

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

APPENDIX 9: Text of two 'Questions' raised in the Parliament of NSW regarding the proposals for the 'Gosford and Wyong Water Supply' during the 1970s, and the answers given, based on extracts from the 'NSW Parliamentary Debates' (see page 17).

TEXT 1 'Question upon Notice' in the Legislative Assembly, 26 October 1977'

"Mr ROZOLLI [*Member for Hawkesbury*] asked the deputy Premier and Minister for Public Works ... Are plans envisaged for amplifying the water supply to the Gosford-Wyong area beyond year 2000?

- 1) Do these plans include construction of a dam and weir on the McDonald River?
- 2) Is it true that considerable environmental damage would result from construction of such works?
- 3) Is he aware that any such proposal would meet with strenuous local opposition?
- 4) What is the present state of investigations defining alternate water supplies for Gosford-Wyong?

Answer-

- 1) There are no firm plans for the area beyond the year 2000. In April, 1975, the Gosford and Wyong Shire Councils adopted in principle, recommendations of the Department of Public Works for a regional water supply scheme, with the key storage being provided by a large dam on the upper reaches of Mangrove Creek. On present population projections, it is estimated that this scheme will be adequate for the water supply requirements of the two shires until the year 2006. The two councils also resolved that a decision on further augmentation of this scheme be deferred until more accurate population projections and streamflow information are available, probably in the late 1980s.
- 2) The McDonald River is one of several possible supplementary sources to augment the water resources of the two shires, after the present resources have been fully developed.
- 3) The investigations carried out so far have been purely on a feasibility basis and no detailed investigations have been undertaken, nor have any decisions been made. The environmental impact would depend very much upon the size and location of any structures decided upon.
- 4) Yes. The opposition relates particularly to the question of a weir on the McDonald River below the junction of the McDonald River and Mogo Creek, but as I have said, no decisions have been taken.
- 5) Major water supply works are being undertaken in the region, with the State Government providing a 50 per cent subsidy. The works involved in Stage 1 include a connection to link the water supply systems of the two shires concerned. This involves the Ourimbah Creek system, which transfers run of the river flows from Ourimbah Creek to Mardi Dam, the Mangrove Creek Dam, water treatment plants at Gosford and Wyong, and water distribution works to deliver water to consumers within the two shires. All of the Stage 1 works are expected to be completed by 1981. The next planned stage is the Mangrove Creek to Upper Wyong River Transfer System, proposed for construction in about 1993. No further investigations are being carried out at this time on subsequent stages."

TEXT 2 'Question without Notice' in the Legislative Assembly, 29 August 1978'

"Mr O'CONNELL [*Member for Peats*]: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports whether he visited recently the Central Coast and inspected the Mangrove Creek dam. Will he advise me and the House of the stage of construction reached with the dam and when it might be available to fulfil its intended purpose of providing major augmentation of the Gosford and Wyong water supply scheme?

Mr FERGUSON [*Minister for Public Works*]: Yes, recently I visited the site of the proposed Mangrove Creek Dam, which is part of an extensive \$60 million water supply scheme for the Gosford and Wyong shires. The scheme has been financed 50% by the State Government and 25% each by the Gosford shire council and the Wyong shire council. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Gosford and Wyong shire councils and the Department of Public Works, and indeed the Government, for their cooperation in the funding of this scheme.

The first stage of the project provides for a wall height of 81.5 metres and provision has been made for a final height of 108 metres. The dam will be capable of storing 420,000 megalitres or 90,000 million gallons. Stripping and rock excavation of the site are now being carried out by the Department of public works. This work is nearing completion and tenders will soon be invited for the construction of the dam wall. Work is already well advanced on a 490-meter diversion tunnel being constructed at a cost of \$1.3 million. Following completion of the dam, which is programmed for 1980, water will flow by pipeline and tunnel to a new water treatment plant at Wyong and from there it will be distributed to Wyong and Gosford shires. This will guarantee adequate water supplies for the two shires for at least the next twenty years...."

