



MEDIA RELEASE
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Dr Kevin Bell appointed to Wellard partnership at Murdoch University

One of Australia's leading livestock production veterinarians Dr Kevin Bell has been appointed as the new Wellard Professor of Animal Systems at Murdoch University.

The position is funded by Wellard Rural Exports as part of a five year partnership with Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences to increase science expertise, training and research into production animals.

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said Dr Bell was perfect for the role.

"I cannot think of a better, or more qualified, person to take on the role as the Wellard Professor of Animal Production Systems," Mr Meerwald said.

"Kevin is highly regarded in both the scientific and commercial sheep production communities in his role with Murdoch University and as a sheep management consultant.

"His focus on lifting the profitability of sheep production is 100 per cent aligned with Wellard's goals.

"Kevin's appointment, the development of our recently released minimum priced forward contracts and our recent purchase of mixed farming land all demonstrate Wellard's continued confidence and investment in the sheep sector."

In addition to his livestock production leadership, Dr Bell will also oversee research programs aimed at the continuous improvement of animal welfare throughout the live export chain.

Murdoch University Dean of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Dr John Edwards said Dr Bell had pioneered the animal sciences course at Murdoch University, with great results.

"With Kevin's expertise, Wellard's support and Murdoch University's facilities and commercially focussed tertiary teaching and research environment, I have no doubt the entire sheep production industry will benefit from this new partnership," Dr Edwards said.

Dr Bell replaces Dr David Beatty, who has taken up a position in Sydney overseeing research programs for the live export industry.

“David made a tremendous contribution in his two years in the position. While it was a shame to lose him, the fact that he has been selected by the live export industry to build on his work in live-exports at Murdoch indicates the value of the role,” Mr Meerwald said.

“Plus, we have a fantastic replacement in Kevin Bell.”

For further information please contact:

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Background – Wellard Rural Exports

Wellard Rural Exports is Australia’s largest livestock exporter, with an investment in the live export industry without peer. It has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 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.

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.

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

Two new vessels, the MV Ocean Swagman and the MV Ocean Outback, are due for launch in the second half of 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.wellard.com.au