



# Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## MV Ocean Shearer completes successful Egypt shipment

A shipment of Bos Indicus steers and bulls from Queensland has been successfully unloaded in Egypt by the MV Ocean Shearer, the second shipment to the emerging cattle customer in 2010.

The shipment of 17,186 steers, which was exported and shipped by Wellard, recorded a success rate of 99.91 per cent and a weight gain of 3.94 per cent on the 20 day voyage from Townsville, QLD, to the Port of Sokhna in Egypt.

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the cattle on board were one of the best quality consignments Wellard had shipped, at both the start and the end of the voyage.

“We were very pleased with the performance of the cattle and the performance of the vessel on the voyage to Egypt,” he said.

“Our Egyptian customers were also impressed with the quality of the cattle, which is a testament to the professionalism of the Australian cattle industry.”

Mr Meerwald said Egypt’s re-emergence as an importer of Australian cattle was important given the current uncertainty created by new import restrictions in Indonesia.

“This shipment to Egypt, and the associated marketplace competition Wellard has been able to provide to producers, has underlined the importance of our market diversification and development program,” he said.

“Although we are still exporting cattle to Indonesia, our shipments are at reduced volumes and tighter weight ranges.

“The cattle for the Egypt shipment were sourced across a variety of weight ranges, providing important competition for Queensland cattle producers, at a time when prices are under pressure.”

Mr Meerwald said he had every confidence in the vessel and the cattle.

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“The success rate achieved on this voyage is a real reflection of the voyage to voyage performance of our vessels, and provides an indication of the level of care and attention paid to animal welfare on livestock carriers,” he said.

The live export trade to Egypt was able to recommence after the Australian and Egyptian Governments signed a Memoranda Of Understanding which has established stringent protocols for the handling and slaughter of Australian livestock in Egypt.

Under the strict conditions of the agreement, Australian livestock must be exported into a closed system which only permits the use of a new world class feedlot and abattoir at the port of Ain Sokhna in Egypt, which has been inspected and approved by Australian authorities.

Mr Meerwald said Wellard staff and industry inspectors had monitored the previous shipment to Egypt under the new protocols and found the animals were handled and slaughtered in accordance with international standards for animal welfare.

**For further information please contact:**

Steve Meerwald  
Director  
Wellard  
Phone: 08 9432 2800  
Website: [www.wellard.com.au](http://www.wellard.com.au)

**Media inquiries:**

Jon Snowball  
FD Third Person  
Phone: 08 9386 1233  
Mobile: 0424 473 841

**Background – Wellard Rural and Trading**

Wellard Rural and Trading is the Wellard Group’s agriculture and international trade division.

Its two largest subsidiaries are Wellard Rural Exports, Australia’s largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company’s flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly 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.

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Its MV Ocean Shearer (formerly the MV Stella Deneb) can carry 125,000 sheep or 23,000 cattle, or a combination of both.

A new, technologically advanced, purpose-built vessel, the MV Ocean Swagman sailed on its maiden voyage in January 2010. The Swagman's sister ship, the MV Ocean Outback, is due for launch in mid-late 2010. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build an additional two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

Wellard Agri owns and operates eight farms across three agri-hubs, two are located at Dongara and Watheroo in Western Australia's central midlands and one is located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

The Dongara hub is home to The Grange, a 14,500 hectare property which is considered one of Western Australia's blue chip farming properties. It is primarily used for grazing, with some cropping.

The remaining landholding totals more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The other 4000ha is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup.

In November 2009, Wellard Agri announced it was entering the farm machinery sector, when it commenced management of the CLAAS Harvest Centre at Katanning for the Landpower range of farm machinery.