

**Western Australian Meat Industry Authority—**

Mr D.A.E. Scaife, Chair.

Mr D.A. Templeman, Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

Mr T.S. Collins, Chief Executive.

Mr M.G.S.J. Pinto, Chief Financial Officer.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. Members may raise questions about matters relating to the operations and budget of the off-budget authority. Off-budget authority officers are recognised as ministerial advisers. It is the intention of the chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 1 October 2021. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

Member for Roe.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the line item "Saleyard—2020–21 Program" on page 259. I notice we have a very consistent amount of \$450 000 every year. That is a \$50 million saleyard and I understand it would cost \$10 million to level the site and another \$40-odd million to rebuild it. We have plant and equipment to improve efficiency and workers' safety, but should there not be some capital in there to replace some of the damaged yards as time has gone on, now that they are up to 10 or 12 years old, from memory?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy for Mr Collins, who is the chief executive, to make some comment.

**Mr T.S. Collins:** The member's point is well made. We are currently developing a capital replacement program in collaboration with the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority board. It relates particularly to some of the weighing equipment that we have on site, which is probably the core business of the saleyard. We single weigh all of the livestock, particularly the cattle, that go through the saleyards. A capital replacement program is being developed and we intend to roll that out in the next few years. The infrastructure that is in place is definitely beginning to get tired. We are at the front end of that program now.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** The Muehea saleyards sit on an area where there is a lot of development at the moment—the Muehea Industrial Park. I am wondering what planning is being done to integrate the saleyard and perhaps take advantage of some of the development around there in terms of capital growth for the organisation. Could the chief executive just give us an idea?

**Mr T.S. Collins:** It is a great question. At the moment, the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Act is quite restrictive in terms of the way the site can be employed. The 75-hectare site is currently managed by the authority. The act, as drafted, restricts the authority to really do things that are wholly and exclusively within the confines of the scope of running a saleyard. Our ability to leverage that land in ways that would be complementary to the saleyards and would allow us to get the most value out of the site itself, particularly in the context of the Muehea Industrial Park structure plan that is currently sitting in draft, is restricted in that sense. The WAMIA board is very cognisant of that and has, on its agenda, amendments to the act that will unlock those issues and allow us to begin to properly exercise the site.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Has the chief executive had support from the minister here? Is the minister supportive of that approach?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am sure that the authority will liaise with the Minister for Regional Development in terms of recommendations and those will be duly considered.

**The CHAIR:** That completes the examination of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority.

In that case, I thank the minister, members and advisers, particularly the staff from the department, for their attendance this evening. This committee is adjourned until 9.00 am tomorrow morning.

*Committee adjourned at 10.00 pm*

