

Grant helps save water at GeelongPort

BY JAMES TAYLOR

GEELONG'S commercial port has tightened up its water usage and plugged many leaks through a project funded by Barwon Water.

GeelongPort applied for funding through the Barwon Water Business Water Savings Grants Program to install seven data loggers at their site.

The program provides up to 50 per cent of the direct costs of approved projects that deliver permanent reductions in drinking water consumption.

The loggers have been in use for about 12 months and have identified several leaks of various sizes and locations across the port precinct, leading to thousands of kilolitres of water being saved.

Barwon Water general manager of customers, community and strategy Laura Kendall said the project was a great example of what could be achieved when an environmentally minded business

made use of a Business Water Saving Grant.

"The grants are designed to help high water-using businesses save our precious drinking water resources and save themselves money at the same time.

"Well done on GeelongPort for coming up with a great water saving project."

GeelongPort environment specialist Nelson Taylor said the data loggers project had led to great results.

"The loggers, which are attached to a portal so staff have 24/7 access to usage data, recently alerted us to a leak of 1.85kl/min that occurred under one of the port's berths.

"Without the logger, the water loss could have amounted to 18.6 ML if gone unnoticed for a week."

Mr Taylor said GeelongPort checked the data regularly and investigated any extended periods of non-zero flows.

"This process has helped us locate and repair four large leaks over the past

12 months, some of which may have run unnoticed in underground pipes for extended periods of time had the data loggers not been installed.

"With the loggers providing real time data and alerts, unusual consumption is noticed immediately and investigated.

"The data from the loggers is also matched with ship and operational movements to understand how water is being used, resulting in efficiency improvements with our general water consumption."

GeelongPort also uses the regular data to report on their efficiency of environmental KPIs and goals.

For more information on the grants program, head to barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water/business-water-grants

Barwon Water general manager of customers, community and strategy Laura Kendall (left) and GeelongPort CEO Brett Winter. Photo: SUPPLIED



Technology cutting the risk of compost fires

BY NATHAN RIVALLAND

GEELONG based company Sequence Digital is reducing the risk of fires at garden organics facilities thanks to a \$26,000 grant from the City of Greater Geelong, Victorian Government and the Geelong Manufacturing Council.

Sequence Digital launched has launched 4G, weather-proof, solar-powered temperature sensors in a pilot program to help to reduce the risks of fires at COGG's Garden Organics Processing Facility in Anakie.

Using the funds supplied through the

2019 Cleantech Innovations Geelong program, the new devices will monitor 10,000 cubic metres of garden organics – the equivalent of four Olympic sized swimming pools – collected from household green bins across Greater Geelong.

Geelong Mayor Peter Murrhly, chair of the Innovative Solutions portfolio, said the new device can remotely measure and log the temperature of organic materials.

"Compost can get really hot and ignite, so using remote, round-the-clock monitoring means we can improve

safety on site and process organics more efficiently," Cr Murrhly said.

"The data is available in real time so our staff know straight away if there's an issue with higher temperatures and they can take action quickly to cool down the material.

"This initiative is an example of the clever and creative ways we are deploying smart technology to support better outcomes for our environment and community."

Sequence Digital co-director Patrick Blampied said the industrial temperature sensors have a ground-breaking design

and an ability to operate in remote areas where the internet signal is weak, and the weather conditions are extreme.

"These devices are tough as nails and send critical temperature data to the cloud in real-time, rain, hail or shine, even in areas with patchy rural internet connectivity," he said.

"The Cleantech Innovations grant made it possible to redesign our earlier prototype from the ground-up to make sure it could be used in the most remote outdoor organics facilities across Australia."

The Geelong Garden Organics Composting Facility between Anakie and

Lovely Banks processes 35,000 tonnes per year of green organics collected from garden waste bins.

In recognition of similar initiatives and their ongoing commitment to being global leaders in smart and innovative projects, Geelong was recognised as the 'International Smart City of the Year' at the World Smart City Expo held in Korea last month.

For more information about the City's efforts in the innovation space, head to <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/fpg/industry/article/item/8d39b5882c0980d.aspx>



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