavin Bell & I, run cattle and sheep, on a small farm. Although our farm is small in comparison to others, it is still a business that will be fundamentally affected. I also know, that we are not the only ones. The stock agents, livestock carriers, buyers & various businesses, will suffer from the loss of our saleyards. No saleyards, no money for smaller producers, loss of smaller livestock carriers, and the effect on the local businesses.

What will happen to the workers at the saleyards? I know to council, that there is only a small number of people who work there, but what happens to them, as well as the flow on effect, regarding impact on them and their families, etc?

You may mock this question, do they get to sue anyone for the loss of their jobs, etc? Can the farmers sue council, for the financial losses, due the further costs that they will endure?

Are council willing to lower our rates, since what we use, is being taken away from us? I certainly won't be using the new council office, library, boat ramps, etc. We are paying for a lot, yet receive so little.

I know, mentioning that it was the council's decision to remove the saleyards from their maintenance list, will have council members saying, the past should be left in the past, but the council's removal of saleyards from maintenance list, has been a contributing factor, to this situation.

We have the right to fight for our saleyards, just as those that fight for, need I say it, the new council office.

I remember a couple of years ago, when the Council came out to defend, and rebutt community outrage, when speculation about costs of the new office, was around \$5,000,000+. Now I read, the possible costing, is around \$9.2 million.

Why is it, that council can justify the continual rise in costings towards the new office, yet are unable, nor wanting to, put our rates money into the essential services, such as the Millicent Saleyards?

There is so much that needs to be written, but again, so little time.

I can only hope this small e-mail, will be read and tabled, at the meeting, which is held tomorrow, 5th May, 2023.

Kind regards

Sandy Bell






Sent: Thursday, 13 April 2023 10:09 AM

To: Ben Gower <bjg@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>; Peter Halton <peh@wattlerange.sa.gov.au>

Subject: TThanks



On a further matter I would comment on the saga of the Millicent Sale Yards. As you may be aware I was elected to the Wattle Range Council in 1997 and served on Council until 2003, during that time I was fortunate to be the chair of councils finance committee and was very much involved in budget policy and financial management of the council. The sale yards project was the subject of much debate because of the cost to council, it was losing in the order of \$80,000 to \$ 100,000 per year and was a very high maintenance project. I commend Council in its deliberations but suggest that it is time to move on and at last close it down.



NG & BJ Copping



5th May 2023

Wattle Range Council
Mayor, Mr Des Noll
PO Box 27
Millicent SA 5280

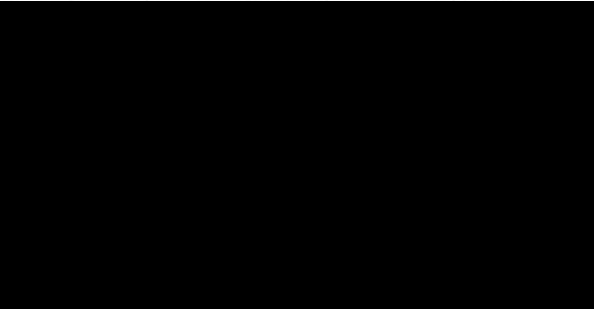
Dear Des

We are writing to register our disappointment in the Council regarding the proposed closure of the Millicent Saleyards.

This facility has been supported by the Council as a community service the same as the library and other facilities in the town.

The saleyards generate as a flow-on effect to the economic business community of more than \$1.2million (2018 figures).

Do you as mayor and the councillors what to be responsible for taking this money away from the business community by closing the saleyards?



LETTER NO: 1213386		FILE GF/ 4.64.1/4 PF/	
DATE RCVD	08 MAY 2023	REFER TO: CO	
GEO	DDS	DDS	DES/ FILE

To, May 1 2023

Wattle Range Council

Mr. Ben. Gower.

We as graziers and ratepayers in the Wattle Range Council district wish to have some input into the possible closure of the Mellicent Saleyards.

We run 120 head of breeding cows and the offspring from these are 75% sold at the Mellicent Saleyards.

There is also the possibility that farmers come to the Saleyards to chat with other farmers.

