

Results speak for themselves when it comes to fleet monitoring

In 2010 City of West Torrens (CWT) in South Australia came to MapData Services (MDS) with a range of specific fleet monitoring issues that were eating into the council's street maintenance efficiency and budget. Through collaboration with MDS and Esri Australia, their challenges were resolved. This was done by integrating GPS tracking data from the MDS FleetTrack system into the CWT GIS system.

The CWT council covers an area of 38km² with a population of 56,000 and owns a fleet of street sweeping machines and council maintenance vehicles. Sweeper activities involve broad network maintenance including road sweeping and drainage maintenance. CWT needed a fully operational and reliable live tracking system to manage their sweeper fleet from anywhere, anytime.

CWT was having major problems with its existing system. Because of unreliable feedback and systems failures, it was almost impossible to effectively monitor fuel efficiency, mileage, operational locations and regularity of cleaning. CWT also pays their drivers for the distances they actually cover, and they needed to find a way to accurately monitor all journey lengths.

CWT's original 1996 sweeper tracking system used GPS data recorded on PCMCIA cards, and then transferred manually to a standalone windows machine. Faced with hardware failures, a lack of replacement parts, and software that was no longer supported, CWT turned to MDS to develop an alternative tracking solution.

Leveraging MDS' GPS tracking and dispatch system 'MDS Fleet Track' and the CWT existing investment in Esri GIS,

CWT are now able to automatically track and report on their sweeper activities within their own GIS environment.

Data was formatted to meet CWT's specific requirements, and access to all the information is provided through an online portal, as well as being pulled via a web service from the MDS FleetTrack system into the CWT GIS environment.

Through discussions with MDS the council also wanted to ensure they could improve their level of customer service to the community and the local residents. As a result MDS also provided a diverse range of features for CWT that had given customer service staff the ability to filter and respond to the first line of defence calls e.g.: -

- *When was my street last swept?*
- *My street hasn't been swept in time!*
- *A sweeper hit my car!*

CWT has seen benefits with the new system because they are not only able to monitor and report the sweepers activities but they have the ability to measure the improvements in efficiencies as a consequent of a reduction in fuel consumption, increases in contractor productivity but also their carbon emissions.

CWT MapData Services FleetTrack System Main Benefits

- Improved sweeper timelines and accuracy
- Increased safety and security through live tracking
- Enhanced reporting through insight and visibility of the sweeper activities in real-time or historically
- Reduction of field to base GPS data collection enabled through 24/7 reporting and collection direct to the CWT corporate GIS
- Real-time operational status of sweepers from system based upon their location
- Improved monitoring of the sweepers based upon time, location and the operational status of each street sweeper.

The MDS FleetTrack System Overview

The MDS FleetTrack service allows you to control your fleet costs by increasing your productivity and efficiency. We specialise in the development of GIS and location-based vehicle management solutions and we will tailor a tracking solution using state of the art technologies to suit your organisation's needs.

We offer a wide range of tracking devices and services for assets as well as vehicles. We can track a shipping crate, trailer, construction equipment, or box of fresh lobsters. We can implement a full remote telemetry system, driver dispatch system or just monitor where your assets are. A 'tracking' solution is not just about knowing where something is, it can also be about what its doing! Is the engine running? Is the power on? Is it running within its defined tolerances? Is there some type of exception / alert or alarm?

In CWT's case, the sweepers' left, right, and centre brooms, the left and right vacuum and auxiliary motor can each

be monitored separately. Voltage changes can also be monitored e.g. whether a 4WD is engaged or not, whether hazard lights or headlights are on or off, even when a cherry picker or a tilt tray is in use.

We can also install switches to monitor other scenarios such as the opening and closing of doors or if a seat belt is in use. MDS FleetTrack can remotely control relays. This means you can remotely turn items on or off e.g. unlock or unlock doors, starter motor switches (engine immobilisation). Specific hardware peripherals can also be added such as impact and tilt sensors, and panic alarm systems.

Whether it's a small fleet of vehicles, truck fleet or stationery assets we have the hardware and location-base web services to enable you to schedule, monitor, track and report on their usage or status to the business or for regulatory compliance.

Contact us today to find out more

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