

Heritage Citation

Tarragindi Reservoir

Key details

Also known as	Tarragindi Hill Reservoir
Addresses	At 159 Tarragindi Road, Tarragindi, Queensland 4121
Type of place	Dam / reservoir
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Lot plan	L3_RP38056; L1_RP230266; L2_RP230266; L2_SP103971; L1_RP38055
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2003 Date of Citation — July 2001
Construction	Roof: Ribbed metal; Walls
People/associations	Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (F) Technical

Tarragindi Reservoir was constructed in 1923 and is located in a reserve atop Tarragindi Hill. As a functioning water storage facility it is one of Brisbane's earliest hilltop reservoirs and is significant in two respects; as infrastructure that has provided a service to the suburb of Tarragindi for more than sixty years, and as evidence of Brisbane's engineering capability in the early interwar period to meet the community's expectations of adequate living conditions. The bushland in the surrounding reserve has been an integral part of the landscape of Tarragindi and is one of the few remaining areas of natural habitat in the suburb.

History

Tarragindi Reservoir was completed in 1923. It is located in a reserve atop Tarragindi Hill. As a functioning water

storage facility it is one of Brisbane's earliest hilltop reservoirs.

The population of Brisbane grew rapidly in the 1920s requiring additional infrastructure. The Reservoir was constructed to provide a solution for the provision of water supply to the population in the Tarragindi area during this period. Construction was begun in 1920 by the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board but was stopped temporarily in December of that year. In October 1922 construction was recommenced, though progress was impeded by the intermittent mechanical failure of the new steam excavator used on the site.

Finally in August 1923 the Minister for Works, the Honourable Forgan Smith turned water into the Reservoir for the first time. Tarragindi Reservoir was connected to a ring main to facilitate movement of water around the system was constructed in to other reservoirs in Brisbane in 1971-74

Responsibility for Brisbane's Water supply was transferred in 1928 from the State Government to the Brisbane City Council. This was done on the recommendation of the Gutteridge Royal Commission. Responsibility for this facility has remained with the Brisbane City Council since that date.

Description

All that is visible of the reservoir from the street at Tarragindi Road is the main entrance gate and brick wall on the site boundary. To the right of the entry gate the name 'Tarraginidi Reservoir' is mounted in individual lettering on the brick wall.

The reservoir has an oval plan and the concrete structure is largely below ground. A high wire-mesh fence encloses it, which is in turn surrounded by a publicly accessible vehicular drive. The most visible element of the reservoir is its metal deck roof. The white Colorbond Spandek profile sheeting supports steel gangways to various parts of the roof.

The ridge of the roof features a continuous meshed ventilator, which stops short of the two distinctive cupolas, located at the foci of the oval. Each cupola crowns a concrete shaft providing access to a scour valve pit. The perimeter fence also encloses a small brick valve house at each end of the reservoir. There is also a concrete chlorination hut near the inlet on the western end of the oval.

Trees and overgrown shrubbery is revealed from behind the extent of the boundary wall along Tarragindi Road. The composition of wall and trees provide a visual relief and enhances the character of adjacent residential properties to the east.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the

Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as one of the earliest service reservoirs in Brisbane and as evidence of water supply methods being updated during a time of growing demand.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period

as an example of early major water supply infrastructure commissioned by the Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board in order to meet the community's expectations of adequate living conditions through the provision of a regular reticulated water supply.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Archives
2. Brisbane City Council Minutes and Meetings, 1915-1945
3. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
4. Greenwood, Gordon. *Brisbane 1859-1959 A History of Local Government*. Council of the City of Brisbane, Brisbane, 1959
5. Cameron, Ian. *125 Years of State Public Works in Queensland 1859-1984*. Brisbane: Boolerong Publications. 1989
6. Cole, John R. *Shaping a City: Greater Brisbane 1925-1985*. Brisbane: William Brooks Queensland. 1984

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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