

HUNTER WATER

SECTION s170 REGISTER



ITEM NAME:

Aberdare 1 Wastewater Pumping Station

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ITEM DETAILS



Item Name Aberdare 1 Wastewater Pumping Station

Other / Former Names Cessnock 2 Wastewater Pumping Station

NSW SHI No. 3630077

GID 211596

Plant No. SS-ABE-001-PS1

Local Government Area Cessnock City Council

Lot and DP Lot 2 Section 20 DP 758002

Address 125 Melbourne Street, Aberdare NSW 2325

Curtilage The curtilage of this asset is defined legal allotment boundaries (being the relevant Lot and DP)



Aberdare 1 Wastewater Pumping Station



Asset location and curtilage (red boundary) (refer to [Figure 1](#) for additional detail)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Current Use	Wastewater pumping station
Former Use	N/A
Designer / Builder	NSW Public Works Department
Historical Notes	<p>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 too costly however, and the proposal was deferred.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 later. 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.</p> <p>Under the scheme 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. Sewage from areas in Aberdare would be served by Cessnock No. 2 Wastewater Pumping Station (now Aberdare 1), which would lift this effluent, enabling it to gravitate to the No. 1 Pumping Station in Cessnock.</p>

HERITAGE STATUS



Listing Details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 Heritage and Conservation Register <input type="checkbox"/> Local heritage listing <input type="checkbox"/> State heritage listing
Conservation Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Heritage Asset Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Aboriginal Sites Registered within the Site	AHIMS search undertaken on 8 March 2023 for the relevant Lot and DP. No Aboriginal sites were registered within the search area.
Historical Archaeological Potential	Not assessed.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



Level of Significance	Local
Statement of Significance	A well-detailed example of a timber wastewater pumping station, demonstrating the expansion of municipal sewerage services into the 1920s. It remains in service for its original function and retains a high degree of physical integrity.
NSW SHR Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Historical <input type="checkbox"/> b) Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Aesthetic / Technical <input type="checkbox"/> d) Social <input type="checkbox"/> e) Research Potential (yield new information) <input type="checkbox"/> f) Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g) Representative
Significant Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original form, scale and design. • Original shiplap cladding. • Timber gable vents. • Timber windows. • Internal guardrail and ladder to access pit.

DESCRIPTION



Setting	The Aberdare 1 Wastewater Pumping Station is located on the south side of Melbourne Street in Aberdare. It is located towards the centre of a rectangular parcel of land which is an open cleared allotment. The Pumping Station is located on an area of mounded ground, with the remnant of a creek line running behind the pumping station in an approximately northwest-southwest direction.
External Appearance	<p>The Pumping Station consists of a small-scale painted timber-framed and shiplap weather board clad building, built over a much larger reinforced concrete shaft containing pumping equipment.</p> <p>The building has a hipped roof with vents facing north and south. The roof is clad in galvanised corrugated steel roof sheeting, allowing rainwater to fall without guttering. It has timber vents to the gables, a timber fascia and a slatted timber soffit to the eaves for further roof ventilation.</p> <p>There is a non-original flush solid timber door facing the east side with cast iron vents on either side of the door. The timber window facing west is original and has a pair of shutters in the lower section. A piece of plywood covers the glass in the upper pane of the window.</p> <p>The original building details are typical of the inter-war period. Stylistically, the building could be described as Inter-War Georgian, though its small scale limits its stylistic character.</p>
Internal Appearance	The interior is lined with fibre cement with timber battens. The guard rail around the access pit, and its ladder, appear to be original.
Overall Condition	Moderate
Moveable Heritage Objects	None identified.



Approval and Assessment Requirements

Minor or inconsequential impacts: Anything other than routine repair and maintenance must be discussed with the Environment Team to determine the level of heritage assessment required.

More than minor or inconsequential impacts: As above. Additionally, consultation with the relevant local council is required.

Demolition or removal from the register requires consultation with Heritage NSW and archival recording.

General / Ongoing Management

- Changes within the defined curtilage should be preceded by the appropriate level of heritage assessment and approval. Advice and/or confirmation should be sought from the Environment Team prior to undertaking any works.
- Maintain overall form, shape and scale of the building. Original details should be maintained including shiplap boarding, windows and vents.
- The introduction of new buildings or structures within the curtilage is discouraged. If introduced, the ability to view the building 'in the round' is to be retained and not obscured.
- Changes to fabric may be supportable if no feasible alternative is available to ensure ongoing operation and/or safety.
- Replacement/removal of redundant or failing elements or equipment is acceptable to facilitate ongoing operation.
- Removal of non-significant elements (such as contemporary services) is supportable. Any replacements must be appropriate/sympathetic.

Priority Conservation Works

- Replace the rotten timber boards in the lower three courses to match the original profile. Paint to protect the timber and to match existing.
- Consider adding quad gutters and a downpipe in contemporary coated steel to extend the life of the shiplap boards.
- Assess and investigate the presence of asbestos. If present, replace relevant fabric in a like-for-like manner with a more suitable material.

KEY IMAGES



Image 1: East side of Aberdare 1 Waste Water Pumping Station



Image 2: Waste Water Pumping Station, looking south-west



Image 3: West side of Aberdare 1 Waste Water Pumping Station



Image 4: Aberdare 1 Waste Water Pumping Station, original ball and pipe handrail around the access to the pit

REFERENCES



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- Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Annual Reports, 1897-98 to 1937-38.
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FIGURE 1

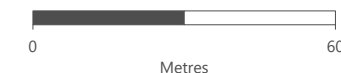
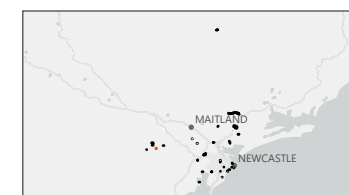
S170 Review - Heritage Curtilages

Legend

- Road
- + Railway
- Lot Boundary
- ▭ Heritage Curtilages



Aberdare 1 Wastewater Pumping Station



Scale 1:1,500 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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