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Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
29 JULY 2008

WORLD RECORD ECLIPSED

A new world record for a live cattle shipment has been set by the world's largest livestock carrier, the MV Stella Deneb.

Today the MV Stella Deneb successfully unloaded the last of 23,372 cattle at the Indonesian port of Panjang, eclipsing the previous world record of 22,184 cattle the vessel set in October 2007.

The steers, heifers, cows and bulls were loaded in Townsville (14,166 head) and Darwin (9,206 head) and were shipped to the Indonesian ports of Cigading, Jakarta and Panjang.

Siba Ships owns and operates the MV Stella Deneb and Wellard Rural Exports supplied the bulk of the cattle on the shipment.

Siba Ships Chairman Mauro Balzarini said the inclusion of the Cigading Port, a deep water port which doesn't have the same draught restrictions that have previously prevented the Stella Deneb from being loaded to its rated capacity, and a different mix of cattle, had enabled the successful transport of an extra 1200 head.

"I congratulate everyone involved with the setting of this new world record. The live export industry is as important to Australian sheep and cattle producers as it is to the consumers in the Middle East and South-East Asia who rely on live animal imports as a protein source for their families, so we should be proud of this new milestone."

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the condition of the cattle was more important than the size of the shipment, and the consignment arrived at each port in great health.

"The number and condition of the cattle that walk off the vessel is our measure of success, and the fact that this record shipment has met all of our standards and the cattle gained weight during the voyage, is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in this shipment," he said.

"The logistics involved with aggregating, transporting, loading and shipping more than 23,000 cattle were huge, so the efforts by the holding yards, truck drivers, stevedores and

on-board stockmen were instrumental in achieving a successful shipment, and setting the new world record.”

The cattle on-board ate 2,300 tonnes of feed and consumed 13,000 tonnes of water throughout the voyage.

Mr Meerwald said the large number of cattle also provided a logistical challenge for the Indonesian importers receiving the consignment, but they were extremely happy with the quality of the cattle.

The MV Stella Deneb will travel from Panjang back to Fremantle, to be loaded with sheep for the Middle East, while the MV Becrux, the world’s most technologically advanced livestock carrier, will load about 18,000 cattle in Darwin in mid August.

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Background – Wellard Rural Exports

Wellard Rural Exports is Australia’s largest livestock exporter. It has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more almost 30 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. For more information visit: www.wellardgroup.com.au

Background – Siba Ships

SIBA currently operates three livestock carriers, one tanker and 14 bulk carriers, with a further 15 carriers under construction.

Siba Ships is the Italian shipowning arm of the Balzarini group which specialises in the trading and transportation of livestock. For more than forty years the company has transported livestock, mainly from Australia to the Middle East, South East Asia and South America.

In late 2008 / early 2009 the company will launch the MV Stella Castor, a custom-built livestock vessel with unparalleled levels of animal and crew safety.

For more information on Siba Ships and its fleet, please visit www.sibaships.com