



Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia Selects Daptiv PPM to Improve Project Management Practices and Results

“We were in need of better project management practices and Daptiv PPM has been a strong catalyst.”

– Janine Douglas, Manager, Project Management

AT A GLANCE

Key Facts

- DAFWA needed a solution that was flexible to work around their needs and logical framework analysis – and they needed to get up and running quickly.
- SaaS played a significant role in DAFWA's decision to go with Daptiv PPM. SaaS was more affordable than installed software and didn't create more work for DAFWA's IT team.
- Daptiv PPM has worked as a strong catalyst to improve project management practices and managers are eager to push Daptiv PPM for further use.

Western Australia is Australia's largest State in area, covering the western third of the mainland. It is approximately 5 times the size of Texas, and covers over 2,525,500 square kilometres. The Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) provides services across the length and breadth of the State through more than 1,400 staff and over 80 locations

The agriculture and food industry plays a major role in Western Australia's economic, social and rural wealth. The State's world-class agricultural and food industries provide premium quality food and beverage products to customers throughout the world with the agri-food sector contributing more than AUD5 billion to the Western Australian economy each year. It creates employment for more than 9 per cent of the State's workforce and is the State's second largest export sector after mining.

Through DAFWA, the Western Australian State Government continues to invest in and assist the State's agriculture and food industries to promote long term profitability and maintain premium international markets for the State's food and fiber products. DAFWA assists the State's Agriculture, Food and Fiber sectors to be sustainable and profitable, with a clear focus on export-led growth. The Department enhances the international competitiveness of the State's agribusiness by working with them to meet the increasingly demanding standards for safety and quality of food and fiber products produced in a sustainable way.

Organization Need

DAFWA's outcome planning processes are industry-based and, in the main, projects are the means used to deliver outcomes for these processes. Recently the Department established a Project Management Office to develop and implement support for the practice of project management. Project management in DAFWA is based on the Project Management Institute's Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) methodology. To manage project cycles, it uses Goal Oriented Project Planning to guide the planning, designing, and thinking about projects. The results of this planning and design are captured in a 4X4 matrix known as the Logical Framework (or LogFrame). It details the purpose of the project, as well as outcome, resources, performance indicators and assumptions about the project. Because of the complex logic that goes into analyzing and developing this phase of the projects, it was hard for DAFWA to find a system that could be used statewide to capture the LogFrames, allow for some comparative analysis and generate reports that linked back to the logic framed by the matrix.

“The flexibility of the product has been proven and we’re presented with many ways to modify our current functionality. With Daptiv PPM, it’s been a proactive experience instead of reactive. We’re getting a more sophisticated result and we’re very pleased.”

**Janine Douglas, Manager,
Project Management
Office**

DAFWA had an in-house product in place to assist with project management but there were a few issues – it didn’t allow for DAFWA to deliver confidently and consistently across the geographic locations, which created reliability and stability issues. In addition, DAFWA couldn’t reproduce the reports they needed.

In developing its business requirements for a new system, DAFWA included some basic but critically important selection criteria. These included:

- **Flexibility:** The tool had to be flexible enough to work with their planning needs and logical framework analysis.
- **Reporting:** A simple approach to creating, in various useable formats, the required reports from the planning tool.
- **Affordability:** There needed to be a good return on investment.
- **On-Demand:** The ability to develop the product and add value over time.

Solution

DAFWA sourced and selected Daptiv through a competitive government tender process and worked with Daptiv’s Australian business partner and Daptiv reseller, Bluenova. Charl Morkel, CEO of Bluenova, began working with DAFWA to uncover how Daptiv PPM could adapt to their Logical Framework Analysis, create multi-dimensional reports and accommodate their approach to project management. “We really appreciated being able to purchase one product that handled both our logical framework and project management. Daptiv PPM covers our project management requirements as well as portfolio management to give a holistic view,” says Janine Douglas, Manager, Project Management Office. In looking at how Daptiv PPM could accommodate DAFWA’s processes, it was clear that Daptiv PPM had the right capabilities for the organization’s needs. “Daptiv PPM had to be flexible to meet our range of needs and we wanted to get the logframe planning component up and running quickly so we could then focus on best practices in project management,” says Janine.

