

# RAIN "STABILISED"

## DRAIN ON SUPPLY

Rain on Sunday, Monday and early yesterday morning has temporarily arrested the drain from the near-dry storage pond supplying water to the Camden Haven district.

But, only .76m (2ft 6 inches) remains in the storage pond, which supplies Kendall, Kew, Herons Creek, Laurieton, Dunbogan, Camden Head, North Haven, West Haven, Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie.

Only further concentrated falls of rain in the Camden Haven River's small catchment area at Comboyne will increase the level of the pond.

Tipped on Thursday to run out today, the stabilising effect of the rain and a drop in demand has given the water scheme a reprieve, at least for several days.

On Monday a spokesman for the Bureau of Meteorology in Sydney said the rain was expected to continue for 'at least two days'.

An intense high pressure system located off the west coast of Tasmania and ridging along much of the NSW coastline brought the rain.

The rain-bearing clouds were pushed north by strong south-easterly winds.

### Rainfall

The vital catchment area, 30 km from the storage pond on the eastern slopes of the Comboyne Plateau, received 34mm (1.4 inches) of rain in the 24 hours to 9 am on Monday.

In the same period to 9 am yesterday only a further 5.2mm was recorded at Comboyne Post Office.

The rain also was a God-send for gardens, eliminating any temptation to breach the 'inside use only' restriction in force since Thursday morning.

But, it did not come early enough for some residents of the district detected breaching the restrictions.

The rain has been the most encouraging indication of an end to the water crisis which is gripping the Camden Haven district.

However, without further heavy falls, the supply still is expected to run out late this week.

### Two hopes

Meanwhile the district has two main hopes for avoiding a total drought.

A team of men is racing the clock to sink a bore at Dunbogan and lay a pipeline to the main.

The whole operation is expected to take eight days and Hastings Shire Council's chief engineer, Mr Bill Russell, said it could be 'touch and go' as to whether or not a pipe from the bore can be fed into the main before the storage pond's supply is exhausted.

There also is the possibility of the supply being augmented by water from two water holes at Dunbogan.

Samples of the water in the water holes, located on Mr Reg Sonter's land, have been sent to Health Commission laboratories in Sydney for tests.

The results are expected today.

If they prove the water is suitable for drinking the council probably would take up the owners offer and pump directly into the main, Mr Russell said.

The bore will not provide any relief for about five days, until the pipeline connects the underground supply to the Dunbogan main.

### Back up system

Mr Russell said it is planned to pump the water back through the system to augment the dwindling supply.

A Water Resources Com.

## The water crisis at a glance ....

The major developments in the Camden Haven district's water crisis in the last five days have been:

- Stabilising of the water level in the storage pond at Kendall following heavy falls of rain in the catchment area, ensuring that supplies will continue to be maintained this week.

- On Sunday, the eight-day task of sinking a twin bore into a water table at Dunbogan was begun, with the council hoping the underground supply can supplement the remaining supplies before they run out.

- A Dunbogan landowner has offered the shire the water in two water holes on his property and a Health Commission test report expected today will decide if the water is fit for consumption. If it is, the operation to pump the water into the main and back through the system will begin immediately.

- A number of residents have been detected breaching the 'inside use only' restriction imposed on Thursday and face prosecution. One man was caught three times in two days, it was reported.

"When we then tried to drain the other, water filled the first within 12 hours and we had to give up."

The shire engineer and shire president, Cr Bill Pool inspected the water holes and have made provision to pump the water directly into the nearby main if it is suitable for drinking.

Mr Sonter made his offer at lunchtime on Friday after arrangements to sink the bore were made.

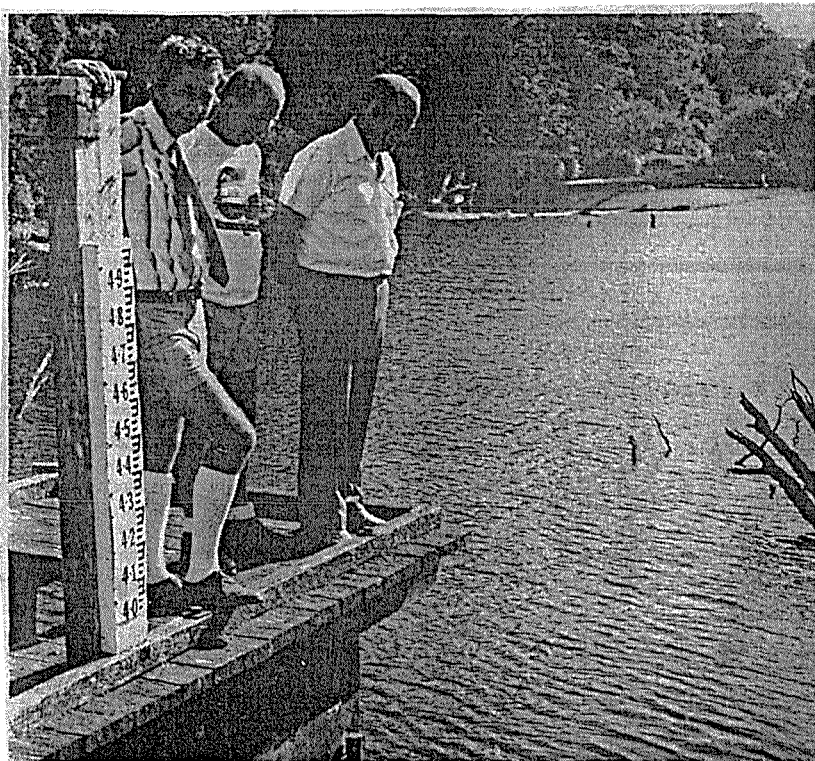
the scheme checking for anyone breaching the restrictions.

