

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Regional saleyard redevelopment

Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC) manages one of Australia's busiest one-day cattle saleyards, supporting a vital regional industry. The Dalby Saleyard processes over 200,000 head of cattle annually, with up to 10 operators conducting business on site. It is a key economic and employment driver for the region.

The existing facilities had reached their capacity and presented an opportunity to significantly improve throughput, enhance animal welfare, and integrate modern technology to meet evolving industry standards.

 Dalby, Queensland  
 Advisory services, design, construction, project management, Principal Contractor, commissioning

### Project scope

Wiley was engaged to deliver master planning, concept and detailed design and construction of undercover yards, 156 new pens, pneumatic drafting, improved lighting and soft flooring.

Animal-centric design drew on RSPCA's Five Freedoms and global best practice:

- Elevated walkways and automated drafting reduced stress
- Soft flooring (sawdust, gravel, rubber) minimised lameness
- 17,000m<sup>2</sup> of roofing and acoustic insulation provided shelter and calm
- Layout enabled natural animal movement and safer handler access

### Stakeholder engagement

BIM modelling and collaborative platform integration were key to successful, extensive stakeholder engagement for this project.

Wiley led an inclusive engagement process with Council, saleyard operators, industry bodies, and an animal welfare specialist. This collaboration shaped a flexible design that met user needs, legislative compliance, and Council's procurement framework. This collaborative approach:

- Engaged diverse stakeholders across trade, industry, and government to shape a shared project vision
- Ensured full transparency and compliance with local government procurement standards
- Collaborated closely with operators to evolve saleyard operations and integrate new systems
- Created a local industry participation plan to maximise regional business involvement and community benefits
- Developed a master plan and BIM model to provide real-time visualisation, coordination, and clash detection
- Established a collaborative platform for current and future technology integration
- Enabled the potential for a parallel eSelling audience to enhance market reach

### Business value to client

The new facility boosted processing efficiency (from 100 to 180 head/hour with half the staff), increased safety, and elevated the region's livestock offering. Future-proofed design supports eSelling and real-time data integration—positioning WDRC as a national leader in saleyard operations.

### Partners and consultants

Dr Temple Grandin, Animal Welfare Specialist (at time of project delivery)



Master planning



Live environment



Stakeholder engagement



Animal welfare

