

Simplicity key to design

GRAHAM Minifie, a partner in netting systems suppliers and manufacturers, **Netpro**, described the shade project at Maydan feedlot as a custom-designed high-tension supported heavy shade cable system.

The final design minimised the number of support poles required, while maintaining the strength necessary, relative to the density of the shade being utilised.

“In this application, we used a specific cable (unlike conventional mild or high-tensile steel cable) which has a very high load capacity, and a natural elastic quality,” Mr Minifie said.

This negated any need to have elaborate tensioning devices, ties, or spring systems to keep the cables taut.

The cable ends pass through the support pole and are ‘spliced off’ using a line fitting on the cable.

Alternatively, the cable end passes through the support pole

and continues to an anchor point in the ground.

“Every pole, if the system is not designed correctly, has the potential to bow under a high-tension system, but that can be managed through correct system design, taking span length and other considerations into account,” Mr Minifie said.

Spans applied at Maydan, ranging up to 250m, were at the ‘lower end’ of the design capabilities of this particular system, he said.

“So long as the relevant cross-cables are put in place, which are also spliced off, to re-direct loads, distances like this are not an issue.”

The shade cloth chosen for use at Maydan was 84 percent high density polyethelene material (HDPE) developed specifically for feedlot use.

The cloth edges are knitted with a pre-formed eyelet, which allows the shade cloth to be retracted, and reinstalled later, if necessary.