Several people were detected breaching the 'inside use only' restriction which came into effect at 9 am on Thursday.

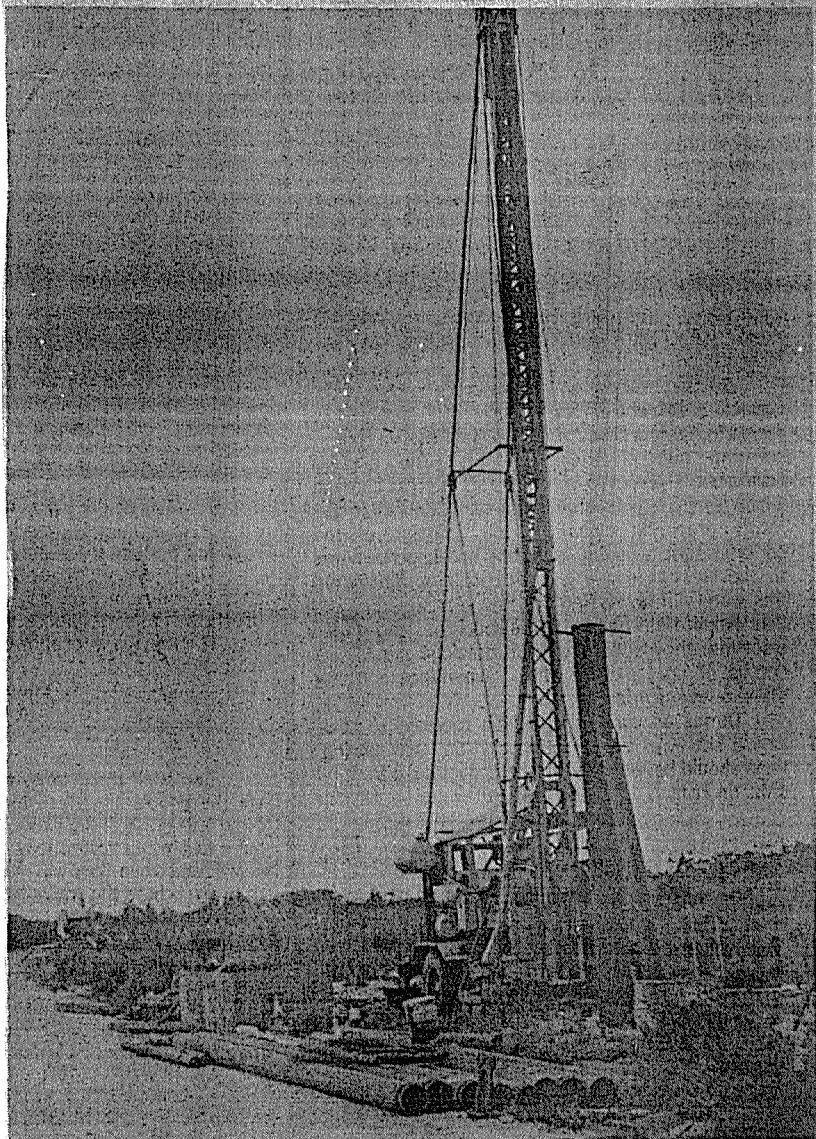
The council confirmed reports that one man had been spoken to on three occasions between Thursday and Friday.

All those detected will be sent letters asking them to show reason why they should not be prosecuted.

**Salt  
water  
replaces  
fresh**



*Long submerged trees can be seen as the water level in the storage pond drops. From left, is the shire engineer, Mr. Russell, pump mechanic, Mr. Max Wilkinson, and shire president, Cr. Bill Poole.*



*The Dunbogan water bore.*

# Engineer defends council's part in water situation

Recriminations over the water supply have been levelled at Hastings Shire Council as the crisis became more grim during the last week.

In that time the water shortage has dominated conversations.

The main thrust of local residents' anger as the tighter restrictions were imposed, was the connection several years ago of the Laurieton Sewerage Scheme and others to the supply.

The council also has earned the residents' ire over Mr Russell's claim that much of the excess water pumped in summer is 'wasted' on gardens.

Their feelings were embodied in the two letters accompanying this article.

The shire engineer yesterday defended the council's handling of the water situation.

He said it was ridiculous to believe that the sewerage systems added to the water scheme over the years have had any major influence on the state of the supply and, in particular, the current shortage.

## 'Lot of folklore'

"A lot of folklore surrounds this situation," Mr Russell said.

