RUNOFF, REEF, REGULATION... and reality checks

2019 IECA Australasian Conference and Stormwater Queensland Conference
Tuesday, 1st – Thursday, 3rd October 2019 | Hilton Cairns, QLD

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The Goulburn Broken CMA's Innovative Water Control Room - Turning Data into Information and Knowledge

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Biography:
Brian has worked at Water Technology since January 2017 as a Senior Principal Engineer and is responsible for the HydroNET SaaS platform. He has managed several HydroNET projects during this time, including the HydroNET Water Control room, HydroNET RainWatch, an innovative Property Flood Report Portal and the Water auditing application.
Brian has over 20 years of experience in implementing integrated water resources management, and was the acting Chief Executive Officer and at the first Catchment Management Agency established in South Africa. During that time, Brian oversaw the development of the first ever Catchment Management Strategy in South Africa and implemented an innovative adaptive real time operational water resources management framework for river operations and flow forecasting, based on adaptive management principles.

Abstract:
The GBCMA requires access to timely and accurate information to effectively conduct their water management activities, which includes include improving river and wetland health; water quality improvement; riverine environmental monitoring and management; habitat, threatened species and soil health protection; and surface and sub-surface management. In support of this , they are members of the Victorian Water Monitoring Partnership and data from their streamflow and water quality monitoring equipment is sent to and housed externally in several locations.

A challenge faced by the GBCMA was that although much of the data they require for decision making is collected, it has not been available in one location or in the user friendly formats they desire. It has thus been a significant time and cost burden on the GBCMA staff to manually gather and compile the required data and process it into the information they need for their particular purposes.

The GBCMA thus had a need for improved ease of access to view, watch and report on their existing water resource data and chose to implement the HydroNET Water Control Room - an example of a modern software as a service (SaaS) platform - linking them to the external databases they needed.

HydroNET now enables GBCMA staff to securely and easily view, watch and report on the live water quality, rainfall and river flow data from external data sources at GMW and BoM via personalised web dashboards.

Some of the functionality provided includes:
•   Live access to official master data at source, eliminating any duplication and versioning issues.
•   No added burden on GMW or BoM database administrators to provide data.
•   Personalised dashboards and tools to easily work with the data. No IT know-how needed.
•   Automatic reports in Word and PowerPoint.
•   Significantly reduced time and cost burden on staff to access the information.

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- No further hidden IT, software and hardware costs.
- Ability to easily copy and share hydrographs and other data with stakeholders.
- Cost sharing amongst all users and ongoing software updates, keeping the GBCMA up to date with IT changes into the future .

It is hoped that the functionality provided will create improved collaboration in decision making at the GBCMA and allow the decision makers to spend more time on decision making, less time tracking down information and free up more time for the data administrators to concentrate on quality assurance instead of compiling information.