

GBM Mobile Case Studies

The following organizations are among a long list of Exa-Min customers who have successfully implemented GBM Mobile projects, and use the software in their day to day operations.

Local Government

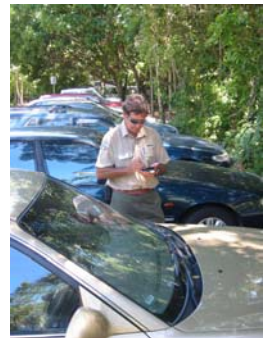


Noosa Shire Council is the local government authority of the magnificent Noosa Shire, Queensland, Australia, providing a diversity of services and facilities for use by Noosa Shire's 46,000 residents and a large number of visitors.

Noosa Council strives to improve the livability of its Community and is increasingly involved in the social, economic and cultural development of the Community - as well as traditional service provision such as public health, building regulation, town planning, parks, sports and leisure facilities, library services, water, sewerage and roads.

Noosa Council employs GBM Mobile on more than 40 mobile devices. Applications range from Regulated Parking, Animal Control, Park and Asset Management and Environmental Monitoring of the river.

According to Mr Campbell, Noosa's Asset Manager, the success of the software has been twofold. At the business unit level, managers have been quick to recognize the improvements to business processes and the cost savings. Out in the field the high level of acceptance has come as something of a surprise. "We were expecting some resistance to the technology" Mr Campbell said "but instead field staff are generally embracing it and appreciating the time saving and the reduction in paperwork".



The City of Brimbank is the second largest municipality in Melbourne, Australia, with an area of 123 square kilometers and more than 170,000 residents.

With thriving residential developments and a strong industrial and commercial sector, Brimbank has become a sought-after location to live and do business in a revitalized western region of Melbourne.

Animal inspectors at Brimbank have been equipped with Widows Mobile devices running GBM Mobile software. Council has achieved massive productivity improvements by providing inspectors with immediate access to the database of licensed animals. For example, an inspector need only click on a property outline on their hand-held computers to retrieve a list of dogs that are registered at the current address. The technology paid for itself very quickly through an increase in the rate of issue of infringement notices.

Following on its success in the animal control unit, Brimbank have expanded GBM Mobile operation into other areas, such as waste bin management.



Colac Otway Shire, located within two hours west of Melbourne is one of the most picturesque municipalities in Victoria, covering a diverse area from volcanic lakes, craters and plains in the north, through the hinterland forests of the Otway Ranges to the Great Ocean Road coastline.

Colac is the key industrial, commercial and service centre for the Shire and surrounding region with a population of 12,000. Apollo Bay is the other major urban centre with a permanent population of 1,000 that swells to over 15,000 during the summer season.

Colac-Otway are enthusiastic GBM Mobile users, having delivered three successful projects as described by Greg Slater, their GIS Manager.

“Our first application using GBM was for a project to identify the conservation value of roadside vegetation. Our contractor (a botanist) had just changed from a paper based system to an access database. The introduction of spatial capability proved to be a revelation to this profession. It removed the necessity for text descriptions of position (always difficult) and complemented his change to digital data capture. GBM also tied in two other databases he had created (weeds and plant species) thus creating one digital system to replace three paper based systems. We now have the best vegetation capture system I know of.”

“Our second application using GBM was an infrastructure asset data capture project. It was like many other data capture systems in the field but had one huge advantage in the office. The design of the upload and download procedure was foolproof. It was designed so that all data is date stamped so no data can be overwritten. In infrastructure data capture projects lost data can cost big money so we recognize the inherent advantage of GBM for this work.”

“Our third application for GBM was a series of Local Laws administration projects. So far we have animal control and overhanging branches. The crucial feature of GBM for this project was the ability for GBM to read and write data to existing business systems (Fujitsu2000Plus). The ability to hold the whole cadastre and animal database in the field on a handheld computer is a major cost-saving for local laws rangers.”



State Government



In the Australian state of Queensland, the **State Valuation Service (SVS)** of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) provides whole-of-government valuation services. SVS employs over 120 professional valuers in the field with staff in

21 locations throughout the state. Its core activity is to provide valuations for rating, rental and taxing purposes for NR&M, local governments, and the Office of State Revenue. For a fee, the SVS also provides a service to all government agencies for asset and client valuation purposes.

