Construction of the Lower Steenbras Dam commenced in 1918 and was completed three years later. The Steenbras scheme could supply Cape Town with up to 42 million litres of water per day. The water demand for the city at that time was 29 million litres per day. The demand however grew rapidly and in 1928 the wall was raised.

The Steenbras Upper Dam was completed in 1977 with almost the same capacity as the Steenbras Lower Dam. In addition to storing water, the Steenbras Upper Dam is also used to generate electricity. It is the upper reservoir of the Steenbras pumped storage scheme of the City of Cape Town. The lower reservoir is just North of Gordons Bay, about 300 m lower. The pump storage scheme generates electricity (gravity flow via turbines) during peak demand hours and during the night the turbines are reverted to pump water back to the upper reservoir using surplus electricity.

The Steenbras Upper Dam is also linked by an open canal and pipeline to the Rockview Dam that forms the upper reservoir of the Palmiet Pumped Storage Scheme of Elcom. This allows for water from the Palmiet River to be transferred to the Upper Steenbras Dam.

References:
2. https://www.capecover.co.za/water/steenbras_dam

*Upper and Lower dams: 70% of the capacity can supply >620 thousand domestic users with 1 year (150 ltr/person/day).
*Upper and Lower dams: The surface area is equivalent to 900 rugby fields.

**STEEBRAS LOWER DAM**
- **Completed:** 1921 (Renovated: 1989)
- **River:** Steenbras River
- **Capacity:** 36.1 million m³
- **Type of dam:** Concrete gravity
- **Length of wall (top):** 940 m
- **Length of dam (longest distance from wall to inflow):** 4.9 km
- **Nearest town:** Gordons Bay
- **Surface area:** 380 ha
- **Water use:** Municipal and industrial
- **Capacity compared to the Theewaterskloof Dam:** >13 times smaller

**STEEBRAS UPPER DAM**
- **Completed:** 1977
- **River:** Steenbras River
- **Capacity:** 31.77 million m³
- **Type of dam:** Earthfill
- **Length of wall (top):** 940 m
- **Length of dam (longest distance from wall to inflow):** 4.2 km
- **Nearest town:** Gordons Bay
- **Surface area:** 263 ha
- **Water use:** Municipal, electricity and industrial
- **Capacity compared to the Theewaterskloof Dam:** >15 times smaller