



RUGGED XPLORE TABLET PCs PLAY VITAL PART IN NSW HYDROLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT

The NSW Department of Primary Industry has found the Xplore AllVue fully rugged tablet PC to be the perfect hardware solution for one of its critical hydrology research projects taking place in several areas of rural NSW.

This project, measuring various aspects of the water cycle, involves capturing data from in-field data logging instruments either through physical connection or wireless connectivity during research officer's visits to remote locations. This work, vital to improving water conservation measures, tracks movement of water in the landscape, changes in the water table, water retention in the soil, water use by trees and crops and how salt and water interact. It is contributing significantly to improving scientific understanding of how salt in the landscape is 'mobilised'.

Currently, four Xplore AllVues are deployed for this project; in the Hunter, on the Liverpool Plains (Northern NSW), Wellington and Wagga Wagga. Their performance has delighted Queanbeyan-based Research Hydrologist Tony Bernardi. "DPI was attracted to the Xplore's impact-tolerant ruggedness, its durability and most importantly, its anti-glare outdoor screen readability" said Mr Bernardi. "We had tried regular laptops and, apart from their vulnerability to damage, it was a nightmare trying to read the screen in sunny conditions.

On more than one occasion previously, use of conventional laptops had lead to users deleting vital data files simply because of the difficulty of locating the cursor when viewing the screen in good light conditions". As further testament to the Xplore's rugged features, Mr Bernardi added "knowing that these units could withstand being dropped onto hard ground or into puddles or a stream without interfering with their operation has also been of great comfort to us".

Department of Primary Industry chose Antares Corporation, solutions provider and Xplore reseller to supply their AllVues. Antares Managing Director, Peter King said he considers that "the DPI application is a classical illustration of the value and cost effectiveness of the Xplore ruggedised tablets. It is field situations such as this where PCs need to be able to withstand some inevitable rough treatment and variable weather conditions that the Xplore comes into its own".