

Ciccia Family

Leeton, NSW

Moving to the MIA in 1928, Sam and Tonetta Ciccia's family purchased their first farm in 1938 establishing a family citrus and wine grape business which thrives today.

Brothers Michael, Tony and Joseph now run a number of farms within the business and are proud to sell Australian citrus to the world.

The family have been MI customers since its early days providing water to irrigate five farms planted with citrus, including one growing wine grapes.

"We need an efficient and cost effective water supply to ensure that we produce quality fruit in a very competitive market that demands quality produce at reasonable prices. MI has the infrastructure and systems in place to be able to provide water," said Mr Michael Ciccia.

"The core values of MI are similar to those of my family. We take pride in what we do and believe it is important to work together with stakeholders in order to remain viable, to satisfy our customers and meet the demands of the market."
- Michael Ciccia

Challenges addressed

MI has assisted the Ciccia family in addressing issues relating to salinity by installing tile drainage pumps to help stop seepage. In 2009 MI worked together with the Ciccia family to reduce their on farm water delivery infrastructure, with significant cost savings realised.

Water scarcity

Water scarcity because of low rainfall, droughts and water flows being diverted out of the MIA has posed a major challenge for farmers in recent years.

The Ciccia's business has benefited from MI's efforts to secure reliable water for the future. Investment in infrastructure upgrades, regular maintenance and adoption of innovation in water deliver are key to water security in the MIA.



Work to minimise losses, for instance by cleaning and repairing channels and converting open channels to piped, is also essential to making every drop count.

Without sufficient water, and farmers having confidence that they will receive an allocation, some may be forced to sell permanent entitlements.

If this water leaves the area, the ability of MI to have sufficient allocation to meet the demands of farmers will be significantly impacted. This will have dire consequences for the whole MIA and for Australia being a world leader in the production of food.



Working with Murrumbidgee Irrigation

To be competitive, the Ciccio family needs to constantly find cost saving measures and to achieve efficiencies in all aspects of farming. Continuing efforts on the part of MI to modernise so that it can deliver water in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner is key to their sustainability.

Efficient production also relies on having water delivered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. MI understands the impact of a gap in delivery which could, for instance stress trees or even cause the loss of an entire crop and mitigates against such an interruption to supply.

"MI realises that farmers require water delivery to land holdings to be faster and more efficient. Their staff, whether it be in the field or office, are always available with communication between MI and customers key to fostering a good working relationship."

"Our family will continue to partner with MI because we have confidence in the organisation's capability to deliver water when we want it and in the quantity required." - Michael Ciccio

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Staying ahead of the game, using our modernised system to drive efficient operations and enable our region to grow in a time of less water.

