



Murrumbidgee Irrigation

Case Study

Terry McFarlane,
Widgelli



Having only a relatively small amount of area available for irrigation, Terry McFarlane of Widgelli needs to make every inch of land and every megalitre of water count. To maximise the value of irrigated output Terry grows many different high value seed crops for a range of clients, from hybrid canola and wheat varieties through to onions, pumpkins and basil.

USING WATER MORE EFFECTIVELY

The automation of the MI delivery system has made a significant difference to his operation. Whereas previously he was restricted to having water delivery start and end times within business daylight hours, because the manual system required MI staff to be on hand, Terry can now have water delivered at any time of the night or day, exactly when it suits his crops. The amount delivered can be more fine-tuned now so that he can apply smaller amounts for a shorter period of time, ensuring that water is not wasted.

Higher flow rates are now available due to the upgraded outlets meaning that Terry can have water delivered quickly to his irrigation beds so that it is more evenly applied, minimising irrigation time therefore reducing wasted water which may sit in one part of the bay for longer than necessary and drain past the effective root zone.

“MI really stepped up and worked with us to upgrade our outlets over the last couple of years, delivering improvements which better underpin the productivity and profitability of our farm business.”

Terry McFarlane, Widgelli

DIVERSIFICATION

Terry also has a fish farm located on his farm as part of a franchise arrangement with Aquana's Murray Cod production business. The fact that he has been able to build and lease these dam's, thereby broadening the productive base of his business, is due in part to access to the very reliable, high quality, high flow water delivered by MI. Fish farms rely on being able to source water at short notice to manage the health of fish stocks.



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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.

