



# Water, water everywhere?

As well as making the literal spotlight, electricity seems to take the utility spotlight too. **BUT** it's water that is our most precious resource, especially in this sunburnt country.

Whether it be electric vehicles, large scale renewables or some other new technology or initiative, it seems like wherever you look these days there is another story about electricity.

So what are the interesting and innovative things that are happening in the water sector and how do we bring attention to the sector keeping gardens green, toilets flushing and thirsts quenched?

# Smart Water



**In the electricity sector, smart meters are increasingly commonplace. In the not-too-distant future similarly equipped digital meters will become commonplace in the water utility sector.**

Traditional water meters only provide a simple analogue readout of how much water has been used and only by directly looking at the meters can someone understand the rate at which water is being used.

Digital water meters connect to the 'Internet of Things' (IoT) which enables the meter to send alerts and other notifications to the customer or the water company to make them aware of consumption rates and potential leaks.

As this technology becomes more widespread, homes and business around Australia will be increasingly empowered to conserve water and save money.

*Mondo has been working on a high profile digital metering trial using different devices from SUEZ, Ventia, ARAD and IOTA to better understand the value of the technology for customers and businesses.*

# Visualisation and insights



The electricity sector has demonstrated the power of data and the insights that data informs. An increasing number of households and businesses are adopting devices, technologies and apps which provide them with real time information about energy usage.

The roll-out of digital water meters means that these types of insights and deep data analysis are now becoming possible for water use. Comparing month-on-month water usage, trends, spikes and possibly even forecasts and data-supported water saving tips will soon become readily available via any computer, phone or tablet. There are even a number of organisations working on powerful dashboards combining water and electricity usage data and insights in a single interface.

As the saying goes *'you can't manage what you can't measure'* and providing everyone with simple yet powerful information on water and electricity usage is a great step towards reducing wastage, costs and environmental impacts.





# The power of water authorities

Water Authorities are not immune to the volatility of energy prices. Nor are they immune to changing policies relating to sustainability, emissions, and efficiency.

It is these factors which are driving a growing number of them to investigate and install on-site solar and battery systems. These take the form of traditional rooftop solar systems on facility buildings, ground-mount systems on adjacent land and also rapidly developing floating solar system technology – a seemingly natural fit for Water Authorities.

For those organisations who are unable to deploy large solar infrastructure on-site, there are a number of models available

to source renewable energy offsite or even from the local community. If the factor preventing deployment of solar and battery relates to up-front capital costs then there are a growing number \$0 up-front options such as Power Purchase Agreements which can be considered.

*Mondo has decades of experience in both electricity and water, employing the most experienced teams of local engineers, plumbers, electricians and specialists, as well as deploying and even developing in-house the industry leading technology and equipment to service utilities, businesses, schools, universities and communities right across Australia.*

# What about the customer?

An independently reviewed study titled “Australia’s Relationship with Water” released for Smart Approved Watermark found that few people know where their household drinking water comes from, let alone how it is treated or where it goes.

Perhaps surprisingly the study also uncovered that older Australians had a higher degree of literacy relating to water than the seemingly more environmentally conscious Gen Y’s.



## Educating the next g-g-generation

The Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) is a Victorian Government initiative funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to improve water literacy and reduce wastage.

The program works by attaching data loggers to participating school’s water meters to track water usage.

The data from these loggers provides staff and students with an understanding of their water consumption and efficiencies through a tailored curriculum program via a fun educational online platform.

An example of how impactful this program can be (to schools and the environment) can be seen at Wodonga Secondary College. Within two days of the logger installation, the school discovered that they had a leak of approximately 1,200 litres per hour, caused by a small crack in a pipe.

*Mondo has proudly been the installers for the SWEP initiative since it started in 2012. With over 1,240 schools registered across the state, the program has helped these schools save 8.9 billion litres of water which would have cost them more than \$28.2 million in water and wastewater charges.*

# Safety – heads, shoulders, knees and toes



What constitutes a safe workplace is relatively simple to articulate but the tools, techniques and policies utilised to continuously improve safety are constantly evolving.

PPE, its availability and effectiveness has never been more prominently in the spotlight due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the water industry PPE has always been one of our primary tools for avoiding or minimising injury, and the pandemic has added another layer of complexity and constant change relating to PPE requirements.

Now, more than ever it is imperative that our workforces and customers are protected from injury and illness, so ensure that your PPE is up-to-date with the latest guidelines and ensure that stock levels or agreements with suppliers are able to service current and future scenarios.

## Wearables and the future of PPE

At the very cutting edge of safety is the role of wearables in the future of PPE. Wearables take the form of devices including augmented reality glasses and smart watches. The in-house Mondo innovation team has developed and is currently trialling a Lone Worker application accessible through wearable technology. Unlike phone or tablet applications AIMS Zero is completely hands-free and with you at all times. It provides field users with spatial network hazard information and configurable alerts to keep them informed and safe.



**Trusted**

**Proven**

**Local**

# Proven, trusted, local water utility services

*Mondo's team delivers services including dry and wet tapping, complete connections, as well as sewer condition assessments and maintenance for organisations including Yarra Valley Water, City West Water, Coliban Water and Central Highlands Water.*

With a team of over 100 field service representatives, plumbers and scheduling officers who have over 500 years combined experience in the industry, our services are trusted by the most reputable companies.