

## Article Title

# Catching the rain

Two of CPG Consultants' projects, the Sengkang Floating Island and Lorong Halus Wetland, have been mentioned in *The Sunday Times* on 3 July 2011.

It was reported that Singapore is prepared to meet the country's water needs over the next 50 years with its Four National Taps supply system; one of its sources being rainwater from local catchment. The strategy for this has been to create estuarine reservoirs by damming major rivers, maximising the amount of rainwater; resolving Singapore's issue of limited land to capture and store rainwater.

Punggol and Serangoon Reservoirs, the latest in Singapore's network of 17 reservoirs, were formed by damming the mouths of Sungei Punggol and Sungei Serangoon. These two reservoirs, together with Marina Reservoir, increase the water catchment to two thirds of Singapore's land area.

According to Mr Khoo Teng Chye, chief executive of PUB, Singapore's national water agency, the catchments must be kept free from litter, as rain that falls onto the catchment will flow and carry the litter into the reservoirs. This is important, as part of PUB's Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) programme, reservoirs have been opened up for recreational activities such as canoeing and kayaking to encourage people to do their part to conserve and value Singapore's water resource.

The Sengkang Wetland in Punggol and Lorong Halus Wetland in Serangoon Reservoir are two such signature ABC Waters projects that have transformed the urban environment, creating hotspots for recreation and community bonding in the area. The Sengkang Floating Wetland also helps improve water quality and provides a natural habitat for birds and fishes, and Lorong Halus Wetland treats leachate from the former landfill and provides a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife.

The news article "Catching the rain" also highlights the rest of the Four National Taps plan and other ABC Water sites.

Source: Ahmad Osman. "Catching the rain" *The Sunday Times*. 3 July 2011: pg17-19.