psoda

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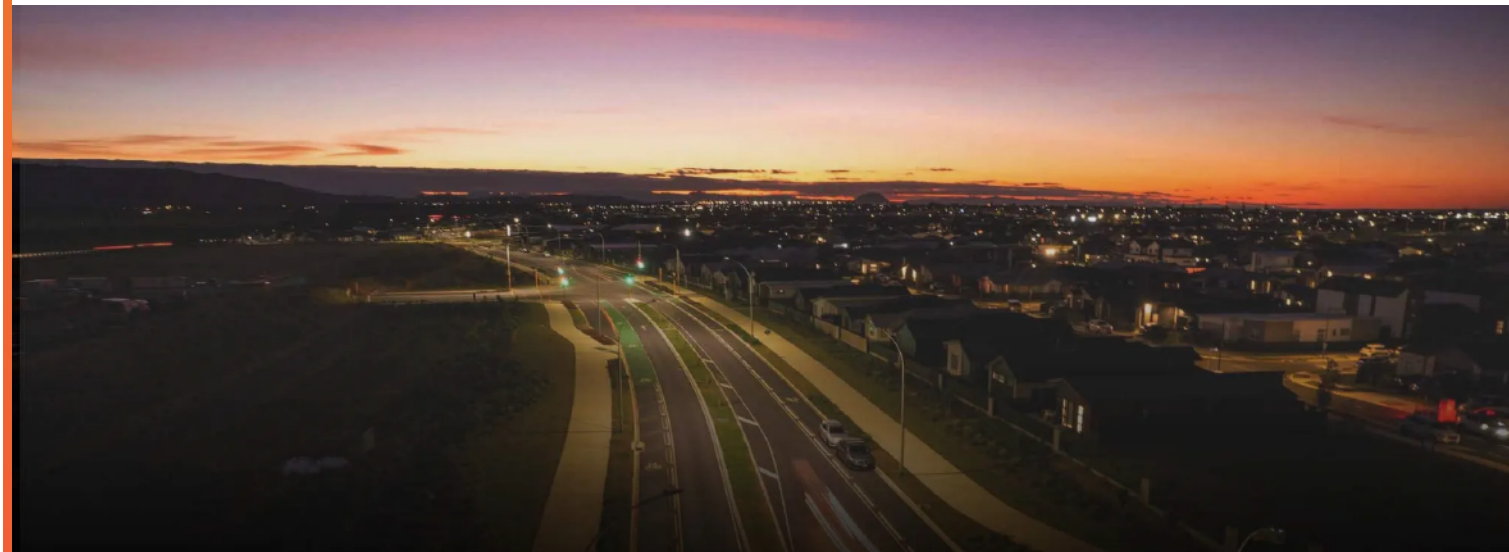
FROM 18 TO 180: HOW NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST DUAL UTILITY ACHIEVED PROGRAMME VISIBILITY

CASE STUDY: POWERCO

Powerco is New Zealand's largest dual electricity and gas distributor by network length, with over 29,000km of power lines and cables, and 6,200km of gas pipes connecting some 473,000 homes and businesses. It's an essential part of the energy chain and one of the country's local distribution network providers, owning and operating the local power lines and cables, and gas pipes across the North Island.

As an organisation, Powerco manages a complex set of projects, from power line maintenance, to network upgrades and new equipment, to planning for future infrastructure needs. Maintaining, upgrading and expanding such an extensive network can be quite the challenge! Adding to the complexity is the fact that distributed networks are regulated, which brings with it comprehensive reporting and regulatory requirements.

⚠ THE CHALLENGE

The challenge that brought Powerco to Psoda is one we see in many large-scale businesses operating in a programme management space. They had multiple projects being run in different ways by different Project Managers, with data stored in various spreadsheets and on different drives. This can work in a small organisation with simple projects, but in a company like Powerco with a variety of projects, in various locations, with dynamic, shifting priorities, this inability for overview can be a risk. Disconnected data and a lack of visibility can make it difficult to consolidate data at a programme level.

Powerco recognised the need for a solution that would ensure all Project Managers ran projects consistently, with their project data housed in the same place, that could be easily accessible and visible to programme managers.

💡 IMPLEMENTATION

Initially, Powerco implemented Psoda with a small pilot group of 18 people over a four-month period in their electricity business. This number quickly grew and by the time the initial implementation phase was complete, the group had swelled to over 60 users.

