



# CASE STUDY

## HORTICULTURE

Chris Pastro

Vineyard, Prunes

Bilbul, NSW, 2680

2015 - 2024

### BACKGROUND

Chris Pastro farms about 120 acres of which 70 acres are vines. Chris started using Converte in 2015 in partnership with normal practices used, e.g. synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

“Chris uses both conventional and alternative farming products on his farm, in conjunction with Converte products, this ensures that he has the best management strategy for his property. His soils across the property have changed significantly since the incorporation of Converte products into his standard fertiliser program in 2015, and Chris attributes the reduction in his hardpan and the increased water retention and infiltration to Converte, this increase has reduced the requirement for watering as there is greater root zone penetration and less evaporation. Visual observations that have been made are that there is greater resilience in his vineyard with pest and disease management sprays considerably. His prune trees are cropping higher quality fruits with more flavour and weight which is more desirable for local processors. Soil observations include better aggregate stability, visible macropores and increased soil biology including a greater presence of earthworms around the property.”

### CONVERTE PROGRAM

- Seed Primer
- Plantfood

### NOTEABLE EVENTS

- Significant reduction in hard pan
- Moisture Uptake Efficiency significantly improved
- Water infiltration significantly improved
- High emergence of earthworms
- Plant health improved leading to frost and heat tolerance
- Yield equal or improved compared to conventional practice
- Higher quality produce with less chemical reliance and cost
- Softer soils resulting on less wear on machinery and usage of fuel



*Converte has helped to eliminate the hard pan on my property and has improved the overall health and function of my soils and plants. I have saved money on fertiliser, water and energy as a consequence”*

— Chris Pastro, Mixed Industry Farmer