

# HUNTER WATER

## SECTION s170 REGISTER



ITEM NAME:

## Tomago No. 2 Spray Basin

Contents:



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### ITEM DETAILS



Item Name	Tomago No. 2 Spray Basin
Other / Former Names	Tomago #2 Spray Basin
NSW SHI No.	3630056
Plant No.	N/A
Lot and DP	Lot 45 DP 753191
Address	164 Tomago Road, Tomago NSW 2322
Curtilage	The curtilage of this asset is defined by its physical configuration and does not correspond to legal allotment boundaries.



View across the Basin, facing northwest



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



<b>Current Use</b>	Water spray basin
<b>Former Use</b>	Water spray basin
<b>Designer / Builder</b>	Hunter District Water Board
<b>Historical Notes</b>	<p>Construction on the Tomago Sandbeds Scheme began in 1936-37, with work carried out under the Relief Works Scheme. During the 1938-39 financial year, drought conditions saw construction on this first unit (Pumping Stations No's. 1 and 2) of the Sand Beds Scheme sufficiently advanced to permit the delivery of water from the Tomago Pumping Station to Waratah Reservoir on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1939, an event in itself, being the first time that water from the sand beds had entered the system.</p> <p>Officially completed by the close of the 1938-39 financial year, Vacuum Pumping Stations No's. 1 and 2 comprised two electrically driven pumping plants which, after drawing water from the sand beds, delivered it into a common spray basin (Spray Basin No. 1), before it was delivered by secondary pumps in the No. 1 Pump House or the Main Pumping Station (officially completed in 1939) through five miles of 20-inch pipeline to Sandgate.</p> <p>The effect of the drought on the Stockton-Raymond Terrace Sand Beds Scheme extended beyond this first pumping station. With the fall of the water level in Chichester Dam, the Board gradually approved the extension of the sand beds scheme to a total of fifteen pumping stations in the wake of fears of serious water shortages. Tomago Pumping Station No's. 3 and 4, authorised in June 1939, were completed in December 1940, with pumping commencing in March 1941.</p> <p>Whilst delays in the construction of the remainder of the extended scheme were experienced due to the war situation, all units of the major extension and a second trunk delivery main were available for use by the close of the 1941-42 financial year. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1944 the Tomago Sand Beds Scheme was officially opened by the then Premier William McKell. On 29<sup>th</sup> May 1945 the then retiring Vice-President Mr T.J.D. Kelly placed a casket containing records from the investigation and development of the Tomago Sands Scheme in the wall at No. 2 Spray Basin during an inspection. Spray Basin No. 2 was therefore constructed sometime between c. 1939 and 1945.</p> <p>Following expansions, the sand beds assumed precedence over Chichester Dam as the greater water produced for a number of years in the 1950s. After this time however, the delivery of water from Chichester was increased by completion of gravitation main amplification. An additional four miles of 20-inch cast iron cement lined pipeline running parallel with existing primary pipeline at Tomago was completed in May 1956. In the mid-1960s, it was decided to construct 36, 42 and 48-inch pipelines to connect No. 2 Spray Basin to the 12 million gallons a day Tomago Water Treatment Plant and Tomago-Grahamstown Pumping Station. New outlets were also provided at this time from the spray basin.</p>

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



Level of Significance	Local
Statement of Significance	<p>Tomago No. 2 Spray Basin was an important component of the Tomago Sand Beds Scheme, serving as the location where the water was aerated after it was pumped from the sand beds, prior to treatment and reticulation. It was constructed in the late 1930s/early 1940s and is therefore original to the Scheme.</p> <p>It is enclosed in a decorative stone wall with a formal entry and garden (no longer in use) at one end, demonstrating its dual function as a public recreation spot as well as an item of infrastructure. Still in use on an ad-hoc basis, it demonstrates an important aspect of the innovative Tomago Sand Beds Scheme. It has representative value and is relatively unusual in its decorative presentation and detailing.</p> <p>Though No. 1 Spray Basin is slightly older, it is less ornate and aesthetically distinctive. Similarly, No. 2 Spray Basin has more social significance by way of the casket of records that was installed within its walls in 1945.</p>
Significant Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall form and scale.</li><li>• Decorative stone wall.</li><li>• Formal pedestrian entry with wrought iron gates.</li><li>• Former garden bed.</li><li>• Original services/infrastructure including the weir, pipes, valves and valve stems and spray heads.</li><li>• Broader park setting with mixture of native and introduced species.</li><li>• The casket containing information relevant to the Spray Basin that was installed within the stone wall in 1945 (if present).</li></ul>

## DESCRIPTION



Setting	The Spray Basin is located within a landscaped park area surrounded by mixed vegetation regrowth (both native species and introduced pines). It is located within the wider Tomago Sand Beds Scheme.
External Appearance	<p>A large concrete basin divided into two chambers by a central weir, with lines of metal spray heads (six in western side and eight in eastern) throughout. Four valve stems for the outlets are situated on the northern side of the pools.</p> <p>The Basin is surrounded by decorative stone boundary walls with wrought iron entry gates and a formal garden that is no longer in use is located at the front (western side). Also located here are the remains of concrete benches and stone plinths for plaques with the plaques having been removed. The stone wall also features in-built concrete framing where plaques were previously located (since removed).</p>
Internal Appearance	N/A
Overall Condition	Good
Moveable Heritage Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None identified.</li></ul>





## Priority Conservation Works

- Maintain the broader setting of the Spray Basin, as feasible.
- Maintain overall form, shape and scale of the Spray Basin as well as all original equipment including pipes, valve stems, etc.
- Check over equipment/infrastructure for issues associated with corrosion, peeling, and general failure, algae growth, etc and repair/treat as required. Ongoing maintenance will assist in avoiding the need for removal/replacement in the future.
- Check over the decorative stone wall and patch and repair as required (both mortar and missing stones).
- It is preferable that the garden bed be subject to appropriate re-planting works to enable it to better contribute to the aesthetic significance and visual presentation of the Basin.
- It is preferable that the benches are reconstructed based on historical photographs.
- It is preferable that appropriate plaques are re-instated to the plinths/stone wall.
- Consider refreshing the water within the Basin regularly to avoid the build up of algae.

## KEY IMAGES



**Image 1:** Spray Basin showing stone wall and *in situ* equipment. Surrounding pine trees are visible



**Image 2:** View across the basin showing valves, pipes, the weir and the stone wall





**Image 3:** Detail view of pipes and spray heads



**Image 4:** The garden bed showing removed plantings



**Image 5:** View of the decorative stone wall



**Image 6:** Formal entry of the Basin showing remains of benches and plinths with plaques removed



**Image 7:** Entry gate to the Basin showing location of removed plaques to stone wall



**Image 8:** Detail view of stone wall showing missing stone



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# FIGURE 1

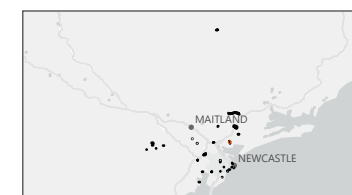
## S170 Review - Heritage Curtilages

### Legend

-  Road
-  Railway
-  Lot Boundary
-  Heritage Curtilages



## Tomago Spray Basin No. 2



0 160  
Metres

Scale 1:4,000 at A4  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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