

Case Study

TasWater and ADS Collaborate to Reduce Spills in Launceston, Tasmania

Launceston, Tasmania boasts the largest combined sewage network in Australia. In a combined sewage network, stormwater and sewage are managed within the same system.

As a component of TasWater's Launceston Sewerage Improvement Program (LSIP), TasWater partnered with ADS on the Launceston Network Flow Survey and Hydraulic Model Build and Calibration Project. This project delivered an accurate and predictive tool that will be used for planning and design of major projects within Launceston. The predictive tool improves understanding and operational intelligence of Launceston's complex combined sewage network, which earned ADS and TasWater the Infrastructure Project Innovation Award at the Tasmanian Australian Water Association Awards in November, 2022.



Award ceremony: left to right: TasWater Board Member Nick Burrows, General Manager Project Delivery Tony Willmott, Senior Specialist Engineer (Investigation) John McCausland, TasWater Chief Executive Officer George Theo, General Manager (Australia) ADS Environmental Services Pty Ltd Javier Calvar, and Alliance Program Manager, TasWater Capital Delivery Office, Ian Dunbabin.

Partnering to Predict and Reduce Spills

The LSIP represents a significant long-term investment by TasWater to address existing and future environmental risk, compliance and capacity issues at seven Sewage Treatment Plants in the Greater Launceston area. The LSIP helps divert sewage and stormwater flows away from the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary. The delivery of these projects includes upgrades and new construction of additional pipelines, thus improving the Launceston combined sewage network.

The flow monitoring survey is a two-year program implemented across the seven Launceston sewage catchments to identify the flows within the system, especially in wet weather. The main infrastructure has been built over many decades, with much of it deployed during the 1960s to 1980s. The survey combined data from 28 existing sites, supplemented by 39 long-term installations and approximately 70 short-term monitors.



ADS personnel installing remote monitoring systems

Summary

Projected measurable benefits resulting from the implementation of this project include a 66% reduction in CSO volumes in an average rainfall year.

In addition, this predictive tool will help to significantly reduce the presence of human waste-related bacteria content by up to 36%. This reduction protects the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary, preserving the environment and its inhabitants.

The implementation of a comprehensive monitoring system also has major benefits over the long term as the additional information obtained will help with management of the overall sewer infrastructure, including optimizing both operational efficiency and capital planning.


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Australia -Case-Study_01-04-23