**Essays on Mount Crosby - Kholo Waterworks 1878**

You could be excused for thinking that Mount Crosby pumping station was the first to pump water from the Brisbane River to a man-made reservoir, but actually the Ipswich City Council pioneered this supply model when, in 1878, they constructed the Kholo pumping station on what is today's Kholo Botanical Gardens. At first, the concept of pumping water from the river to the top of a hill so that it could later gravitate to customers was considered an outrageous waste of energy (coal), but Ipswich had no mountains upon which to build the usual type of supply (which was a dam in the mountains that could collect the clear mountain water and later allow it to gravitate to the city without pumping). After exploiting Enoggera Creek and Gold Creek in the old way, the Brisbane Board of Waterworks found that it too was short of suitable mountains - and their next option was the Mount Crosby pumping station.

The Kholo pumping station wasn't exactly a roaring success, but it did show everyone the future. Fourteen years later, the problems experienced at Kholo were avoided when the Mount Crosby pumping station was constructed on a much larger and durable scale.

As an interesting sideline, the trees planted at Kholo at the time pumping commenced (1878) are, of course, now known to be 135 years old. They form the most eye-catching features of the botanical gardens and include some very large hoop pines and Queensland kauri. A worthy destination for a nearby weekend picnic.

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