

Manton Dam Water Quality Sampling Project

Power and Water has an ongoing project to sample and monitor the quality of water in Manton Dam.

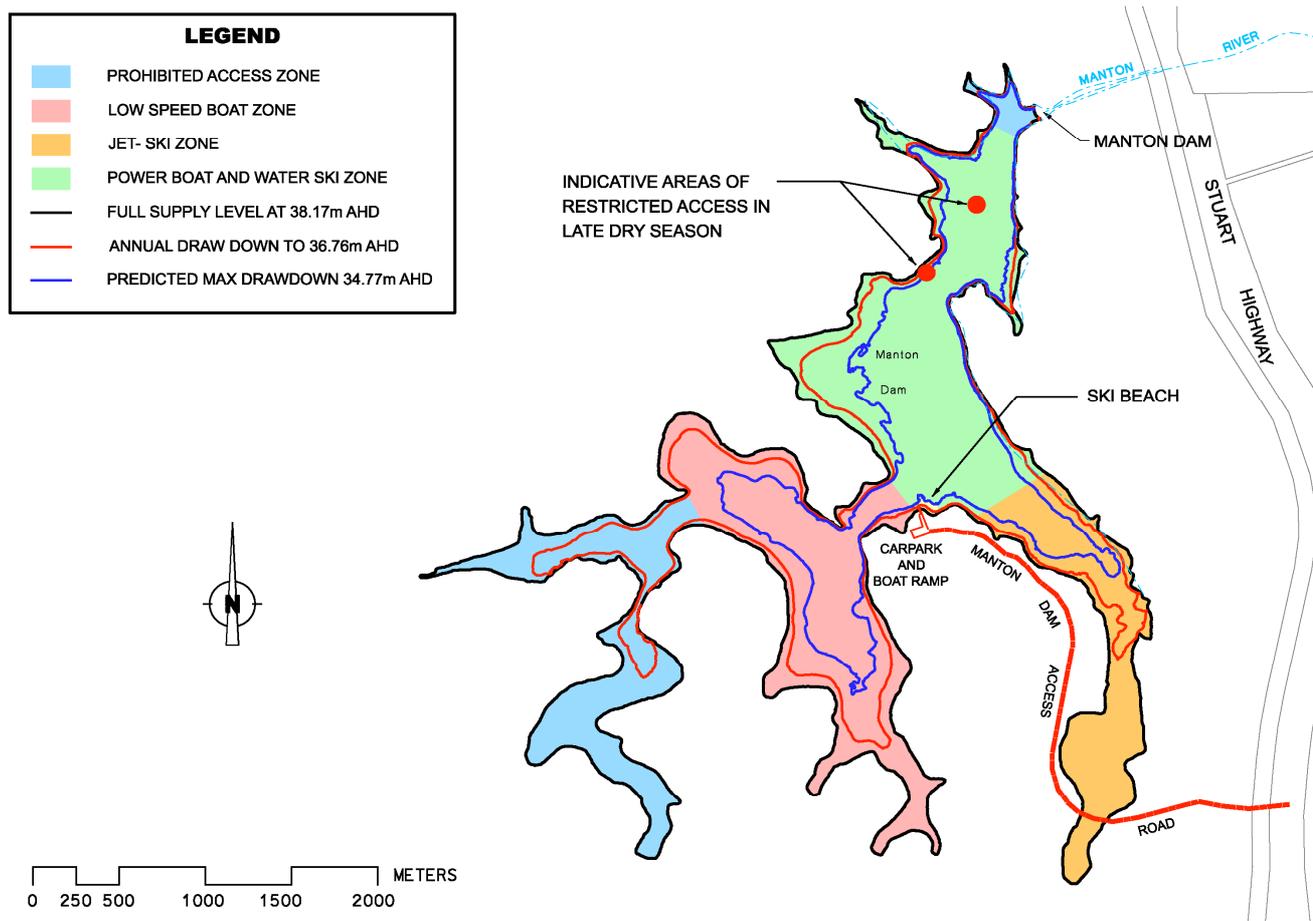
Manton Dam is identified as an emergency backup source for the Darwin region water supply, but it is not currently used due to infrastructure constraints and water quality concerns including how recreational activities may impact on water quality.

How does the project work?

The water quality sampling project involves the release of water from the dam to the Manton River downstream of the dam's spillway during wet season and dry season periods, as well as a program of water quality and environmental monitoring.

This monitoring will help Power and Water address any water quality issues that may arise should the dam be called on as emergency water supply. It will also allow Power and Water to consider how and when Manton Dam may be returned to service as part of a longer-term Darwin region water supply strategy.

Initial results have indicated some water quality concerns such as elevated levels of iron and manganese in the water. Additionally, significant levels of blue green algae have been detected in the dam at various times. Other findings include significant stratification (layering) of the water in the dam periodically impacted by mixing events triggered by weather changes.

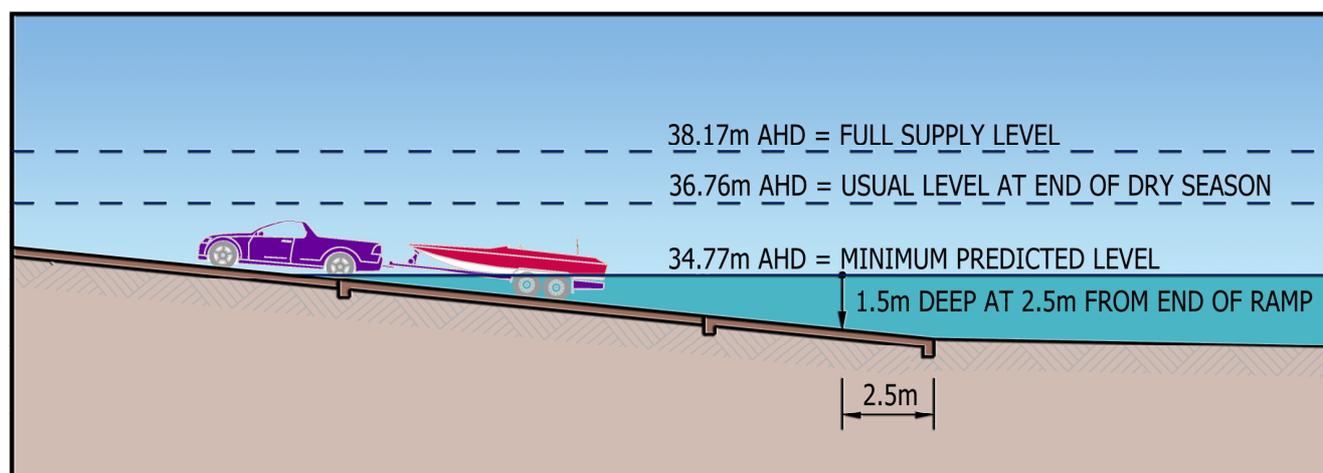


How will the project affect recreational activity?

Parks and Wildlife, which manages recreational activity on Manton Dam, has been helping Power and Water minimise impacts on users. The largest impact on the reservoir from the release of water during the project is in areas that have restricted access and do not support any recreational activity.

The power boat area is most frequently used. There may 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. A reduction in water level may 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 maximum level of reduction predicted for the end of the dry season.

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



The project will continue to run throughout 2011 with the dam expected to refill to normal levels each 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 of Manton Dam started, but 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