

# Prospect Dam

location Prospect Reservoir, Prospect, Sydney, New South Wales.  
owner Water Board

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the plaques

type **Historic Engineering Markers**  
locations 

- 1 Adjacent to east end of the dam.
- 2 On horseshoe wall at start of the lower canal.
- 3 On the valve house at the lower canal.

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The Lower Canal still exists but is no longer in use, having been replaced by a tunnel in 1995.

plaque text

## 1 Prospect Dam

When completed in 1888, this earth clay-core embankment was the largest dam in Australia. It was the major component of the Upper Nepean Scheme devised by E O Moriarty, Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department, to guarantee Sydney's water supply. Although the reservoir is no longer the principal component of the present system, it continues to supply Sydney with water.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Water Board, 1994.

## 2 The Lower Canal, Prospect

This eight kilometre water supply canal was



completed by the Public Works Department in 1888 as the third component of the Prospect Reservoir works, thereby completing the Upper Nepean Scheme. Laid on a grade of 1 in 10,000, the canal is a good example of 19th century hydraulic engineering. It includes spillways, stormwater flumes and the now-disused Boothtown aqueduct and continues to convey Sydney's water to Pipehead at Guildford.

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## 3 Prospect Valve Houses

These valve houses were completed in 1887 and are excellent examples of colonial architecture. Under the upstream valve house there are three levels of valves for drawing off water from the reservoir. The downstream house contains valves and meters to control and measure the flow of water. The valves were supplied by Glenfield of Kilmarnock, Scotland and installed in 1882, the meters were added in 1907. This original system remains in operation.

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