

Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Systems Program completed.

The Federally funded Bureau of Meteorology Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Program commenced in 2007 and offered all states a unique opportunity to update their water monitoring programs and assets with the latest technologies.

Victoria was quick to recognise the opportunity on offer and the Regional Water Monitoring Partnerships placed bids through the DSE for upgrades to critical front line telemetry and flood monitoring and operational instrumentation.

In excess of 200 sites (approximately 28% of the state water monitoring network) were subsequently funded for upgrade. The value of this funding exceeded \$3 million.

At the time it was difficult to comprehend the overall improvement in data collection that would result from funding upgrades to an antiquated water monitoring assets.

The benefits that have been clearly identified from those upgrades include:

- ❖ Improved instrument reliability
- ❖ Improved operational safety at sites
- ❖ Improved operator safety
- ❖ Enhanced information available to help reduce impacts of floods on communities at risk
- ❖ Enhanced provision of real-time and web based water information.
- ❖ Reduced uncertainty in data
- ❖ Improved data accuracy
- ❖ Enhanced user confidence in the available water data.
- ❖ Reduced operating costs for water information collection.



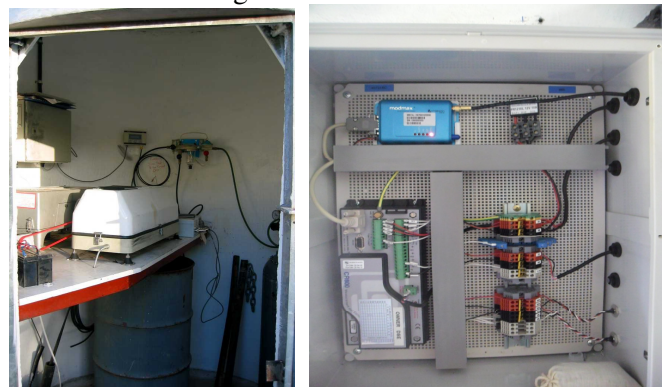
Obsolete instruments put to pasture.

The operational Hydrologic Services Differential Pressure sensor and Leupold & Stevens chart recorder located on the Loddon R at Newstead were the last of the upgrades to be completed.

The pressure sensors were first introduced in Victoria in the late 1960's and the unit removed from Loddon River commenced service in 1986. The Leupold & Stevens recorders entered service across Victoria in the late 1950's and continued as one of the front line means of capturing water level information until the current time.

Although this instrumentation was robust, reliable and prolific across the state, electronic technologies provide enhanced benefits through Internet Programmability, electronic storage of data and the subsequent user friendly access to it.

A number of people were present at Newstead when the aged analogue instruments were removed for the last time. These included representatives from the Regional Water Monitoring Partnerships and Thiess Environmental Services. Both groups have played an active role in the ongoing operation of the old analogue instrumentation and the subsequent upgrade to the newer electronic technologies.



Out with the old & in with the new.

Without the support and encouragement of the Bureau of Meteorology and their efforts in administering the Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Program, Victoria would still be languishing in the past with its Water Data Monitoring and storage programs.

The Regional Water Monitoring Partnerships of Victoria thank the Federal Government and the Bureau of Meteorology for the funding assistance they have provided.

Another site is upgraded with new monitoring equipment funded through the Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Program

