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I bet you know your way around an iPod, an iPad, or a PC, don't you? Sure. You use technology to have fun, but you also use it because it makes life easier, and it helps you get stuff done. We all know technology has changed the world. I mean, I can't believe there was no Internet when my parents were growing up. I guess that explains why they don't know very much.

Australian farmers have always been resilient and innovative. They've had to be, because our climate can be harsh, and our land challenging and remote. They've always embraced technology to get the job done. You could say most farmers are out-standing in their field [laughter].

So, when we say technology, what do we really mean? Officially, technology is the practical application of science. Technology for agriculture or agribusiness, includes the obvious things you can see, like green-stick cane harvesters, safe modern tractors, and iPads that control irrigation.

Did you know that in the 1870s, a young apprentice developed new plough technology called the stump-jump plough? This revolutionised farming in Australia because it allowed farmers to run a plough through cleared land with leftover stumps still in the soil. They didn't have to spend a lot of time and hard labour digging stumps out before they could plant their crops.

But technology also includes less obvious or visible scientific breakthroughs like plant and animal breeding techniques and sustainable farming. For example, after a decade of research CSIRO scientists have recently developed what could be the world's most perfect prawn. The new black tiger prawn is producing record farm yields leading to increased supplies of top quality sustainably-produced seafood that takes pressure off ocean stocks. It might even provide a viable solution in bringing healthy protein to developing countries. So, don't come the raw prawn with me, mate.

Technology has improved the way agribusiness cares for the natural environment, has increased output for consumers, and has allowed farmers to make more money. Now go home and explain that to your poor old parents.