

## Item Details

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**Name**

Prospect Reservoir Group

**SHR/LEP/S170**

LEP #

**Address**

Reservoir Road PROSPECT NSW 2148

**Local Govt Area**

Blacktown

**Local Aboriginal Land Council**

Unknown

**Item Type**

Complex / Group

**Group/Collection**

Utilities - Water

**Category**

Water Supply Reservoir/ Dam

## All Addresses

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**Addresses**

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
	Reservoir Road	PROSPECT/NSW/2148	Blacktown	Unknown	Prospect	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

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**Statement Of Significance**

Prospect Reservoir is historically significant at the state level as it is a central element of the Sydney Water supply system. It evidences three significant changes in municipal life during the late nineteenth century; the development of public utility services; the importance of ensuring an adequate and dependable centralised water supply; and the collective bureaucratic response to the delivery of capital works of this nature. Built between 1882 and 1888, it was an outstanding achievement in civil engineering technology at the time, using innovative design and construction methods. It has a high level of historical engineering significance. The surrounding landscape is a vehicle for passive recreating, punctuating the monotony of the surrounding urban landscape. It continues to regulate the release of water from Prospect Reservoir to the Lower Canal and the Sydney Distribution System. (Sydney Water Draft Heritage And Conservation Register)

**Criteria a)****Historical Significance**

Prospect Reservoir is historically significant at the state level as it is a central element of the Sydney Water supply system. It evidences three significant changes in municipal life during the late nineteenth century; the development of public utility services; the importance of ensuring an adequate and dependable centralised water supply; and the collective bureaucratic response to the delivery of capital works of this nature. It continues to regulate the release of water from Prospect Reservoir to the Lower Canal and the Sydney Distribution System. (Sydney Water Draft Heritage And Conservation Register)

**Criteria c)****Aesthetic/Technical Significance**

The surrounding landscape is a vehicle for passive recreating, punctuating the monotony of the surrounding urban landscape. (Sydney Water Draft Heritage And Conservation Register)

**Criteria e)**

## Research Potential

Built between 1882 and 1888, it was an outstanding achievement in civil engineering technology at the time, using innovative design and construction methods. It has a high level of historical engineering significance. It continues to regulate the release of water from Prospect Reservoir to the Lower Canal and the Sydney Distribution System. (Sydney Water Draft Heritage And Conservation Register)

## Owners

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

## Description

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Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated

Reservoir - An earth dam enclosing a lake of 513 ha. Outlet tower - An octagonal brick tower with connecting lattice truss walkway. Valve House - A small brick structure which holds equipment to regulate waterflow out of the reservoir into the adjacent flow channel. The building and inlet basin contain fine examples of brick and stonework detailing.

Physical Condition

Updated

Modifications And Dates

Further Comments

Current Use

Reservoir and Parkland

Former Use

Reservoir and Parkland; Rural Estate

## Listings

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## Listings

			Records Retrieved: 2		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
State Environmental Planning Policy				WSP	

## Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

## History

### Historical Notes or Provenance

### Updated

Prior to European settlement this area was occupied by the Daruk tribe. When first explored by Europeans, the site was named Tench's Prospect Hill in 1789 after Captain Watkin Tench. The name was later abbreviated to Prospect Hill.

In 1808-9, Lieutenant William Lawson was granted 500 acres of land at Prospect. His family established a rural estate on the land building Veteran Hall in 1821. William Lawson died at Veteran Hall in 1850. The estate was the base of the Lawson family until the early twentieth century.

In 1879 1,087,000 pounds was approved to finance the Upper Nepean Scheme to provide a permanent water supply for the County of Cumberland. Four rivers were diverted via tunnels, canals and pipelines into the Prospect Reservoir. Much of the Veteran Hall estate was acquired by the government in 1881 to construct the reservoir. Construction of an earth wall began in 1882. Pincott's Roller that was used to compact the soil in the dam wall remains on display at Prospect today. Slips in the dam wall in 1888, 1893, 1899 and 1902 were finally stabilised in 1905.

The house was demolished in 1929 having served as an office, and later as a military facility during WWI.

Prospect Reservoir acted as the main storage reservoir for the Upper Nepean Scheme until the construction of Cataract Dam in 1907, after which it became the principal service reservoir.

In 1938-39 Water Pumping Station 24 (South Prospect Pumping Station) was constructed.

Between 1954 and 1959 the delivery capacity of Prospect Reservoir was increased by replacement of the woodstave pipeline with a new cement lined steel pipe. Chlorination facilities were provided in 1960. A new southern outlet built in 1987 replaced the old outlet.

### Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 1

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Utilities	Serving the Metropolis/Regional Functions

## Recommended Management

### Management Summary

## Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 2

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Blacktown Heritage Study			1995		(not stated)
Blacktown Heritage Study			1988		Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants in association with Rodney Jensen and Assoc.s

## Reference & Internet Links

### References

Records Retrieved: 4

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Godden Mackay Logan	2001	Heritage Impact Statement - Prospect Additional Water Supply Facilities	
Written	Cullen A and AWT Ensignt	1995	Conservation Plan for Prospect Reservoir	
Written	Higginbotham E	1992	Heritage Assessment of the Prospect Bypass Stage 2, Bywash Realignment, Prospect Reservoir NSW	
Written	Higginbotham E with T Kass & V Murphy	1992	Heritage Study of the Upper Canal, Prospect Reservoir and Lower Canal (Upper Nepean Scheme)	

## Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140064

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to [council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)

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