

# Fleurieu meat industry reinvigorated by abattoir's re-opening...



## RAISING THE STEAKS

*Fleurieu Community Co-operative members Steven Russo and Grant Baker, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham, Fleurieu Community Co-operative Chairman David Parsons, and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick welcoming the Strathalbyn Abattoir redevelopment last Wednesday.*

*Photos: Giorgina McKay*



By Giorgina McKay

The re-opening of the Strathalbyn Abattoir will finally come to fruition towards the end of the year, with redevelopment works focused on bringing the facilities up to industry standard to begin almost immediately.

As previously reported in *The Southern Argus*, the community-run Fleurieu Community Co-operative will undertake a \$3.5 million restoration of the site – \$1.5 million of which is provided by the State Government – to repair and upgrade the existing facilities and implement an automated booking management system to facilitate the re-opening of the abattoir.

“I think this is going to be transformative for the Fleurieu because not only is it an investment to lower costs for farmers and consumers, but an investment in the quality of our

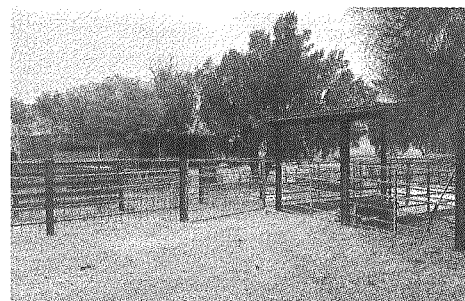
produce here, so we can be much more bespoke, and focus on paddock-to-plate solutions,” Co-operative Chairman, David Parsons, said.

“I think we’ve got to work real hard as a community to move this forward – and I do like the idea of it being a community exercise – because that’s where we’re going to get the energy from and where we can keep that energy going.”

The new and improved abattoir will have a strong focus on serving community needs by providing efficient, quality, local service at a reasonable price, and enable a plate-to-paddock model for Fleurieu producers and farmers.

The latest project is expected to create up to 20 ongoing jobs, as the co-operative looks to open the doors in July-August this year.

“This is effectively a new abattoir in the way it operates,” Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, David Basham, said.



*The Strathalbyn Abattoir will undergo a \$3.5 million restoration to bring the current facilities up to industry standard.*

“My understanding is there may have been some paternal family issues within the business structure, so that led it to closing at short notice (in 2020).

“This group stepped in and are keen to see it operate.

“It’s certainly a wonderful project that’s going to benefit the Fleurieu and the whole state, particularly now with

Foodland coming on board as a major partner in this enterprise to make the whole supply chain work.”

Foodland’s commitment to the Co-operative will enable local producers and farmers to capitalise on a ‘lucrative market’, and for more Fleurieu beef and lamb to end up in South Australian stores.

“It effectively means the model we originally proposed of bringing supply and demand together is now realised,” Borough Markets Director/Founder, Grant Baker, said.

“What that means is when, ideally, we have the facility back open in July/August, the produce that comes here from Fleurieu farmers will find its way to South Australian plates in a sustainable and committed way.

“It guarantees our ability to fill supply for farmers and growers in the area, and it means we can bring stability and better pricing, and South Australian produce (can be) kept in South Australia.”