

Development of Local Catchments

Protected Catchments

The first three reservoirs in Singapore were MacRitchie Reservoir, Peirce Reservoir and Seletar Reservoir. All three are located in protected catchments where major development is not allowed such that they are left in their natural states as far as possible.

In 1971, a Water Planning Unit was set up under the Prime Minister's Office to study the scope and feasibility of new conventional water sources such as harnessing yield from unprotected catchments and unconventional water sources such as water reuse and desalination. The Water Master Plan was drawn up in 1972 and it served as the blueprint to guide the long-term development of water resources in Singapore.

Unprotected Catchments

Advancements in water treatment technologies have made it possible for water from unprotected catchments to be collected and treated for potable use. Although developments are allowed in unprotected catchments, the type of developments is limited to residential developments and non – pollutive industries. In addition, stringent pollution control is required. Industries that involve toxic and hazardous substances are not allowed within both protected and unprotected catchments.

The catchments of Pandan, Bedok, Lower Seletar, Marina, Punggol and Serangoon Reservoirs are examples of unprotected catchments.

Source: Clean, Green and Blue – Singapore's Journey Towards Environmental and Water Sustainability.

