

Tasman District Council



The Challenge

Tasman District Council was relying on a series of labour-intensive, manual processes to build its Long Term Plan. The existing processes were limiting the Finance team's ability to deliver the detailed business information required by Council to support its decision-making.

The Solution

Council implemented the MAGIQ Financial Planning application to deliver its 10-year Long Term Financial Plan. MAGIQ Financial Planning is designed to provide organisations with a sophisticated and highly automated tool to model and produce their Long Term and Annual Financial Plans.

The Benefits

Council has achieved significant time-savings allowing the Finance team to spend more time on the valuable tasks of creating and analysing complex 'what-if' scenarios. The overall quality of the data Council relies on has improved with business decisions based on a substantially improved qualitative position.

About Tasman District Council

Local Government industry

200+ staff members

49,000 residents

\$103m annual expenditure

"Producing our Long Term and Annual Plans is now a one-person job and that's a massive time-saving for Council. MAGIQ Financial Planning delivers a balanced trial balance in just 20 minutes".

Kim Dunn, Project Accountant

“Using MAGIQ we constructed six different scenarios using a variety of funding streams. Twenty minutes later we were able to sit and review each scenario reviewing the variances right down to the account level.” **Kim Dunn, Project Accountant**

Tasman District Council in New Zealand has achieved significant time-savings and improved business efficiencies using the MAGIQ Performance software application to deliver its 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

The Tasman District is located at the north-western corner of the South Island of New Zealand and is named after Abel Tasman, considered the first European to discover New Zealand. The District covers 9,786 square kilometres of diverse landscape and rich farming land. With three national parks; golden sand beaches and extensive rivers and caving networks, the district is a very popular tourist destination.

MAGIQ Performance is a suite of highly sophisticated and easy to use Budgeting, Financial Planning and Strategic Planning software. The MAGIQ Financial Planning application is designed to provide organisations with a sophisticated and highly automated tool to model and produce their Long Term and Annual Financial Plans.

Tasman District commenced the implementation of the MAGIQ Financial Planning application in early 2014, in preparation for the delivery of their 2015/2016 10-year Long Term Financial Plan.

According to Kim Dunn, Project Accountant, at Tasman District Council the initial time invested in constructing the Long Term Plan model in MAGIQ has well and truly paid off, with significant time-savings and efficiencies realised in the production of their Plan.

“Building the initial model takes an investment in time and deep thinking; however once all the necessary business rules are in place, producing the Long Term Plan is relatively easy as the data is all automatically populated according to the established rules,” said Kim.

“Producing our Long Term and Annual Plans is now a one-person job and that’s a massive time-saving for Council,” he said.

“MAGIQ Financial Planning delivers a balanced trial balance in just 20 minutes,” said Kim.

This allows us to implement a change and then review its impact on Income Statements, Balance Sheets and Funding Impact Statements in just 20 minutes.”

According to Kim the Finance team now has the time and flexibility to model complex ‘what-if’ scenarios and funding streams that they were unable to do prior to using MAGIQ.

He pointed to a recent Council engineering project to build a new dam as an example of the powerful flexibility the software delivers.

“Using MAGIQ we constructed six different scenarios using a variety of funding streams. Twenty minutes later we were able to sit and review each scenario reviewing the variances right down to the account level.

That’s the sort of business process improvement that delivers a fundamental change to the way we work and significantly improves the quality of the data Council is relying on to make its business decisions; we are considering information and making decisions from a substantially improved qualitative position,” said Kim.

Building Council’s Long Term Plan model with MAGIQ Financial Planning ensures that there is a single place where all business rules and data are stored. According to Kim this dramatically reduces risk and improves overall certainty in the accuracy of the data.

“Previously data was stored in multiple spreadsheets and inevitably there were issues with version control and data accuracy,” he said.

“Using MAGIQ Financial Planning to produce our LTFP we have far greater confidence in the accuracy of the data. Confidence that the same set of business rules are always consistently applied; and each department enters its data directly into the plan, removing any risk of data re-entry errors.”

“With certainty and confidence comes a big reduction in stress and that’s a great way to work,” said Kim.



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About MAGIQ Software

MAGIQ Software is an international software business focused on the delivery of the MAGIQ Cloud Finance and Administration Platform. MAGIQ Software has more than 500 customers throughout Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Singapore and South Africa. Key markets include Local Government, Health and Community Services, Utilities, Education and Not for Profit. A highly experienced and skilled team of more than 100 staff deliver local support and development from offices in Napier, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Christchurch and Los Angeles.

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