

**MUIRLEA CITATIONS**  
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Ipswich Water Supply Precinct

Waterworks Road

**Name** Ipswich Water Supply Reserve Precinct

**Former/Other Name** Ipswich Botanical Gardens and Mining Museum;  
Ipswich Waterworks

**Category** Historic industrial precinct

**Location** Waterworks Road, Kholo

**RPD** Reserve 1328, Portions 223, 241, 242, & 243, Par  
Chuwar, Co Stanley

**Local Authority** Ipswich City Council Reserve within the Moreton  
Shire Council area.

**AMG Map Sheet** SG 56-14, Ipswich           **Grid** MQ7645

**Present Tenure** Water Supply Reserve  
Ipswich City Council  
South Street, Ipswich Q 4305

**Listing Boundary** All land circumscribed in the accompanying plan.

**Other Listings** -

#### History

This site has a long history of human habitation. Aborigines camped here in pre-European and early European times. In 1828, Allan Cunningham reported on the coal seams exposed in the steep bank of the Brisbane River at this point (Waterworks Seam). Several quarries have been established on the site and the first Queensland pumping station for water was constructed at this point.

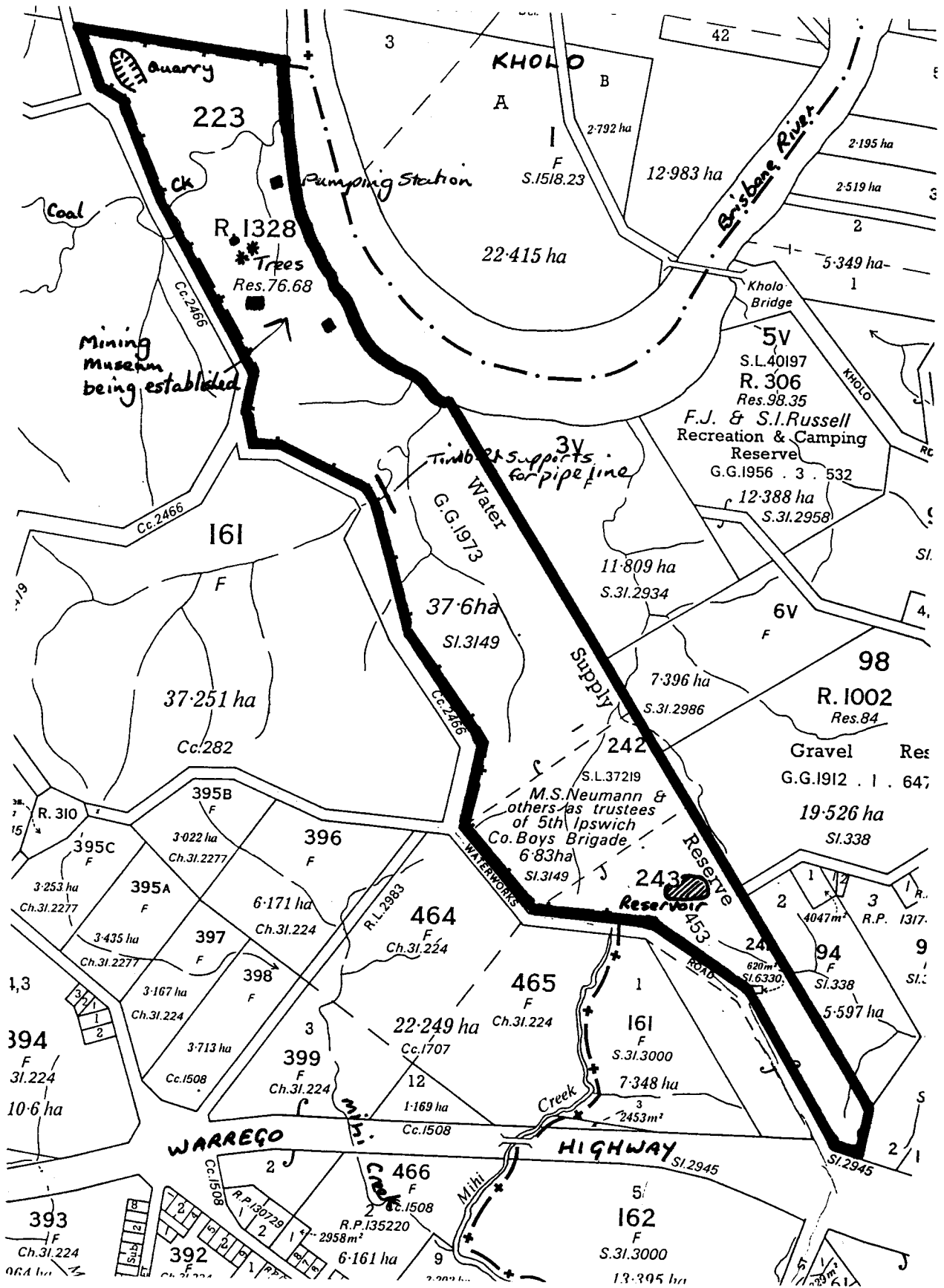
In the early days of Ipswich, water was supplied by water cart from the Bremer River. Later the Central Gardens ("Old Pump Yard" fresh water springs) was established where the RSL and Technical College now stand. With the growth of the town, negotiations were undertaken in the 1870s to provide a reticulated water supply for Ipswich. A plan to pump water from the Brisbane River was approved by the Queensland Government and the scheme was completed and handed over to the Ipswich Council on 31 August 1878. The scheme consisted of a pumping station on the river near Coal Creek, a service reservoir on the summit of a ridge about 800 m from the Brisbane River and a main supply line crossing the Bremer River near its junction with Mihi Creek and then traversing Woodend Road. The official opening of the waterworks and water supply was celebrated in February 1879. The machinery was from Appleby Bros. of London, shipped out on the "Blenheim". The reservoir capacity was 570 000 gallons.

In 1906 a new reservoir with an increased capacity of 2,383,030 gallons was constructed on exactly the same site as the old one. Its dimensions were 240 x 225 feet and it was constructed by day labour. It was officially opened 27 January 1907 and is still in use today. In 1920 the Ipswich City Council entered into agreement with the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for the supply of water to Ipswich and a main was constructed from Mount Crosby to the existing reservoir and thence to the existing main pipe into Ipswich. The pumping station at Kholo was then closed. This site is now developed as the Ipswich Botanical Gardens and Mining Museum where buildings and equipment from the mining heritage of the Ipswich area will be on display for the community.

#### Description

This precinct includes many items of heritage significance. There is evidence of Aboriginal occupation of this site. On the steep river bank there are outcrops of the Waterworks Coal Seam reported on in 1828 by Allan Cunningham. The Waterworks Seam was not of great commercial value as its ash content was too great.

There are the inlet works for the pumping station on the river bank in the north of the reserve. The supply was obtained by sinking a well and connecting it to the river by a tunnel. Two wells in excess of 30 m depth



Source: Cadastral Map Sheet 9442-412 Standard Edition. Scale 1:10 000. North to top of map.