

WADDAMANA A POWER STATION NATIONAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

Location: At Waddamana in the central highlands.

Owner: Hydro Tasmania.

The two plaques are located at the entrance to the power station.

The scheme

Water released from the Great Lake flowed down the Shannon River to the Waddamana Canal intake.

The canal carried the water to Penstock Lagoon where it entered a woodstave pipeline leading to steel penstocks and the power station.

An 88 kV transmission line carried the power to Hobart.

Sir John Henry Butters (1885-1969)

Butters gained his engineering degree in Southampton. He began work with Siemens Bros, but resigned in 1911 to become Engineer-in-Chief and Manager of the Great Lake Hydro-Electric Project. He continued in that position when the Government bought the company in 1914 and formed it into the Hydro-Electric Department.

Butters oversaw the early years of investigation of Tasmania's water resources for hydro-electric development, including the planning, construction, commissioning and expansion of the Waddamana scheme. He managed electricity supply contracts with the Electrolytic Zinc Company and the Electrona Carbide Works.

Butters resigned in 1924 and became Chairman of the Federal Capital Commission until 1929.



Waddamana A Power Station in 1922

WADDAMANA A POWER STATION

Waddamana A was the first major hydro-electric power station in Australia. Commenced in 1911, the first stage of 7 megawatts was in service in 1916, increasing to 49 megawatts on completion in 1923. It was closed in 1965. The power station was part of an hydro-electric development of international significance and was the major engineering achievement of (Sir) John Butters FIEAust. It harnessed the water resources of the Great Lake for community benefit and stimulated industrial development in Tasmania.

Dedicated by
The Institution of Engineers, Australia, 1995

He was President of the Institution of Engineers, Australia in 1929. Later he operated a consulting engineering practice in Sydney until about 1954.

Museum

Waddamana A Power Station is now a museum open to the public. All the original equipment is on display plus some additional historic items.

A mothballed second station, Waddamana B, is alongside.