

From creek water to treated drinking water - a timeline of Wunghnu's water supply

1905	2 October – After much deliberation, because of cost, Numurkah Waterworks Trust called for tenders to construct a cast-iron water tank supported by either brick or timber.
	11 October– John Monash submits an alternative design to the brick and cast-iron tower specified in the tender – one of reinforced concrete. He supported his design by explaining there are several successful examples in Australia. This tower is significantly cheaper than the one made of brick/timber and cast iron.
	15 November - Numurkah Waterworks Trust secretary writes to John Monash informing him of the acceptance of his tender and requests detailed specifications.
	2 December – Specifications received and draft contract sent to Monash.
	8 December - Letter to Monash from Meldrum requesting the addition of a steel ladder to access the standpipe.
	15 December – The Numurkah Waterworks Trust and Monier Pipe Company enter into contract for the construction of the tower. Contract includes guarantee that the Monier Pipe Company will take responsibility for any liabilities or required repairs for 12 months.
1906	17 January – Monash travels to Wunghnu to inspect the site.
	30 January - Concrete for the foundations is finished. It is 3 feet deep and is 1 part cement and three parts sand. Tom McCartney is the contractor.
	26 February – a letter is sent to Monash from James Meldrum about the works progress.
	9 March – Letter from McCartney to Monash that works would be finished that night. Trust engineer, Mr. Meldrum, visited the site and requested a wheel on the ladder to show water height.
	7 March– Official opening of the Wunghnu reticulation scheme. The tower was not yet filled due to lack of rain.
	10-14 May - tower filled from the reservoir in the Nine Mile Creek and officially opened.
	30 May – Meldrum writes to Monash that the tank is leaking a bit and a drain is created at the base to let water out from the foundations.
	3 August – Meldrum writes to Monash to notify him about the tower sweating and a jet of water 30 feet up.
1907	3 January – A request from Trust engineer is sent to Monash regarding repairs to two defects that he received – a pin hole 30 feet from the ground and porosity of the concrete near the junction of the top two tiers of the tower
1948	December – Wunghnu Progress Association requests the tower to be cleaned out.

Wunghnu water tower



1950	New asbestos cement water mains installed in town to replace original cast iron ones.
1980	Feeder water main from Numurkah commissioned, bringing treated drinking water to Wunghnu. Water was delivered to the water tower and through the 1950 reticulation network.
1983	20 September – Moira Shire Council constituted as a water authority, successor of Shire of Numurkah.
1990	New elevated tank and clear water storage built at 8 Carlisle St. Concrete water tower taken offline.
1994	1 December - Goulburn Valley Water assumes responsibility for the Wunghnu Urban Water District from Moira Shire Council.
1995	Goulburn Valley Water manages Wunghnu's water supply but not upkeep of tower. As it was not operational at the time of assuming responsibility (1994), it was not considered to be part of the Wunghnu system. It was deemed to be owned by Moira Shire.
1997	Water main duplicated and extended down Carlisle St
2014	An internal query was raised regarding ownership of the tower.
2015	Communication with Laurie Kennedy of the Wunghnu Advancement Group stated unclear ownership with Goulburn Valley Water not taking responsibility for the tower.
2021	Moira Shire raised a query regarding ownership of the tower. Ownership was not confirmed either way.
2023	Goulburn Valley Water assumes responsibility for the ownership of the tower and commences long-term planning, including structural inspections that identify loose concrete. Temporary fencing is installed for public safety.
2024	Structural condition assessment and remediation options feasibility reports are completed.
	17 October – First nomination of tower to Victorian Heritage Register.
2025	March – Detailed structural report completed.
	October – Heritage consultant engaged by Goulburn Valley Water to better understand the significance of the tower.
	17 December – Second nomination of tower to Victorian Heritage Register.
2026	January – Goulburn Valley Water meets with Heritage Victoria to discuss the nominations and provide additional historical and structural information.
	13 May – Wunghnu Tower Community Reference Group brought together for first meeting.