

Kalahari goats hit \$2890 per head straight out off the mulga

COOLADDI

WHEN STOCK agent Jordy Anthony bumped into a colleague and mentioned he had just sold three goats for \$2890, the response was that was a pretty good price.

And then Jordy told him that amount was for each goat, not the lot. "I don't want to say the words he said," said Jordy, a polite young man. "But he pretty much said, 'Holy Moly.'"

The price paid for the Kalahari red goats from Allambie, south of Cooladdi, in an online auction on 20 October has set tongues wagging and minds racing. At \$2890 each, the 11-13-month-old bucks, suitable for commercial breeding, were worth more than the latest record-breaking steers at the Roma saleyards.

Another three young Kalahari red bucks from Allambie sold on the same day were not far behind in price at \$2850. The prices were just reward for vendors Cathy Zwick and Brett McDonald, who say they have put a good five years' work into the Kalaharis.

McDonalds Holdings has been in goats for 30 years, originally as opportunistic harvesters of rangeland goats before deciding to put the best of the does with Boers to improve meat production.

They took on their first Kalahari reds in 2015, attracted to the southern African breed's drought tolerance, and were impressed at the way the goats pushed through



Prices for Kalahari Red bucks mean this one-week old kid could be a solid investment.

the drought in 2017. "In 2017 were the worst drought conditions and we were still looking at a 133% at weaning, so they are very good at coping with the drought conditions," Cathy said.

But before the dollar signs start flashing in readers' eyes, Cathy warned Kalaharis are not set-and-forget animals. She said the herd

required management to contain the breeding season, exclusion fencing or some other protection from wild dogs and good food even though they scoffed mulga like ice-cream.

"If you put them in a 1000-acre long paddock with only the native pasture species, you get what you put in. If you're not going to give

them the good food, you not going to get the good offspring," she said.

Three of the bucks went to central Qld, two are believed to have gone to the St George area and another to Bourke NSW. Other older Allambie Kalahari red bucks sold at the auction for between \$1030 to \$1520 each, and Allambie Kalaharis with a percentage of Nubian

sold for just under \$1000. Cathy said interest seemed to be in the young Kalahari bucks as commercial breeders and was probably boosted by the bloodline records kept for each animal. "We were very excited by the level of interest prior to the auction. Part of the process was to work out what the reaction would be," Cathy said.

"We were very pleasantly surprised. It was a fantastic auction. We would like to have had more of them, of course, but it's not about the numbers. It's about producing quality animals."

The McDonalds had never sold through the Auctions Plus online system, but decided to give its national goat sale a go because they did not have enough goats to truck to sale. Jordy, who hails from Jerilderie in the NSW Riverina, had never sold goats before.

However, he was impressed with the McDonalds' Kalahari reds when he and fellow agent Garry Cartwright visited Allambie to take photos and details for the auction listing. "It's like anything, you can tell when an animal's in prime condition," Jordy said.

He estimated he took 45 calls about the goats before the listing on AuctionsPlus. "I had a friend of mine looking at buying one of them and he said every time he tried to click the button to bid, someone else had. He would have had 100 bids on them and never got one. It was phenomenal and great for the McDonalds and all the work they've put in," he said.

Silt would rapidly refill channel after excavating, say experts

CHARLEVILLE

PLANS TO beautify a section of the Warrego river may switch course following public meetings with two experts last week.

About 30 people turned out for a session on Wednesday 28 October with hydrologist Evan O'Brien and fluvial geomorphologist Peter McAdam, aka the creek doctor. About half the number backed up at a session with the pair at the river the following morning.

Murweh deputy mayor Peter 'Red' Alexander said a report about options for the river would be prepared for an upcoming council meeting, but it seemed the council might not proceed with its original plan of action.

Red said the council had been looking at spending a riverine grant on clearing and cleaning up the river to encourage flow and the meeting was held to determine the community's views. The council is keen to avoid a repeat of the 1990 flood that caused an estimated \$400 million in damage.

Red said a many held concerns that the Mitchell highway through town had increased the likelihood of flooding because the main roads department had veered away from its original bridge construction method of pylons and culverts to instead rest the road on compacted earth and a reduced number of culverts.

"Many people believe it's creating a new weir and impacting on people on the west side of the river," Red said the council had been

considering excavating to 1.5m in the river to improve flow and fix a levee bank.

However, he said the experts advised the excavation could be a waste of time, filling with silt again in the event of a flood. Speaking after the meetings, the creek doctor said he could not see much value for money in excavating the river. "What was proposed was to open up the channel a bit, the low flow channel that runs up hard against the side of the levy, and try and get some speed through there," he said.

"But the flood modelling was showing that it wasn't going to make that big a difference. In my experience with excavating soft silt, it works but it can get silted up again in a matter of minutes in a flood. It works in the short term, but you're not going to get any long-term reward.

McAdam said there were other options that involved controlling flow above and below Charleville. Very low water infiltration rates across a large catchment contributed towards the flooding

Red was pleased with the turnout at the meeting. "It was a good cross section of the community. Young people, old people, indigenous people. Everyone had their ideas of what they wanted but I think the common ground was they all wanted to manage some of the damage from when the river floods and wrecks people's homes.

"It educated the people that there were some options for river flow."

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1994 - Section 233 Application notice - Durham Downs

Resource activity: Site-Specific Petroleum Activity

It is advised that Santos Ltd, Santos Australian Hydrocarbons Pty Ltd, Delhi Petroleum Pty Ltd and Vamgas Pty Ltd have lodged an application for a major amendment to an environmental authority in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The environmental authority being amended is EPPG00407213. The application relates to Petroleum Lease (PL) 80 located approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Ballera covering an area of approximately 9,159 ha in the Bulloo Shire Council area.

The amendment application seeks to increase the scale and intensity for the activities on PL80. The application documents for the project consist of the EA amendment application form and supporting information. The application documents may be inspected or accessed at:

- <https://www.santos.com/about-us/corporate-governance/public-notices/>
- <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/management/activities/non-mining/regulation/environmental-authority>
- Copies of, or extracts from, the application may also be obtained at the Department of Environment and Science, Level 3, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
- Telephone 1300 130 372 for the Department of Environment and Science to discuss access to the application documents

It is advised that any person may make a submission about the application during the submission period, which is 20 business days from the publication date of this notice. **Submission must be received on or before 4.30pm on the last day of the submission period.** Submissions must be sent to:

Department of Environment and Sciences
Energy and Extractive Resources
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001
palm@des.qld.gov.au

The Department of Environment and Science as administering authority shall accept all properly made submissions and may accept written submissions even if they are not properly made. A properly made submission must meet all of the following requirements:

- be written or made electronically;
- state the name and address of each submitter;
- be made to the administering authority stated above;
- be received on or before the last day of the submission period; and
- state the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds.

Enquiries about the application can be made directly to:

- Santos Ltd, GPO Box 1010, Brisbane QLD 4001 or via telephone 3838 3000; or
- Department of Environment and Science, GPO Box 2454 Brisbane QLD 4001 or via telephone 1300 130 372

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