



Don Harwin

Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities,
Minister for the Arts

Gabrielle Upton

Minister for Environment, Minister for Local Government,
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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 27 April 2018

‘THE RES’ GIVEN STATE HERITAGE LISTING

The site of Newcastle’s first drinking water reservoirs will join an esteemed list of significant places and buildings on the State Heritage Register.

Number 1 Reservoir, also known as ‘The Res’, provided the city with its first town water supply, holding two million litres of water pumped from the Walka Water Works near Maitland.

Built in 1882, its design features a unique arch structure and 32 four-metre columns, which are remnants of Newcastle’s colonial past.

The now decommissioned reservoir remains a valuable community asset, with Hunter Water reopening the site for public tours in May 2015. Thousands of people have taken advantage of the free tours, which are run by ballot.

Number 2 Reservoir is also located on the Brown Street site and continues to serve as a functioning reservoir for Newcastle’s East End.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin said the Newcastle Reservoirs Site is an important part of the region’s water supply history.

“The reservoirs were integral to the growth and industrialisation of Newcastle, allowing for population growth and industry to flourish. The Walka and Chichester schemes demonstrated a crucial transition from ad-hoc local water sources to a centralised town water supply that was reliable and free from contamination.

“I welcome today’s announcement as it will ensure this important site is protected and its future secured for generations to come,” said Mr Harwin.

Minister for Heritage Gabrielle Upton said The Res’ unique design made it a worthy addition to the State Heritage Register.

“The Res is visually striking and shows the importance of aesthetics in 19th century water supply infrastructure. It is one of only two water reservoirs in New South Wales known to feature tied brick arches, as developed by renowned English engineer William Clark.

“I am pleased the Newcastle Reservoirs Site will join our diverse heritage register, which now consists of more than 1,650 items,” said Ms Upton.

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