



ON HUNT FOR MISSING DATA

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PARASYN Works With CAMS to Fix Coliban Water's SCADA System

By tracking down and fixing faults in Coliban Water's SCADA system PARASYN has ensured Campaspe Asset Management can accurately control and manage Coliban's complex water and wastewater system.

Coliban Water provides services to some 130,000 customers across 16,500 km of central and northern Victoria, centred on the old gold mining towns of Bendigo and Castlemaine. For many years the company has chosen to outsource the management of its operations and since 2003 its extensive water and wastewater system, which includes some 174 pumping stations, 22 water treatment plants and 10 wastewater treatment plants, has been managed by joint venture company Campaspe Asset Management Services Pty Ltd (CAMS). CAMS, which takes its name from the larger river system which includes the Coliban, is jointly owned by United Utilities Australia (UUA) and Origin Energy's Infrastructure Group (OEIG) and is contracted to manage Coliban Water's system until at least 2013.

In August 2006, CAMS became aware of problems with the integrity of information extracted from Coliban's SCADA water and wastewater management system. The data being presented was proving unreliable, often 'flat-lining' (remaining constant and showing no change even when it undoubtedly should have) and in some cases displaying no data at all! PARASYN, with extensive experience of major Citect/Kingfisher integration projects throughout Australia, were called in to investigate the problem.

PARASYN engineers worked closely with CAMS to gain a thorough understanding of Coliban Water's existing SCADA system before applying structured fault finding techniques to track down the cause of the missing data. In this way they identified two separate faults which together were producing spurious information, and by reconfiguring monitoring equipment and installing new drivers the problem was rectified.

The investigation and subsequent remedial work was completed in carefully planned stages over a five week period. The intermittent nature of the problem required single process changes to ensure the root cause of the problem was identified and not rectified during other system configuration changes.