

ROSS RIVER DAM



The Ross River Dam was built in the 1970's and serves two primary functions, flood attenuation and water supply.

The dam was constructed at the junction of the Ross River and Five Head Creek and is the major source of water supply for Townsville city.

Water Supply and Treatment

Water from the Ross River Dam Pump Station is gravity fed to the Douglas Water Treatment Plant where up to 232 megalitres of water may be treated each day.

The Douglas Water Treatment Plant provides safe drinking water in line with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Water undergoes a series of treatment processes before it is pumped to reservoirs across the city for Townsville residents to use.

Key Facts

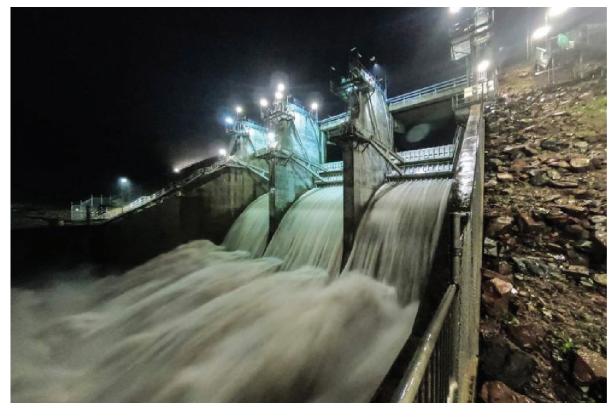
Name	Ross River Dam
Location	Kelso
Catchment area	750km ²
Length of dam wall	8.67km
Year completed	1970, upgrade completed 2004-8
Type of construction	Earth and rock fill embankment
Spillway gates	3
Full supply capacity	233,187ML

Dam Infrastructure

Ross River Dam consists of an earth and rock filled embankment and concrete spillway on which three steel crest gates are installed.

The earth and rock filled wall spans 8.67km long and 27 metres high, and is the longest embankment in the southern hemisphere.

The spillway gates span 12 metres wide and 5 metres high.



Flood Attenuation

The Ross River Dam was originally built for flood attenuation and water supply. It is designed to hold 1,200,000 megalitres of water during a flood event (514% full supply capacity).

When heavy rainfall occurs in the catchment area, controlled releases of water can be made through the 3 concrete spillway gates, keeping the water level at an appropriate height.