

## Fairfield City Choose MAGIQ Performance



### The Challenge

Council's newly appointed Finance Manager was given the task to select and implement a computerised financial budgeting system to fulfil Council's legislative reporting requirements whilst providing comprehensive financial planning and reporting to all stakeholders.

### The Solution

Council implemented MAGIQ Performance to reduce their manual efforts and improve their budgeting and financial planning capabilities.

### The Benefits

Council's financial data is managed as a single source of truth and the budgeting process is performed systematically in a controlled and auditable environment.

### About Fairfield City Council

#### Local Government industry

Incorporates 27 suburbs, 240,000 rateable properties and approximately 1,100 staff.

"The obvious benefit will be having a relational database, as a single source of truth rather than having several spreadsheets hanging around, with staff making changes that we have to manually consolidate afterwards. I am confident there will be a huge improvement in our budgeting process.

"With MAGIQ Performance I find that the ability to make an enquiry is very simple in that you don't have to run a script, you can just navigate through the tree structure, select the area that you want to focus on and define the relevant parameters. The response is very, very quick."

Vanessa Canepa, Finance Manager.

“One of the big benefits of the solution is the ability to use workflows so the budgeting process can be performed systematically in a controlled, auditable environment.” Vanessa Canepa, Finance Manager.

Fairfield City is 32km south-west of the Sydney Central Business District. It covers an area of 102 square kilometres, incorporating 27 suburbs.

Council has over 240,000 rateable properties and employs approximately 1,100 staff.

### MAGIQ Performance Implemented to Strategically Move the Organisation Forward

When Vanessa Canepa was appointed as Finance Manager at Council, her first goal was to select and implement a computerised financial budgeting system to fulfil Council's legislative reporting requirements whilst providing comprehensive financial planning and reporting information to all stakeholders.

“We have a legislative requirement to develop a set of long-term, medium and short-term financial plans to ensure Council remains community-focused and responsive, as well as financially sustainable at all times,” said Vanessa.

The growth of Council's financial activity had exceeded the capability of a budgeting system with a heavy reliance on Excel spreadsheets.

“For an organisation the size of Fairfield City Council, we required a professional budgeting software solution to address our financial planning and reporting requirements.”

Vanessa's team consists of 33 staff members responsible for the delivery of Council's financial services, including rates and revenue collection, business analytics, statutory reporting, financial planning, investments, cash flow management and fleet and stores operations.

“I have had experience with several budgeting software solutions during my career in Local Government and recently with PowerBudget – which is a precursor of MAGIQ Performance – at Cumberland and Waverley Councils. Thanks to this experience I can relate to MAGIQ Performance's logic, functionality and features.”

### The Benefits of Implementing MAGIQ Performance

Vanessa expects that 50 users, consisting of staff and managers, will be using the software to access different system capabilities.

“Implementing MAGIQ Performance will improve efficiency and the results of our work.

“The obvious benefit will be having a relational database, as a single source of truth rather than having several spreadsheets floating around, with staff making changes that we have to manually consolidate afterwards. I am confident there will be a huge improvement in our budgeting process.

“As an example, I find that the ability to make an inquiry is very simple in that you don't have to run a script, you can just navigate through the tree structure, select the area that you want to focus on, and define the relevant parameters. The response is very, very quick.

“It's a good system. In terms of distribution and collaboration, one of the big benefits of the solution is the ability to use workflows so the budgeting process can be performed systematically, in a controlled and auditable environment. And whilst the previous manual process was 'doing the job', our financial budgeting was reliant on detailed reconciliations to minimise the risk of errors.”

### Working with MAGIQ Software

Muhammad Dahroug, Chief Information Officer at Council was involved in overseeing the implementation of MAGIQ Performance and integration with iCorp, CHRIS21 and PeopleSoft.

According to Muhammad, “I was very impressed with the whole team at MAGIQ Software and the way that they managed the project.

“We closed the project on time and within budget. Normally projects would have some dramas and problems and we'd experience staff unavailability. But there was none of that. And the project was run during lockdown!

“Whilst we'd prefer to have face-to-face training we went to online training and the training was effective and well prepared. Everyone was impressed. We recorded the training material for new recruits or for staff wanting a refresh. MAGIQ Software staff have very good knowledge of the product.

“We were happy and impressed with MAGIQ Software as an IT vendor,” he said.

Vanessa added, “The MAGIQ Software consultants were very knowledgeable, they have been very patient with us as well. Implementing MAGIQ Performance was a big leap for my team. We are a local government organisation and used to dealing with traditional and complex processes. No question was too hard, and that was much appreciated!”



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## About Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council is 32 kilometres south-west of the Sydney Central Business District. It covers an area of 102 square kilometres, incorporating 27 suburbs. Council has over 240,000 rateable properties and employs approximately 1,100 staff. Fairfield City Council maintains a strong, sustainable financial position, meeting all of the financial benchmarks set by the State Government.

## About MAGIQ Software

MAGIQ Software is an international software business focused on delivering the MAGIQ Cloud Platform, consisting of our MAGIQ ERP, MAGIQ Performance, and MAGIQ Documents solutions. MAGIQ Software has over 600 customers worldwide. Our key markets include Local Government, Health and Community Services, Utilities, Education, and Not for Profit. A highly experienced and skilled team of over 90 staff delivers local support and development from Napier, Melbourne, Auckland, Christchurch, and San Diego.

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