

Australian Regional Authority Chooses MonitorPro to Manage Complex and Varying Data



MonitorPro

A professional environmental and sustainability information management solution, particularly suited for industries related to natural resources. MonitorPro is globally tested and used in water and waste water industries, as well as waste management, metals and mining.

Mackay is located almost halfway between Cairns and Brisbane and has close proximity to the Great Barrier Reef and the Whitsunday Islands. The Mackay Regional Council area is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, covering the areas of the former Sarina and Mirani shires and Mackay city. Historically known as the sugar capital of Australia, Mackay is also a thriving mining hub.

The Spreadsheet Ordeal

Similarly to so many others, Mackay Regional Council used to use a combination of spreadsheets and manual forms to record, analyse and store environmental monitoring data in multiple locations. Like so many others, they soon realised that this approach was very time consuming and that the integrity of the data was at risk. Soon enough, Mackay began searching for and implementing a more effective and secure way to manage environmental data.

Monitoring Environmental Performance

Mackay originally installed the MonitorPro solution as an application managing data for potable and waste water quality testing. The testing procedure includes an on-site laboratory which is run through a laboratory information management system (LIMS), however, MonitorPro is designed to automatically interact with the LIMS system to create a comprehensive overview of all water monitoring within the region. Mackay could now manage water data in one central location, which made interpretation and analysis easier and of higher accuracy.

Seeing the benefits MonitorPro delivered for water monitoring management, it was decided to expand the system to also include monitoring data for other purposes.

Mackay Regional Council has nearly 350 monitoring sources related to landfill, drinking water and sewage management responsibilities, which are all monitored with different frequencies. The types of source include reservoirs, pumping stations, waste transfer stations and storage facilities, which of course demand a variety of data types, such as material type, flows, volumes, weight, and location and so on.



River Aerial View of Mackay

The Benefits

Mackay Regional Council is now using MonitorPro to manage monitoring data across several departments within the council. The highly flexible structure of MonitorPro means that all this information with different frequency, format and origin can be managed in one single, central database.

This has greatly improved efficiency and provides a confidence in the integrity of the data using an accredited data management system. The seamless link to the LIMS systems means that all data exported from the laboratory can now be validated through MonitorPro leading to greater co-operation between the council departments. MonitorPro allows analysis and reports to be selected more freely and compliance checking means that an automated email alert is sent to relevant staff when a breach is detected.

Using touchpads for data collection, operators are now able to collect data in the field through the MonitorPro, even entered when offline and later uploaded to the database when access to the network/system/server is available.

Mackay regional council also use MonitorPro to collect all electricity use in the council, thus saving over \$10,000 on system costs and by using of the powerful calculation tools in MonitorPro they now plan to use the system for a carbon footprint.