

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON:

ANIMAL WELFARE (DALBY SALEYARDS REDEVELOPMENT)



Background

The Western Downs region is located three hours west of Brisbane and covers an area of 38,039km². The Western Downs Regional Council manages and operates a saleyards complex in Dalby in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Dalby Saleyards is one of the largest one-day centres in Australia, with an annual throughput of over 200,000 head of cattle and up to 10 operators conducting their business from the facility.



FAST FACTS

CLIENT	Western Downs Regional Council
LOCATION	Dalby, Queensland
FACILITY	Regional Saleyards Redevelopment

Excellence reimagined

Objectives

This redevelopment illustrates how Wiley worked closely with Western Downs Regional Council and the local community to ensure animal welfare standards were met, while also increasing efficiencies.

Scope

Wiley was engaged to design and construct new undercover saleyards with automated drafting facilities, improved lighting and holding pens; compliant with a range of legislative, welfare, operational and environmental factors.

Wiley value

The overall design considered the RSPCA’s Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare Policy and the recommendations outlined by Dr Temple Grandin, a global authority on livestock behaviour, design of facilities and humane slaughter. Animal welfare measures implemented included:

- Introduction of elevated walkways and semi-automatic drafting facilities, reducing animal stress.
- Incorporation of soft flooring comprised of sawdust, gravel or rubber, reducing lameness and sore-footedness.
- Provision of shade and shelter with 7,000m² of roof area.
- Application of acoustic insulation to the under-side of the roof, reducing noise for both animals and humans.

Wiley’s Business Operation Manager for Toowoomba, and Project Engineer, Mr Michael Matthewson, said the saleyards’ custom design significantly reduced the safety risks for workers and greatly enhanced cattle comfort.

“We have set a new benchmark for animal welfare in saleyards in Australia, if not the world,” he said.

“Now the saleyards have 680 pens and more than 300 of those have soft flooring and roof cover, ensuring sellers and cattle are protected in any weather. As well as cattle and patron comfort, the new complex excels in biosecurity and environmental compliance.”

*The RSPCA defines farm animal welfare in the terms of five essential freedoms: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from fear and distress.