Case Study: March 2017

Australian National University – Smart Metering

Australian National University (ANU) is committed to running a sustainable and environmentally-friendly campus. They required accurate water use data, across campus, to help them make informed decisions on how to manage water use and how to reduce consumption costs.

WaterGroup were engaged through a tender process to supply and install SIM (Standalone Intelligent Meter) Loggers on each existing water meter across the campus. WaterGroup’s SIM Loggers are designed to attach to utility meters to collect water meter usage data which is then delivered via the 3G network to WaterGroup’s cloud server. The ease of access to data allows for a powerful monitoring and management tool for the ANU.

Deployed by WaterGroup, the university had over 180 water monitoring devices installed across its network in August 2016.

The benefits were realised in a short amount of time, as it only took six weeks for approximately $300,000 in potential water usage savings to be identified.

The smart metering network has also provided a number of positive adjacent outcomes, one is the establishment of sustainability challenges for student accommodation groups to compete on water usage efficiency.

Major components of the project included:

1. Site Inspection
2. Procurement of Stock
3. Submission of Project Plan
4. Validation and verification of Icon Water audit
5. Installation of data loggers onto existing loggable pulse enabled water meters
6. Accurate and valid water data visible on WaterGroup web portal
7. Building customised reports and setting alarm thresholds
8. Meters & Buildings correctly identified on website
9. Commissioning Report
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The data collected by the smart meters is displayed on WaterGroup’s interactive smart metering website. Usage is displayed via informative graphs and stats. ANU has received login details for this website platform for viewing and understanding their usage. WaterGroup’s smart metering website also has the ability to transfer collected data to any other nominated platform via FTP, API, Dropbox or email.

WaterGroup has finished setting up the website graphs for all loggers installed at ANU. The website setup was simultaneously completed with the logger installations.

Automatic alarms and reports were set-up on the smart metering platform in consultation with ANU. These features inform ANU of unwarranted consumption in a timely manner and help gain both water and cost savings.

The roll-out of a smart metering system at ANU is a landmark project which is helping the Facilities & Services Division at ANU identify unaccounted water use, and cutting such water waste leading to significant cost savings as well as prioritising water saving measures. It is helping ANU in their strategic goal to drive down their water footprint and reduce their water utility costs.

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