

## The Clean-up of Singapore River

### In the 1970s

The Singapore River meanders through the heart of the Central Business District. Bustling with activities, the river today is a far cry from what it was in the 1970s. Back then, the river was so polluted that little aquatic life could live in it.



### Sources of Pollution

After World War II, people struggled to make ends meet. The banks of Singapore River were a hub of trade and industry. Industrial enterprises flourished along the waterfront. There were cargo transfers, boatyards, squatter settlements, street hawkers and even thriving farms. The Singapore River was suffocated by all the pollutants flowing into it.

### River Clean-up

From 1977 to 1987, there was a multi-agency effort to clean up the Singapore River. Dumping of waste and used water from industries located near the river was eliminated. Rubbish was removed from the river and the riverbed was dredged.

### Paving the Way for Marina Barrage

Built across the mouth of Marina Channel, Marina Barrage created Singapore's 15th reservoir, the first in the heart of the city. With a catchment area of 10,000 hectares, Marina catchment is the island's largest and most urbanised catchment.

Building the Barrage is one of PUB's most challenging reservoir projects as the Marina Basin is fed by five rivers that run through the heart of Singapore. The clean-up of Singapore River has made this a reality.

For more information about Marina Barrage, please refer to <https://www.pub.gov.sg/marinabarrage/aboutmarinabarrage>