

UPPER CANAL (THE WATER RACE)

Generally following western boundary of Local Government Area.

A series of tunnels and canals, built between 1880 & 1888.



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

A system of tunnels, aqueducts and open canals collectively known as the Upper Canal, which enable water diverted through the Nepean Tunnel to flow a distance of 64 km to the major distribution reservoir at Prospect. It has a capacity of 680 megalitres per day and in addition to supplying water to Prospect Reservoir, also provides supply to a number of localities en route.

The canals are lined for most part with dry rubble masonry; elsewhere with concrete or rubble cement.

Built in 1880-88 after more than a decade of investigation into schemes to provide Sydney's fourth source of water supply.

CONDITION AND USE:

Still in good condition and used for its original purpose.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The Upper canal has historic and architectural significance
- An early water supply scheme, still valuable to Sydney. Recognized as a Heritage item by the Water Board.

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: LEP 193

STATE: *Macarthur Regional Heritage Study:* Map 5, No. 125

National Trust (NSW): Classified

NSW Heritage Act 1977: Listed under the Act – although not on the State Heritage Register