

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

5. History of the Mangrove Creek Dam – an opinion!!

A Weblog contribution posted by Rog

14 November 2005

"On the Central Coast, Wyong Shire has the Mangrove Creek Dam which is situated in a well known rain shadow area; Mardi or Ourimbah would have been much better. No doubt local politics came into play, Nimbys are everywhere. Mangrove dam has never ever been full, not even 50%. As a consequence the shortage of water is limiting growth so they are going to pipe some down from the Hunter (which fortuitously put its dams where it rains and has excess capacity). Development in the Hunter is going gangbusters. That's democracy for you. "
(<http://www.jennifermarohasy.com/blog/archives/001000.html>)

ACTIVITY: Comprehension exercise - analysis of a media contribution.

Carefully examine the above Blog contribution and then answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following alternatives do you think is closest to the **overall intention** of what the author is saying in this Weblog contribution?
 - a. democracy is a good thing
 - b. the Hunter region is going from strength to strength
 - c. if political considerations had not been paramount, a dam would have been built at Mardi or Ourimbah rather than Mangrove Creek
 - d. water is limiting growth
2. Which of the following alternatives is closest to the **meaning** of "*rain shadow*"?
 - a. a shadow cast on the ground because of clouds blocking the sun
 - b. a relatively dry region usually caused by it's being sheltered behind a mountain with respect to the prevailing wind direction.
 - c. a shadow cause by rain fall blocking the light of the sun
 - d. a low light intensity area cause by a relatively wet environment
3. Which of the following alternatives is closest to the **intended meaning** of "*Nimbys are everywhere*"?
 - a. wherever people are located, they are protective of their own interests
 - b. the people of Nimby are popular and welcome all over the country
 - c. No one is welcome in my backyard
 - d. wherever people are located the health of the environment is the most important consideration
4. Which of the following alternatives is closest to the **meaning** of "*fortuitously*"?
 - a. wisely
 - b. with strength
 - c. luckily
 - d. with courage
5. Which of the following alternatives best describes the **general purpose** of the style of writing used in this Blog?
 - a. to present an objective factual account
 - b. to present an opinion aimed at persuading
 - c. to present a balanced evaluation
 - d. to present a poetic description.

6. What is your overall impression of what the author has said in this Blog?

Note: The issues raised in this opinion-piece will now be the subject of a detailed analysis in the rest of this case study.