"The problem has arisen simply because of the seasonal conditions.

"In the past 14 months, the district has had less than half its normal average.

"Eighty per cent of the homes which connected to the sewerage schemes had septic tanks prior to that, so the water used by the sewerage is almost insignificant.

"Let's say there are 1100 houses in the supply area connected to the sewerage scheme.

"At two gallons a flush and say an average of five flushes a day the total is about 11,000 gallons a day.

"That just doesn't compare to the 1.5 million gallons we've been pumping each day."

Mr Russell estimates that 90 per cent of the use in the rate of water consumption during summer goes onto gardens. He said the rate per person of consumption rose from about 80 gallons in winter to 300 gallons in summer.

The engineer said that the development in the supply region and its extension to Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie had been significant.

"There has been a terrific lot of development in the 21 years the supply has been in operation," Mr Russell said.

"But, even if there was only a little village drawing on it, under the present conditions the river still would not be flowing and the pond would run dry.

"It would just take longer."

He also conceded that the area had been waiting for 'a long time' — seven or eight years — for the proposed augmentation to be carried out.

The council hopes it will be only another two years before the start to the plan is begun.

In a jointly funded scheme, the council and the Public Works Department will bring a water main south from the Livingstone Road dam at Port Macquarie to serve Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills, Laurieton, North Haven and Dunbogan.

The five stages of the multi-million dollar project are expected to be completed by 2004.

P.M. News 12.3.1980

## DROUGHT WILL MEAN SHORTAGE

Australian cattlemen will be assured of a prosperous future if herd numbers increase and the American market strengthens, an MP said recently.

However, Mr Tim Fischer (CP, Sturt) also warned that a drought in NSW's rural areas would result in shortages on the domestic market.

Cattle numbers in Australia have decreased by more than five million in the past decade, reaching a low of 24.2 million last year.

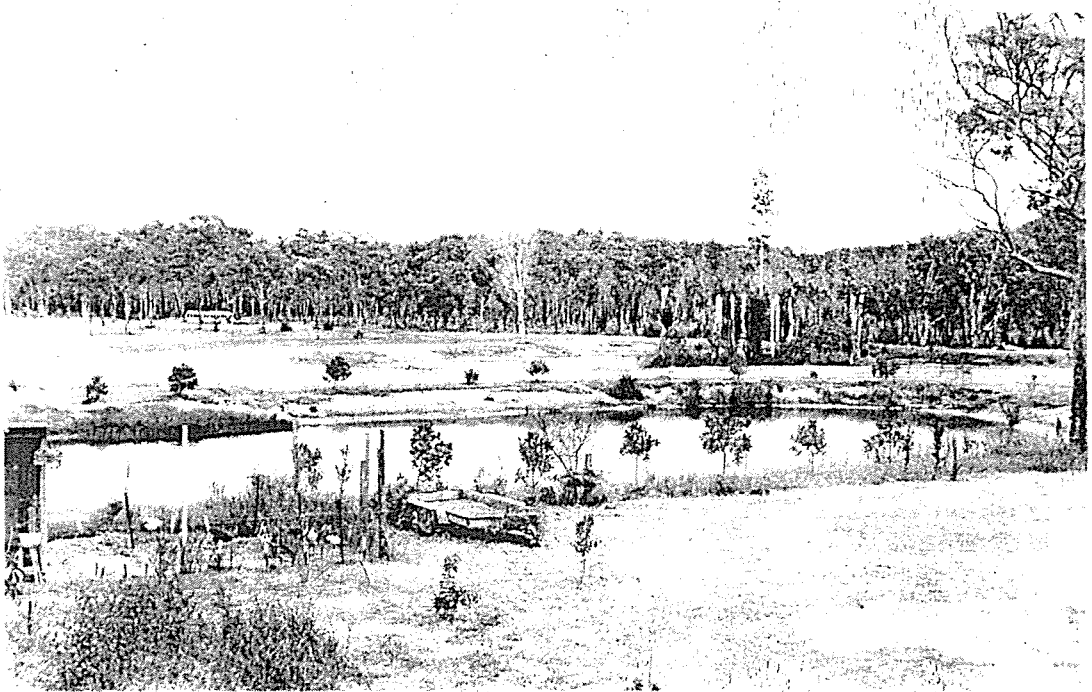
Mr Fischer said Australian cattle herds could only be expanded properly through quality as well as quantity.

"It is hoped that the existence of dry conditions in any parts of the State will not deter buyers and herd expansion," he said.

"Unless herds expand, particularly in strong breeds like poll herefords, there will certainly be meat shortages on the Australian domestic market."

However, now that the US market has opened up, cattlemen are beginning to build up their herds, which in turn is boosting stud sales.

"The renewed strength of President Carter's campaign for re-election in November is another strong point as his administration is virtually the first to stand up to the Texas cattle lobby and allow large-scale imports to the US," said Mr Fischer.