The Psoda solution fulfilled Powerco's need for a flexible platform and offered many features that enabled the project teams to do their job faster and easier.
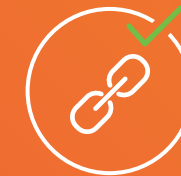
CHALLENGES:

Projects being run in **different ways** by different managers

Disconnected data and a **lack of visibility**

SOLUTIONS:

Psoda provides a **consistent way** for projects to be managed

Psoda is a **single repository** for all project data

☆ BENEFITS

The Electricity programme team now has visibility of all projects and the forward schedule and can adjust resources and priorities as they shift and change throughout the organisation. RAG reporting functions at a much higher level, enabling them to identify and mitigate potential risks before they become critical. Budget schedules can be monitored more closely and lessons learned on projects can be shared across the organisation; change request forms are particularly valuable at a programme level to quickly learn from the past.

The Design and Protection team are also using Psoda for their forward workload, which enables the internal team to be managed more efficiently, with project clashes and resource scarcity being identified and managed early in the pipeline, with work prioritised to ensure efficient roll-out of future projects.
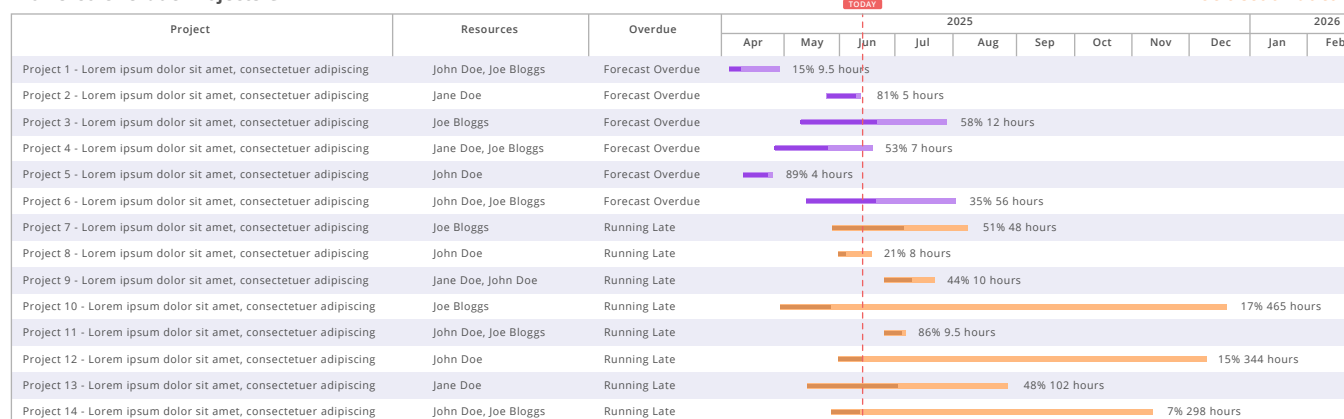
Reporting is another area that has improved under Psoda, with customised dashlets being built to provide managers with snapshots and the status of projects.

From the initial group of 18 users, Powerco now have over 180 users across numerous business units within the organisation. Introducing new users is simple, using Psoda's intuitive platform and in-house videos that outline Powerco's way of using Psoda. They also have use of the comprehensive help centre. Question mark symbols are located throughout the software that lead users to exactly the part of the help centre they need to see.

Psoda's custom built
Overdue GANTT dashlet
used by Powerco

Powerco Overdue Projects GANTT

*Not actual data

Project	Resources	Overdue	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Project 1 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe, Joe Bloggs	Forecast Overdue	15% 9.5 hours										
Project 2 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Jane Doe	Forecast Overdue		81% 5 hours									
Project 3 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Joe Bloggs	Forecast Overdue		58% 12 hours									
Project 4 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Jane Doe, Joe Bloggs	Forecast Overdue		53% 7 hours									
Project 5 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe	Forecast Overdue	89% 4 hours										
Project 6 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe, Joe Bloggs	Forecast Overdue		35% 56 hours									
Project 7 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Joe Bloggs	Running Late		51% 48 hours									
Project 8 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe	Running Late		21% 8 hours									
Project 9 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Jane Doe, John Doe	Running Late		44% 10 hours									
Project 10 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Joe Bloggs	Running Late											17% 465 hours
Project 11 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe, Joe Bloggs	Running Late		86% 9.5 hours									
Project 12 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe	Running Late											15% 344 hours
Project 13 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	Jane Doe	Running Late		48% 102 hours									
Project 14 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing	John Doe, Joe Bloggs	Running Late											7% 298 hours

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Since implementing Psoda, Powerco has become more in tune with what data is important to them, which has helped them better understand their reporting requirements. Armed with this information, they now aim to have 90% of their reporting automated. Regulatory reporting has also become easier.

Powerco is looking to continue its work with Psoda, which could potentially support management of even more complex scheduling and project execution.
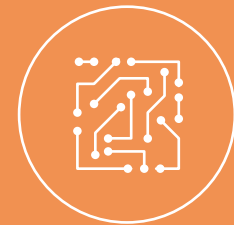
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