

MEDIA RELEASE

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A leader celebrated amongst livestock exporters

Australia's livestock exporters have celebrated the achievements of one of their finest at the industry's annual Gala Dinner, held in Townsville as part of the LIVEXchange 2019 conference.

Raoul (Roly) Nieper AM was named a Lifetime Achiever and inducted into the industry's Hall of Fame, reflecting his long-standing contribution to the industry, including as LiveCorp Chair from 2004 to 2013.

Outgoing Chair Terry Enright, who joined the board during Dr Nieper's tenure, presented the award.

"It's a privilege to recognise Roly as a Lifetime Achiever. From personal experience, I know he has always been a strong advocate for the trade and committed to advancing animal welfare standards," Mr Enright said.

Dr Nieper always wanted to become a veterinarian, and spent several years in private practice. He gained his first exposure to the livestock export industry as a government veterinarian in Mackay and eventually became a Director-General in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He also spent 13 years as Chair of Animal Health Australia.

In 2004, Dr Nieper joined LiveCorp as Chairman of the Board. At the time, the industry was working hard to progress animal welfare initiatives in its markets and improve conditions for exporters and importers alike. Then in 2011, an ABC television report showing poor practices in Indonesia saw the trade suspended almost overnight.

"The industry was already in the process of developing a quality assurance system. However, there was plenty of incentive to work with the government to get it fast-tracked, and the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) came to fruition in about six weeks," Dr Nieper said.

"My final couple of years at LiveCorp were about consolidation. There was a collaboration of minds and skillsets that saw the industry survive, and I felt real satisfaction in being able to lead a team that was working to promote a valuable agricultural industry.

"Live exports provide price competition and an alternate market for cattle producers, particularly in Northern Australia. I hope the industry continues to focus on being ahead of the game in promoting animal welfare throughout the supply chain and meeting the expectations of the community."

Dr Nieper was awarded an Order of Australia in 2008, in part for his work in the fields of animal health and welfare, and livestock exports.

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