

# Strathalbyn abattoir expected to re-open in six months



*The Strathalbyn abattoir could be reopened in as little as six months with the State Government approving \$1.1m for repair works at the site.*

## SCOTT MURPHY

Strathalbyn's abattoir could reopen in as little as six months with the State Government approving \$1.1m for the Fleurieu Community Co-operative to complete mandatory repair and refit works at the site.

The Ashbourne Road abattoir was closed in December 2020 by its then-owner, Strath Pastoral, resulting in greater costs for many local farmers who had to transport their livestock further to other abattoirs. The Fleurieu Community Co-op was formed in

2021 to initiate the reopening of the Strathalbyn abattoir, however, as the facility had ceased operating, it needed to meet new industry standards.

Co-op director Grant Baker said the community-led organisation had been under immense pressure to meet the conditions of the \$1.1m State Government grant, which had been conditionally approved, so it could undertake the require work to get the facility up to scratch. "Knowing that we now can actually deliver what we promised is an amazing feeling, it really is," he said.

"We just could not believe that it took over a year from the grant being approved to actually getting the funds into our accounts." The abattoir was previously meant to reopen in September last year, but due to challenges meeting the grant conditions, the reopening was delayed multiple times. It is estimated to cost about \$3.5m to get the facility ready to operate again, with much of the work – such as the paddock repairs and flooring installation – already completed.

"There's already been a huge amount of work, it's not that we are now just going to start," Mr Baker said.

"It's come a long way (and now) you're going to see scaffolding all over the place (and) we're waiting for the final (council) approvals, which have been submitted, on raising the roof.

"(If) we can secure the contracts as we need and the parts that we've ordered come in on time, we believe that there's about four months of work left.

"Then we need to go through the accreditation program process with the EPA which we think will take about three to four weeks ... so ideally we suggesting within six months we should be open."