

# CASE STUDY: The History of Water Supply on the Central Coast

## 18. The Grand Opening of the Dam

Over the next few years, requests for tender to supply and construct a wide range of components in the scheme were advertised in the media of the day.

### **"Department of Public Works NSW – Tenders invited"**

*"Tenders are invited for the clearing of approximately 750 hectares of medium to dense forest within the Mangrove Creek Dam storage area...."*

(The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday, 5 May 1980)



Plate 17 to 20: Men at work (Gosford Library - photographs by Denis Gibbons, NSW Department of Public Works)

The public were kept informed. Appendix 10 summarise the construction features of the dam.

### **"\$13 m for Gosford Dam"**

*"The Department of Public works has awarded a \$13 million contract for the construction of a dam on Mangrove Creek, near Gosford to Citra Constructions Ltd. . .It will be completed in 1981. The first stage of the rock-filled dam will be 81.5 metres high... The wall will be the second highest in NSW for domestic water supply. The highest is Warragamba Dam."*

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday, 3 July 1979

### **Dam nearing completion in October 1981**



Plate 21 & 22: Dam near completion (State Library of New South Wales; GPO 3 – 37631, GPO 3 – 37644)

### **"A \$60 m drink for Sydney's dry fringe"**

*"In a bold attempt to resolve the water crisis in Gosford, the Public Works Department is building a \$40 million dam across Mangrove Creek ... Mr Alan Griffiths, the project's resident engineer, says the new dam will be able to meet the needs of Gosford to the year 2000. By then the district is expected to have 400,000 people compared with the 150,000 it now has.... The 160 workers who have been toiling six days a week to complete the project have placed the previously peaceful Mangrove Creek ... on the tourist map..."*

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald, 24, March, 1981?

Eventually, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1982, the Mangrove Creek Dam was officially opened by the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Neville Wran, in the presence of the Mayor of Gosford City, Ald D.E. Leggett, Mayor of Wyong Shire Council Cr F. N. Farrell and hundreds of others who had participated in its construction.

### **ACTIVITY: Speech! Speech!**

Assume that in 1982 you were a member of a community organisation on the Central Coast called upon to give a brief (5 minute) address at the opening of the Mangrove Creek Dam. Prepare a draft of the speech you would give to represent the feelings of local residents in the region on this important occasion.