

CASE STUDY

Moyne Shire Council partners with Blue Connections IT and Lenovo

to upgrade ageing infrastructure
and lower licensing costs

Overview

Moyne Shire Council needed to upgrade its end-of-warranty technology infrastructure without increasing licensing costs. The council partnered with Blue Connections IT and Lenovo for a cost-effective infrastructure upgrade that provided the flexibility needed to meet changing business requirements.



About Moyne Shire Council

Moyne Shire Council is responsible for the governance and administration of the Shire of Moyne local government area (LGA) in Victoria's Barwon Southwest region. The Moyne LGA supports a population of 17,374 and includes the towns of Port Fairy, Koroit, Mortlake, Macarthur, Peterborough, Caramut, Ellerslie, Framlingham, Garvoc, Hawkesdale, Kirkstall, Panmure, Mailors Flat, Purnim, Wangoom, and Woolsthorpe. Its services include road maintenance and repair, waste and recycling, building and planning permits, animal registration, and more.

Ageing infrastructure and financial constraints

Moyne Shire Council faced a significant technology infrastructure challenge as its existing server inventory approached the end of its licence lifecycle. Importantly, its servers were coming out of warranty, and needed to be replaced with newer, more efficient equipment. Failing to upgrade the ageing equipment would leave the council's IT infrastructure unsupported, vulnerable, and potentially unable to meet the evolving demands of the community it serves. At the same time, with the infrastructure out of warranty, any failures would result in increased maintenance costs and potential service interruptions, affecting Moyne Shire Council's ability to deliver essential services efficiently.

While the infrastructure overhaul was critical to support the council's continued business operations, it also needed to ensure that any investment in technology would support its future service delivery goals, including potentially consolidating IT services and achieving longer-term cost savings through shared service models.

David Lugton, ICT coordinator, Moyne Shire Council, said, "Without a timely and strategic upgrade, Moyne Shire Council risked increased operational costs, potential service disruptions, and a loss of opportunity to position itself for future efficiencies and improvements. The council faced both a strategic and technical challenge, and needed a solution that addressed the immediate need for reliable, supported hardware, as well as the broader need for a sustainable, cost-effective technology infrastructure strategy."

An additional complication arose with the substantial increase in associated licensing fees of upwards of 200 to 350 per cent, which prompted Moyne Shire Council to seek more cost-effective solutions to reduce the cost to local ratepayers and ensure council funding could be redirected into other critical investments.

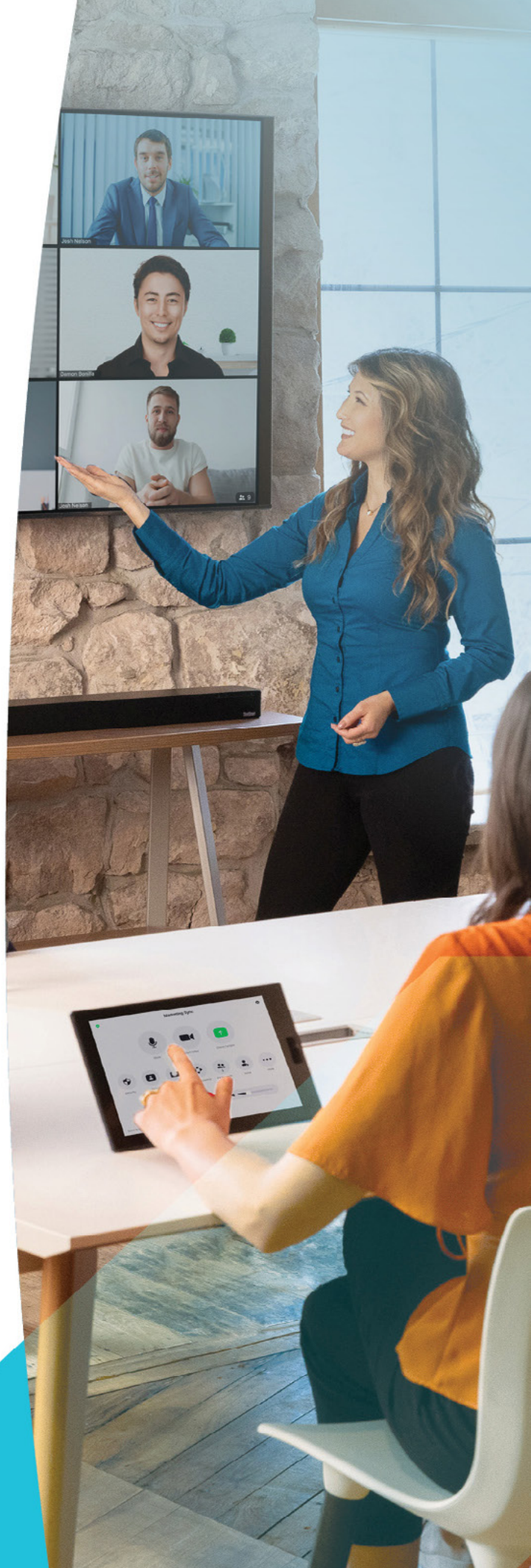
Reinvesting in long-term strategic relationships

