

Case Study

Shire of Broome



The Challenge

Manual Excel spreadsheet based budgeting processes had over time become very labour intensive and overall confidence in the integrity of the data was diminishing. Providing managers with accurate, up to date financial information had also become increasingly difficult and time-consuming.

The Solution

MAGIQ Performance has been implemented across the Shire of Broome's core business system, the IT Vision Synergy application, to provide a highly accessible and easy to use framework for budgeting and reporting.

The Benefits

MAGIQ has provided the Finance team with significantly more time to thoroughly analyse the budget ensuring better quality control and accuracy around the data. The ability to provide managers with easy and flexible access to reporting improves overall transparency of business information and saves the Finance team considerable time by eliminating ad-hoc reporting requests.

About Shire of Broome

190+ staff members

15,800 residents

54,000 km²

\$38.1m annual expenditure

Broome is located in the south-west Kimberley in the far north of Western Australia. Primarily recognised as a pearling and tourist town, Broome also acts as a hub for the delivery of services to the pastoral industry, and more recently the expanding oil and gas sector. The region has experienced rapid and continued growth over the last decade to become one of the fastest growing towns in the State.

Solution

MAGIQ Performance

“With MAGIQ you simply press a button. The software is very accessible and will add great value across the organisation.

Lachlan Dodds, Senior Finance Officer

The Shire of Broome in Western Australia has invested in the MAGIQ Performance software application to deliver a more efficient budgetary process and organisation wide access to financial reporting.

MAGIQ Performance is a suite of highly sophisticated and easy to use Budgeting, Reporting and Strategic Planning software. The intuitive design of the software promotes collaboration, delivering improved transparency and accuracy to support business planning and decision-making.

MAGIQ Performance sits across the Shire of Broome's core business system, the IT Vision Synergy application to provide management with easy access to budgetary data and financial reporting.

According to Lachlan Dodds, Senior Finance Officer at the Shire of Broome, the decision to implement MAGIQ Performance was driven by the opportunity to achieve considerable time-savings and to reduce business risk.

“Previously we relied on a series of Excel spreadsheets to prepare the budget. A spreadsheet was provided to 30 Responsible Officers across Council for completion and these were then returned to Finance to build the overall organisation budget.

Overtime this process had become very labour-intensive; for example, the Shire maintains significant assets and infrastructure and re-entering and balancing the Infrastructure Services budget alone could take us days to complete. Naturally this process involved double-handling of data, which increased the opportunity for errors and we reached a point where there was just too much risk involved,” said Lachlan.

In order to meet the timeframes for the 2016/2017 Budget, Council chose to take advantage of the initial training provided by MAGIQ Software to ensure each of the Responsible Officers could input their budgets directly into the system.

“We encouraged everyone to come along to the training with their budgets so they could learn how to input the data directly into the system. MAGIQ is very intuitive and easy to use and we've had plenty of positive feedback from staff,” said Lachlan.

Lachlan commented that the Finance team is also enjoying the benefits provided by the new system:

“Usually we are running against the clock to complete the budgetary process; MAGIQ has provided us with the time to thoroughly analyse the budget and that means much better quality control and accuracy around the data,” he said.



The Shire has initially implemented MAGIQ Reporting across its financial data to provide managers with quick and easy access to meaningful financial information.

Lachlan commented that while Council's core business system also provides reporting functionality, it is by comparison a tool that requires the accounting knowledge and skill only found within the Finance team.

“With MAGIQ you simply press a button,” said Lachlan. “The software is very accessible and will add great value across the organisation.

The ability to set up a library of standard reports; easily create ad-hoc reports and build custom dashboards are all features that have the potential to significantly improve efficiency and improve the quality of our business data.

We are already seeing a number of our Responsible Officers jumping on to the system and running their own reports, which is much more efficient for them and saves our Finance team considerable time as well.”

According to Lachlan ease of use and support were key factors in the software selection process.

“As a remote Council we have a fairly high turnover of staff and we need a system that new staff will be able to learn and adopt fairly quickly. We're confident MAGIQ Performance offers the level of ease of use we need.

Access to reliable product support is also very important to us. We've been impressed with the agility and knowledge of the MAGIQ Software team and their ability to quickly resolve any issues.”

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, featuring the word "magiq" in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font with a green leaf-like graphic above the 'i'. Below it, the word "software" is written in a smaller, lowercase, grey, sans-serif font.