

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# CEWH eyes opened to diversity of region

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH), Jody Swirepik, visited the MIA this week and was shown firsthand how efficient our innovative irrigators are in making use of every last drop.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Chairman, Frank Sergi, said it was a great opportunity to showcase the region to the CEWH, as well as discuss opportunities to work together ensuring all water is used in the best possible way.

“We are proud to be part of the most productive irrigation area in the nation, delivering water to more customers than any other irrigation company in Australia,” Mr Sergi said.

“Jody was shown our off-farm modernisation works, which are helping us to deliver water in the most efficient way possible, as well as the on farm works our irrigators have completed to make the best possible use out of every drop.”

Mr Sergi said the CEWH was impressed at the diversity of the region, growing everything from walnuts, almonds and prunes through to rice, cotton, citrus and grapes, and everything in between.

“The MIA is a progressive and changing landscape, with a range of farming enterprises, a diversity of crops types and a dynamic processing sector,” he said.

“I certainly think we opened their eyes up to just how innovative our irrigators are in adapting to whatever mother nature throws at them.”

MI delivers environmental flows to several sites across the MIA, and Ms Swirepik also visited Tuckerbil Swamp and the Ramsar listed Fivebough swamp in Leeton.

With reduced rice plantings this season these flows are critical in supporting the Australasian bittern breeding.

## ENDS

*Caption: Standing in the Sandy Valley Orchard almonds plantation are Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Jody Swirepik, Webster Development Manager, Chris Forward, MI Water Resources and Initiatives Coordinator, Lindsay Golsby-Smith, and Assistant Director, Water, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Hilton Taylor.*

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