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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARANOA REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD AT ROMA ADMINISTRATION CENTRE ON 11 NOVEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 1.30PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Cr. T D Golder chaired the meeting with Deputy Mayor J L Chambers, Cr. R Bryant (by teleconference), Cr. N H Chandler, Cr. P J Flynn, Cr. G B McMullen (by teleconference), Cr. C J O'Neil (by teleconference), Cr D J Scheffe, Cr. J M Stanford, Chief Executive Officer – Julie Reitano, Coordinator Communications – Jane Frith and Minutes Officer - Lauren Owen in attendance.

**AS REQUIRED**

Director Corporate, Community & Commercial Services – Sharon Frank, Manager Saleyards (Acting) – Paul Klar and Marketing & Communication Officer – Louise Cadell.

**WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 1.30pm.

**APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for the meeting.

**BUSINESS**

Cr. Bryant declared a perceived Conflict of Interest in *Item 6.1 – Proposal to Bring Forward Consideration of Results to Date From the Roma Saleyards' Consultation, Decision in Relation to the New Fee and Council's Consultation Process*. Cr. Bryant made the following statement to the meeting:

*"I inform the meeting that I may have a perceived conflict of interest (as defined in section 173 of the Local Government Act 2009) in the matters to be discussed and decided today due to my being a member, director and Southern Inland Queensland Regional President of AgForce. I have determined that this personal interest is not of sufficient significance that it will lead me to making decisions on these matters that are contrary to the public interest.*

*Indeed, I believe my knowledge and understanding of the cattle industry may be useful during the discussion to assist Council reach a more fully informed decision. Accordingly, it is my belief that I will best perform my responsibility of serving the overall public interest of the whole of the Maranoa region by participating in the discussion and voting on these matters."*

**Item Number:** 6.1 **File Number:** D16/102577

**SUBJECT HEADING:** **PROPOSAL TO BRING FORWARD CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS TO DATE FROM THE ROMA SALEYARDS' CONSULTATION, DECISION IN RELATION TO THE NEW FEE AND COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION PROCESS**

**Officer's Title:** Cr. Jan Chambers

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**Executive Summary:**

As part of Council's Special Budget Meeting on 27 July 2016, Council adopted a Schedule of Fees & Charges that incorporated specific amendments pertaining the Saleyards:

- Stock agents' selling permit – from minimum charge \$4,000 plus \$0.15 per head to \$4,000 including GST
- Change fee description – from Saleyard Capital Upgrade (Reserve) Fee to Agents Operating Fee
- Change fee description – from Post Sale Buyers Service Fee to Post Sale Handling and Transfer Fee (includes NLIS)

At Council's meeting on 12 October 2016, a number of resolutions were made.

Cr. Jan Chambers gave written notice of her intention to propose amendments to the resolutions of both meetings.

**Discussion:**

Cr. Chambers presented an address to the meeting providing an overview of the matters raised during the community consultation, further information from Council's perspective and some personal thoughts and observations as Deputy Mayor.

Cr Chambers' address is summarised as follows:

*Following on from Council's meeting on 12 October 2016, Council has commenced consultation with the community to gain different perspectives and help shape the future of the Saleyards' facility.*

*Whilst the initial trigger for the consultation was the concerns raised about the Post Sale Handling and Transfer fee, as Councillors are aware, there are many interrelated issues, none of which can be considered in isolation.*

*Out of the consultation to date, there have been a number of key themes, with information coming from Saleyards' users through the Councillors' meeting at the Saleyards, a further Advisory Committee meeting on 3 November 2016, and many individuals, both formally and informally to individual Councillors, and Council as a whole.*

*Given the information received, I suggest to Council that the decision on 'where to from here' be brought forward and the results of that decision be incorporated in a budget review. In summary, it is proposed that the fee be removed from the 2016/17 Fees & Charges Schedule, refunds made to those who paid in good faith, and a number of actions be undertaken.*

Cr. Stanford spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that she strongly believes there is currently a huge inequity among the Saleyards' users, therefore the conversation needs to continue to ensure that there is a level playing field for everyone. She further indicated that in her opinion the Saleyards should operate on a user pays model. Cr. Stanford advised that she will continue to move forward with Council and all stakeholders in reviewing every aspect of the Saleyards to find a balanced, equitable resolution for the future. Cr. Stanford thanked members of the gallery for attending the Special Meeting and those who have provided advice, opinions and suggestions, as well as the stakeholders who paid their fees in good faith, and other community volunteers who have contributed to the Roma Saleyards Advisory Committee.

Cr. Schefe spoke in favour of the motion, but indicated that he had grave concerns regarding the \$364,000 deficit that this will leave in the budget, which will be an ongoing issue for Council.

