Shearing contractor and woolgrower, Hilton Barrett combined with Australian Wool Innovation have aimed to design a shearing shed which addresses worker safety and animal welfare concerns, while also achieving improved shed efficiency and wool quality.

The design was developed following extensive industry consultation and reviews of existing working sheds. Further refinements were made following multiple trials.

This cost-effective design provides positive outcomes for the shearing team, the wool producer and the sheep.

For further information go to www.wool.com/sheddesign
SHED ENTRY RAMP
- Wide ramp and entry
- Walkway and rails
- Soft grip flooring for sure footing

IN-SHED YARDS
- Boarded fence improves flow and noise
- Non-directional plastic floor for drainage and minimal light penetration
- In-shed storage and covered external yards
- Wide swing gates

MODULAR DESIGN
- Repeatable three pen and board modular design
- Straight drag from catching pen to workstation
- Saw tooth design presents shorn sheep to chute
- Horse shoe design minimises distance from stand to wool table/bin/press

BOARD
- Straight drag from catching pen to workstation
- Adjustable overhead gear positioning
- Enough room for shed hands to assist shearer and clear away wool
- Timber board/pen division, reduces noise and vibrations
- Non-slip, smooth tongue and groove work area surface, improves sheep handling, impact absorption and wool handling
- Room on chute for shearer’s gear

WOOL HANDLING
- Non-stick surface for ease of wool transfer and clean up
- Distance from workstation to wool table/bin/press minimised
- Even, short distances between stands and wool table
- Flexible configuration, portable wool bins, wool table and press(es)
- Load bearing floor to allow press(es) to be moved to suit configuration
- Well-lit wool handling/classing areas

WOOL ROOM
- Access stairs and safety rail for wool room
- Portable wool bins and press
- Ample room to store/transfer bales
- Space for presser’s utilities
- Truck access
- Safety rails

AMENITIES
- Shower and toilets
- Enclosed kitchen space
- Preparation surfaces and kitchen accessories
- Table and chairs
- Hot and cold water
- Large sink and shower head

GENERAL FEATURES
- Shed safety signage
- First aid kit kept on site
- Directions, coordinates and contact numbers
- Multipurpose concrete storage
- Truck access for loading

LIGHTING & VENTILATION
- Perspex corrugated sheeting supplies natural diffused light
- Overhead LED lighting to illuminate workstation and wool for classing
- Minimal unwanted light under shed
- Formed plastic pen flooring minimises light/shadows below pens
- Large windows and a shutter design encouraging air flow
- Air conditioning installed

COUNTER PENS
- Will hold more than a run per pen
- Clear overhead space, easy access
- Undercover sheep storage under wool room
CATCHING, FILL AND LANEWAY PENS
- Painted, high visibility step into the catching pen from fill pen
- Sloped catching pen aids filling, presents sheep facing away from shearer, assists with drag
- Timber slats parallel to path of drag to assist drag
- Catching pen free from obstacles such as recessed chute
- Logical pen sizing, three pens together hold over 70 head, on average enough for two runs

CATCHING PEN DOORS
- Dual catching pen doors, light weight timber to reduce noise and impact
- Double action swing for ease of entry and exit
- High enough to baulk sheep, low enough to avoid contact with shearer’s elbows
- Gap below doors to stop feet getting wedged (sheep and people)
- Rounded corners
- Right hand chute door clear of impact when swung onto board

PEN MATERIALS
- Boarded fences improve sheep flow and reduce noise
- Swing/slide gate, easy to open and acts as a wing when filling
- Non-directional formed plastic floor for drainage, high wear and minimal light penetration to assist sheep flow

CHUTE
- Wide and recessed to facilitate easy release
- Vibration free top for storage of shearing accessories
- Drop off at chute entrance to minimise sheep resistance
- Graduated slope for controlled decent
- Uninterrupted chute exit

WORKSTATION MATERIALS
- Tongue and groove floor improves, sheep handling, impact absorption and woolhandling
- Timber absorbs sound
- No sharp edges

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