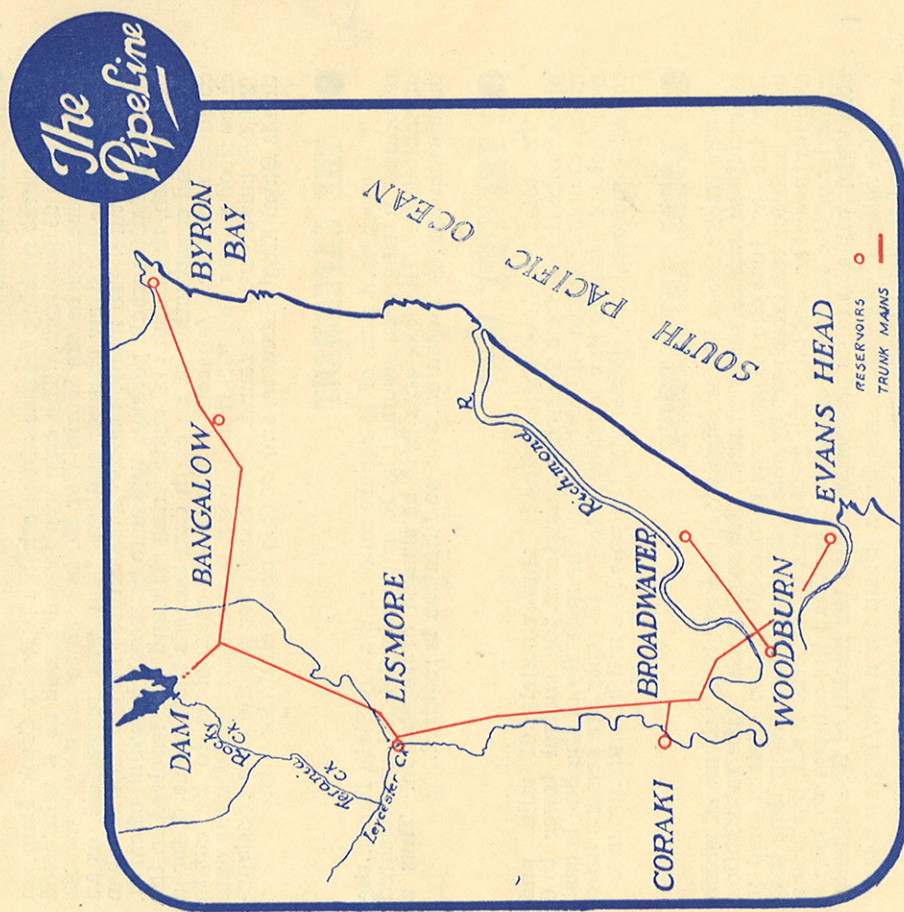
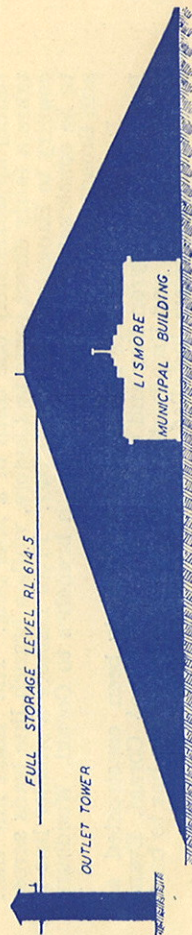


Height of Dam 90 feet.
 Length of Dam 670 feet.
 Earth in Wall 200,000 cubic yards.
 Full Supply Above Sea Level 614.5 feet.
 Storage 3,000 million galls.
 Catchment Area 11.2 square miles.
 Lake Area 3 square mile.
 Population Served 25,000.

The Dam



NORTHERN STAR PRINT, LISMORE

WATER

AN ACCOUNT OF

THE ROCKY CREEK WATER SCHEME

ISSUED BY

THE ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

AT THE

COMMONWEALTH JUBILEE NTH. COAST NATIONAL EXHIBITION

OCTOBER 1951

ENGINEERING

A dam is being constructed across Rocky Creek to store water during dry years. The lake which will form behind the dam will be about one and a half miles long and will hold 3,000 million gallons, which is about 5 years' supply for the present population to be served. The dam is about 600 feet above sea level, which is high enough to enable water to be run by gravity to all the towns to be served. About half a mile from the dam, a control tower is at present being built. The tower is a reinforced concrete structure with its base near the bottom of the future lake and fitted with valves which will enable water to be drawn from various levels so that the freshest water can be used. The pipe line commences at the tower and is led through a tunnel approximately one third of a mile long. The main line then takes a fairly direct route to Lismore, while a branch line leads across country to Bangalow and Byron Bay. From Lismore a smaller line is to be constructed to Evans Head with branches to Coraki, Woodburn and Broadwater.

