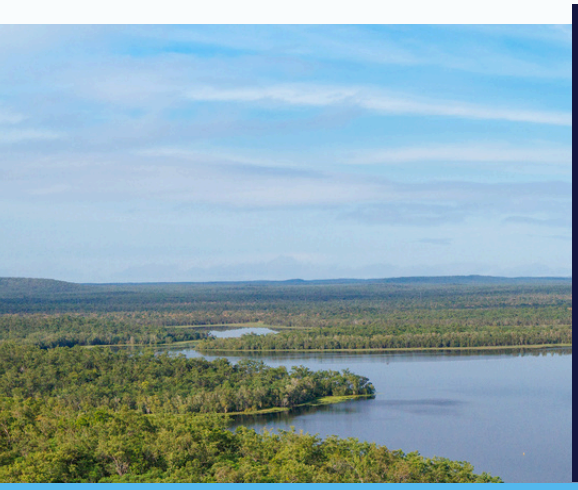
PowerWater



Darwin Region Water Security Update

Update as of October 2026

Background

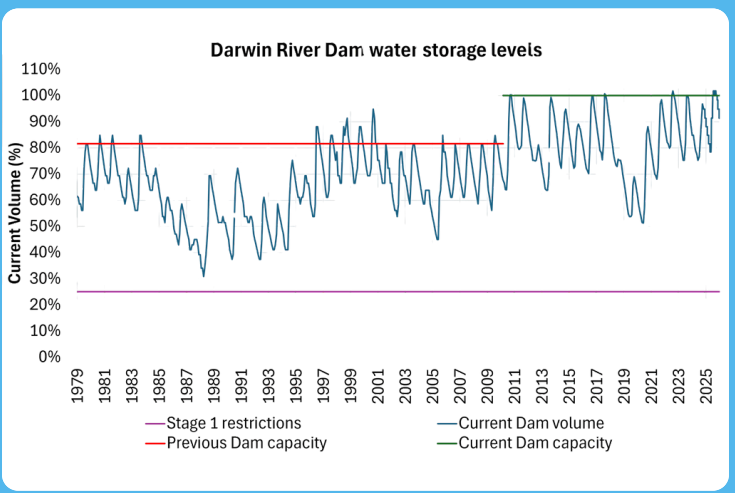
The Darwin Region Water Supply Strategy details our plan to manage the balance between water supply and demand over time.

Up to 95% of Darwin's water comes from Darwin River Dam, with the rest sourced from groundwater. The strategy describes our water security objectives and how we are working with supply and demand management initiatives to achieve them.

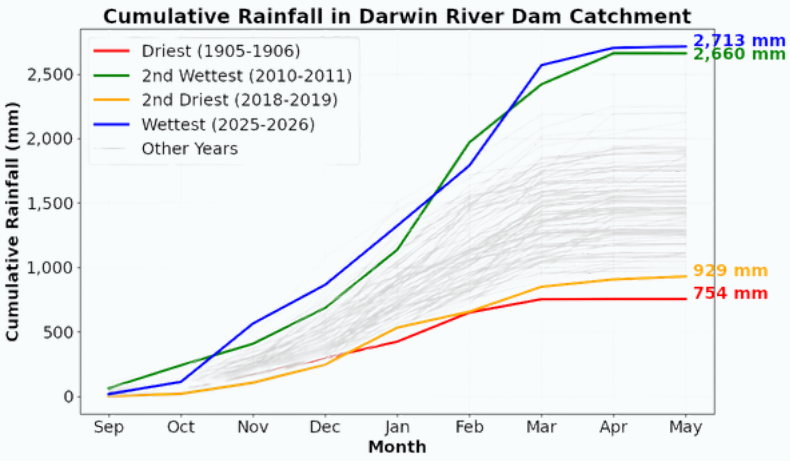
Water storage

Darwin's water supply depends on good wet seasons to replenish supply storages. When the wet season is poor, our reservoirs don't refill, and this can lead to lower water levels over time.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, Darwin River Dam went 13 years without filling or overflowing. More recently, just two bad wet seasons in a row (2018–20) saw the reservoir level drop to 50%, showing how growing demand is putting more pressure on our water supply.



