

# Meatworks set to revive?

BY DANI BROWN

A SURVEY has been opened by Regional Development Australia (RDA) to help inform a feasibility study into the potential re-opening of the Strathalbyn Abattoir.

Also known as Strath Meats, the abattoir closed in December last year, with Strath Pastoral's director at the time Darren Lamp citing the "economic downturn" made it "no longer viable" and "irresponsible to continue to operate".

Its closure left three full-time staff and 11 casual staff without jobs.

But demand for an abattoir on the Fleurieu Peninsula has not disappeared since the Strathalbyn facility's closure, according to Regional Development Australia (RDA) Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and KI regional development manager Stephen Shotton.

It is for this reason the local RDA branch has invested

in investigations around the potential re-opening of the Strathalbyn site.

Mr Shotton said the closest abattoirs for Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island producers were at Murray Bridge, Lobethal, and Two Wells.

The distance between farms and abattoirs resulted in extra transport costs and lower-quality products.

Having an abattoir open at Strathalbyn made more sense compared to re-opening facilities at Normanville or Kangaroo Island, Mr Shotton said, as it was central to multiple regions including the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide Hills, and Murraylands.

"The quickest, cheapest, and easiest way is to have another abattoir is to re-open Strathalbyn," he said.

Mr Shotton said abattoir owner Terry Steed was keen to gauge if investors wanted to operate the facility.

He said a feasibility study would determine whether a

re-opening was possible.

"From an RDA perspective, our interest is supporting industry and businesses to grow, improve, and employ people, and it's why we got involved - because of the interest across the industry," he said.

Mr Shotton has urged livestock producers, potential investors, and anyone involved in the chain from farm to plate including butchers, retailers, and wholesalers to share their views on the impacts of the abattoir's closure and what it should offer if it re-opened.

"One of its purpose is to get direct feedback from a wider group of people," he said.

He said there had already been a "terrific" response.

"We have a few dozen responses and the universal response is 'yes, we want to see it open', across supply and demand," he said.

To complete the survey, visit <https://strathalbyn-abattoir-survey.paperform.co/>



**POTENTIAL:** Strathalbyn abattoir owner Terry Steed and RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and KI regional development manager Stephen Shotton. Photo: Alisha Fogden.