Reinforced concrete reservoirs have already been constructed at Bangalow and Byron Bay and others are to be built at Coraki, Evans Head, Woodburn and Broadwater, and each of these towns has to have a distribution system installed.

THE DAM

The most striking feature of the scheme is Rocky Creek Dam, an earth dam 90 feet high. The dam was first designed as a reinforced concrete structure before World War II., but since then earthworks have become relatively cheaper and the dam was redesigned as an earth structure. To many, the term "structure" may seem odd when speaking of what would perhaps appear to be merely a mound of earth, but in truth, the amount of engineering skill and care involved in the design and construction of an earth dam exceeds that required for a concrete structure. Adjacent to the dam a channel is to be cut to carry flood waters and it is from this cut that the material for the dam (200,000 cubic yards) is found. The contractor for the dam construction is Dayal Singh, Lismore, and work is now well under way.

THE CATCHMENT

The catchment area of 11 square miles is mainly State forest, the remainder having been resumed by Rous County Council and cleared of habitation. The lake area is to be cleared of vegetation. Thus a pure water supply is assured, and no filtration is required.

THE PIPE LINE

The total length of the pipeline is approximately 61 miles and pipes range in size from 24 inches diameter at the control tower to 6 inches diameter at the end of the line. The majority of the line is cast iron, but the Lismore line is mainly steel. All pipes are cement lined to resist encrustation. Generally, the pipe line will be underground.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE

The Rocky Creek Water Supply Scheme will be a scheme of which every citizen can be justly proud. Citizens should take satisfaction from the fact that the scheme was pioneered in the district and is being built for the most part by able local contractors. Every time that a tap is turned on, not only will good clean water issue forth, but also a reminder of the enterprise of a district that had the courage to take a step which will add to its prosperity and to the health of its residents.

This scheme, which was once but a dream for a few, is now nearly a practical reality for all.

HISTORY

The history of the Rocky Creek Water Supply Scheme can be traced to the 1880's, and in 1891 the area was proclaimed a water reserve. In 1935, after several setbacks, Alderman R. Kellas, Mayor of Lismore, was instrumental in obtaining the approval of Mr. Spooner, Minister for Public Works, for investigations to be carried out. In 1937, at the request of Lismore City Council, Messrs. Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey, Consulting Engineers, investigated the proposal and reported favourably following which Mr. S. J. Hosie, former Mayor of Lismore, carried out extensive surveys covering the catchment area, dam site, pipe lines, and reservoir sites.

ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

Rous County Council was constituted in 1940 and authorised by the State Government to expend money for the purpose of investigating a scheme for supplying Lismore, Byron Bay and Bangalow and possibly other towns with water drawn from Rocky Creek.

The first Chairman was Dr. R. Kellas, who was succeeded by Alderman R. Granger in 1948, and the present Chairman is Councillor E. W. Hatfield. Throughout the entire period, the County Clerk has been Mr. L. Allan, also Town Clerk for Lismore City. When first formed, Lismore City and Byron Shire were the only constituents, but in 1950 Woodburn Shire became also a constituent member.

Rous County Council engaged Messrs. Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey as their Consulting Engineers to report further on the scheme and it soon became evident that a very satisfactory water supply could economically be given to Lismore, Byron Bay, Bangalow, and also Evans Head, Woodburn, Broadwater and Coraki, and Council then instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare designs for a scheme to supply these towns. Rous County Council is to supply water in bulk to Lismore City, Byron Shire and Woodburn Shire, who are to construct their own reservoirs and instal their own distribution systems.

The total estimated cost of the scheme is £500,000 and to date Rous County Council has expended approximately £150,000, as set out below:—

Resumptions	£20,000
Pipe-line	£40,000
Dam	£60,000
Control Tower	£5,000
Tunnel	£15,000
Administration & Miscellaneous	£10,000
	<hr/>
	£150,000

Actual cost £1,200,000.

