

MEDIA RELEASE
10 March 2006



WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS

WELLARD WELCOMES SECOND NEW SHIP

Livestock exporter Wellard Rural Exports has welcomed confirmation of an order by associated company, Siba Ships, for the construction of a second new A\$47 million livestock carrier.

Wellard's Managing Director, Mr Steve Meerwald, said that the 135 metre, purpose built carrier was a further sign of the confidence both Wellard and Siba Ships had in the Australian live export industry.

The go ahead for the second vessel follows an order for a new livestock carrier placed in July last year, which is now scheduled for delivery in the first half of 2007.

"Like the first ship, this second livestock carrier will be designed specifically for the transportation of sheep and cattle, with the welfare of the animals a priority," Mr Meerwald said.

"Both vessels will have dual propulsion systems so that even the loss of one engine will not impact on the ability of the ship to reach port. This is an industry first and is a big plus when it comes to animal safety."

The sister livestock carriers will have state-of-the-art feeding and watering systems and be capable of holding about 26,000 sheep or 6,500 cattle.

"These carriers are the future of the industry and highlight the Wellard commitment to a sustainable live export trade."

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian sheep and cattle 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, through its association with Siba Ships, already has priority access to the newest livestock carrier on the ocean, the MV Becrux, which was built in 2002.

In 2005, Wellard Rural Exports exported about 620,000 sheep and about 60,000 cattle from ports around Australia to destinations in Asia and the Middle East.

Further information:

Steve Meerwald
0403 389 189

SHIP SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 135 metres

Carrying capacity: 8,000m²

Number of decks: 7

Fresh water capacity: 2,000 tonnes

Fresh water production: 340 tonnes per day

Fodder capacity: 1,500 tonnes

Air circulation: 80 air changes/hour (3 times minimum standard)

Speed: 18 knots

Engines: 2 Wartsila 9L32

Crew: 25