

Mackenzie District Council



The Challenge

Council was using a number of manual spread sheet based systems to manage their financial reporting and budgeting. These processes were very labour intensive and Council was struggling to produce their reporting and budgetary information within reasonable timeframes.

The Solution

Council implemented the MAGIQ Performance Suite of Budgeting and Reporting applications to manage their financial reporting and budgetary requirements across Council achieving considerable time-savings and productivity improvements.

The overall quality of the information produced has also improved with Council now able to allocate more time to the important strategic review and analysis of their business data.

The Benefits

Council has achieved a 75% reduction in the time taken to produce their monthly financial reports delivering considerable savings to Council. In addition, the annual budgeting cycle has been reduced by approximately 3-4 weeks as a result of the streamlining of processes using MAGIQ Budgeting.

About Mackenzie District Council

Local Government industry

40+ staff members

4,000+ residents

\$10.5m annual expenditure

"The entire process has been significantly streamlined with each manager taking responsibility for the completion of their budget and it's also a lot more transparent."

Paul Morris, Finance and Administration Manager

“Council has subsequently achieved significant time and cost savings, with a 75% reduction in the time taken to produce our monthly financial reports.”

Paul Morris, Finance and Administration Manager

Mackenzie District Council in the South Island has achieved significant time-savings and business process efficiencies following their implementation of the MAGIQ Performance suite of financial budgeting, reporting and planning software.

Council implemented MAGIQ Performance in early 2013, to help them improve their financial budgeting and reporting processes across Council. Council has subsequently achieved significant time and cost savings, with a 75% reduction in the time taken to produce their monthly financial reports.

“Previously we were working with spreadsheets and it could take up to two days to export our data and publish the monthly financial reports. Using the MAGIQ Budgeting and Reporting tool, we now produce our reports in half a day, plus we have real confidence in the accuracy of the data,” said Paul Morris, Finance and Administration Manager, Mackenzie District Council.

“This means that we can focus more time on analysing and understanding the financials, instead of spending the majority of our time slavishly producing the data.

“Getting that balance right means we are making better, more informed decisions about our business and our processes,” said Paul.

Council has also rolled out MAGIQ Budgeting across Council to help them manage their annual budgeting process. Managers now have full control over the input of budget data for their business areas and they can easily edit the data and add explanations and notes.

According to Paul, MAGIQ Budgeting has freed up around 3-4 weeks of time around the annual budgeting process.

“The entire process has been significantly streamlined with each manager taking responsibility for the completion of their budget and it’s also a lot more transparent.

Managers can complete their budgets in the MAGIQ Budgeting application, add explanations, notes or workpaper file attachments and our CEO can easily monitor and understand the budget data as it is being entered.”

Take-up of the MAGIQ Financial Reporting suite across Council has been excellent, which Paul believes is largely due to the ease of use of the software.

“The software has a pretty similar look and feel to Windows; it uses the familiar ‘point and click’ approach and our staff found it very easy to use and understand.”

“Our users can quickly drill down to the transaction level they need; the report writing abilities are excellent and they can easily export their data into Excel to manipulate and analyse the data.”

“We really see the MAGIQ Performance suite as being the front end tool for our staff to access all their financial data and we expect to extend its use across Council in time,” said Paul.

When Council completed their annual audit process they invited their Auditors to use the MAGIQ Budgeting and Reporting application to access the financial data they needed. This made the audit process a lot more efficient, saving time for both the finance team and the auditors, with the auditors able to easily drill into the data and find the information they needed.

“The MAGIQ Performance suite of financial budgeting, reporting and planning software has delivered substantial improvements to our business and we are very happy with the product direction MAGIQ Software has taken,” said Paul.



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About Mackenzie District Council

Mackenzie District Council is located on the south island of New Zealand. Fairlie, Lake Tekapo and Twizel are the main towns and there are villages at Albury, Kimbell, Burkes Pass and Mount Cook. The Mackenzie District is also home to the ranges of Aoraki Mt Cook.

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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