With the help of Bluenova over the period of a few months, DAFWA created Dynamic Applications within Daptiv PPM to map to their Logical Framework Analysis. “It was a challenging process that really tested Daptiv’s flexibility. Bluenova was dedicated to the challenge and very generous in the support they gave us,” says Janine. “The logical framework component of the system has now been rolled out across the Department supported by a training program and we have started the planning for the roll out of the project management components of the system relevant to the Department and for the possible integration with aspects of the finance and human resources systems.”

In addition to Daptiv PPM, DAFWA leverages Daptiv Advanced Report Builder, part of Daptiv’s integrated Work Intelligence offering which provides rich, easy to use tools for reporting and visualising information. “We’ve used products that didn’t deliver what we wanted. Using Daptiv Advanced Report Builder has made a great difference to our reports and it gives us the flexibility to design and develop a range of reporting options,” says Janine.

Value

- Access to a wide range of professionals with the skills sets to assist with technical questions and with experience in a robust product

“Managers really like the Gantt charts and the task management and document sharing features. They are pushing Daptiv PPM for further use, asking ‘Can we use it for this?’. There is so much potential for the product. We know it is not the end-- you can just keep progressing with Daptiv PPM. It’s the most exciting aspect of being a customer and it adds a lot of value.”

**Janine Douglas, Manager,
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- Less demand on DAFWA’s IT team
- More affordable than installed software
- Quarterly product updates
- Easy to Access – pragmatic and practical
- No need for a huge infrastructure

Approximately 130 Project and Program Managers use Daptiv PPM and the feedback from DAFWA’s managers once Daptiv PPM was brought on board has been very positive. “Managers like the easy access to Gantt charts and task management and the easy to use document sharing features. They are eager to explore and use the Daptiv PPM project management functionality. There is so much potential in the product. We know it is not the end-- we can just keep progressing and growing with Daptiv PPM. It’s the most exciting aspect of being a customer; the prospects for added value.”

An overarching benefit of using Daptiv PPM from a process standpoint is that it has propelled better project management practices. “We wanted to be able to develop and sustain a program to improve our project management practices and Daptiv PPM has been a strong catalyst,” explains Janine. “We had high standards and complex requirements and needed a better system in order to meet those standards and requirements. Daptiv PPM is helping us meet them.”

While DAFWA continues to explore all the options for how they can manage their projects and other areas of work, Janine says, “There has been a great collaborative effort between Bluenova and Daptiv to push the product to its limits. The flexibility of the product has been demonstrated and we’re often presented with options for modifying and improving our current functionality. With Daptiv PPM, it’s been a proactive experience instead of a reactive one where we were able to explore how the system could meet our needs rather than trying to make our practice fit the way the system worked. We’re getting a more sophisticated result and we’re very pleased.”

In working with Daptiv and Bluenova, Janine concludes, “It’s about building long-term relationships for process and practice improvements, and we’re in it for the long-haul.”

About Bluenova:

Bluenova is the sales and implementation partner for Daptiv in Australia and New Zealand. Bluenova delivers PPM capability to its customers via a holistic approach that combines people, process, technology, and business intelligence. Solutions range from portfolio management, program management and resource management to project management, innovation management and collaboration. www.bluenova.com.au

ABOUT DAPTIV

Founded in 1997, Daptiv is the leading provider of on-demand Project Portfolio Management (PPM) solutions. Daptiv has helped hundreds of companies improve their strategic planning and business execution by offering flexible PPM solutions and expert professional services. Daptiv’s customers include world-class organizations such as BASF, Chase Paymentech, Harvard University, Honeywell, La Poste and Virgin Blue. For more information about Daptiv’s PPM solutions, please visit www.daptiv.com.