

Five reasons SAM is the secret to ensure essential infrastructure assets are optimised and protected



No matter how you look at it, Australian local governments and essential service providers are facing some of the toughest operating conditions in decades. And for too long, decisions around managing community infrastructure and assets have come from best guesses based on static, siloed data. With councils, utilities and other asset-intensive organisations facing heavily constrained budgets, stretched workforces and rising customer expectations, that's no longer an option.

One positive that's come from all the turmoil of the last few years, is a shift in thinking around conventional asset management. There's a common desire to redefine how things are done; to create more resilient and agile operations and to find ways to better serve communities and customers for the long haul.

Fortunately, advancements in data analysis, predictive intelligence and automation have given rise to a solution that's dramatically reducing asset risk, improving capital expenditure and keeping assets up and running, longer.

That solution is Strategic Asset Management (SAM). It shifts the game from the traditional, reactive way of maintaining assets – fix it when it breaks – to a more proactive approach.

The future of asset management

SAM creates a single, holistic view of vast infrastructure assets. It then applies predictive modelling so operators can assess different funding and decision scenarios to identify which assets need maintenance, and when. What's more, SAM takes advantage of the rise of IoT by analysing live data collected from sensors along with historical data to more accurately predict the future behaviour of assets.

Not only is SAM paving the way for smarter, more resilient communities, but it's also saving forward-thinking government agencies and organisations across Australia hundreds of millions in future spend. Meanwhile, others have been able to secure millions more in stimulus by providing stakeholders with data-backed evidence.

So, how can SAM help local government and infrastructure operators make smarter decisions to improve short- and long-term asset outcomes in such uncertain times? Here are five advantages to SAM and why we believe it is the future of asset management:



1. Identify financial risks with a SAMP

Traditionally, Asset Management plans have been lengthy documents that often sit on a shelf gathering dust. By developing a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) you create a valuable tool that clearly outlines your organisations long-term strategic management of assets and a service level framework based on the criticality, strategic and technical level of service expected by the community for each type of asset.

After implementing a SAMP, [Victoria's City of Melton](#) began identifying potential financial risks which allowed for more proactive decisions and planning. In the Roads category alone, the Council saved approximately \$2.5mil a year by optimising interventions in line with strategic asset management best practice.



2. Gain greater flexibility to optimise future spend

Most local governments don't have anywhere near the funding required to repair or replace every asset, and raising taxes is not a popular solution. SAM enables organisations to reduce infrastructure deficit without just throwing money at the problem, unlocking millions in hidden efficiencies and freeing up capital to invest in other projects.

[Adelaide's Town of Walkerville](#) recently uncovered data evidence that gave its elected Council Members and executives the confidence to reduce their road capital



5. Simplify multi-year capital work planning with GIS

Many organisations spend a significant amount of time and effort using spreadsheets, GIS and generic software that’s not quite up to the task of developing multi-year capital work plans. SAM is a more robust tool that works with GIS to help develop projects across predicted years of treatment and multiple asset types, aligning funding sources and different phases systematically and efficiently.

[Adelaide’s City of Victor Harbor](#) uses GIS integration to enable the condition of its assets to be spatially displayed, improving stakeholder communication irrespective of a person’s subject matter knowledge.

There are many other advantages of SAM – it’s cloud-based and accessible from anywhere, it takes the headache out of regulatory reporting and can also connect the office to maintenance crews in the field. But perhaps the greatest upside of all is peace of mind, offering predictability at the most unpredictable of times for safer, happier and more resilient communities.

budget without detrimentally impacting the quality of the roads, and reinvest it into the redevelopment of the Walkerville Oval, including a new sports and bowling club.



3. Make more accurate, long-term investment decisions

Traditionally, there’s been limited visibility into future what-ifs, making it difficult to quantify and manage issues. With SAM, you can accurately predict the future behaviour of all assets and assess the impact of various investment scenarios over different time periods.

For example, [Victoria’s Wannon Water](#) now has 10-year renewal programs using SAM, having selected optimal outcomes for its entire Sewer Network and Water Treatment Plants based on scientific scenario modelling that’s resulted in genuine savings.



4. Secure additional funding

Executive decision-makers need data-driven strategies to inform investment decisions about the assets they are responsible for. The algorithms used by SAM software help users to better communicate investment options by submitting a compelling and evidence-based submission that identifies which assets need attention and when.

For instance, [Tasmania’s Department of Education](#) was able to secure additional funding of \$16.5 million for a renewal blitz in Tasmanian public schools by applying what-if analysis.

About Brightly Software

Brightly, the global leader in intelligent asset management solutions, enables organizations to transform the performance of their assets. Brightly's sophisticated cloud-based platform leverages more than 20 years of data to deliver predictive insights that help users through the key phases of the entire asset lifecycle. More than 12,000 clients of every size worldwide depend on Brightly's complete suite of intuitive software – including CMMS, EAM, Strategic Asset Management, IoT Remote Monitoring, Sustainability and Community Engagement. Paired with award-winning training, support and consulting services, Brightly helps light the way to a bright future with smarter assets and sustainable communities. For more information, visit brightlysoftware.com

