

As early as the 1880s, water was pumped from the Blue Lake in Mount Gambier to supply this expanding regional centre. Over time, other communities in the South East including Penola, Millicent, Bordertown, Kingston and Naracoorte were provided with water from underground supplies. Much later, in the 1960s, a pipeline was constructed from the River Murray to supply the upper South East region with water.

# WATER FOR THE SOUTH EAST

## SA WATER - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



150 YEARS  
120 YEARS

The official opening of the Naracoorte water supply by the Commissioner of Public Works Mr M McIntosh. 26 April 1940.

SA Water Collection

# WATER FOR THE SOUTH EAST

## SA WATER - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

The history of SA Water's involvement in supplying water to the South East region dates back to the early 1880s.

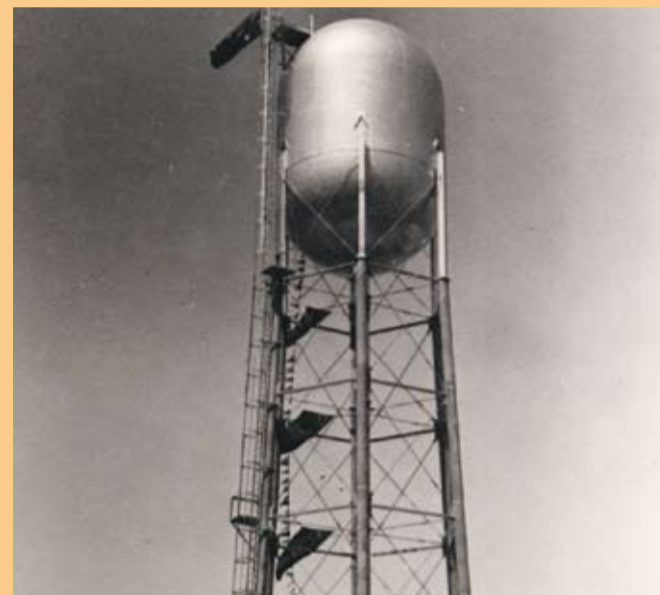
Unlike other areas in South Australia, the region's rainfall is comparatively high, ranging from 400mm at Bordertown to 800mm at Mount Gambier. Despite the relatively high rainfall, the region has no substantial reservoirs because of its flat topography.

In the 1880s a steam pumping plant was installed at the Blue Lake in Mount Gambier to supply reticulated water to the township. The Blue Lake has since become a popular tourist destination and its water continues to supply the Mount Gambier area.

Underground water supplies some of the other towns in the South East region such as Penola, Millicent, Bordertown, Kingston and Naracoorte.

The flat landscape means that water is pumped into elevated tanks providing the necessary pressure to force water through pipes and into homes and businesses.

In the upper South East region underground water supplies are highly saline so water to this area is supplied from the River Murray via the Taillem Bend-Keith pipeline. Construction of the 137 kilometre pipeline began in 1964 and took five years to complete.



**Above - Taillem Bend-Keith Pipeline.**  
21" MSCL pipe, looking West from near Sugarloaf Hill.  
July 1969.

**Above - Visitors and workmen at the site of a large waterworks tank at Mount Gambier. 1905.**  
Ref: PRG 280/1/2/356  
Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia

**Top - Port MacDonnell Water Supply.**  
Port MacDonnell 60,000 gallon elevated tank.  
Opening day, looking East.  
22 January 1953.

**Above - The Blue Lake, Mount Gambier. 1896.**  
Ref: PRG 280/1/2/456  
Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia