

Burrinjuck Dam and No. 1 Power Station

location Off the Hume Highway south of Yass, New South Wales.

owner New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation and Pacific Power



the plaques

types **National Engineering Landmark and Information Plaques**

location On working platform near the right abutment and spillway of the dam.

plaque text

Burrinjuck Dam and No. 1 Power Station

Burrinjuck Dam and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area formed the first large scale irrigation scheme in New South Wales (NSW). Designed by L. A. B. Wade, construction began in 1907. Irrigation waters were first released in 1913 and construction to full height was completed by 1928, making Burrinjuck the largest dam in Australia at the time.

The No. 1 hydro-electric power station was completed in 1927 with a capacity of 10,000 kilowatts. Low-cost electricity from Burrinjuck supplied the south west of NSW through a 66,000 volt transmission network, the most extensive in the state and the first to use this voltage in NSW.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, Department of Land and Water Conservation, Pacific Power, 1999.



Leslie Augustus Burton Wade (1864–1915)

Wade served his articles in the Department of Public Works, NSW. In 1900 he was appointed Principal Engineer, Water Supply Construction, with state-wide responsibility for construction of water supply, sewerage, water conservation and irrigation. In 1905 Harbours and Rivers were added to his responsibilities, and in 1908 he was appointed Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Drainage.

Wade's accomplishments included responsibility for the design and construction of Cataract, Medlow Bath and Barren Jack (Burrinjuck) Dams. He was responsible for the planning and the early administration of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, as well as the design and construction of the system of channels that supply the water.

He was appointed first Commissioner of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission in 1913 and held that position at the time of his death.