Cr. Bryant spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that she believes there is a way forward, but that it must include everyone having the opportunity to have their say and raise constructive ideas. She further noted the importance of looking at the whole picture, and asked that each stakeholder consider the matter from a whole of industry perspective.

Cr. McMullen spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that there have been some lessons and next time Council will definitely engage in additional consultation.

Cr. O'Neil spoke in favour of the motion, applauding the Deputy Mayor's leadership on this issue. He indicated that Councillors had been agonising over this issue for the past couple of weeks.

The Mayor spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that he is enormously happy that the matter has been sorted out. He further indicated that he has great faith that numbers through the Saleyards will be above projections, and that this is an opportunity to move forward.

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Resolution No. SM/11.2016/01

Moved Cr Chambers

Seconded Cr Bryant

That Council:

- Amend Special Budget Meeting Resolution – 27 July 2016

**That the Post Sale Handling and Transfer Fee (including NLIS) be removed from the 2016/17 Fees & Charges Schedule and refunds be provided to those who have paid.**

- Amend Council Meeting Resolutions – 12 October 2016

Resolution No. GM/10.2016/27

That Council:

~~1. Based on feedback from agents and buyers regarding invoicing, work with the Roma Livestock Agents Association Incorporated and individual Roma Agencies to implement processes to resolve the billing issues, including investigating the potential for centralised billing at the Roma Saleyards.~~

2. Undertake consultation with, and provide information to, buyers, vendors and agents on the future recovery of costs associated with the facility and services provided by Council, with the results to date to be considered at ~~the General Meeting on 23 November 2016~~ at a Special Meeting on 11 November 2016 to provide earlier certainty for all Saleyards' users.

~~3. Work with developing an Memorandum of Understanding / Agreement with the Roma Selling Agents to supplement the approval process under Subordinate Local Law No. 1.17 (Sale or Consignment of Stock at a Saleyard) 2011 and further that the roles and responsibilities detailed in the agreement form part of Council's Quality Manual for the operation of the Saleyards.~~

~~4. Await receipt of feedback from the Roma Livestock Agents Association Incorporated or individual agents on the approval conditions. Council consider the information received after the close of the 12 October 2016 Council Meeting from the Roma Livestock Agents Association about the approval conditions, and any other feedback from individual agents or agencies.~~

~~5. Confirm that two agents currently have permits in place to sell at the Roma Saleyards and note receipt of the insurance details from an additional five (5) selling agents as an interim step to seeking approval to sell cattle at the Roma Saleyards.~~

Resolution No. GM/10.2016/28

That Council note that the fees applicable for the vendors and buyers combined are below the projected cost to Council in providing the facility and services ~~and therefore it is a financial imperative that the pricing structure, as adopted, remain in place during the consultation and information sharing process.~~

Resolution No. GM/10.2016/29

That Council note that the fees applicable for the vendors and buyers combined are below the projected cost to Council in providing the facility and services ~~and therefore it is a financial imperative that the pricing structure, as adopted, remain in place during the consultation and information sharing process.~~

Resolution No. GM/10.2016/30

~~That Council resolve to have a moratorium on debt recovery processes in relation to the new~~

~~fee, until the consultation process has been completed and Council has considered the results of the consultation on 23 November 2016. These debts will still be due and payable upon completion of the consultation period. Further, t~~ That debt recovery continue for any other saleyard fees and charges outstanding in accordance with Council's debt recovery process.

**Resolution No. GM/10.2016/31**

That Council proceed with ~~the proposed~~ revised signage as a matter of priority, with the final wording circulated to Councillors for approval, prior to it being erected.

- Decide

That Council implement a multi-step process to address current concerns in relation to the Roma Saleyards and Council's consultation processes by way of the following steps:

Step 1 – Expand the draft prospectus/booklet on the Saleyards to include the additional information that Saleyards' users are seeking.

Step 2 – Separately consider Council's position on the new Multipurpose Facility.

Step 3 – Undertake a review of how costs at the Roma Saleyards could be cut further, but without compromising the progress being made in maintenance of the yards.

Step 4 – Undertake a full review of the fees and charges for the Roma Saleyards.

Step 5 – Formalise the work done to date into a detailed Business Plan for the Roma Saleyards

Step 6 – Council review our consultation framework; how we consult and inform about major issues.

Note: It is not the intention that the steps be undertaken in sequence. In some cases, work can be done in parallel, but there needs to be separate outcomes for each step.

Further that the resultant Saleyards' budget shortfall for the current financial year be funded by an internal loan from the reserve set aside for Gravel Pits, repaid in future years, and that the Borrowing Policy for 2016/17 be updated accordingly.

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<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>
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**CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked Council for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 2.03pm.

**These Minutes are to be confirmed at the next General Meeting of Council to be held on 23 November 2016, at Roma Administration Centre.**

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Mayor

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Date