

# SHEARING SHED FIT OUT CONSIDERATIONS

When speaking to shed staff to gain their opinions there were several common considerations that were seen to be important when looking to retrofit an existing shearing shed. The list below has been collected through feedback and is only for consideration, it is not all encompassing and will not suit all situations.

## IN-SHED YARDS

- Slide/swing or lift/swing gates
- Ensure timber slats run across the flow of sheep (reduced light vision for sheep from below) or gridded plastic flooring (non-directional)

## CATCHING PEN

- Catching pen – timber slats should parallel to the drag path
  - if possible, a slope
  - if it is already a front fill this can be done just with a small step into the catching pen at the gate
- Catching pen doors – consider lower, light timber doors below elbow height
  - Barn style top door to assist if filling is an issue (back fill pens)
  - Ensure the chute side door doesn't hit the handpiece when swung and releases early from the sheep as the shearing drags past
- If the chute is a trip hazard in the catching pen consider fencing or boarding it off to remove the trip hazard (also creates extra storage on top) without adding any sharp corners.

## BOARD

- Consider removing overhead gear for electric stands – they are considered to provide higher performance and are safer
- Down tubes at a minimum in older sheds are to be 1520mm apart but in new sheds 2000mm apart
- Consider wider chutes (600-800mm)
  - A recess into the board of (100-150mm)
  - With a vertical drop off at the top of the chute (100-200mm)
- Storage – more the better, hanging space for tools and if possible, for tools a timber/rubber base to help reduce the impact of vibrations

## WOOL ROOM

- Flexibility in design, consider portable wool handling plant (table, bins & press)
  - if using wheels, choose wisely as they can catch with wool
- Wool tables with adjustable heights

## OTHER FEATURES

- Rubber matt or similar at bottom of chute to stop erosion/low areas being created and impact
- Power points per stand
- It is best to provide both male and female amenities, a deep sink to wash arms, hot water, scalable ventilation for different weather conditions, white lighting above wool rooms and if space is available table & chairs

This document should only be used as a general aid and is not a substitute for specific advice.

Please visit the AWI website at [www.wool.com/sheddesign](http://www.wool.com/sheddesign) for further information and resources on shearing shed design.

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