Case Study:
Aquatic Centres Smart Metering

Fairfield Leisure Centre

Fairfield City Council (FCC) is committed towards judicious resource usage at all sites owned and managed by them. As part of these efforts they implemented a smart metering system at the Fairfield Leisure Centre. Aquatic centres are known to have high water consumption. This consumption gets magnified if unwarranted use such as a leak occurs. By implementing a remote monitoring system FCC aimed to minimise or even eliminate such instances. With its easy to use interface and automatic alert abilities, WaterGroup’s monitoring system was chosen to fulfill this purpose.

As soon as the smart metering system was employed at the centre, it picked up a minimum baseline flow rate averaging 30L/min clearly indicating a leak. By comparing the information obtained from the smart meters at the main meter and the sub meters, FCC was able to narrow-down the leak location. It was found that a buried pipe break was causing the excess usage. Excavation and rectification helped bring the water usage at the centre back in control, saving ~1,300kL or $4,500 per month. Without smart metering, the buried leak would have continued and the centre would have assumed their high water spend was typical.

Population increase and climate change are causing a notable amount of strain on our natural resources. It is imperative that high water consuming sites such as aquatic centres implement smart metering systems as part of water management best practice to control usage. Fairfield City Council is leading by example in this regard and should be commended for their efforts.

Industry
Aquatic Centres

Situation
Aquatic centres use up a significant amount of water due to pool top-ups. More frequent top-ups are required in the summer months. A hidden leak can contribute to a sharp increase in this consumption.

Business Scenario
Fairfield City Council is committed towards sustainable water usage and avoiding any unwarranted leaks.

Solution
The smart metering system aims to provide clients remote access to their water usage data and provide automated leak detection capability.

Outcomes
Identification of a 30L/min leak due to a pipe break.

Savings
Approx. 1,300kL/month or $4,500/month

Payback
<6 months

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