David Lugton said, “Wherever possible, Moyne Shire Council prefers to work through procurement panels that already exist to avoid the process of going out to a full market tender. There were already a couple of procurement panels available to the council, including one which used Blue Connections IT, with which the council already had a very good working relationship.”

Instead of providing a single like-for-like upgrade as a solution, the Blue Connections IT team proposed multiple options for the council to consider, including solutions that leveraged existing licensing. Moyne Shire Council ultimately partnered with Blue Connections IT and Lenovo for a solution that used four single-processor servers with four embedded licences, instead of four dual-processor servers that required eight licences. The solution suggested by Blue Connections IT also considered the council’s need for a faster central processing unit (CPU) speed and less redundancy.

In addition to deploying the Lenovo solution to ensure it’s stood up according to best practices, Blue Connections IT will continue to support the council on an ongoing basis, as well as provide virtual assistance and guidance.

This approach presents both an immediate and long-term cost saving, while aligning with the Moyne Shire Council’s future strategy to consolidate technology infrastructure and services, leveraging shared services models to further reduce costs and improve efficiency.





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David Lugton
ICT coordinator, Moyne Shire Council

Futureproofing Moyne Shire Council with short-term and long-term cost savings

The Moyne Shire Council technology and licensing upgrade is expected to yield several key benefits following its implementation. Importantly, the shift to a more efficient server setup with single processors has the potential to result in a small reduction in power consumption, contributing to the council's overarching sustainability goals. More pointedly, the council anticipates a noticeable improvement in performance due to the technological advancements and efficiencies of the new hardware.

David Lugton said, “Working with Blue Connections IT to find a more cost-effective solution without needing to invest heavily in an unfamiliar technology stack will deliver critical benefits to Moyne Shire Council. Not only has the council found a solution that saves licensing costs, it has a solution that delivers familiarity and eliminates the need for a steep learning curve and lost time and resources to training with an entirely new environment.”

From a financial perspective, the most substantial benefit comes from the strategic approach to licensing. By moving away from the traditional model and leveraging a more cost-effective solution, the council stands to reduce costs significantly in the short-term and over the system's lifecycle.

David Lugton said, “The cost-savings Moyne Shire Council can access with this solution are three-fold. The council can save close to 57 per cent on the immediate cost of licensing by choosing a solution with embedded licences. This eliminates the risk of incurring higher licensing fees with pricing increases expected and avoids the need for the council to find an extra \$100,000 a year on licensing. This saving is critical when budgetary constraints are increasingly tight, and every dollar saved can be redirected towards other vital community services.”

The technology refresh not only addresses immediate operational needs; it also lays the groundwork for a more collaborative and sustainable approach to technology infrastructure management. This is particularly important as Moyne Shire Council's future plans include consolidating IT services to achieve even greater efficiencies and cost savings.

Moyne Shire Council's proactive approach to its technology and licensing challenges exemplifies how strategic planning, in partnership with trusted vendors, can lead to substantial cost savings and operational improvements. Importantly, the council's experience demonstrates the need for innovative thinking and collaboration in achieving long-term technology goals.

David Lugton said, "Collaborating with Blue Connections IT on this project has been incredibly beneficial. Trust is paramount for the Moyne Shire Council, especially as a small rural entity. The council has been able to build upon its existing strong relationship rather than needing to introduce a new party.

"Having a partner that Moyne Shire Council can work closely with and knowing that the partner has the council's best interests at heart is invaluable. The familiarity of the team at Blue Connections IT with Moyne Shire Council's environments and adeptness in navigating issues truly makes all the difference."

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and green overalls, is sitting on a red beanbag chair. She is holding a large open book and looking towards the camera with a smile. Next to her, a man with glasses and a brown jacket is sitting on the same chair, looking at a laptop. The background is a light blue wall with a white baseboard.

Lenovo

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