

Nowcast Launch Presentation

Date: Thursday 5 June 2014

Location: BOM, 700 Collins Street, Docklands, 9th Floor

Time: 2.00 - 3.30pm

Attendees

David White (YVW), Natalie Trotter (YVW) Paul Rasmussen (MW), Rod Watkinson (MW), Naresh Lal (MW), Andy Chan (MW), Ann Pugh (Innovyze) Ian Monk (CWW), Andrew Laszcz (CWW), Jessica Yeung (MW/SWF), Andrew Forster-Knight (SEW), Luke Butler (SEW), Alan Seed (BOM), Sandy Dance (BOM), Kathleen Hirst (BOM), Kevin Cheong (BOM), Ari Karpathiou (BOM)

Webinar dial in – Jared Scott (Barwon Water), Paul Louws (Western Water), Peter Slocomb (North East Water), Marie Ekstrom (CSIRO)

Opening remarks (Ian Monks)

- Ian Monks (IM) of City West Water opened the Seminar and highlighted that the product has now moved from prototype and ready for use on the website. It was mentioned that further enhancements are still to be made.
- (IM) Introduced Andrew Laszcz from City West Water and briefly explained his on-going role in the NOWCAST project around end use.
- Thanks to Alan, Sandy, Jessica and team for all their efforts in developing the product up to date.

Trial Site Introduction (Sandy/Alan)

- Overview of the landing page was undertaken with a brief description given on each section. <http://rainfields.bom.gov.au/SWF/>
- Reference was made to the Forum on the webpage and its purpose. Attendees were encouraged to join the forum as this is the conduit for asking questions, raising issues and providing feedback on the product.
- Overview of the user guide was made.
- This site is seen by the bureau as a Category 1 system, and the IT infrastructure and server backup has been established to match this level of service.

Interactive Map (Sandy/Alan)

- Demonstration and overview of the 3 rainfall visualisation products was undertaken with an explanation of their functionality
 - **ObsFcst180:** - 6hrs observed to +12hrs forecast, 3 hour block (mm) looping product
 - **ObsFcst10:** -60min observed to +90min forecast, 10min block (mm/hr) looping product
 - **Blend1440:** last 24hour accumulation snapshot (mm), updated hourly (non-looping)



- Case Study of large rainfall event several weeks ago is also available on the site, to test the functionality during non-rainy days.
- Reference was made to the gauge functionality and displayed on the map, showing the pop up box of that gauge and the relevant information for that site. In future the pop up will also include ARI details.
- Menu functionality was presented and discussed.
- MW assets are now displayed on the map. Access to view these assets is restricted to those with the appropriate access. BOM is willing to overlay individual authorities' assets if requested to do so. This can also have restricted password access for each utility. Speak to Andy Chan if other utilities would like to see MW assets.
- Q&A / Suggestions:
 - Speed of the service observed by MW to be slow when used outside of the bureau. SEW suggested backend improvements which will be explored by BOM. **Action: BOM to investigate speed and site improvements.**
 - The colour pallet could be improved so rainfall is clearer. MW suggested users could choose their own opacity. **Action: BOM to investigate.**
 - Useful to be able to roll mouse over the map and pick up the coordinate (like the public BOM site) **Action: BOM to investigate possibility.**
 - BOM suggested legend colour transitions could be adapted to act as a visual alert. The levels can be adapted to water authority needs. **Action: Jessica will post question on forum for feedback on key levels mm/hr and mm.**
 - BOM suggested ARI map backgrounds across Victoria to be added as a product. MW agreed this would be useful for key ARI levels. Also discussed putting the equivalent ARI levels on the gauge pop up box. **Action: BOM to advise timing of introducing product updates to the site.**

Raw Data extraction/WMS data servers/GIS (Alan/Andy/Kevin)

- Discussion was held around data that is available from the site and the format that it is presented in.
- MW advised their GIS system is MapInfo, which has challenges connecting to WMS servers. **Action: BOM (Kathleen Hirst) will investigate a few GIS systems the bureau has access to test the WMS service, and provide some feedback and advice on the forum.**
- Reference was made by BOM of a freeware GIS product called QGIS that can read NetCDF files.
- Andy Chan shared his experiences in attempting to extract data and difficulties in doing so as netCDF is not familiar format to the water authorities Andy proposed an alternative data format on the forum in May, which was voted on and supported by 5 water authorities.
- Python will be used to convert the file format and BOM will provide a basic conversion script (that authorities can expand on if required) to convert data from the site. **Action: BOM will target releasing a basic converter in July.**



Other

- A follow up session is to be held in 3 months to provide user feedback and experiences. This may need to be broken into the three user group segments ie Operators, Modellers and GIS. **Action: Project Team to arrange next stakeholder workshop.**

NOWCAST PRESENTATION DEBRIEF

Date: Tuesday 10 June

Time: 10.30am – 11.00am

Location: Teleconference

Attendees: Jessica Yeung, Ian Monks, Andrew Laszcz

- It was agreed that the workshop went well and attendees were pleased with what the product can deliver.
- Momentum now needs to be maintained and the industry has a crucial role to play in accessing the site and starting to use it.
- A follow up session is to be held in 3 months to provide user feedback and experiences.
- **Action: Firewall issue is still a problem and is being followed up with BOM to resolve access issues.**
- CWW is setting up a permanent display of the NOWCAST site within Engineering and believes it would be valuable for others to do the same so as the product is clearly visible and will be used.
- Andrew Laszcz will take on the role as End Use Coordination to assist CWW and the industry in kicking off the site, getting people to use it, maintaining communication between the authorities and promoting use and feedback on the Forum. Andrew is preparing a strategy for driving utilisation within CWW.
- **Action: Jessica and Andrew to catch up fortnightly (Thursday morning) to discuss progress in regards use, issues and user feedback on the product.**
- Discussion to be held with BOM on future development of the site and inclusions of such things as temperature, humidity, wind and lightening.
- Andrew to communicate and visit authorities (if required) to establish how NOWCAST is being used and maintain momentum across the industry and users.
- Discussed the development of format converter is crucial for user uptake of Nowcast. Andrew Laszcz has experience with using Python based software. Propose to form a small steering group, composed of Andrew, Andy and Jessica to work with BOM. **Action: Steering group to prepare a User Requirement document by 26th June to discuss with BOM.**
- Regular progress catch up with BOM proposed, to provide timely feedback, perhaps monthly or 6 weekly. **Action: Jessica to set up next progress meeting with BOM, aim late June/ first week of July.**

