



MEDIA RELEASE
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Wellard a dual finalist in NAB Agribusiness Awards 2008

Australia's leading livestock exporter Wellard has been selected as a finalist in two categories of Australia's most prestigious industry awards, the NAB Agribusiness Awards.

In a ceremony last night, Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald was named as a finalist in the gala award for the evening, the NAB Agribusiness Leader of the Year 2008.

"To be selected as a finalist in such an important award was an absolute honour. The personal and professional calibre of my fellow finalists and previous winners is extremely high," he said.

ABB Grain Managing Director Michael Iwaniw was awarded this year's NAB Agribusiness Leader.

"I congratulate Michael Iwaniw. His company has achieved exceptional growth, and their work in the community sets a real benchmark," Mr Meerwald said.

"On a personal level I am proud that Wellard's investment in new vessels to improve animal welfare standards and the sustainability of the live export industry, as well as our contributions to charities such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and the Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation, were recognised and acknowledged by the judging panel."

Wellard Rural Exports was also selected as a finalist in the Monash University Export Award, alongside the eventual winners AACo.

"The quality of the companies represented at the awards shows just how dynamic the agricultural industry is in Australia and what a strong future it has," Mr Meerwald said.

"It was also extremely rewarding that a live export company was selected as a finalist in such a prestigious award. Wellard Rural Exports has enjoyed substantial growth over the past few years due to the support of our clients, in Australia and internationally, and the dedication of our staff, and I thank them enormously.

"The live export industry is extremely important to rural Australia, producers rely on it, and I am confident the industry will continue to grow and develop."

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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