



MEDIA RELEASE

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OVERLAND TRANSPORT TO COMPLEMENT OVERSEA TRANSPORT

Not content with using the best livestock vessels for maritime transport, Australia's leading livestock exporter Wellard Rural Exports is now providing an overland solution for transporting sheep in the Middle East.

Wellard last week delivered a purpose-built vehicle to deliver sheep from Al Batina Livestock's feedlot in Muscat, Oman, to the feedlot's customers. Al Batina Livestock is a regular importer of live sheep exported by Wellard Rural Exports.

The small truck will be used to deliver sheep to smaller retailers and wholesalers, complementing the larger trucks with Australian-built stock crates that service the larger wholesalers and retailers.

Wellard Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the provision of the vehicle to Al Batina Livestock was an extension of Wellard Rural Exports' transport service and a reflection of the company's continual quest to improve animal welfare.

"Wellard is conscious that many consumers in the Middle East do not have the financial capacity to own and operate vehicles specifically equipped to transport sheep in the manner we would prefer, so the provision of this purpose-built truck helps to provide a solution," he said.

Mr Meerwald said the provision of the truck, combined with Meat and Livestock Australia's training program in the Middle East, proved Australia's presence in the region was encouraging better animal welfare standards.

"The use of this truck will deliver a better animal welfare outcome for the sheep and provides further evidence that only by participating in the live export market can we gradually improve some of animal welfare practices in the Middle East we would view as outdated," he said.

"It sets a best practice example for local consumers, wholesalers and retailers to follow and compared to some markets, the sheep will travel in a safer, more comfortable manner than the local residents and their friends and families."

Other ongoing Wellard initiatives to improve animal welfare include:

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- Extensive use of the most modern livestock vessel in the world, the MV Becrux
 - Formal training of overseas ship crew to meet Australian standards
 - Ongoing on-board research into animal welfare issues
 - Commitments to use two new state of the art livestock vessels Siba Ships has under construction
 - Five year funding of the Wellard Senior Lecturer for Leadership in Animal Health and Production at Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences

For further information please contact:

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A high resolution copy of the following photograph is available by contacting Cameron Morse, Porter Novelli, on (08) 9386 1233 or at cmorse@wa.porternovelli.com.au

The Wellard home delivery service in Muscat, Oman





Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald congratulates Al Batina Livestock Managing Director Tariq Mahmood Butt as he is handed the keys to the truck by Siba Ships and Wellard Principal Mauro Balzarini.

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 25 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