

**Telstra** (then operating as **Telecom Australia**) used **Micro Planner X-Pert** as the primary project management and scheduling tool for the **Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN)** project during its initial development phase in the **early to mid-1990s**.

While specific internal departmental names often change, the software was centered in the following areas of the project:

## 1. The Prime Contract Management (Clayton, Victoria)

Telstra established a dedicated **Jindalee Project** office at **35 Winterton Road, Clayton, Victoria**. As the prime contractor for Phase 3 (the design and construction phase starting in 1991), Telstra used Micro Planner X-Pert here to manage the incredibly complex integration of over **1 million lines of software code** and the physical construction of the radar sites.

## 2. Software & Systems Integration

Unlike its partners (GEC-Marconi and Lockheed), Telstra took the lead on **Systems Integration**. Micro Planner X-Pert was utilized to handle the "Activity on Arrow" (PERT) networking required for the high-level coordination of:

- The **Transmitter** site in Longreach, QLD.
- The **Receiver** site in Laverton, WA.
- The **Network Coordination Centre** at RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA.

## 3. Project Controls & Earned Value Management (EVM)

The project was notorious for its complexity and subsequent cost overruns in the mid-90s. Micro Planner X-Pert was used specifically for its **critical path analysis** and resource leveling capabilities to track the progress of the thousands of sub-tasks involved in the OTHR (Over-the-Horizon Radar) technology development.

## Why Micro Planner X-Pert?

At the time, the Jindalee project was one of the most technologically ambitious defense projects in Australian history. Telstra selected Micro Planner because it was one of the few micro-computer tools capable of handling the **multi-level Work Breakdown Structures (WBS)** and complex logic loops inherent in long-term defense R&D. Still is and why it was chosen for the Collins Submarine Construction

As we know from our expertise in project controls, the shift in the late 90s toward other platforms often coincided with the project transitioning into Phase 4 and Phase 5 under different management structures (like RLM), but the "Telstra era" of JORN is inextricably linked to the use of Micro Planner.