

Manton Dam Return to Service

Project Fact Sheet



Project overview

Built in the 1940s with a storage capacity of 14,000 megalitres, Manton Dam was Darwin's primary source of water until Darwin River Dam was commissioned in 1972.

The Northern Territory Government (NTG) opened Manton Dam for recreational use in the late 1980s and we have continued to maintain it as a potential future water supply source.

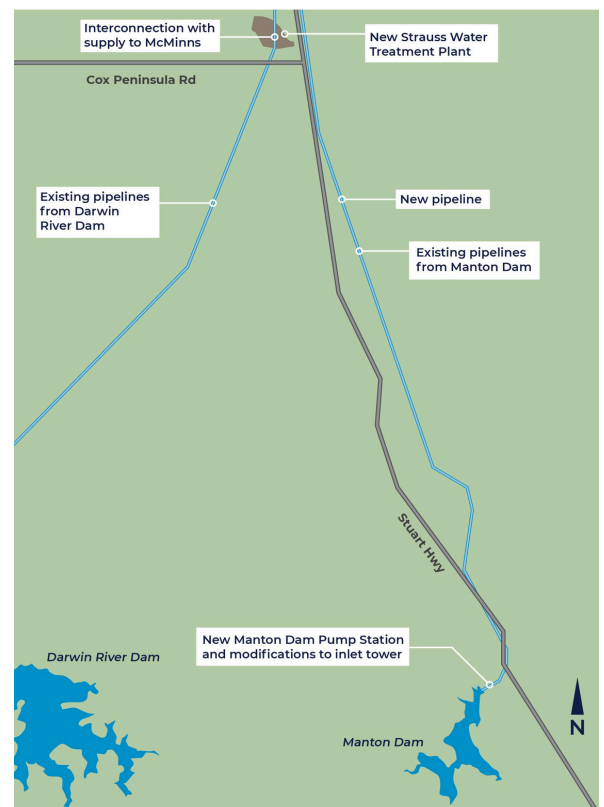
With demand for water in the Darwin region expected to double by 2050, and water storage levels in Darwin River Dam increasingly affected by climate change and evaporation, our water supply system needs future proofing.

As part of this future proofing, we are working to return Manton Dam to service as an operational drinking water supply source through Stage 1 of the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program.

Manton Dam will continue to be a recreational resource for the community to enjoy under a new recreation management plan.

We will apply additional treatment measures at our new Strauss Water Treatment Plant to ensure the water meets stringent drinking water quality standards.

Once Manton Dam is back in use as a source of drinking water, it will provide an additional 7,300 megalitres a year into the Darwin region water supply system.



Project timeline

- **May 2024** - Project design and construct tender awarded to Exact Contracting.
- **July 2024** - Construction commenced.
- **Early 2026** - Construction completed.
- **Mid 2026** - Manton Dam officially connected to the Darwin region water supply system.

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Progress update September 2025

What is involved?

The \$189 million infrastructure investment includes:

- Refurbishing the existing intake tower.
- A new pump station to transfer water from Manton Dam.
- A 22km pipeline to deliver water from Manton Dam to Strauss.
- A state-of-the-art water treatment plant at Strauss to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

Project progress

Manton Dam Intake Tower



- Intake valves replaced.
- Intake tower refurbished.

Manton to Strauss Pipeline



- 20km of 600mm steel pipeline installed so far.
- Pipe tunnels complete under service corridors.

Manton Dam Pump Station



- Pump station building constructed.
- Upgrades to operational access roads.

Strauss Water Treatment Plant



- Water treatment plant structure completed.
- Construction of treatment units underway.

The Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program Stage 1 is jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, delivered in partnership with Power and Water Corporation.