*The two water holes on Mr Reg Sonter's Land at Dunbogan. Reports on their suitability for drinking are expected from the Health Commission today.*

## TO CUT RED TAPE

A new national association has been formed to represent the interest of two-way radio users, mainly in dealings with Government. Organisers of ABIRA (Australian Business and Industrial Radio Association) say that the mobile radio industry is being frustrated by red tape and cite restrictions that, among other things, prevent transmitters communicating more than 32 kilometres. ABIRA's first objective is a reduction in licence fees which were doubled to \$50 per operating unit in the 1979 budget.



*Mr Glen Sonter tests the water in the largest water hole for drinking.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Council to Inspect New Bonny Hills Project

### "Might be a very big thing"

C.H. Courier  
27.6.58

An application before Council at the last meeting in Wauchope by a new company known as Bonny Hills Pty. Ltd., to take over responsibility for supplying water from a private water scheme at Bonny Hills to all land in a proposed subdivision of 14 acres, and also to take full responsibility for scavenging services to the camping ground on certain considerations, was a real "eyebrow raiser" for the meeting.

Stating that it was the company's intention to subdivide the 14 acres of land (recently purchased from the Bartlett family) adjoining the Bonny Hills Post Office Store into home and weekend sites, the application, signed by the proprietor, Mr. McKay of Sydney was cited by Cr. Hamey as "something to look into."

"This might be a very big thing," said Cr. Hamey.

A further application by Mr. F. Litchfield to act as caretaker for the camping area north of the town beach camping area, was also received at the meeting and it was agreed to make an inspection the following Monday.

Mr. McKay would be contacted and asked to meet Council on the spot.

Cr. Hamey said Council should investigate the new company, Bonny Hills Pty. Ltd., and ascertain its full plans for the area.

"We want to be sure of our moves," he said.

Cr. Warlters moved and Cr. Hamey seconded the motion calling for an inspection, which was subsequently carried.

The land referred to in the application by Bonny Hills Pty. Ltd. embraces what was formerly known as "Bartlett's farm", and has a frontage to Hill Street and the reserve above town beach. A private water supply from a catchment of 30,000 gallons at present feeds the reserve and nearby householders with fresh water.

A delightful panorama of the coastline and beaches can be seen from the land and the area is a sought-after spot by holiday home builders.

Toilets, showers and running water are at present supplied to the reserve and last Christmas over 70 campers spent the holidays there.

The road from the Pacific Highway is now practically complete to the Cathie turn-off and the remaining three miles right into Bonny Hills is at present being re-constructed.

The now right-angle bend at the junction of Bonny Hills, Cathie and the highway road is to be curved with a sweep from Cathie to Bonny Hills and the highway road to form the stem of a "T" junction.

It is expected that the new Bonny Hills - Cathie Highway roads will be completed within a few months.

## Water Scheme for Bonny Hills and Cathie

A proposal has been put forward by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. J. F. McGrath, for an extension to the present Camden Haven Water Scheme to serve Cathie and Bonny Hills.

To cost approximately £75,000 the new extension will operate through the existing pumping

source and as a result the operating costs will be increased only fractionally resulting in an estimated rate of £13 tenement (or service).

The Minister's figures of £13 do not taken into account any rating return on un-occupied blocks, which are at present paying £4/10/0.

According to figures released by the Minister, the land owners in Camden Haven water scheme area are at present paying on the basis of £15/10/0 per connection, split up so that a connected service pays £11 and a vacant block £4/10/0.

Council adopted the scheme on a motion by Cr. King and seconded by Cr. Ferrott, there being an amendment by Cr. Hamey to look into the economics of the scheme first, which was defeated by six votes to two.

The Minister stated in his letter which was directed to Mr. L. C. Jordan, M.L.A., that if acceptable, he was prepared to issue instruction for immediate action in the matter.

Fuller details of the scheme will be published in a later issue.

C.H. Courier  
24.10.58



• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 —

## SUPPLY DRYING UP

### HEAVIEST RESTRICTION MEASURES

By the end of the week, it is possible Council will have introduced the heaviest restriction measures in the history of the scheme.

"This will undoubtedly be a total ban on outside use of water. Pumps will have to be turned off and water usage restricted to certain hours of the day, for household purposes only," Mr. Russell said.

Council on Friday morning invoked new restrictions which allow outside use of water for one hour only each morning and evening.

"What we need now is more than a good shower," Mr. Russell quipped.

The Camden Haven scheme was established in 1959, with 30,000 gallon per hour capacity. The scheme can now deliver up to 80,000 gallons of water per hour.

It first supplied Kendall, Kew and Laurieton.

Subsequent augmentation works in 1961 reached Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie, and in 1968 Camden Head and Herons Creek were connected.

Average pumping totals 17 hours per day, however in peak supply, this has soared as high as 23 hours a day. Last August it reached 20 hours a day, said Council's water mechanic Max Wilkinson.

Demand has outstripped augmentation work undertaken by the Shire.

### SOURCE NOW INADEQUATE

The source is now recognised as inadequate by the Department of Public Works who have carried out survey drilling.

Augmentation work totalling millions of dollars is planned to commence in 1981.

There is a further problem on the horizon.

Sewerage works for the northern end of the supply area could possibly be implemented some time this year.

The Camden Haven River flows some 30 kilometres above Kendall through predominantly grazing country.

