Article

Mar 2025

The Future is Now: Why Automation is a Game-Changer for Australian Businesses

Every business leader knows that inefficiency costs money. The bigger question is: how much is it costing you?



Phil Moon
Senior Technology Consultant
Email philip.moon@waterstons.com

Every business leader knows that inefficiency costs money. The bigger question is: how much is it costing you?

For many Australian businesses, outdated workflows aren't just slowing down operations, they're actively holding them back.

The good news? Automation is no longer just for tech giants. With tools like Microsoft Power Automate, even non-technical teams can eliminate repetitive tasks, streamline approvals, and focus on the work that moves the needle.

It's not about the implementation of automation, it's about rethinking operations for a more efficient future.

From Bottlenecks to Breakthroughs: How One Manufacturer Transformed Vendor Onboarding

One of the most common inefficiencies we see? Paper-based workflows. One Australian manufacturing company was stuck in a slow, manual process for vendor requests: paper forms, endless email chains, and zero visibility.

Before

- Vendor requests involved manually filling out paper forms.
- Approvals got lost in inboxes, causing delays.
- No transparency or tracking of requests.

After

- A fully automated workflow using Microsoft Forms & Power Automate.
- Approvals routed instantly to the right stakeholders via Microsoft Teams.

- Complete visibility into request status and historical tracking.

The result? Faster approvals, fewer emails, and a dramatic reduction in administrative overhead.

Beyond Efficiency: How Automation Improves Safety & Compliance

It's not just vendor requests, automation is transforming critical business areas like safety reporting.

We worked intimately with another client to streamline safety incident reporting, making it faster for employees to flag issues and for leadership to act.

With a simple automated workflow, employees can now

- Instantly report safety concerns through a mobile-friendly form.
- Trigger automated alerts to the right department.
- Ensure full compliance with documented audit trails.

By removing the friction from reporting, we're helping businesses build safer workplaces while reducing risk exposure.

Why Automation is a Competitive Advantage

Automation isn't just about saving time—it's about unlocking potential.

When employees no longer must waste hours on admin, they can focus on higher-value work like innovation, customer experience, and driving growth across your organisation.

At Waterstons, we specialise in identifying automation opportunities that drive real impact. Our consultants don't just bring technical expertise, they bring a deep understanding of how businesses operate and what it takes to stay ahead in a competitive market.

Is Your Business Ready for Smarter Workflows?

If inefficiency is slowing you down, your customers are already looking elsewhere. Smart automation isn't just the future, it's the competitive edge businesses are leveraging today.

The real cost? Falling behind while others move ahead. The choice is yours: streamline operations, enhance customer experience and scale effortlessly, or risk being left behind

Let's make your operations smarter, faster, and more resilient. Get in touch today to explore how automation can transform your business.