



Murrumbidgee
Irrigation

Case Study

Stahmann Webster
Tree nut production
Leeton & Griffith, NSW



Nestled in the agriculturally rich area of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, is tree nut growing company Stahmann Webster.

Originally two separate major agricultural companies, Webster Ltd and Stahmann Farms were recently joined to form Stahmann Webster. The two companies—which together boast a history spanning 180 years—are a major player in the Australian tree nut growing scene.

Stahmann Webster established its first commercial scale walnut orchard in 1996 and expanded its footprint from 2004 into the Riverina where most plantings are now located.

The company grows walnuts, pecans, macadamias and more recently added almonds to its portfolio.

RELIABILITY: A KEY DRIVER

Stahmann Webster's Riverina orchards are situated at Tabbita and Avondale just north of Griffith, and further south at Leeton where the walnut processing plant is also located.

“Reliable supply of quality irrigation water for our farms is the primary driver for partnering with MI,” said Roelof Venter, Walnut Farming Business Manager.

“Water supply efficiency ensures costs are managed by reducing water losses throughout the system, and MI’s maintenance program and high-tech water management system ensures this outcome.”

Reliable water supply is paramount for tree health and productive crops, hence the need to partner with a good water supply service provider that understands the importance of water supply reliability, especially during the very hot and dry summers associated with the Riverina.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MODERNISATION

“We keep up with the latest technology and systems to ensure optimal productivity and profitability,” said Mr Venter.

Image: Brad Swan, Orchard Manager, Leeton, and Roelof Venter, Walnut Farming Business Manager.





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“It is important to us that our service providers are also keeping up with technology and trends in their industry to ensure long term sustainability and optimal efficiency.”

Replacement and upgrades of aging infrastructure have reduced water losses, contributing to long term sustainability and better availability of water for production expansion in the MIA. A welcome by-product of these upgrades is water savings.

“Installation of automated regulating structures and electronic flow meters demonstrate that MI is keeping up with the demand of modern times and the needs of their customers.”

Image: Roelof Venter

MOVING FORWARD

“Our relationship with MI is vital for future production and expansion of the Stahmann Webster footprint in the MIA, when opportunity arises.”

Provision of a well maintained and reliable water supply system that has minimal downtime, backed up with excellent customer service and support, are the reasons that Stahmann Webster will partner with MI for the foreseeable future.

“Being in a position to grow our business also means that Stahmann Webster can continue to give back to the community through ongoing sponsorship of local festivals, sporting clubs and other community initiatives, and provides more employment opportunities in the MIA.”

