

Manton Dam Water Quality Sampling Project

The water quality sampling project in Manton Dam is continuing this year. The project, which commenced in May 2008, will determine the variability of water quality in the dam.

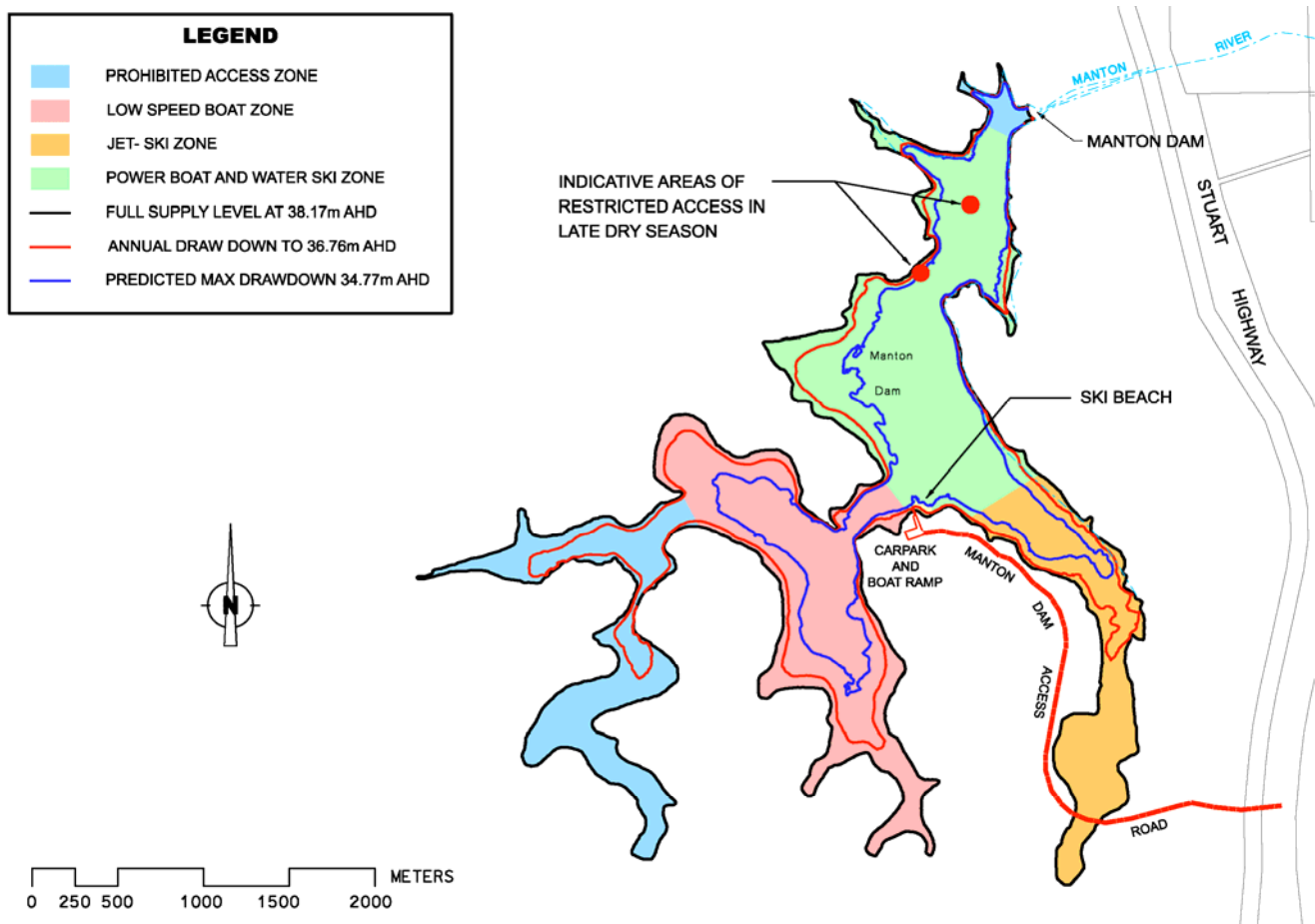
Manton Dam is currently identified as an emergency backup source for the Darwin region water supply system. However the supply from Manton Dam is not currently used as an operational source of water due to infrastructure constraints and water quality concerns including the existence of recreational activities that may impact on water quality in the dam.

