

CASE STUDY

PROJECT: Hikvision PTZ waterway monitoring

CLIENT: Caloundra Coastguard

STATUS: Completed

LOCATION: Caloundra, QLD

PRODUCTS USED

- Hikvision 2DF883615X-AELW
- Hikvision DS-7616NI-I2/16P
- Hikvision iVM4200



How Coastwatch uses Hikvision to monitor the sandbars at Caloundra

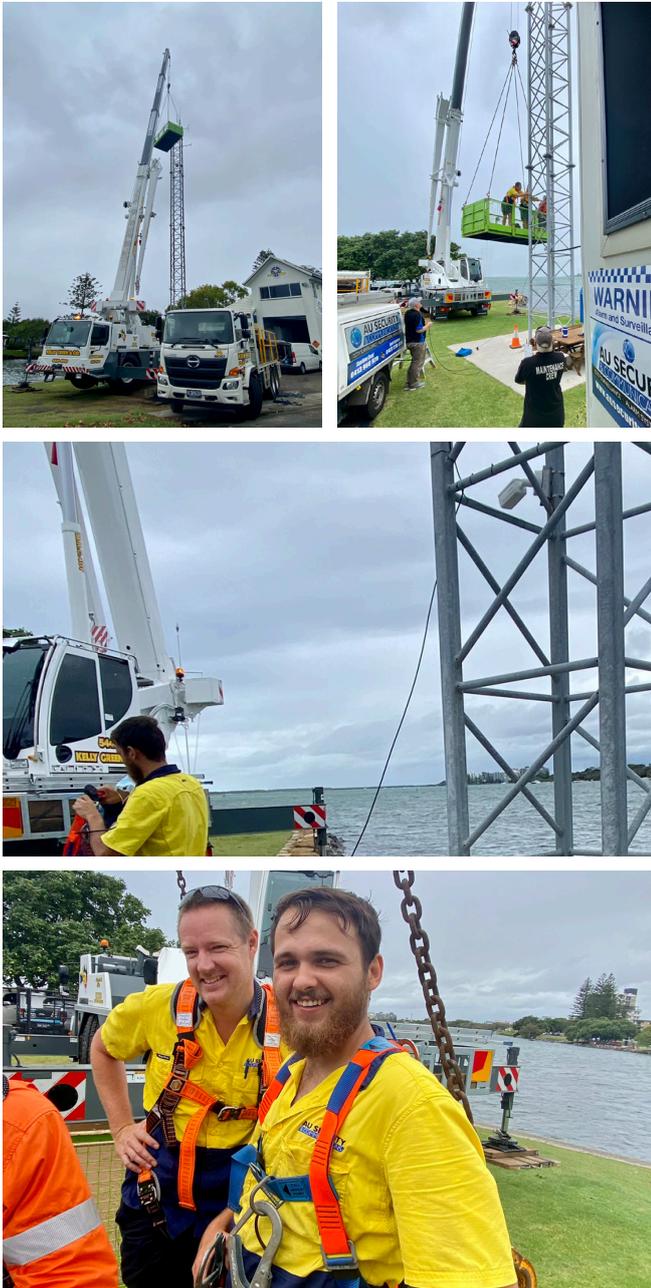
A coastal bar is a shallow, shifting sandbank at the entrance to a coastal estuary. Watercraft can cross over these sandbanks when the depth is sufficient, but the underlying terrain is known to be unpredictable and can be unsafe for both inexperienced and experienced skippers.



In Caloundra, QLD the coastal bar at Bribie Island is known for its strong currents and large breaking waves. Coastwatch supervises watercraft crossing the bar and responds to any vessels in distress due to the rough conditions. Due to the large expanse of water being observed, Coastwatch has been using a Hikvision 4MP PTZ Camera which feeds images back via Hikvision iVMS 4200 software to a Hikvision 7616 Network Video Recorder at the monitoring station to assist the Coast Guards to quickly determine the location and severity of any vessel requesting assistance.

In January 2022, Tropical Cyclone Seth changed SE Queensland's coast by carving a new passage through the northern end of Bribie Island. This crossing is now around 400m wide and treacherous to cross. The Caloundra Coast Guard has been flooded with calls for assistance even though the new bar has not been officially classified as trafficable. As a consequence, the existing camera has needed to be regularly repositioned between the North and the South bar to effectively monitor both sides of the passage. To expand the surveillance available to the Coast Guard, a second camera has been installed on the telecommunications tower.

The new camera, a Hikvision DS-2DF88361X-AEL PTZ DarkFighter, captures an 8MP (4K) resolution image and provides optical zoom up to 36x and 16x digital zoom, allowing the coast guard to both monitor and assess any potential issues occurring along the whole of the bar in far greater detail than possible previously.



HARSH ENVIRONMENT

As the camera is installed approximately 20m above the ground, it is subject to extremely harsh weather conditions, constant salt spray and high winds buffeting the camera daily. The robust construction of the camera ensures a long service life providing a leading return on investment for Coastwatch.

SELF-CLEANING

The salt spray also impacts the sharpness of the image viewed by the coast guards and the lack of easy access to the camera makes it difficult to perform regular maintenance on the lens. To address this The DarkFighter's screen wiper is easily activated via the iVMS-4200 user interface, allowing water and salt to be cleared at any point during live stream.

IMAGE IMPROVEMENT

Image stabilisation along with the camera's zoom allow the viewing of the new passage to be sharp, clear and accurate despite the 3km distance from the camera. Without the image stabilisation, the high winds moving the communications tower would make the image almost unusable.

CONSTANT IMAGE COLLECTION

Live stream recording to the Hikvision 7616 NVR allows the coast guard to save details of incidents for review by emergency services and also for scenarios to assist with future training.

This project shows how HikVision's security cameras from VSP can be used not only to save lives but make the job of doing so more effective.

Coastwatch was founded in 1989 to provide a Queensland coastal information service for Channel 7 Brisbane, the Courier and Sunday Mail, Radio 4KQ and the Coastwatch web site.

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