



# Wellard

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## EXPORT INDUSTRY YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD HEADS WEST

Wellard Rural Exports' live cattle manager Justin Morrissey has been awarded the Livestock Export Industry's Young Achiever of the Year for 2008.

The 27 year-old was announced as the winner at the Australian Live Exporters' Council annual dinner on Thursday night.

The award recognised his efforts building the Wellard Rural Exports live cattle division from a small base in 2005 to a 200,000 head operation last year – elevating the company to Australia's largest live cattle exporter.

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the acknowledgement of Justin's talents by his peers was an extension of the respect he had within the company and the rural community.

"Justin embodies the future of the live export industry. He is smart, well educated, passionate, articulate, thoughtful, extremely conscious of animal welfare and is as proficient in the office as he is in the cattle yards," Mr Meerwald said.

"He has built a career in the live export industry, has travelled all over Australia and all over the world and is one of our trade's shining stars."

Justin grew up on Thundelara Station in the Murchison. He was Head Boy at Aquinas College and completed an Agricultural Degree at Muresk.

He spent time travelling throughout rural WA working as truck driver and station hand before beginning his career in the live export industry in 2005.

**For further information please contact:**

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## **Background – Wellard Rural Exports**

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more than 29 years. Based in Fremantle, the company's operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed and high fibre milling, road transport, feedlot facilities and modern shipping.

Wellard has priority access to the most modern fleet of livestock carriers on the ocean through its association with Siba Ships. The company's flagship carrier, the MV Becrux, is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Two new vessels, the MV Stella Castor and the MV Stella Pollux, are due for launch in early and late 2009. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

For more information visit: [www.wellardgroup.com.au](http://www.wellardgroup.com.au)