SVS valuers use GBM Mobile to locate properties, retrieve previous valuation details and carry out a new valuation through GBM Mobile's data entry forms. Data is validated as it is entered and being digital facilitates significant time saving at the back-end processing and reporting stage.

At presentations at national valuation conferences in early 2005, State Valuation Services managers publicly acknowledged that GBM Mobile had achieved a 50% time saving over traditional paper based methods.



The **Parks and Wildlife Service** is responsible for managing and conserving National Parks and their natural and cultural heritage on the Australian island state of Tasmania.

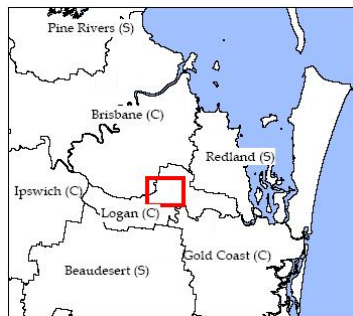
The Service manages 432 reserves covering 2,474,160 hectares, or about 36.33% of the area of the State, and has a critical need for good spatial data.

GBM Mobile has been used state-wide for asset data capture and impact monitoring. With very little training, non-mapping staff are able to collect accurate, consistent data via Pocket PCs and a variety of custom forms.

In remote areas the equipment has been used to undertake walking track inventories, asset inventories and distance based impact monitoring. There are significant benefits, including the fact that previous impact data can be taken to the field and basic checks undertaken immediately.

For Track Management Officer, Phil Wyatt “The flexibility of the software has proved invaluable as our monitoring and asset capture projects have developed over time. Requests for extra features and enhancements have been dealt with very efficiently by the developers.”

Asset Collection



Logan City is located in the heart of south-east Queensland, midway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It is home to more than 170,000 people from more than 160 different cultures. The city celebrates its diversity and the rich and varied lifestyle it offers. Logan is also a very young city with more than 50 per cent of residents aged 30 or younger. This adds energy and enthusiasm to the community and gives it a real vibrancy.

Contractor North Surveys used GBM Mobile with a differentially corrected GPS receiver to speed up the location and condition reporting on approximately 18,000 storm water gully pits for Logan City Council. The extreme portability of the PDA hardware meant that field operators could trade vehicles for bicycles, greatly improving productivity and reducing cost.

Frank North, director of survey contractor North Surveys said “The GBM Mobile software had significantly improved the data collection process. Norths were able to tailor their own forms on the PDA, which proved to be intuitive and easy for the field operators to use, ensuring a high standard of data quality”.



Exploration and Mining



Lake Resources N.L. is an Australian company that was formed in 1997 as a specialist mineral explorer and was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) in August 2001. The Company’s exploration activities are currently focused in Argentina and Pakistan.

Lake Resources exploration teams employ GBM Mobile for remote area navigation, mapping access tracks, recording details of geological observations, samples and even photographs.

With GPS-enabled Pocket PCs mounted on the handlebars of their motorbikes, Lake Resources geologists are able to take their complete project GIS, including satellite images, to the field, and to rapidly traverse, map and record their exploration data in real-time for vast exploration permits in remote areas.

Lake Resources Director Jim Clavarino said that “The GBM Mobile system had provided a quantum leap in the efficiency of field operations in terms of navigation and data collection, with the GBM forms feature providing data check lists and reducing error associated with transcription of paper records to computer databases.”



Environmental Services



VEMCO Australia is one of the largest private companies providing comprehensive vegetation risk management and engineering design services for the electricity industry throughout Australia.

VEMCO runs a very successful operation. The company has grown rapidly from two staff in 1995, to a continually expanding expert staff of approximately 200 with an additional 400 contact personnel.

Transmission line inspectors use GBM Mobile to mark vegetation encroachments on the GIS map. They run the software on PDA phones linked to the GBM Enterprise Manager, allowing them to download field observations via wireless internet to the central database server, where they are immediately available to the planning team who schedule the rectification works.



GBM Mobile improves both productivity and work quality as illustrated by the following comments from field operators: "Utilizing the GPS and panning maps has made it a lot easier to identify the pole that I am looking at. This saves me difficult trips out to the paddock and time searching for the pole identification tag."

"Estimating the span lengths used to be an imprecise process. The GIS measure tool gives me a much more accurate reading so I can more accurately calculate the clearances required for nearby vegetation"