What is the Manton Dam Water Quality Sampling Project?

The water quality sampling project involves the release of water from the dam to the Manton River downstream of the dam's spillway, and a program of water quality and environmental monitoring.

The project will assist Power and Water in addressing any water quality issues that may arise should the dam be called on to provide emergency supply. The project will allow Power and Water to consider how and when Manton Dam may be returned to service as part of the Darwin region water supply source strategy.

The initial water quality results from sampling in 2008 indicated some water quality concerns such as elevated levels of iron and manganese in the water. Additionally, significant levels of blue green algae were detected in the dam at various times during the project. Other findings include significant stratification (layering) of the water in the dam periodically impacted by mixing events triggered by weather changes.

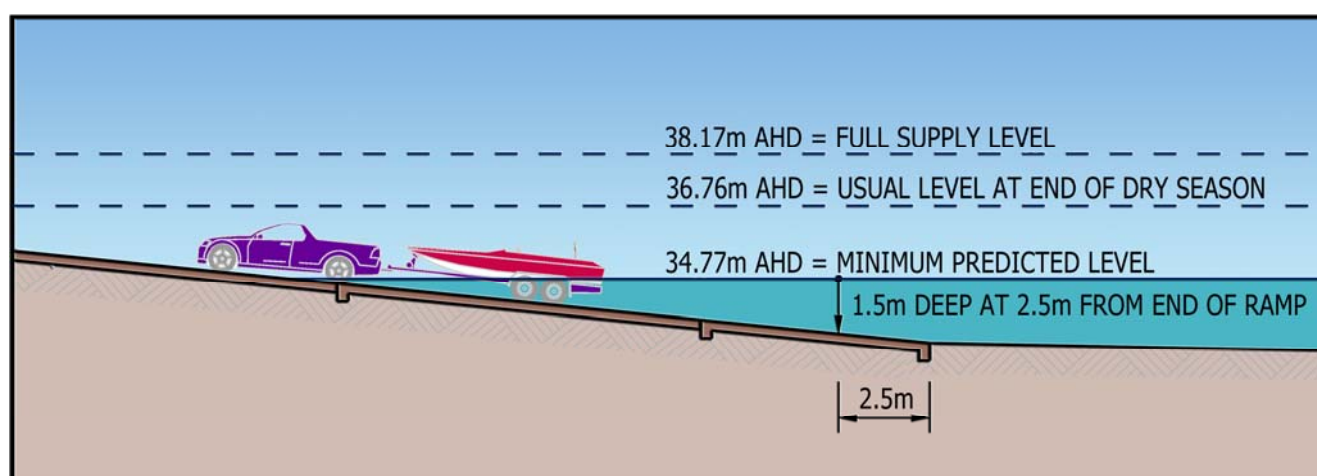


How will the project affect recreational activity?

Parks and Wildlife who manage recreational activity on Manton Dam, has been assisting Power and Water in minimising any impacts on user groups. The largest impact on the reservoir from the release of water during the project will be in areas that have restricted access and do not support any recreational activity.

The power boat area is the most frequently used recreational zone on the dam. There will be some reduction in surface area in this section at the end of the dry season, beyond conditions normally experienced as a result of evaporation alone. The reduction in water level will result in Parks and Wildlife cordoning off two small areas of the power boat zone with marker buoys to ensure the safety of user groups as shown in the image on page 1. This image also indicates the different zones of the dam, the extent of reduction in surface area under normal dry conditions and the level of reduction predicted for the end of the 2009 dry season.

To ensure minimal impact on recreational users, Power and Water will ensure that the boat ramp remains serviceable at all times throughout the project. The image below shows predicted water level changes at the boat ramp.



The project will run throughout 2009 with the dam expected to refill to normal levels during the next wet season. Recreational users are advised to be aware of changing conditions at Manton Dam during the project and to follow any safety instructions issued by Power and Water and Parks and Wildlife.

The dam was thoroughly cleared of debris in the late 1980s when recreational use was first initiated at Manton Dam. However we urge users to contact Power and Water to report any emerging or exposed objects such as fallen trees and rocks that present a hazard to recreational users.

More information

For more information or to report a hazard contact Power and Water:

Phone: 1800 245 092

Email: customerservice@powerwater.com.au

Web: powerwater.com.au