

Case Study

Department for Families and Communities, South Australia

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The Department for Families and Communities Opens Door to On Demand Imagery Access

With an extensive internal portal available for staff to facilitate asset queries, analyse suitable housing and access demographic research, the South Australian Department for Families and Communities (DFC) has long understood the value of providing easy access to corporate information. In addition to a wide range of location-based corporate information, the portal also included an imagery library of the Department's housing stock and related infrastructure, provided by and served using Planning SA and the Department for Environment and Heritage's infrastructure.

In 2007, DFC decided to add to the imagery available to staff via their internal portal. While limited imagery was already provided by Planning SA and DEH, more specific imagery related to the Department was required. This included imagery of remote and regional communities and selected country townships, necessary for a number of key Departmental projects, including the support for Aboriginal Housing in remote communities.

A key requirement for DFC was the immediacy of imagery publishing, ensuring that any imagery collected could be made available to staff in as short a timeframe as possible. This short timespan was required to enable the Department to make timely and accurate decisions on infrastructure costs, housing development planning and investment decisions critical to ensuring South Australia's family and community welfare.

DFC implemented the geospatial image distribution and processing solution Image Server, immediately achieving greater efficiency in publishing imagery, with time between acquiring images and publishing them reduced significantly from several weeks to a few hours. This has allowed all staff within the organisation to view and analyse the images and related data in a timely manner.

The Department for Families and Communities' GIS Manager Gary Maguire has noticed considerable efficiency gains already. "Image Server has extended our enterprise GIS suite, and has delivered faster and more flexible delivery of imagery related services", he said.

The Department plans to use Image Server for wider corporate applications, including adding metropolitan Adelaide imagery to better facilitate executive and operational decisions regarding housing plans and infrastructure assessment in the state capital.

The Image Server solution will also become another tool to aid in emergency recovery efforts, enabling field staff, non-government aid agencies and emergency relief staff to make more informed decisions based on the latest imagery information published by DFC. The ability to analyse and compare historical and current imagery will also be an integral part of recovery effort assessment, verifying what recovery efforts have been made by the Department, and any future work required.



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About Department for Communities and Families

The South Australian Department for Families and Communities (DFC) has a broad mandate to work with those who, through circumstance, may be poor, vulnerable, at risk of harm or isolated, to connect them to choices and opportunities. This mission is a privilege and a responsibility. It means working together, and with others, to connect individuals, families and communities to choices and opportunities.

About ESRI Australia

ESRI Australia is the source of astute professional services and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. We're experts in location intelligence, with over 30 years experience in implementing GIS solutions in dozens of different industries.

Our passion for technology and considered approach gives our clients the power to see more and do more. With our expertise, knowledge, vision and technical capability, ESRI Australia turns 'possibility' into 'reality'.