

CASE STUDY

Coorong District Council's Assetic Managed Services Experience



Context

The Coorong District Council (CDC) historically struggled with collecting and maintaining integral asset data, and applying it to develop a strategic asset management plan.

"Asset data was pretty much non-existent when I came on board and we began this process," explains Paul Duka, Manager Corporate Services. "We were starting from scratch."

At the time, CDC's asset plan was "sufficient enough to achieve the auditor's tick", but had been pulled together hurriedly and lacked any real substance. Capital works planning relied on the knowledge of one engineer, who'd been with CDC for 45 years. They were at risk of being qualified come next year's audit.

Paul was well aware the resources at CDC could not achieve the task at hand, and that finding and retaining the right person for the job would be costly, if not impossible. When he learned about Assetic's Managed Services model, he found his solution.

“ There was no real way we could afford audit compliance without the help of Assetic. To resource this in-house would have been an investment of around \$150K– to get the systems, processes and people right. This way we have access to skilled resources with the extensive knowledge required to stay across all our compliance obligations – irrespective of any staff turnover issues. ”

Paul Duka
Manager Corporate Services

Upside

With onerous audit complexity now managed by Assetic, Paul and his small team are now able to focus on core finance matters and do their jobs better.

The reports from Assetic enable councillors to see future funding plans clearly presented on screen, highlighting areas that need to be addressed. This provides reassurance that money is not being "frittered away"; they can see the future capital works plan, and the future value of funding decisions. It is eye-opening for councillors and the CEO.

CDC's strategic asset management plan now uses accurate data that lays out the future for their infrastructure and for their whole community.

Outcomes

YEAR ONE

- All sealed road asset data collected, analysed and centrally stored
- Roads data digitised and presented through a GIS layer
- Capital works programs developed based on science (not relying on one person's knowledge)

YEAR TWO

- Core drilling activity for treatment planning undertaken
- Unsealed roads data collected, analysed and centrally stored
- Improved data to enable accurate application of unsealed road treatments

YEAR THREE

- Revaluation and condition assessment of buildings
- In-depth inspections on seven major buildings, identified as critical
- Remaining buildings underwent 'desktop' condition assessment to efficiently populate condition data
- Large critical buildings defined at component level for Fair Value depreciation; CDC are compliant with the latest accounting standards

Coorong District Council

- Geographically the largest council in South Australia
- South-East of Adelaide in the Murraylands region
- Covers 8,836kmsq, just 4,258 rateable properties
- Formed in 1997 (amalgamation of Peake, Coonalpyn Downs & Meningie)