

Maryborough's WATER STORAGES



Mary River Catchment



Tinana Creek Catchment



MARY RIVER

The Mary River catchment covers an area of 9,595km² as it extends through the Fraser Coast, Gympie and Sunshine Coast. Tinana Creek is a tributary of the Mary River located in the eastern zone of the Mary River catchment.

The catchment rises in the Conondale Range, near Maleny in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast and flows to the Great Sandy Strait at River Heads, passing through urban centres at Kenilworth, Gympie, Tiaro and Maryborough. The Mary River has several major tributaries including Obi Obi, Yabba, Little Yabba, Six Mile, Amamoor, Kandanga, Tinana, Deep, Munna and Wide Bay creeks.

The Mary River itself is 310km long and water quality varies from fresh through to saline in the estuarine areas where the river meets the Great Sandy Strait behind Fraser Island.

TINANA CREEK

The Tinana Creek catchment is located 12km south of Maryborough and covers an approximate area of 1,190km².

The catchment of Tinana Creek is almost evenly split between the jurisdictions of Gympie Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council.

The Tinana Creek catchment is generally undulating to hilly, except for the mountainous headwater reaches in the Tagigan Range and on the slopes of other peaks such as Mt Goomboorian.

The geology of the catchment consists of extensive deposits of quaternary alluvial soils within the creek valley, and tertiary and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks.

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WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:

MARY RIVER

Wide Bay Water Corporation draws water directly from the Mary River at Tiaro for town water supply. Supply can be impacted by the river flow and the impact of storages.

There are three major irrigation schemes in the Mary River catchment:

- Mary Valley Irrigation Project,
- Lower Mary River Irrigation Area, and
- Deep Creek Project Area.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:

TINANA CREEK

Water infrastructure on Tinana Creek includes the Tinana barrage, Teddington Weir and Tallegalla.

Tinana barrage is located downstream of Teddington.

Tallegalla Weir holds 400 megalitres of water and was built as a water supply for Maryborough. Tallegalla is now a back-up storage for Teddington Weir during drought.

Teddington Weir was built in 1875 and has been reconstructed twice since, the most recent work being in 1975. It holds 3,500 megalitres and is the main water storage for Maryborough. WBWC draws raw water from Tinana Creek at Teddington Weir.



Teddington Weir on Tinana Creek

CLIMATOLOGY

The climate of the Mary River catchment including Tinana Creek varies from moist subtropical in the coastal and southern zone to dry subtropical in the western zone. Temperatures are mild with average maximums ranging from 20 - 30°C and minimums ranging from 5 - 20°C.

The Mary River catchment is affected by northern monsoons and to a lesser extent by southern winter weather patterns.

Summer rains are generally high intensity, are associated with thunderstorm activity, monsoon troughs or tropical cyclones and often result in destructive flooding. Rainfall patterns for the catchment are typical of a subtropical environment with highest rainfall falling in the summer and autumn months. Mean annual rainfall recorded in Maryborough from 140 years of data is 1,149mm.

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WATER QUALITY

The quality of water in the storages is impacted by land use and other activities that occur in the catchment. Monitoring of raw water quality in the Mary River and Tinana Creek has focussed on raw water quality relevant to WBWC's water treatment requirements. Surface water samples of temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, hardness and pH are conducted weekly by WBWC. Blue-green algae is also regularly monitored at both intake points. Quantity data is also routinely monitored, including rainfall, flow and level. Catchment inspections (including weed inspections) are conducted.