

## 2. The structure of the current Central Coast water supply system

Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils share a joint water supply scheme administered by the **Gosford/Wyong Council's Water Authority**. This is the third largest water supply system in NSW (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: The Current Central Coast Water Supply System  
(Source: Gosford Wyong Councils' Water Authority  
<http://www.gwcwater.nsw.gov.au/index.php/our-system>)

Water is drawn from four streams (Mangrove and Mooney Creeks in Gosford and Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek in Wyong). The building of water storage infrastructure was begun 75 years ago, but most infrastructure in use today was completed during the past thirty years.

Currently, the system incorporates three dams, three weirs, two treatment plants, 40 reservoirs, and 1900 km of pipelines. It has a total catchment area of about 700 square kilometres. Water is drawn from Mooney Dam and weir pools on Wyong River, Mangrove Creek and Ourimbah Creek. Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek extractions are stored in Mardi Dam. During dry periods, when the Coastal Mooney and Mardi Dams cannot meet the demand for water, supply can be released from Mangrove Creek Dam to provide adequate inflows at the weirs on Mangrove Creek and Wyong River.

A key new element in WaterPlan 2050 (the long term water supply strategy for the Central Coast) is the Mardi-Mangrove Link Project. This will consist of a new 19 kilometre buried water pipeline from Mardi Dam to the existing Boomerang Creek tunnel at Mangrove Creek Dam together with supporting infrastructure. Construction of the pipeline will commence in early 2010 and will secure the region's town water supply over the next four decades.

Before being delivered to the community, the "raw" water is treated to produce a water quality that complies with the high standards of the **NHMRC/ARMCANZ Australian Drinking Water Guidelines – 2004**. The JWSS has two water treatment plants, one located at Somersby in Gosford City and the other at Mardi, in Wyong Shire. Currently, approximately 60,000 properties in the Gosford local government area are supplied with a total of about 230 million litres of town water. About 290 million litres per week are consumed within Wyong Shire.



**blueplanet**  
education about our world

[www.blueplanet.nsw.edu.au](http://www.blueplanet.nsw.edu.au)

