

Murray Irrigation may win top award

Murray Irrigation is vying for top spot in the state's most prestigious safety awards after it achieved zero lost-time injuries across 370,000 work hours last financial year.

The company's proactive approach to safety was examined by key representatives from the state's workplace health and safety regulator who recently visited the Deniliquin-based company as part of judging NSW Excellence in Workplace Health and Safety Culture award.

The awards recognise and promote high standards of workplace health and safety and return-to-work outcomes in businesses throughout NSW.

Murray Irrigation is being assessed in the 'Excellence in Workplace Healthy and Safety Culture' category and follows its accolade in the same category at the Deniliquin Business Awards.

Murray Irrigation CEO Michael Renehan said the company's safety systems and processes have undergone an extensive review over the last few years.

"During the enormous engineering and construction efforts of the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) Round 2 project, we invested significant time and resources into developing a more effective safety culture and system that would benefit our employees and customers," Mr Renehan said.

"Prior to the overhaul, the company's lost-time injury frequency was 20 (incidents) per year.

"We have reduced that rate to two, significantly below the company goal of four."

Murray Irrigation People and Safety Manager Angela Hussey and Safety Officer Lee Nielsen met with SafeWork NSW to showcase the improvements Murray Irrigation has made across all aspects of the business.

"Their visit is a genuine recognition of the hard work the PIIOP and Murray Irrigation teams have put into developing a modern and adaptable safety system," Mr Nielsen said.

"We have our sights set on even higher safety standards."

Murray Irrigation Executive General Manager Business Services Suni Campbell is proud of the effort and diligence of her team in implementing and adapting the company's safety measures in such a vital industry.

"It is important to Murray Irrigation that we lead by example in best practices around work health and safety as we know the agricultural industry by nature has an increased potential for hazards. We want to be an agent of influence to ensure agricultural business owners and employees are safe at work," Ms Campbell said.

Finalists for the awards will be announced in September.

Ends.

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