



*Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDAAFK) is inviting local livestock producers, butchers, and meat wholesalers and retailers to participate in its Strathalbyn Abattoir (Strath Meats) Industry Survey to see whether its reopening is viable. Image: Google Maps*

## Interest in Strathalbyn Abattoir reopening being investigated



By Giordina McKay

The Strathalbyn Abattoir could potentially re-open its doors if proven feasible and there's enough local interest in its ownership, according to a regional development board.

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDAAFK) is inviting local livestock producers, butchers, and meat wholesalers and retailers to participate in its Strathalbyn Abattoir (Strath Meats) Industry Survey, and share what impact the abattoir's closure had on the industry, and what it should offer if it were to re-open.

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— Steve Shotton

RDAAFK Regional Development Manager Steve Shotton said the results from the survey would determine whether it was feasible to re-open, and who would own and run it if it did.

He said the board was

prompted to investigate re-opening the abattoir after seeing the damage its closure had on the region's producers and their businesses.

“We did a bit of work with the previous owners to look at trying to get (the abattoir) sold as (it was) a growing concern,” Mr Shotton said.

“But when they didn't progress the sale and they closed it down, we recognised there was widespread interest in it operating right across our region.

“Producers that want to add value through a paddock-to-plate-model aren't able to, and we have examples of producers that were producing branded product into the high-end

restaurant trade, but once they were transporting their livestock as far as Two Wells and other abattoirs further away, they couldn't maintain that quality.

“If they can't maintain that level of quality, they're basically closing down their brands.

“There's a lot of (other) reasons, including the employment that's gone away, so from an RDA perspective, supporting industry (and) growing employment is an obvious thing we would support.”

According to the consultants RDA has deployed to do the feasibility work, a co-operative ownership structure model is recommended for the abattoir.

Mr Shotton said this would enable the community to have ownership of the facility.

“Under a co-operative model, there's a minimum of five and as-many-as-you-want owners,” he said.

“That actually gives the community across the region an opportunity to have ownership in the facility.

“In particular, the people that would be most interested in investing in it will be farmers, butchers, meat wholesalers, and maybe even the retail end of the chain as well.”

Residents can participate in the survey by visiting ([// strathalbyn-abattoir-survey.paperform.co](http://strathalbyn-abattoir-survey.paperform.co)).