

## Hunter Water S170 Register

SHI No.: *Name:*  
**3630096 Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works**

*Location* Lot 2 Government Rd, Cessnock NSW 2325

*Other ID nos* IW ID: 105. Other ID: STCES.



### *Description:*

Treatment works: A small wastewater treatment plant. The four concrete trickling tanks have been mechanically refitted, and other elements such as the oxygen digester and humus tank have been renewed. The trickling filter heads have been retained as feature.

Site Manager's House: A fair face brick cottage with original external painted joinery. The building has a Marseille tiled hipped roof, open eaves and timber fascia, with ogee colorbond guttering. There is evidence of rising damp on western side of building. The building has a panel door, sash windows and a timber rail fence and is situated in a large grassed area.

### *Significance:*

Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works is a refurbished example of a trickling filter wastewater treatment plant. Recently renovated, it retains substantial portions of the original fabric, which has been upgraded to modern practice. It is a good example of a small-scale council-built wastewater treatment works, and is unusual in that it retains the original Site Manager's Cottage.

*Assessed Significance:* Local

*Endorsed Significance:* Local

### *Historical Notes:*

*Constructed: c. 1928-1933*

The need for a sewerage scheme for the Cessnock region was first emphasised in 1919, causing the Public Works Department to draw up three possible schemes. These plans were all deemed to costly however, and the proposal was deferred. From July 1921 the question of the provision of sewerage for the Cessnock District once again formed the subject of correspondence between the Minister for Public Works and the Board. In 1926 the Engineering Experts' Committee revised the original schemes, and in September 1928, following approval by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, work began on one of these revised schemes. The area included in the scheme covered the greater part of the towns of Cessnock and Aberdare, with the provision for an extension to Bellbird at a later date. A main sewer would run along Black Creek and discharge into collecting wells, from here the sewage would be pumped to the treatment works, which were to be located further down Black Creek. 1931 saw the passage of the Cessnock Sewerage Act, and the Public Works Department completed the Cessnock Sewerage scheme in 1932. The major portion of works covered by the scheme was transferred to the Board on 13th June 1933.

The Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works were transferred to the Board by Government Gazette No. 98, dated 30th June 1933, however did not come into service for at least another year. Whilst the works had not yet been operated by the close of the 1933-34 year, a chlorination plant was installed during this time. The treatment works site was located north of the city, about three-quarters of a mile down Black Creek, on a 230-acres site. Effluent was distributed by earth channels for land treatment, before finally joining Black Creek in a purified state.

New chlorinators were installed during the year 1968-69. In December 1977, work commenced on the amplification of the works, so as to cater for increased flows. These works consisted of the installation of a flow equalisation tank, an overflow pipeline, three maturation ponds and a sludge lagoon. These amplification works were completed in October 1978. In the Annual Report for the year 1979-80, it was reported that work was proceeding on the construction of a screening chamber to house mechanical screens and bypass manual screens as well as a grit removal chamber. These works were commenced in March, and commissioned in October 1980. The construction of maturation ponds at Cessnock enabled the works to reach the effluent quality standards set by the State Pollution Control Commission. The 1989-90 Annual Report noted that funds had been allocated for further improvement and augmentation to the Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works, among others, over the following ten years. Upgrades to the Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works were commenced in February 2005. These improvements included the construction of a tertiary treatment plant and associated works.

*Designer/Builder:* Public Works Department

*Current Use:* Wastewater treatment plant

*Former Uses:*

### *Physical Condition:*

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Treatment works: Good overall condition.

Site Manager's House: Good overall condition. Recent repointing requires further attention, however.

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### *Further Information:*

The house is located within the grounds of the works.

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### *Recommended Management:*

- This item contributes to local character and should be conserved.
  - Original details should be maintained including doors, windows and original signage.
  - New materials should be sympathetic to the nature and character of the original building.
  - In the event of major proposed changes, prepare a Conservation Management Strategy and undertake an archival recording.
  - Wherever possible, changes should be restricted to the interior of the building.
  - Routine maintenance of existing fabric is essential.
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### *References:*

Clem Lloyd, Patrick Troy and Shelley Schreiner 1992, For the Public Health. The Hunter District Water Board 1892-1992. Publisher: Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd, Melbourne.  
Department of Public Works , Annual Reports, 1888 to 1892 and 1893-94 to 1960-61.  
Glennie Jones 1967, The Movement for Newcastle's First Water Supply 1875-1885, Newcastle History Monographs No. 2. Publisher: The Council of the City of Newcastle, Newcastle.  
Hunter District Water Board , Annual Reports, 1938-39 to 1987-88.  
Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board , Annual Reports, 1897-98 to 1937-38.  
Hunter Water Board , Annual Reports, 1988-89 to 1990-91.  
Hunter Water Corporation , Annual Reports, 1991-92 to 2008-09.  
John W Armstrong 1967, Pipelines and People. The History of the Hunter District Water Board Newcastle, New South Wales. Publisher: The Hunter District Water Board, Newcastle.  
Mal Hindley 1983, 'From Weirs, Dams and Sand', in Shaping the Hunter. Publisher: The Newcastle Division of the Institute of Engineers Australia, Newcastle.

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### *Studies:*

- 1 Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd 2010, 'Hunter Water Conservation and Heritage Register Study'.  
Reference: .
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### *Listings:*

- 1 *Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register:*  
Listing date: . Reference Number:
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Data Entry: *Date First Entered:* 26/Apr/2010 *Date Updated:* 10/Sep/2010 *Status:* Partial

# Hunter Water S170 Register

## Images



### **Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works**

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### Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works

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### Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Works - Location

*File:* cessnock wwtw site GE.jpg

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