

Case Study

South Waikato District



The Challenge

The lack of a co-ordinated approach to prioritising, authorising, managing and reporting on projects meant some projects were under-resourced, while others were undertaken that were not necessarily in line with the organisation's strategic goals.

The Solution

The MAGIQ Strategic Planning software has been implemented in conjunction with Council's MAGIQ Enterprise finance and business systems to provide far greater manageability and visibility over projects and ensure they are fully aligned with the organisation's strategic goals.

The Benefits

MAGIQ Strategic Planning is providing a single place to consistently review, manage and track projects and is delivering visibility over capital expenditure requirements, financial planning, and risk management factors. Each project can be properly evaluated and measured against KPIs to deliver effective management of business risk and resources.

About South Waikato District

105+ staff members

22,000+ residents

1,819 km²

\$29.2m annual expenditure

The South Waikato District lies at the heart of the North Island of New Zealand. The District has a world-class dairy industry and Tokoroa is the hub of New Zealand's massive forestry, timber, pulp and paper industries. The region abounds with scenic and tourist attractions and offers excellent boating, water skiing, and trout fishing from its well-stocked lakes and rivers. It also has great walking and mountain biking tracks.

Solution

MAGIQ Performance

“MAGIQ Strategic Planning is helping us create a very disciplined structure and process in the way that we as an organisation manage our projects.”

Ben Smit, Deputy Chief Executive

South Waikato District Council has implemented the MAGIQ Performance software application to more effectively manage and track its key infrastructure and community projects in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

MAGIQ Performance is a business performance management software suite that enables business leaders to manage organisational performance and guide strategic direction. The software consists of highly sophisticated and easy to use Budgeting, Reporting and Strategic Planning software.

South Waikato District Council has recently implemented the MAGIQ Strategic Planning software in conjunction with its MAGIQ Enterprise finance and business systems to provide far greater manageability and visibility over projects and ensure they are fully aligned with Council's strategic goals.

“MAGIQ Strategic Planning is allowing us to bring all of our projects into a single consistent framework. We have far greater visibility over each project, which is helping us to much more accurately prioritise, resource and measure each project against the relevant KPIs and our strategic goals,” said Ben Smit, Deputy Chief Executive, South Waikato District Council.

Prior to implementing the software, Council was using a series of disparate, manual spreadsheet and paper based systems, with various groups across Council taking responsibility for managing and tracking projects.

As a smaller organisation, South Waikato District has limited funding and resources available for delivery of projects, which means careful prioritisation and management is absolutely essential to delivering the best outcomes for its community.

“The major difficulty we were experiencing was the lack of a co-ordinated approach to prioritising, authorising, managing and reporting on projects. This meant some projects were under-resourced, while others were undertaken that were not necessarily in line with the organisation's strategic goals,” said Ben.

“Our initial ‘voyage of discovery’ in terms of identifying and centralising our projects in MAGIQ is showing that we have an overwhelming number of projects and very limited visibility around each project,” said Ben.

“MAGIQ is providing a single place to consistently review, manage and track projects and delivers the level of visibility we need; capital expenditure requirements, financial planning, and risk management factors, so that each project can be properly evaluated and measured against KPIs. This is much more effective from both a business risk and resource management perspective.”

Ben says that the delivery of infrastructure and community projects, for example additional infrastructure at tourist attractions to cope with increasing visitor numbers, new skatepark or additional leisure equipment in reserves is a key business focus for Council.

MAGIQ Strategic Planning provides an accurate and up to date view of multiple project attributes – financial attributes, risk factors and timeframes - all within an easily accessible, centralised location.

“We're moving our infrastructure projects from a labour-intensive, paper-based system into MAGIQ, which will provide everyone in the Executive Team with a clear and accurate view of those projects, and save our Asset Group Manager and his team a lot of time and stress,” said Ben.

Ben commented that the ease of use of the software together with the consistent ‘look and feel’ with Council's other MAGIQ applications has been a very positive factor in the take-up of the software by Council staff.

“As long time users of the MAGIQ finance and business systems, our staff are very familiar with the software and the consistency of the user interface just makes it that much easier for people to start working with it,” he said.

Our users really like the intuitive reporting capabilities with simple ‘drag and drop’ functionality used to build reports, which we think is a major strength. Once a report has been built it is available for managers to easily access as and when required, which means they can be confident they are basing business decisions on accurate and current information.”

The MAGIQ Strategic Planning software is designed to be highly flexible in order to meet specific business requirements. According to Ben this flexibility together with the practical knowledge of the lead MAGIQ Software Consultant, Alison Cohen has helped to deliver the business model and processes Council required.

“Alison has been fantastic to work with. As a corporate planning practitioner she really understood what we were trying to achieve and happily worked with us to problem solve and come up with ideas to help us meet those requirements.

MAGIQ Strategic Planning is helping us create a very disciplined structure and process in the way that we as an organisation manage our projects,” said Ben.

“Essentially, if the business process is not followed then a project won't have resources allocated against it. This will allow us to ensure that every project is carefully evaluated against the overall strategic objectives of Council; and we can be confident that we are using our limited resources in the most effective way.”

About MAGIQ Software

MAGIQ Software is an Australian and New Zealand based software business providing financial and administration software for the Public and Social Sectors. The MAGIQ Software platform includes the MAGIQ Enterprise, MAGIQ Performance and MAGIQ Documents Suites. The business has more than 420 customers throughout Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Singapore and South Africa. Key markets include Federal and State Government, Local Government, Health and Community Services, Utilities, Education and Not for Profit sectors. A highly experienced and skilled team of more than 90 staff deliver local support and development from offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Napier, Auckland, Christchurch and Los Angeles.

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The logo for MAGIQ software features the word 'magiq' in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font. Above the 'i' and 'q' are three green leaf-like shapes. Below 'magiq' is the word 'software' in a smaller, lowercase, grey, sans-serif font.