



## Icom Australia and AA Radio: Expanding radio communications coverage over hectares of land

TarraWarra Estate, one of Victoria's great wine estates, were experiencing insufficient coverage from its existing UHF system leading to growing concern over potential Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) issues. TarraWarra Estate approached AA Radio, a dealer of Icom Australia, to design a two-way radio communications system that would alleviate coverage issues and provide reliable communications across the entire estate. AA Radio implemented Icom's IDAS™ system to improve coverage across the entire TarraWarra Estate.



**Company:** TarraWarra Estate

**Website:** [www.tarrawarra.com.au](http://www.tarrawarra.com.au)

**Country:** Australia

**Industry:** Wine industry

**Business Situation:** TarraWarra Estate were experiencing insufficient coverage over the entire site with their existing UHF system.

**Solution:** TarraWarra Estate worked with AA Radio to install Icom's IDAS™ system which bridges the gap between analogue and digital.

**Features & Benefits:**

- Improved Coverage
- Operation in both Analogue and Digital modes
- Improved audio quality

### BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

TarraWarra Estate, located in Victoria's Yarra Valley, is one of the most established Victorian wineries boasting approximately 400 hectares of land. Since the first vintage over 30 years ago. Despite the unique characteristics of the property, TarraWarra Estate were experiencing inadequate coverage from its existing UHF system leading to concerns over prospective OH&S issues. This prompted Vineyard Manager Stuart Sissins to approach AA Radio to design and implement a two-way radio system that would alleviate coverage issues and provide reliable communications across the entire Estate.

### APPLYING THE RIGHT SOLUTION

AA Radio and TarraWarra Estate decided to implement Icom's IDAS™ system for its radio communications solution to enhance overall coverage throughout the Estate. TarraWarra Estate required a new system that would integrate with their existing analogue system while providing a smooth migration to digital mode. Icom's IDAS™ bridges the gap between analogue and digital enabling TarraWarra Estate to receive in both analogue and digital mode signals on a single channel. Icom's IDAS™ system enables calls to be initiated from an analogue radio and the digital radios will receive and transmit back on analogue without any intervention from the user. TarraWarra Estate then decided to test Icom's IDAS™ on site.



## WHAT THE CLIENT GAINED

By implementing Icom's IDAS™, TarraWarra estate has improved their site coverage, contributing to a safer environment for their staff.

AA Radio's Adam Watson complimented Icom's IDAS™ system "The digital IDAS™ equipment offer superb audio clarity, excellent communication range and being true narrowband digital, it allows a more efficient use of radio spectrum".

### Features & Benefits include:

- **Improved Coverage:** Icom's IDAS™ has provided sufficient coverage over the 400 hectares of TarraWarra Estate. With sufficient coverage, TarraWarra Estate has decreased the risk of a potential OH&S issue occurring whereby staff can work alone or in remote areas without the risk of experiencing insufficient coverage.
- **Operation in both Analogue and Digital Modes:** Icom's IDAS™ has allowed TarraWarra Estate to communicate in both digital and analogue modes. This allows TarraWarra Estate to slowly migrate over to a fully digital mode.
- **Improved Audio Quality:** Icom's IDAS™ system has greatly enhanced audio quality. This provides substantial benefits when TarraWarra Estate staff are distributed across the 400 hectares of land.

AA Radio technicians installed and tested Icom's IDAS™ system which also included staff training and project management of the transition between analogue to digital. Icom's IDAS™ system was heavily tested and operated with high levels of reliability and effectiveness over the entire 400 hectares of TarraWarra Estate.

Not only did Icom's IDAS™ improve coverage, it also greatly enhanced audio clarity and provided numerous additional benefits such as visual identity of incoming calls and emergency alert features to improve staff safety.

Stuart Sissins commented that the "installation of the Icom IDAS™ digital radio system has met our expectations. With the installation we now have coverage over the entire property, which was not possible with our standard UHF system".

With AA Radio installing Icom's IDAS™ system, OH&S requirements were met and sufficient coverage over the entire estate was provided. This enabled TarraWarra Estate staff to work alone or in remote areas as staff can utilise the private channels on their radios to use this as a mobile phone.

Icom IDAS™ has allowed us to gain "coverage over the entire property, which was not possible with our standard UHF system".

Stuart Sissins, Vineyard Manager  
TarraWarra Estate