



## Warren Truss

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure  
and Regional Development

## Rick Wilson

Member for O'Connor



## Colin Barnett

Premier of WA



## Alan McFarland

Shire President

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## Joint Media Statement

28 May 2014

### **New sheep saleyards boost regional and state economy**

STATE of the art sheep saleyards opened in Katanning today will inject an extra \$15 million a year into the regional economies of south and south west Western Australia.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the new saleyards would reduce costs for producers in the southern regions of the state, give them the opportunity to present their sheep in the best condition and increase the meat and livestock industry's contribution to the state's economy.

"The renewal of this facility is clearly vital infrastructure for regional Western Australia and it was built with an Australian Government contribution of \$7.4 million," Mr Truss said.

"It also helped Katanning's economy by creating more than 50 jobs during construction, with the Shire using as many local contractors and suppliers as possible."

WA Premier Colin Barnett officially opened the new facility today with the Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson representing Minister Truss.

Mr Barnett said the Katanning saleyards were one of only two primary sheep saleyards in Western Australia, the two accounting for about 94 per cent of the sheep traded through the saleyard system.

"The sheep and cattle industries are significant sectors of the Western Australian economy, with most production in the Great Southern region," Mr Barnett said.

"The auction system plays a central role in this industry, so the \$17 million contribution by the Western Australian Government is a good investment for the town, the region and the State."

Mr Wilson said the new saleyards were Western Australia's largest undercover sheep selling facility, capable of dealing with 1.5 million sheep annually.

"This is a wonderful day for all of us who have worked so hard for so many years to make this facility a reality," Mr Wilson said.

"As a sheep producer, I can confidently say this is a very important facility for the industry."

Mr Wilson said the saleyards had 1,012 selling pens under four hectares of roofing, accommodating up to 45,000 sheep at any one time, and was the only facility in Australia with water available in all pens.

“The innovative design also takes into account animal welfare and environmental aspects by being able to capture 45 mega litres of water from the facility’s roofs, channelling excess water through a pipeline into lakes in the town’s recreational park,” he said.

“All in all, this project improves productivity and supports the region’s economy, as well as keeping the lakes in Piesse Park full of water and giving the townspeople a more attractive community recreational area.”

Katanning Shire President Alan McFarland said the opening ceremony marked the end of a long and complex process for the Shire, which had tried for more than a decade to find a redevelopment solution for the original facility.

“The new saleyards demonstrate an extraordinary level of innovation, commitment and leadership by the Shire in delivering an outcome that industry and the state can be proud of,” Cr McFarland said.

“Led by CEO Dean Taylor, the Shire has shown that outside-the-box thinking can achieve unprecedented cost-savings.

“The facility’s environmental benefits will also directly contribute to the development of another major project in the town.

“Our Piesse Park development was faced with the problem of maintaining lake water levels in summer, and the solution was found in the environmental design features of the saleyards.

“In another environmental benefit, the saleyards have a power generation system that is carbon neutral through solar panelling, which provides \$60,000 worth of electricity back into the grid.

“The Shire has also committed to leverage the sale yards development by co-locating complementary rural industries to form a strategic industrial precinct.”

The Shire contributed at least \$1 million to the project.

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#### **Media Contacts**

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