



Case Study

**IMPROVING DATA SPEED AND
RELIABILITY FOR HUNTER REGION
UTILITY PROVIDER**

Hunter Water Corporation



Customer

The Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) provides drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater services across the Lower Hunter in NSW. The Corporation provides services to more than 500,000 people across a 6.5million square kilometer area.



Robust and secure communication to monitor and control its extensive network of equipment is critical to HWC's success. The challenge, from a communications perspective, is the sheer geographical size of the area and the remote locations of many HWC assets.

Introduction

At the time of initial discussion, Hunter Water Corporation's network included many telemetry repeater sites which were linked using ADSL services. Reliability was steadily diminishing at these sites, and their bandwidth was limited. With the advent of NBN, the ADSL service became unavailable to many of the sites.

HWC used SAF microwave equipment links to provide its subsidiary, Hunter Water Australia, with some core IT services.

Impressed with SAF's performance, HWC sought to:

- » Upgrade the links of core telemetry repeater sites
- » Improve network reliability
- » Increase capacity to satisfy communications requirements
- » Manage risk to their network with quick-response support and equipment spares
- » Regain control of its network from third party service providers



Project specifications

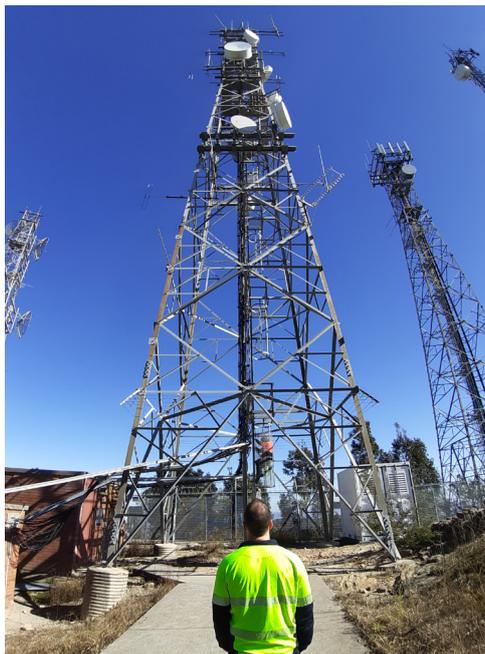
LOCATION:	Lower Hunter Region, New South Wales
EQUIPMENT:	SAF Lumina and SAF Integra radios
LINK DISTANCES:	Up to 60 kilometers
FREQUENCY BANDS:	Licensed 6GHz, 7.5GHz, 11GHz and 18GHz
DATA SPEEDS:	Up to 470 Mbps
ANTENNA SIZES:	Up to 180cm

Key challenges

- » Connectivity can be difficult at wastewater sites, typically located at low elevation points
- » For greater asset and access control, HWC preferred to mount radios at their owned sites - restricting link location options
- » HWC preferred to provide redundant paths through self-healing microwave rings, or use alternative technologies like fibre, to improve reliability

“Working with HWC on this project has been exciting due to the very high levels of redundancy and reliability they require.”

- Nic Holdgate | Radio Engineer
SAF Australia



Installation of SAF Microwave Radios for Hunter Water Corporation

