

Manton Dam Return to Service

Project Fact Sheet

Update: May 2026

Project overview

With demand for water in the Darwin region expected to double by 2050, and with Darwin River Dam operating at capacity, 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.

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.

Manton reservoir

A multi-use resource

In collaboration with the Northern Territory Government, we completed a thorough planning phase ensuring Manton reservoir remains a recreational resource, while also providing much needed additional water to the Darwin region.

Recreational activities at Manton reservoir

Recreational use for the reservoir will be managed by NT Parks and Wildlife. This will provide balance and assurance between safe drinking water supply and optimal use of the recreational facilities.

Project timeline

- **May 2024** - Project design and construct tender.
- **July 2024** - Construction commenced.
- **Mid 2026** - Commissioning commences.
- **Late 2026** - Manton Dam connected to the Darwin region water supply system.

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Progress update May 2026

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 pump station and pipeline



- Site works 95% finalised.
- New pump station and pipeline complete.

Intake tower



- Intake tower upgrades complete.
- Pipe to pump station complete.

Strauss Water Treatment Plant



- Electrical and mechanical fit out 80% complete.
- Major concrete structures complete.

Water treatment process fit-out



- Electrical and mechanical fit-out underway.
- Dissolved air flotation over filtration (DAFF) completed.

Stage 1 of the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program is jointly funded by the Australian Government, through the National Water Grid Fund, and the Northern Territory Government, and delivered in partnership with Power and Water Corporation.