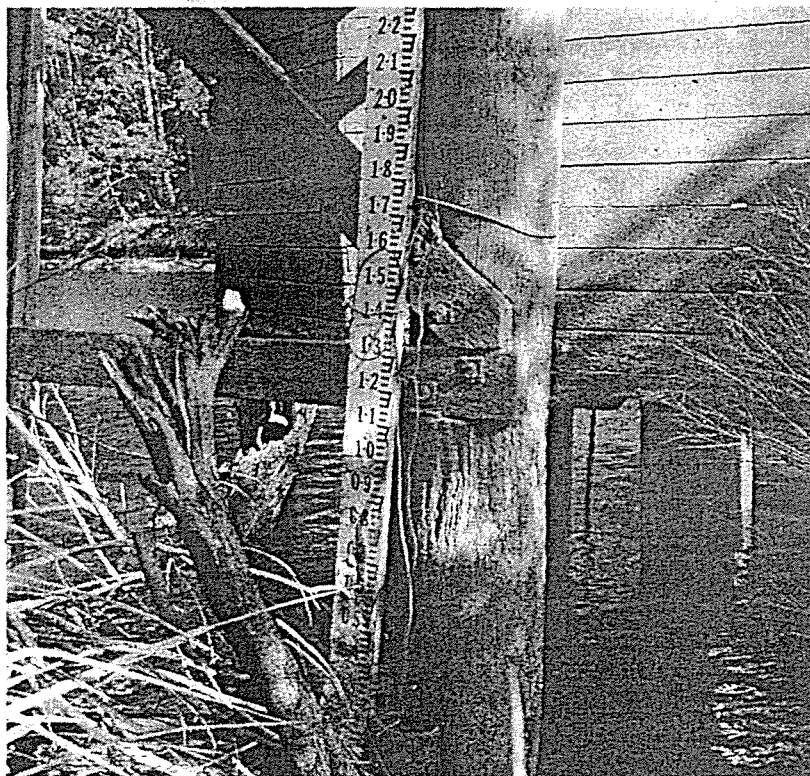
Farmers along the river front have ceased to irrigate, highlighting the lack of supply for stock, and pastures.

Water mechanic Max Wilkinson has walked many kilometres of the river bed in search of suitable alternative holes.

Tributaries such as Black Creek and Upsall's Creek have also been considered as Council weighed up steps which may or may not provide a compromise.

Meanwhile, Council officers continue to make a daily watch at the pumping station, and just as important, periodic testing for possible bacterial problems.

Council will also undergo patrols of the district to help ensure restriction directions are not abused.



A close-up Gazpic of the depth indicator at the pumping site. In normal times the level of water here usually flows above the 2.0m mark.

Hastings Shire Council

## WATER RESTRICTIONS —

### CAMDEN HAVEN WATER SCHEME

Owing to a continuing serious deterioration in the level of the Camden Haven River, further restrictions have now been imposed in the Camden Haven Water Supply area.

This area includes Kendall, Kew, Herons Creek, Laurieton, Dunbogan, Camden Head, North Haven, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie, North Lake Cathie and rural areas served by the main.

All uses of water are banned except for the household purposes of drinking, washing (personal, clothes, dishes and cooking utensils), cooking and toilet flushing.

These restrictions are applied by Council under the terms of Clause 67, Ordinance 45 of the Local Government Act, 1919, as amended and commence at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 6th March, 1980, until further notice.

The situation is critical and all consumers are requested to conserve water as much as possible.

Council will prosecute any person contravening the restrictions as described in the notice.

T. S. Gilbert,  
Shire Clerk.

## Cookies

### Commandments

Cr. Ray Cook offers these twelve suggestions as a means of conserving our dwindling water —

(1) Try a 90-sec. shower or 120-sec. at reduced volumes.

(2) If you have a bath, don't fill the tub.

(3) For valuable plants use a small tin of water for plants only — not the whole garden.

(4) Dishwashers, wait till you have a full load before operating. Same applies to clothes.

(5) Put a brick in the toilet cistern (most toilets overflush.

(6) Don't run the tap to clean your teeth; a glassful of water is just as effective.

(7) Hair wash when showering.

