


A history of Mount Crosby

The Mount Crosby Water Treatment Plants are a critical part of the SEQ Water Grid and supply about 50 per cent of South East Queensland's drinking water, including the cities of Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan.

The Mount Crosby site has played a significant role in the history of South East Queensland and has been pivotal in providing a safe and reliable water source to generations.

2016
Seqwater commissioned the Brisbane River Flood Catchment Study and identified the need for a number of improvements at the East Bank Pump Station site.




1986
The first stage of a new water-treatment plant was commissioned on the West Bank at Mount Crosby.

1980s, 70s & 80s
The demand for water rose considerably, and a second intake to the river was constructed.

1980
A further damming within the Brisbane River catchment, this time at Wivenhoe, was approved.

1928
Responsibility for the waterworks was transferred in 1928 from the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to Brisbane City Council, where it was administered by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage.




1922
A pipeline was laid to provide water to Ipswich.

1912
Work to what is now known as the Lake Manchester Dam commenced. It took five years after completion to fill with water.

1892
The Mount Crosby water scheme began operation. The station was handed over to the Brisbane Board of Waterworks and began pumping water to Brisbane at some 9 million gallons per day.
Shortly after this, the Board received a letter from the Central Board of Health indicating the water was "quite unfit for either domestic or economic purposes." Engineer, Alexander Stewart and his successor, H.G Foster Barham, began investigating processes for improving quality.


1890
The Brisbane Board of Waterworks started constructing a water supply scheme at Mount Crosby comprising a substantial pumping station, hilltop reservoir and a pipeline linking the new supply to mains exiting Gold Creek and Enoggera reservoirs.



1880s
Brisbane's urban growth was outstripping the water supplied from Enoggera and Gold Creeks.


1882
The primary school at Mount Crosby was opened as a Provisional School with an enrolment of 22 pupils. The first Head Teacher of the school was Arthur Leigh.

1824
John Oxley, Surveyor General and explorer of Australia in the early period of British colonisation, ascends Mount Crosby during an exploration of Brisbane.




1915-1920
Mount Crosby's operational expansion (with treatment capability) commenced, which took five years to complete. The expansion led to a considerable increase in the size of staff, resulting in more houses being built in the area.

1925-1927
Three more triple-expansion steam pumps were added to the pumping station. A new bridge and concrete weir were constructed. Continuous chlorination of the purified water was introduced.




1945-1950
Following the decision to electrify the treatment plant, an extensive redevelopment and refurbishment of the whole complex took place. Rapid filters were constructed at "Low Level" near the original sedimentation basin on the side of Mount Crosby, which made the earlier slow sand filters at Holts Hill redundant. A further six cottages were constructed on Brisbane City Council land to accommodate the workforce.



1910
Allan Hazen, a consulting engineer from New York recommended a water purification plant be installed, which was accepted by the Board.

1890
The Works Hill houses were constructed.



1889
Legislation was enacted permitting the city of Brisbane to draw water from the upper reaches of the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby.

1882
The Mount Crosby postal receiving office opened at the School.

1850s
European settlement began during this era, intensifying from the 1870s onwards.

? Where did the name Mount Crosby originate from?
It is unconfirmed where the name Mount Crosby was derived from. It could possibly be from 'Crosbie' on the England-Scotland border or named after gold prospector, George Crosby. Another possibility is that it is a shortening of the very early locality name Comprossonby (or sometimes Compassemby) that applied to a now indistinct area somewhere between Kholo and Ugly Creek. 'Mount Crosby' was first used about 1870.