They often share their problems and this helps with mental health issues as many farmers only have social contact at the Mellicent Sale

Also there are the smaller farmers who only sell a few stock each year and it makes it hard for them to get their stock to market

if they have to be transported to Mt. Gambier.


There is also the possibility that when farmers come to town to the Sale, they spend money at businesses in town such as coffee shops and Supermarkets.

If farmers have to go to the Mt. Gambier to attend the sale they will probably spend their money in Mt. Gambier, therefore causing Mullicent businesses a loss of income.

We strongly suggest that the Mullicent Saleyards should remain open for the benefit of the district.

Regards

Jan & Christine Baker



Garth & Shirley Huppertz

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2-5-23

To all elected Councilors Deputy Mayor, Mayor
and Wattle Range Council

LETTER NO:	11213239			
FILE GF/	4. BA 1/9 PF/			
DATE RCVD	03 MAY 2023			
REFER TO:	EA			
CEG	DCS	DDS	DES	FILE

Dear Sirs

We^{are} local livestock producers and have always supported Millicent sale yards for 64 yrs. We are asking the Wattle Range Councilors to keep these Council owned yards open, they are a service facility to the whole community. These facilities are vital to the success, prosperity, and well being of the district and town businesses. No Sale Yards no Prosperity. We will lose local family owned stock Agents, livestock carriers, contractors, yard workers and sale yard managers. What other business can earn \$1.3 million dollars on a good sale day in Millicent. A procurement gross income from 24 sales could be 10 million dollars annually for Millicent.

These council services cost ratepayers money but so do the other services like library, Beachport boat ramp, Parks & Garden etc

All great services that make Wattle Council special

I congratulate council offering this service to the community but why have they highlighted the smallest ever cattle market on March 15th 2023. Why did this happen? The whole Australian Cattle market price dropped ^{on the} 30^c kilo live weight. No racecourse did not hold a market and Mt Gambier only had 220 cattle. In the last 12 months yearling cattle dropped \$100 a KI live weight. That means a 400kg calf is selling for \$400-00 less than 12 mths ago. It is a difficult time for producers and our fortnightly market is a great social and meeting place to help them monitor their Mental Health issues. I was on the sale yard committee and we increased the receiver fee and stock agents annual licence fee to help maintenance. Then SAIR Government did an audit and placed 5 Major Risk problems and ordered almost \$1 million repairs.

Council allocated almost \$1,000,000 towards infrastructure upgrade despite cattle through put below \$500 head. We thought this was great and every thing will be right. But council ordered materials but have been slow in replacing timber rail and safety rails on cattle ramps and steps. We had a real good manager in Andrew Robinson and he and council skilled employees could have done a lot of repairs with in council at much cheaper rates than the inflated quotes. The Millicent Yards are basically galvanized steel and concrete in fairly good condition only need wooden infill and catch repairs and ramp side upgraded safety rails.

(2)

How can we increase throughput number.

Stock agents need to work to bring back more clients to Millicent
Millicent is a quality fat market and is equal to better prices than Mt Gambier
& Naracoorte fat markets and live stock are weighed and transported away the same day: less stress

The store market prices have eased substantially as there is no NSW & Qld
buying anymore, and the fat market will improve now
Millicent Market shifted to Wednesday bringing extra buyers after Mt Gambier
sale which is working very well and attract more competition.

Millicent has a lot of small farmers that need a close sale yards
If we are to go to Naracoorte or Mt Gambier will have to pay 2 or 3 times extra freight
and extra hours travel and hours more on concrete, and different owners are not to
mix mobs for biosecurity reason. Much ministers on owners and livestock.

I would suggest the sale yards stay open for another four years to see how new fat
market evolves, give new councillors time to see benefit to the Millicent community
and to have time to complete Government ordered upgrades and give the graziers
time to support our sale yards again. This extra time will allow confidence to use our fat
market.

Please remember this is one of councils service industry needed for the community
of Millicent, don't let our producers, stock agents, livestock carriers, local

business suffer from the loss of our sale yards. Plus a lot of mental health
issues Keep it local

Yours sincerely,
Garth and Shirley Huppertz

