

# COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER TO SET NEW BENCHMARK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



## Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC)

The Western Downs region is located three hours west of Brisbane and covers an area of 38,039km<sup>2</sup>.

The Western Downs Regional Council manages and operates a saleyards complex in Dalby in collaboration with key stakeholders.

### FAST FACTS

CLIENT	WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
LOCATION	DALBY, QUEENSLAND
FACILITY	REGIONAL SALEYARDS REDEVELOPMENT



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.

This redevelopment illustrates how Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC), Wiley and the local community worked closely together to deliver a saleyard facility that complied with animal welfare standards.

### *The challenging scope that Wiley delivered*

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

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.

### *Value outcomes for WDRC and operators*

Buyers and agents gained trust and confidence in Council in supplying a comfortable environment to conduct their business.

Council achieved compliance, with Animal welfare measures implemented including:

- 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 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of roof area.
- Application of acoustic insulation to the under-side of the roof, reducing noise for both animals and humans.

*"The saleyards' custom design significantly reduced the safety risks for workers and greatly enhanced cattle comfort. Together, we have set a new benchmark for animal welfare in saleyards in Australia, if not the world. 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."*

Wiley Business Operation Manager for Toowoomba, Michael Matthewson

\*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.