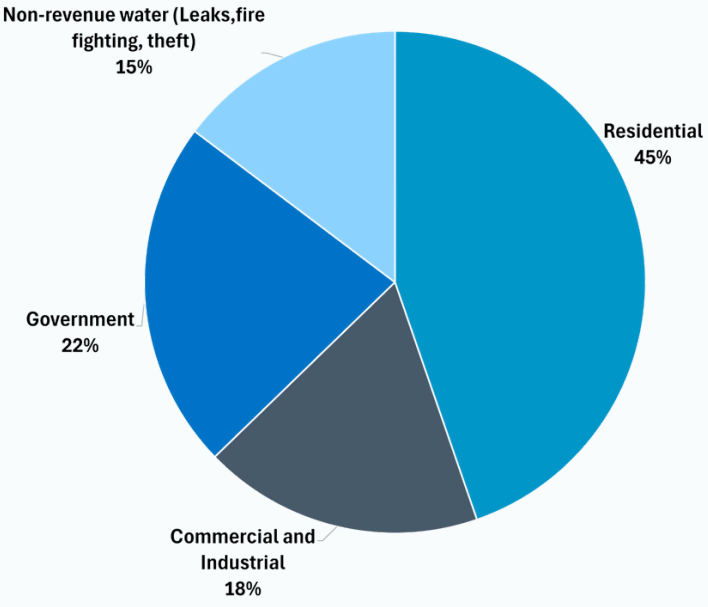
We recently had a record wet season and the reservoir filled and overflowed for months, meaning water restrictions are unlikely for the coming year.



Water demand 2025/2026

Water demand: 42,646 ML
(up 1% from the previous year.)
Sourced from:

- 87% surface water (36,975 ML)
- 13% groundwater (5,671 ML)



Want to know more?

Scan this QR code to download the Darwin Region Water Supply Strategy

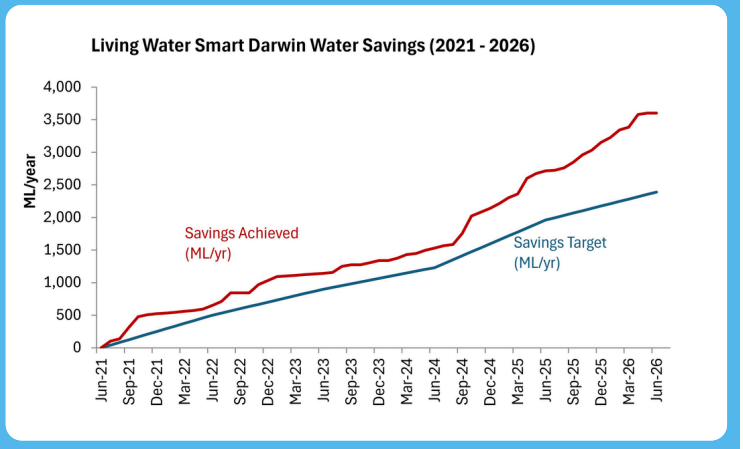
PowerWater



Water demand management

Living Water Smart is our Territory-wide water demand management program, which helps protect water for our families, our environment and our future.

The program does this by helping the community use water more wisely. From smart water meters to fixing leaks, every drop saved helps support the sustainability of our water resources.



In the Darwin region we have exceeded our Living Water Smart targets, saving 3,602 ML per year by June 2026.

This proves we work better by working together. As a community we have saved the equivalent of 3,620 Olympic-sized swimming pools since the target began in 2021!



The future of our water supply

Construction on the return to service of Manton Dam was completed in August 2026 and commissioning of the Strauss Water Treatment Plant is underway. Water from Manton Dam is expected to be flowing out of our taps before the end of the year.

Manton will provide a 20% boost to our supply, and improve the resilience of our water supply system through diversifying the sources of water available to Darwin.

Strauss Water Treatment Plant



This additional supply will help meet short-term demand while planning progresses for the proposed Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage (AROWS) project, an exciting water supply solution that will help meet our future water supply needs for decades to come.

Want to know more?

Scan this QR code to explore the Territory's water security projects