



# PROJECT VISUALISATION, THE KEY TO SUCCESS AS CORRECT SOLUTIONS MODERNISES IT AT FRESH PRODUCE GROUP'S TUMUT GROVE FARM

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**Fresh Produce Group (FPG) is one of Australia's largest and most innovative produce suppliers. Having built its reputation on providing quality fresh produce, FPG has expanded its business by investing in farms, and today its produce comes from a collection of wholly owned farms and joint ventures across Australia.**

**The business now comprises of growing, importing, exporting, wholesale, pre-packing, ripening, logistics and marketing of produce in Australia and across the globe.**

**One of FPG's farms is Tumut Grove, recognised as being one of the best citrus brands in Australia. The Tumut Grove orchard is located in the prime produce growing region of Sunraysia Mildura, Victoria.**

## IMPROVING VISIBILITY



When FPG acquired the Tumut Grove farm in 2018, it inherited the existing infrastructure, which was outdated and not in line with how FPG establishes and operates its farms. Prior to its acquisition by FPG, there had been no dedicated IT support team at Tumut Grove. The employees managed with the limited time and skills of the existing team who should have been focusing on their primary roles. As a result, the way the architecture had been built left Tumut Grove open to risks.

The site was up and running but had no backups or shared resources, and the FPG team had no visibility of the site. This made it very difficult to manage the farm, especially during a critical time such as harvest when there is no room for disruption or connectivity issues.

# MITIGATING RISKS WITH A MODERN SOLUTION



Having already been a customer for several years, it made sense for FPG to engage Correct Solutions to upgrade and standardise the Tumut Grove site. The farm would then serve as a benchmark for best practice technology to be rolled out across the FPG network of farms. As part of the refit and new infrastructure, Correct Solutions was responsible for providing:

- Required technology for a new fruit packing line
- Fibre cable throughout the office to serve as a hub for the site
- Connectivity across the farm
- A modern admin building setup for the farm manager

Due to the combination of Tumut Grove's remote location and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire project was implemented without a single Correct Solutions employee setting foot on the site. Working from plans and pictures, Correct Solutions was responsible for engaging 10 partners and providers to undertake the fit out.



*We have had a long-standing relationship with Correct Solutions, so partnering with them for such a major project made sense. They have taken the time to understand how we do business, what we have in place across our other sites and the quality we need.*

**Dino Macedo, IT Manager at Fresh Produce Group**



# A COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURE OVERHAUL FOR TUMUT GROVE



The Tumut Grove project commenced in late 2019. Before the project began, time was taken by Correct Solutions to investigate, discover and develop a comprehensive scope with FPG.

*“We saved so much time in the long run thanks to the initial scoping we did. All that discovery and work upfront was so worthwhile and also meant we avoided running into any issues during the rollout as we were so well prepared,”* says Dino.

Since the rollout of the project commenced, Correct Solutions has:

- Managed and coordinated 10 separate companies for various parts of the refit
- Installed 8 server racks
- Configured and installed 10 switches
- Connected internet to the site over a long-range point-to-point wireless system
- Run more than 800 meters of fibre to connect all the racks

With a project of this size, it is anticipated there will be some teething issues once the new infrastructure is switched on. However, thanks to the diligent preparation and planning undertaken, the migration was seamless with the majority of applications working without issue as soon as they were transferred. This enabled Correct Solutions to deliver the project under budget, as no time was spent fixing problems.

Given the switch-over happened during the critical harvest time at Tumut Grove, the lack of disruption was key for FPG. *“When no-one is on site for the project, there was a risk that we might miss something or we could run into unforeseen issues. But the migration was seamless so we’re really happy,”* says Dino.

# BEST PRACTICE IT AS A BENCHMARK FOR FPG



As a result of the updated infrastructure, Tumut Grove is benefitting from significantly improved connectivity: *“Being in a regional area, we’re at the mercy of power and the NBN, and sometimes things occur that are out of our control. But there is definitely more stability with our connection now and the Wifi is much stronger at key locations such as inside the warehouse,”* says Dino.

Tumut Grove now has automated backups, rather than relying on packhouse managers to conduct them manually, reducing FPG’s risk exposure and allowing the packhouse managers more time to focus on their jobs. The farm also has access to the central support desk with 24/7 support.

*“FPG now has clear visibility of Tumut Grove’s operations. We have monitoring on all the switches and control infrastructure; we get alerts as soon as there is an issue so we can really be proactive about addressing them and maintaining productivity.”*

*“The way Correct Solutions managed the external suppliers was great and the project was delivered on time and under budget without cutting any corners, so we’re really pleased,”* says Dino.



*At Tumut Grove we have built a solid foundation of best practice IT which makes it easy to continue the rollout of new technologies. For example, we have just installed a new packing line. Adding these new technologies to our infrastructure allows us the opportunity to grow and differentiate ourselves from our competitors. These small innovations can give us significant competitive advantage.*



**Dino Macedo, IT Manager at Fresh Produce Group**

# CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION



Now the Tumut Grove project is complete, FPG has its eye on the future: *“It doesn’t stop for us now. Technology is constantly changing and there will always be developments in things like in connectivity and telephony. The Tumut Grove project has given us a modern infrastructure which we can use as a baseline to find new ways to improve, become more efficient and streamline our business,”* says Dino.

## WORDS OF ADVICE

For those planning an infrastructure project of this size, Dino has the following advice:

*“The planning is so important, even if it is time consuming at the beginning. It’s so worthwhile to scope out the project with what needs to be done and understand the impact of the change.*

*“Communication with key stakeholders is key, especially when there are a lot of people involved. You need to make sure you have buy-in and you’re taking stakeholders on the journey with you.*

*“Lastly, resourcing is really important. A project doesn’t always happen completely as planned but by having people available and being able to jump on those issues straight away makes a difference to being able to deliver the project on time.”*

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