

MEDIA RELEASE

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Full-stream ahead to maximise efficiency and reliability of water services

The \$1.5 million roll-out of an advanced remote monitoring system covering many of East Gippsland Water's water treatment plants and pump stations has just been completed.

The Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system employs specialist computer hardware and software to gather accurate, up-to-the-minute performance data on seven water treatment plants and 20 other key sites spread across a 21,000 square kilometre area. It is designed to provide early warning of faults or performance issues, enabling staff to respond more quickly to potential problems, to ensure that equipment efficiency, performance and reliability is maintained at an optimal level. This in turn helps to minimise running costs.

East Gippsland Water staff can access this information remotely at anytime using a desk top or lap top computer and in some cases can also make adjustments to the operation of facilities remotely.



Pictured (L-R) putting SCADA through its paces are East Gippsland Water's Hardy Fandrich (Asset Development Engineer, Terry Upton (IT Administrator) and Matt Nicholson (Water Treatment Plant Operator)

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Les Mathieson: "Installing SCADA at our water treatment plants and pump stations has been a major feat, given the technical complexities of the system, the remote location of many of the facilities and the massive geographic area that we serve. Its successful roll out owes much to the skills and commitment of our dedicated workforce.

"The results will prove worthwhile in ensuring we maintain high levels of service to our customers through the reliable and efficient delivery of high quality drinking water supplies."

The next phase of the SCADA initiative will see the system installed at East Gippsland Water's major new \$16 million water treatment plant at Woodglen near Bairnsdale, before the facility goes into service early in 2010. Work will also commence on rolling out the system across the Corporation's wastewater facilities.

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