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Why are Victorian councils moving to SaaS?

Digital transformation was well under way in Australian councils before the arrival of COVID-19 but has accelerated rapidly since---and that's a good thing for the communities we serve.

Last year, researchers at IBRS and Insight Economics estimated as many as 50% of Australian councils had moved to more future-proof digital systems, such as Software as a Service (SaaS), in 2021 and were no longer reliant on building and managing their own computer data centres.

In a first of its kind economic analysis for TechnologyOne, these researchers estimated there is a potential 'digital dividend' of \$8.4 billion available over ten years if all councils followed this example and adopted SaaS platforms.

In Victoria, many local governments including City of Melbourne, Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Shire have already made the move to a SaaS enterprise solution.

One council currently on their digital transformation journey to SaaS is Cardinia Shire Council. The council recently launched a software modernisation program, transitioning to TechnologyOne's OneCouncil solution to better 'support their business and their growing community.'

According to Cardinia's CFO Carol Jeffs, the council team is "immensely proud" to support a growing, diverse community, and one that so many people want to move to be part of, but "we need to ensure we are set up to support this growth."

"We knew we needed to have the right modern technology and platforms in place to make data driven decisions and to ensure every dollar is going to helping and supporting the community in a sustainable way," says Cardinia's Chief Financial Officer, Carol Jeffs.

With more and more councils experiencing the benefits of SaaS firsthand---including greater flexibility and resilience, more effective and efficient operations and increased cyber-security---that growing adoption shows no sign of slowing down.

"Everyone in local government wants their organisation to do more for its community, to deliver more services, better services and more quickly. SaaS provides a foundation for that," said Ed Chung, Chief Executive Officer at TechnologyOne.

"People saw first-hand how quickly COVID-19 disruptions impacted communities. They also saw organisations who had already invested in SaaS in the years leading up to 2020 were more resilient and in a better position to manage when the need arose," Mr Chung said.

TechnologyOne has worked with hundreds of councils across Australia, New Zealand and the UK for many years to deliver digital transformation that not only supports their businesses but their communities and will continue to do so.