MEDIA MONITORS

Wagin Argus
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Premier asked for help on saleyards

by Sherryl Chilcott

LOCAL representatives lobbied Premier Colin Barnett during his recent visit to the region to help provide new saleyard facilities.

The Katanning Saleyards, which are used by farmers in the Wagin, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace districts, is run by the Katanning Shire Council which has recently set about upgrading the facility and moving it to a different location.

One of the main reasons for the need to move the facility is the run-off aspect of debris from the yards, which are uncovered.

After every sale the yards are scraped down and subsequent rubbish taken away and disposed of.

However, if it rains and the scraping process is incomplete then the rubbish runs into containment dams which must be emptied and cleaned regularly.

Having the entire complex undercover would alleviate this problem, but due to its proximity to the town centre and residential area it is not an ideal solution to upgrade the existing facility.

The shire purchased land for this purpose a few years ago but, have since found the new land is also too close to the town centre and poses several of the same problems that the original sight has.

Katanning Shire President Phil Rae asked Mr Barnett if he could in some way assist the shire with the approval of the site as a location for the saleyards.

Building the facility will cost about $14 million and Mr Rae asked the Premier to assist in either providing a grant or loan for construction, which would benefit the region.

Mr Barnett asked the Katanning Shire representatives to investigate other probable sites for the facility in addition to the land they had already purchased to further assure him that the facility was built in the best possible location.

(above) SALEYARDS UPGRADE TALKS: Katanning chief executive officer Dean Taylor (left) and Katanning Shire president Phil Rae (right) lobby Agricultural Region MLC Jim Chown and Premier Colin Barnett for help to upgrade saleyards in the district.

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(right) GRASS ROOTS OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY: Premier Colin Barnett (centre) tours the Katanning Saleyards with Agriculture Region MLCs Brian Ellis (left) and Jim Chown .