

A Strategic Plan to Liberate Remote Plant



Validating a plan can sometimes be as important as having the plan in the first place.

Early in 2018, Parasyn were invited by BRC to provide advice and validate BRC's concepts and ideas on managing enterprise information in terms of SCADA related assets. The objectives of the undertaking included;

- Provide advice as industry experts to support initial stages of the BRC's data journey
- Ensure advice is Vendor independent and based on many years of implementation experience for similar business's to BRC
- Ensure recommendations can be presented and used to progress to the next stage activities including the development of a work package for the recommended solution concept

Today Bundaberg Regional Council includes what used to be several other small councils from outlying areas. This amalgamation means the integration of diverse technologies, standards and of course people. Everyone knows that the most important consideration in terms of merging organisations is its people, and its these people that must manage the merging diverse technologies and deal with the initial degradation of standards. The result of combining and consolidating assets raises at least one important question for the asset manager or engineer. How can I efficiently look after all this extra kit when I now have to deal with even more diversity than before? It is one thing to keep a system running, and another far more challenging thing to drive down costs when there is a limit on the capital investment available to standardise assets and asset instrumentation. This sets the backdrop and context for many water organisations throughout Queensland Australia today.

Parasyn's assignment with BRC included the following activities:

- Develop clear and a coherent architecture concept.
- Consider and appraise the "future state" reporting solution and data warehouse, detailing application, data, hardware and network architectures, intended for industry best practice.
- Facilitate workshops with the business and technology stakeholders to determine optimal solution outcome.
- Design and present solutions that BRC can visualise and further refine with feedback.
- Develop and document options to facilitate the evaluation and selection of software products and services.
- Advise on security best practices for SCADA data and systems, technology and business process.
- Contribute ideas for improving BRC systems and processes.
- Ensuring appropriate documentation is completed and handover to project team.
- Produce future roadmap of possible enterprise solutions that may enhance BRC's use of SCADA technologies and validate their existing SCADA strategies.

Sometimes the course you are on is already the right path. But how do you know? You ask. The late Steven Covey was noted for saying, "Admission of ignorance is often the first step in our education". This couldn't be truer in terms of developing long term strategies. Even if you are 95% on course, in the "long run" 5% can make all the difference. All credit to the BRC technology team for championing their future by making minor adjustments today.