

23 August 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT

CENTRAL VICTORIA LIVESTOCK PLANS PROGRESSING

Plans to construct a state of the art livestock exchange on a 44.5-hectare site at the intersection of Sunraysia Highway and the Western Freeway on the north-western side of Ballarat have been granted a Works Approval by the Victorian EPA.

Spokesperson for the Central Victoria Livestock Exchange, John Delicato, said he was pleased the EPA had considered the project's environmental and sustainability initiatives and given approval for it to proceed.

The new \$23 million facility will modernise operations for agents and producers who use the saleyards to sell livestock, increasing capacity, efficiency and improving animal welfare standards.

In addition, the project will create 126 direct and indirect jobs and generate a total economic boost for the Ballarat region of more than \$46 million over the course of the project.

Mr Delicato noted that despite rumours the project had 'doubled in size', the current design is still largely consistent with the concept plan originally considered by the Independent Planning Panel in October 2015.

"Today's EPA Works Approval allows for an annual turnover of 70,000 cattle and 1.6 million sheep, exactly the same livestock numbers considered by the Planning Panel in 2015," Mr Delicato said.

"Since the Planning Panel process in 2015, we have made only minor modifications to the design of the overall facility in response to talks with site users on the optimal layout for safe and efficient operation of the new site.

These modifications have added around six percent (6.2%) to the dimensions of the facilities (now 69,974 square metres) and will specifically improve the safe movement and handling of livestock on sale days.

A Development Plan, including plans for landscaping, transport and traffic and environmental management is expected to be lodged with Council later this month for endorsement.

Construction of the facility is expected to take approximately 14 months.

The current livestock exchange facility has a turnover of \$207 million and supports the direct employment of approximately 630 people across the region.

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