

Mt Gambier Livestock Exchange Mount Gambier, South Australia



Like many other saleyards **Mount Gambier Livestock Exchange** understands how a SOFT floor can have a huge influence on the condition of saleyard stock. **Particularly when you are attracting store cattle it's important for the buyers to support a yard that has a surface that helps prevent animal lameness.**

For the past 2 years Mt Gambier has been trialling several alternative products, but found that most were either slippery or were too expensive. Some yards use sawdust but that was not an option for Mt Gambier as it often retains harmful bacteria and creates a mess and a lot of work for yard staff.

Mike Atwell Exchange Manager had this to say;

"The process of trialling different surfaces has been a challenge, but it was important that we found a solution for animal welfare and to give us a competitive edge.

*We currently process 120,000 head per year of which 25,000 are store cattle and **without the RPS SureFoot® matting our store buyers would probably go elsewhere.***

*The initial outcome has been good. I've noticed **the animals like to stand on the rubber and often can be found lying down.** Also our wash down time has reduced enormously and the amount of water that we use is less.*

Overall our investment in the RPS SureFoot® Mat has been positive".



After watching what Warrnambool Livestock Exchange did to improve their yards surface, Mount Gambier installed a trial area using RPS' **SureFoot®** mats.

The mats provided immediate improvement by eliminating the drainage problems associated with sawdust and a noticeable difference in the general cleaning time and water usage when hosing down the yards surface. The animal's behaviour has seemed to change as they move quieter and are freer than before.

Mount Gambier is the first Livestock Exchange in South Australia to adopt the RPS **SureFoot®** matting and sees this surface as a major draw card in retaining existing buyers and attracting new ones to their facility.



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