

MEDIA RELEASE



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New Technology is tried and true at South Gippsland Water.

When South Gippsland Water was formed in 1995 the acronym SCADA (Supervisory Control Data Acquisition) was then the name for ground breaking new technology that acted as a centralized system to monitor the water and waste water treatment process.

South Gippsland water installed its first SCADA system at Lance Creek in 1997 resulting in the plant being fully automated - from the measurement of microbiological activity in the raw water, through the plant process and to the quality of the water being delivered to the townships of Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson.

Today SCADA systems are a preferred format for automated technology worldwide and all South Gippsland Water's plants have been automated, allowing for complete remote control by plant operators. Any abnormality in the running of our ten Water Treatment Plants and two mechanical Waste Water Treatment Plants will result in an alarm being activated and plant operators are able to dial into the control base from home through a secured access, corporation wide, private network.

The South Gippsland Water SCADA system utilizes programmable logic controllers or PLC's and a digital computer to monitor processes. Breaks and leaks are detected efficiently, pump stations and outfalls are monitored and statistics collected through this one control system. The South Gippsland Water SCADA network records over 30,000 events every second across the region.

South Gippsland Water plant operators have been 'up skilling' from their traditional role over the years are now trained to run and trouble-shoot the software. An additional person has also been employed by SGW to carry out preventative maintenance on all systems.

What now... Sit back and pat ourselves on the back? Technology is ever changing as are the needs of the organisation; currently the IT department has implemented a "Historian" system that will allow all Corporation information to be stored centrally and in real time on a plant to business database. While information is currently available, this system provides an automated, desk top, corporate data base of regional information and the Management and Staff of South Gippsland Water are looking forward to making this new technology part of our every day practice.