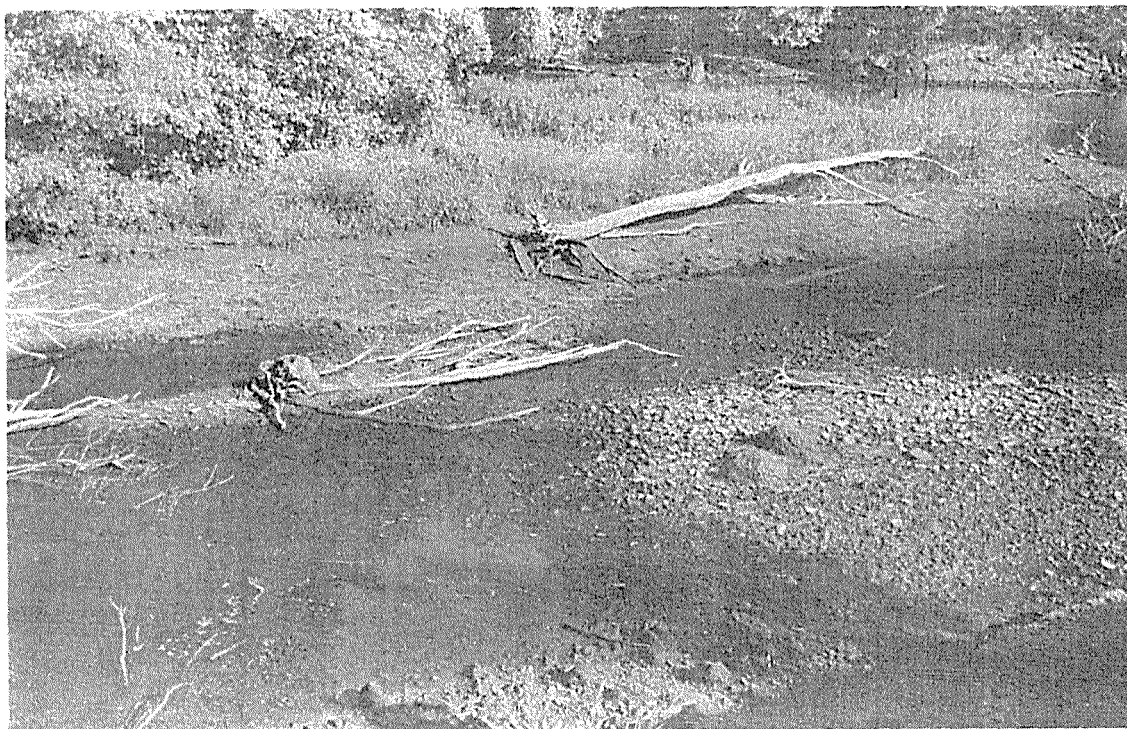
(8) Car wash, a bucket of water and a chamois is sufficient.

(9) Save the washing water for the garden or car wash.

(10) Clubs, turn off auto flush toilets at closing time.

(11) A sponge bath can be quite refreshing in times of water shortage.

(12) Pray like mad for rain!



► **SERIOUS WATER CRISIS:**

## CAMDEN HAVEN SUPPLY DRYING UP!

Over 4000 residents of the Camden Haven district and the Hastings Shire Council, the authority responsible for water supply, face the most serious crisis of the twenty-year history of the district scheme as the first week of March, 1980, draws to a close.

The Camden Haven River is virtually drying up and has ceased to flow several kilometres above the township of Kendall.

Last Friday, the seriousness of the water situation was emphasised by the Shire President Cr. Bill Poole and the senior Engineer to Council, Mr. Bill Russell, during an hour-long inspection of the river section which provides the source of the Camden Haven supply.

Described as having performed a wonderful job in the past twenty years, the section of the river from which the Council pumps its water to residents is rapidly drying up.

And this means a crisis for people living at Herons Creek, Kendall, Kew, Laurieton, Dunbogan, North Haven, Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie.

At a time when the Mid-North Coast generally, and in particular, the Camden Haven Valley, is facing the driest fourteen months on record, heat wave conditions over the past days since Friday have failed to bring any relief whatsoever.

By last Friday, the natural water hole, several kilometres up-river from Kendall, was dropping in volume at the rate of 12cm a day.

Where there is normally a stretch of water a kilometre long and 3 metres deep, the depth is now little more than 1.25 metres.

### SMALL CATCHMENT AREA

Nothing more than a trickle was running into this hole on Friday morning. The flow could not have been more than a few centimetres deep and of similar width.

Several factors have contributed to the crisis, according to Cr. Poole and Mr. Russell.

The Camden Haven catchment area, small in comparison to the Hastings, relies entirely on the rainfall over the eastern slopes of the Comboyne Plateau.

There has been only minimal falls during the past fourteen months, according to local recordings.

A second factor weighing heavily to the dilemma was the indiscriminate use of water by Camden Haven residents when water restrictions were eased early in February.

