



Big benefits flow from \$25m saleyards project

ONE of the more remarkable agricultural development projects undertaken in the State's history will come to fruition when the first sheep are unloaded at the new Katanning saleyards later this year.

The \$25 million project will result in the biggest undercover sheep complex in the southern hemisphere.

The Shire of Katanning took the unusual step of self-managing the enormous construction project.

Shire CEO Dean Taylor said it was a case of making best use of the \$17 million commitment from the State Government.

Along with the Commonwealth contribution of \$7 million and the Shire's \$1 million, the region will receive remarkable "bang for its buck".

"This facility has been costed by Building Management and Works who did the Muchea Saleyards," Mr Taylor said.

"Muchea cost \$54 million and they said to do what we're doing here would cost \$44 million.

"The Government was never going to build a \$44 million facility after they'd just built a \$54 million facility in Muchea.



● Men at work: Saleyards building manager Ernie Menghini (above) and welder Michael Penny (below).

"That was just reality."

Mr Taylor said the Shire was set to reap the rewards of the Council's brave step.

"You can imagine from Council's point of view it was a big decision to make when the State Government says 'we're going to give you \$17 million but, if you go over, you've got to wear it'.

"But we did our due diligence and were confident we could do it."

The facility is on target to be completed by the end of the year.

"What we're building here is the most modern contemporary design for saleyards," Mr Taylor said.



"It's going to have the best animal welfare practices in Australia.

"We've got the best wastewater treatment

system in Australia.

"Innovation that we're doing here will have significant environmental and community benefits."

WATERMANS 16/5/13