

**Angas Park Fruit Company Pty Ltd  
Sunbeam Foods****Market segment**

Fruit & Vegetable packing

**Commission date**

July 1998 to January 1999

Each of the three companies above have a BALEEN filter incorporated in their process for continuous cleaning of washwaters during washing of dried fruits (sultanas being the main product) prior to packing. The first installation occurred at Irymple Packing Company Pty Ltd.

**Customer problem**

Purchase of dried fruit by major customers such as Kelloggs (Australia), Cadbury-Schweppes, Nestle and Sanitarium from Australian packers had dramatically declined due to poor quality in supply in local product, i.e. presence of contaminants such as grit, capstems, stalks and other foreign matter in the final product, even after washing. Cheaper imported products of higher quality ('hand-picked' for less contaminants) had entered the marketplace (from countries such as Turkey, Iran, and California) and threatened the market share of local producers.

**Customer objective**

To cost-effectively produce a product of superior quality (of significantly less contaminants) in order to regain market share.

**Conventional options available to the Customer**

Company(s) were faced with using mains water either continuously, or for reduced retention times during recycle, for washing dried fruit (direct from the producer) in order to obtain the required product quality. This would have necessitated increasing the Company's water use from 50-100 kL/day to more than 400-800 kL/day to minimise accumulation of contaminants during water re-use to remain competitive.

**Outcomes achieved with BALEEN**

- All contaminants absolutely removed at 96 micron.
- Improved and guaranteed repeatability in product quality – branded 'grit' free.
- Water use reduced to 25-50 kL/day.
- Further water reductions are realisable due to increased recycle water quality (subsequent UniSA research identified ability for in-line disinfection).
- Supply contracts re-instated with major customers.
- Customer preference for local product over imported alternatives.
- Improved compliance to local water regulations for discharging wastewaters.
- Reduced cleaning and equipment maintenance during, and after shifts.
- Reduced microbial and mould counts apparent.