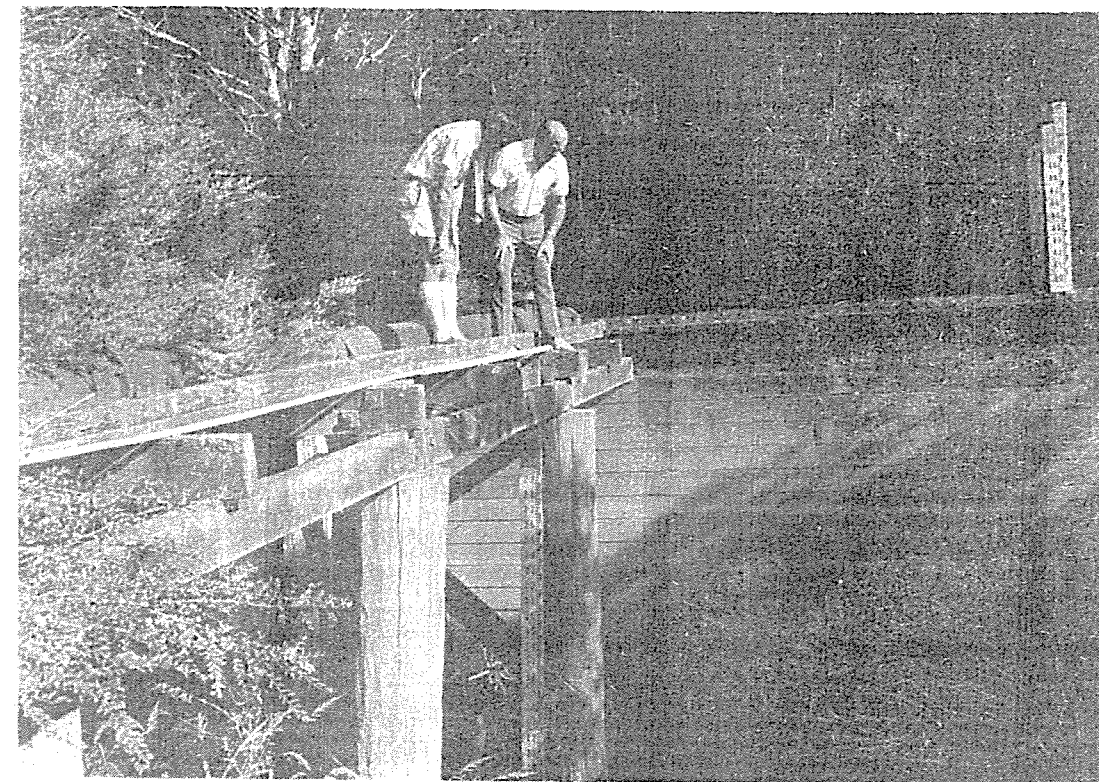
At that time almost 30cm (one foot) of water was flowing at Logan's Crossing, just below the supply area.

This practically dried up overnight, as residents plunged themselves into an overwhelming onslaught on the supply.

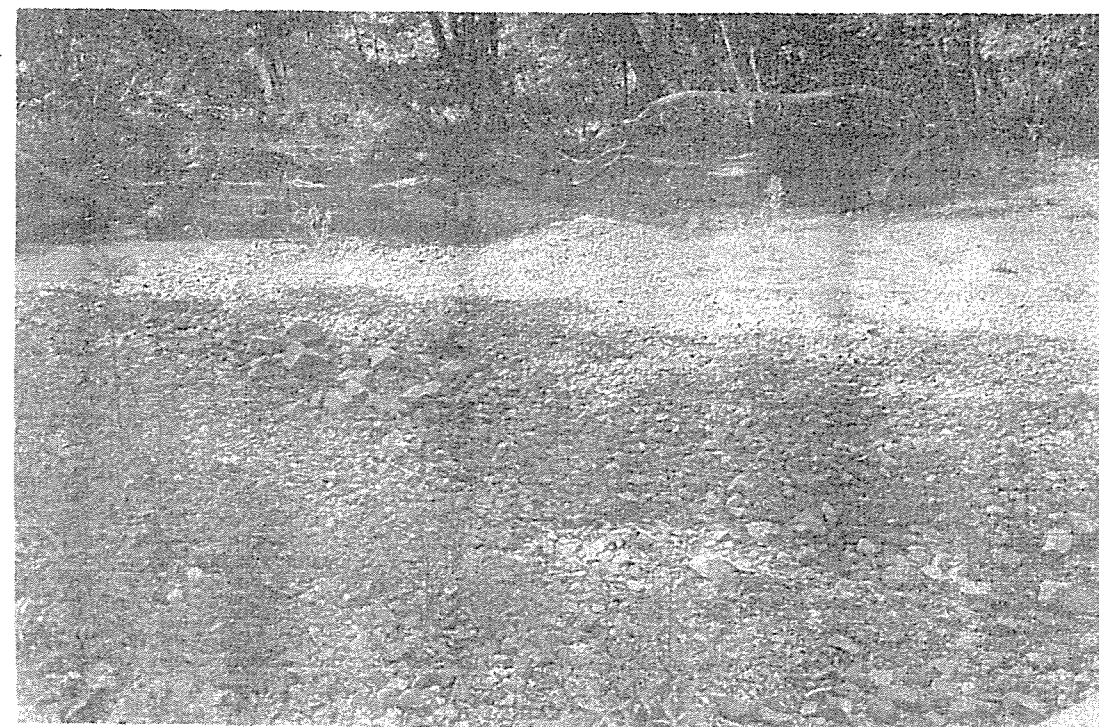
"There is no doubt the situation is desperate," Cr. Poole exclaimed as he surveyed the many dry patches of the river.

What faces the Council in the next few days is alarming for residents.

(Continued on page 2)



Shire Engineer Mr. Bill Russell and Shire President Cr. Bill Poole check the level of water at the suction mains adjacent the pumping station for Camden Haven water supply. The Council this week added a further four feet of pipe to the pump shaft to extend the period of supply. Centre: The dry river bed at Logan's Crossing where early in February a foot of water flowed. Below: The section of the river which feeds into the supply pond. Only the slightest trickle was flowing on Friday last.





