# Case study 4: Stuart Pettigrew, citrus grower

Video transcript. Project funded under the Water Efficiency Program during the program’s pilot phase

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## Introduction

This is the transcript of a video case study produced by the Department of Agriculture and available on the [department’s YouTube channel](https://youtu.be/0SztzOML9_c).

We have produced this video to raise awareness of the Water Efficiency Program and its positive impact on businesses and communities of the Murray–Darling Basin.

This video is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode). We invite Basin agencies, governments and our delivery partners to share this video to encourage uptake of funding and projects under the Water Efficiency Program.

## Transcript

[Video begins]

**Text overlay:** On-farm water efficiency case study: Stuart Pettigrew, citrus grower

**Stuart Pettigrew:** My family originally came from up through the Riverland.

I have a commercial interest in making sure the rivers are healthy, because it means I can continue my production on this farm.

But also from a personal reason, I mean, I love the river, as many growers do in this area.

**Text overlay:** Water saved from Stuart’s project is being used to restore the Murray–Darling Basin.

**Stuart Pettigrew:** So we’re standing here on my orchard here at Golden Heights, it’s about four hectares that I’ve planted up here, around about 10 acres of new orchard.

And I really had two options for what irrigation I wanted to install rather than the old overhead system.

I chose mini sprinklers, you can see one of these here, that give reasonably large coverage across the whole orchard floor.

I received funding for soil development, going to a higher-intensity orchard system, closer planting, going to a modern sprinkler system.

Part of that was to install a fertiliser and filtration system. So we’ve got that running off a solar panel.

**Text overlay:** Stuart’s project was funded by the Australian Government.

**Stuart Pettigrew:** It’s about as automated as you can get for a property of this size.

What I’m trying to achieve is a lot more production per megalitre of water so that we can actually be much more efficient about the system. And I think that’s probably the motivator for a lot of growers through the Murray–Darling Basin.

The benchmark in areas like this used to be 20 to 25 tonnes per hectare of marketable fruit. Well, we’re aiming for 45 to 50 tonne of fruit per hectare.

**Text overlay:** The project was delivered by the South Australian Murray–Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

**Stuart Pettigrew:** I think stewardship of the river goes hand in hand with sustainable agriculture. And now we’re seeing areas that were abandoned five years ago now coming back into production, and that’s got to be good for rural communities like this one.

**Text overlay:** Stuart’s project saved 12 megalitres of water to help restore our river system.

**Stuart Pettigrew:** So it’s all about a balance.

I think these programs are good to meet that balance between environment and production.

Well-targeted, well-managed programs to raise efficiency certainly should be encouraged throughout the whole Murray–Darling Basin.

**Text overlay:** For more information: agriculture.gov.au/waterefficiency

[Video ends]