CORANGAMITE CMA

Landcare Victoria

Executive Summary

Landcare in Australia, is a national network of thousands of locally-based community groups, helping to conserve Australia's natural resources for 25 years. Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in Victoria is responsible for coordinating and supporting 12 Landcare networks in their catchment.

Location Intelligence is a critical tool for managing the organisation's diverse Landcare projects which varies from coastal, creek and river catchments to farming and agricultural areas. Corangamite CMA has implemented a data collection and management system using Location Intelligence, which has streamlined reporting and yielded impressive efficiency gains.

Business Challenge

Each year, Corangamite CMA receives grants from the Victorian Government to manage Landcare projects for activities such as revegetation, fencing for stock exclusion and pest control. Corangamite CMA is required to report back to government on activities undertaken.

These reports show how the funding has been spent and also helps to secure investment for future projects. They include maps and spatial data such as:

- areas of revegetated land, or managed for pest animals and weeds
- the location and length of fences erected
- locations of community engagement events.

In order to prepare reports, Corangamite CMA must collect information from the 12 Landcare networks on their completed projects and the locations where activities were carried out.

Prior to implementing the MapInfo solution, each Landcare network used different processes, systems and software to collect and manage their data on active projects. Some networks used GIS (Geographic Information System) software while others were relying on manual processes and hand-drawn maps.

Disparate methods used to capture information meant the data Landcare networks provided varied in quality and accuracy. The challenge was to compile all the information into a suitable format for analysis and reporting to the Victorian Government.

"We realised we needed a more efficient and consistent approach to collecting and managing the Landcare data to ensure reliable funding procurement for future projects," said Tracey McRae, Corangamite CMA's Regional Landcare Coordinator.

> "The new system has improved our data collection process, which means more time to work on projects and secure funding from government to ensure the conservation of the region's natural resources."
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> **Tracey McRae**
> **Regional Landcare Coordinator**
> **Corangamite CMA**

Pitney Bowes

Solution

Pitney Bowes and Corangamite CMA worked together to create a data collection and reporting solution to fit Corangamite CMA's workflows, volunteer workforce's skills, and budget.

Pitney Bowes supplied each of the 12 Landcare networks with MapInfo GIS software and training for 24 staff. Corangamite CMA supplied the networks with GPS devices to ensure easy and accurate collection of data in the field.

Landcare volunteers now plot the data in the field using the handheld GPS devices. This is not only much quicker, but also more accurate than the previous data collection methods. The data is compiled and managed using MapInfo, which Ms McRae estimates has halved the time they spend on preparing reports.

"The Landcare team are happy because they now have a modern, industry recognised Location Intelligence solution that facilitates standard processes for managing Landcare projects. And I no longer spend so much time combining and reformatting disparate data," she said.

Corangamite CMA's new solution has worked so well that other Victorian Catchment Management Authorities have taken note. "We work very closely with our neighbouring catchment authorities and they have seen the benefits we are reaping from our Location Intelligence solution in such a short amount of time. They are interested in implementing the same solution."

TECHNOLOGY USED

The backbone of Corangamite CMA's data collection and reporting system is the MapInfo Professional application – one of the world's leading mapping and geographic information systems. Pitney Bowes trained Landcare staff in the use of MapInfo Professional for data collection and analysis, which ensured staff were productive immediately.

Results and Benefits

The data collection, management and reporting system implemented by Corangamite CMA delivers the following benefits:

- Data is quicker and easier to collect in the field.

- Data is collected in a consistent format, and is more accurate, halving the consolidating time.

- Data reporting is more consistent, efficient and detailed, supporting funding efforts with the Victorian Government and increasing project approval.

- Efficient and effective reporting back to the community.

- Unmatched verification and auditing of service delivery levels.

> "The MapInfo software is so easy to use that anyone can pick it up and be up and running very quickly. It allows us to present project information in a more visual way which has been well received by our investors and stakeholders."
>
> **Mandy Coulson**
> **Coordinator Surf Coast**
> **and Inland Plains Network**

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