C.H. Courier 7th Feb 1958

# GREATEST DAY IN HISTORY OF KENDALL

Perhaps the greatest day in Kendall's history, and indeed one of the greatest in Camden Haven, was the official opening and turning on of the Camden Haven Water Scheme at Kendall last Saturday, the 1st of February, 1958.

Over 400 people assembled at the C.W.A. centre to welcome the Minister for Public Works, the Honourable J. F. McGrath, M.L.A., together with the official party consisting of Councillors and members of Parliament.

Sweltering heat and humidity had no effect on the enthusiasm of the crowd when the honourable minister performed the opening ceremony.

Introduced by the president of the Hastings Shire, Cr. H. S. Bransdon, and supported by his deputy, Cr. Charles Hamey, Mr. McGrath said that at a cost of £168,000 the Camden Haven Water Scheme would provide a lasting benefit to that portion of the Shire so needing development of this kind, and was a credit to all concerned in that its inauguration was a tribute to the local Progress Associations, Councillors, and other bodies for their efforts to bring it about.

## LOCAL MEN PRAISED!

Mr. McGrath said that his Department's records showed that a Mr. Frank Macrae, as president of the Kendall Progress Association, together with Rev. J. Neville, were the first official inaugurators in 1945. Cr. Perrott and ex-Cr. Ostler's names were also imprinted on the scheme.

Feeding two reservoirs, one at Kendall of 400,000 gallons, and one at Laurieton of 250,000 gallons, the Camden Haven Water Scheme extended from Kendall to North Haven, Laurieton, Dunbogan and Kew, and it had been ascertained that the pumping site was capable of much greater capacity than required by the scheme in the midst of the recent drought, which meant that planning had provided for well into the future.

"Now that you have the water on," said Mr. McGrath, "your towns will flourish as never before because tourists who come from the city areas don't like to go where they cannot get the benefit of city amenities such as water and electricity. These

best wishes "for your future and prosperity of your district."

## WHATEVER ITS DEFECTS HERE IS A SCHEME!

Declaring that although there were the critics and the snipers who would pick flaws in anything that has been created for the benefit of the majority, at least today Camden Haven could throw out its chest and say: "Whatever defects it has — here is our water scheme," declared the honourable members for Oxley, Mr. L. C. Jordan, M.L.A., extending a welcome to Mr. McGrath in support of Councillors Bransdon and Hamey.

Mr. Jordan said it was not unique for this Government to subsidise country water schemes or any scheme of a reproductive nature—and this was one! Governments had done it since the beginning of time. However, he personally appreciated the endeavours of the honourable minister and his government to bring about the Camden Haven Water Scheme, and he had enjoyed the privilege of excellent co-operation from Jack McGrath at all times when he had a problem to solve.

## THEY TOLD THE ENGINEERS

Mr. Jordan said that, referring to Cr. Hamey's previous remarks that there were many who stood out in his mind who had been responsible for selecting the correct site—which was the present site of the pumping station. It had originally been planned that water was to be pumped from a site on the Camden Haven River near Logan's Crossing which in this last drought had practically dried up, yet is fell on the shoulders of Messrs. Reg Perrott and Lyle Flanagan to point out to the engineer a site 40-60 wide and at least 20 feet deep which would

# KENDALL'S GREAT DAY

(Continued from Page 1)

"It was on the 18th March, 1943," said Cr. Perrott, "that I moved in Council for a water scheme for Camden Haven. In this I was supported by Cr. Alf Ostler and others and later I was instrumental in picking the site for the pumping station. I showed the Public Works Engineer, Mr. Jamieson, what I considered the best pumping site—which is the present site—and I continued my efforts in Council and in public to maintain the interest in the scheme. After eight years of battling, the scheme was started and there are now only three councillors, including myself, who were in the chambers that day.

"I doubt very much if Mr. Jordan was in politics at the time I mentioned the water scheme," said Cr. Perrott, "and I have no hesitation in taking the credit for its birth. If anyone cares to look they will see the minute on the books where I moved for the establishment of a water scheme for Camden Haven," concluded Cr. Perrott.

Congratulating the Hastings Shire Council and the Camden Haven area on its great day, the honourable member for Lyne, Mr. Phil Lucock, MHR, said he had heard much about other needs in the district and he assured them that the greatest day in a politician's life would be when the electors told him they had everything they wanted and nothing more was needed!

But the element of desiring new development was always paramount in the best places and he congratulated the district on its foresighted policy.

Cr. Rose moved a vote of thanks to the ladies and added that he had been born not a mile from "this very spot." He was delighted to see Camden Haven with its own water scheme. It was one of the greatest developments the Hastings Shire Council had ever made!

Following the official ceremony, Mr. McGrath and his official party made a tour of North Haven and Bonny Hills, as temporary guests of the North Haven Urban Committee, directed by the Committee's Chairman, Mr. W. E. Taylor.

Mr. McGrath expressed agreeable surprise with the coastline from North Haven to Bonny Hills!

An inspection was made of Stingray Creek Bridge. The Hon. Minister said Mr. Bailey, of his department, was making a full report to him on various facts of the bridge in due course.