

Data Analytics CASE STUDY

WARDY IT Solutions helps Queensland Reconstruction Authority rapidly deploy Government funding allocations

About QRA

- Established in 2013
- Government
- qldreconstruction.org.au



Between Nov 2010 and April 2011, Queensland was struck by a series of natural disasters. Extensive flooding caused by periods of extremely heavy rainfall and destruction caused by a number of storm cells including Cyclones Tasha, Anthony and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi, and subsequent monsoonal flooding, resulted in a significant area of Queensland being declared as disaster affected.

In response to these disaster events, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority was established, reporting directly to the Premier. The Authority's mission was to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.

In Feb 2013 the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Act 2013 was enacted to encompass the storms, tornadoes and floods caused by ex-Tropical cyclone Oswald in Jan and Feb 2013, and to also allow for any other disaster within the meaning of the Disaster Act of 2003.

Executive Summary

The role of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the State Plan for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. It was initially brought together specifically to administer \$6.8 billion of funding and ensure the necessary funds were made available for the rebuilding of Queensland following the natural disasters of 2010 and 2011.

A major role of the Authority is to assure and administer the special purpose funding granted by the Commonwealth Government for reconstruction and to guarantee that all funding used in the reconstruction achieves value-for-money for the Commonwealth, State, and the general public.

In this role the Authority considers and approves reconstruction proposals and seeks funding assistance using a risk based approach that identifies appropriate means by which value-for-money can be assured and assessed through on-going review and audit via the Grant Management and Report Systems.

The other key role of the authority is to provide consolidated reporting of all reconstruction activities occurring across Queensland to a broad range of stakeholders. Many of the sources of data used in this reporting are from agencies other than the Authority.

In March 2013, the Authority has approximately \$15.6 billion under management.

Client Challenge

The challenge for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority was the need to rapidly deploy a reporting and analytical solution that would assist in allocating the funding necessary for the rebuilding of Queensland, following the natural disasters of 2010 and 2011.

Benefits

By utilising Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 and WARDY IT Solutions, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority was able to reduce the intensive data management and reporting overheads and improve automation, performance and deliver robust systems and processes. This enabled the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to re-deploy team members to other key areas to assist with the recovery process.



Solution

When the Queensland Reconstruction Authority was established the immediate priority was to develop a framework to deliver a strong and effective multi-sectorial reconstruction response, with strong accountability mechanisms ensuring that public money is not only delivered efficiently but spent effectively.

By engaging WARDY IT Solutions and adopting a Business Intelligence solution based on Microsoft Office 2010 and SQL Server 2008 R2, a solution was developed which provides business process reporting to all levels of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, from the call centre and the teams processing grants through to external state and federal government stakeholders.

By delivering a reporting and analytical system that provides a single pane of glass for all reconstruction activities, it has enabled the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to meet the challenges of delivering consistent and fair assessment of submissions, accountable and transparent processes and accurate and responsive monitoring.

About WARDY IT Solutions

- Established in 2005
- 65 employees
- Information Technology
- Australia & USA
- www.wardyit.com

WARDY IT Solutions are Australia's leading SQL Server and Business Intelligence specialists. The company creates solutions that enable businesses to maximise returns on their investment in knowledge management. Through the extensive use of Business Intelligence, WARDY IT Solutions help their clients to realise the best possible dividend from their data assets.

WARDY IT Solutions have received numerous industry accolades, most notably the prestigious Microsoft Global Data Platform Partner of the Year in 2013. The organisation is recognised internationally for their innovative solutions, training skills and unwavering commitment to education and furthering the interests of the broader Microsoft SQL Server community. WARDY IT Solutions deliver:

- Project Delivery based on time and resources
- Consultation and Gap analysis
- SQL Server database design and programming
- Support services
- Managed Services and Business Intelligence Solutions
- Business Intelligence Consulting, including strategy, review, design and implementation of Business Intelligence Solutions

Solutions (cont.)

Using SQL Server 2008 R2, a data warehouse was rapidly developed for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority on an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) platform to enable the rapid reporting of the reconstruction effort.

This warehouse was designed to allow integration from the various heterogeneous systems deployed throughout Queensland to assist with the reconstruction effort.

The speed with which the organisation came together meant a heavy reliance on a number of manual based systems as data sources for the data warehouse. By utilising the flexibility of SQL Server 2008 R2 with SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS), SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS), SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) and data quality processes, the system developed by WARDY IT Solutions has provided significant opportunities for automation, performance and efficiency improvement.

The success of the reporting and analytics available in the Grant Management and Report Systems developed by WARDY IT Solutions for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, has enabled adoption of the solution to become a whole-of-government grants system called Royalties for the Regions.

The Royalties for the Regions project was listed as number seven in the Queensland government's top ten achievements during the last 12 months.