

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

22. Waterplan 2050 – Lessons for the Future

What the twenty five years since the construction of the Mangrove Creek Dam have taught us, and especially the last fifteen years of drought, is that:

- an effective planning process is essential if adequate supplies of freshwater are to be made available for the needs of future generations;
- this planning need to be flexible and be able to respond in a practical and cost-effective way to unpredictable changes in the trends of both water supply and water demand;
- a renewed emphasis on self-help and the user-pay principle - with the return of household water tanks and of more carefully managed household water economies - promotes a more effective response to changing circumstances and fosters a sense of shared ownership of and responsibility for the plan;
- local planning must be integrated with wider regional planning (in the case of Gosford and Wyong, this has taken the form of closer cooperation between the Central Coast and the Hunter River catchment authorities);
- protecting the health of our catchments and of the wider environment is an integral component of a secure future for us all;
- public education across all ages and sectors of society in ways of water wise living is essential to keeping per capita the demand for water within reasonable limits.

In response to these lessons, Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils recognised the need for a more diverse water management strategy recognising both the supply and demand side of the water equation. There has also been a more genuine, formal process of community consultation in planning for the future. Community education campaigns have brought about a significant reduction in per capita water use within the region.

The fruits of these developments are to be seen in the recent production of “**Water Plan 2050**” - Gosford/Wyong Councils’ Water Authority’s “*Long-term water supply strategy for the Central Coast*”.

ACTIVITY: Mardi-Mangrove Link

Visit the Gosford/Wyong Councils’ Water Authority website <http://gwcwater.nsw.gov.au/> and click on *WaterPlan 2050* in the Menu. (Note: you may then download and printout a pdf-file of the “*Adopted WaterPlan 2050 Strategy (Oct 2007)*” clicking on the relevant icon on this page.)

Once on the this page click on the *Mardi-Mangrove Link* icon in order to obtain the latest information about the importance of this Mardi to Mangrove pipeline in fulfilling part of the agenda of the *WaterPlan 2050*. Research the information on these pages and the Map reproduced in Appendix 13 and then answer the questions below:

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of the pipeline that is to be built from Mardi Dam to Mangrove Creek Dam?
2. How much is the pipeline and two new pumping stations expected to cost? When is it expected to be completed?
3. Give reasons why “Community Consultation” is an important part of the planning and implementation of the pipeline construction?
4. What demand management strategies will the Councils provide under *WaterPlan 2050*?

