

IN 1976 WE BUILT A DAM TO SERVICE 58,000 PEOPLE...

By 2026 it won't be able to deliver enough water to a population that has tripled

Cairns needs a new water source
and **we need your help** to get it

Consulting engineer
R.J.(Bob) Goakes
overlooks the
construction of the dam
in the early 1970s

What is the problem?

Cairns's primary water source, Copperlode Falls Dam, was built in 1976 when 58,000 people lived here. The dam has served Cairns well but our service population has more than tripled to 198,000 (residents and visitors).

Copperlode will not be able to meet the water needs of our growing population.

We get plenty of rainfall in wet seasons but we need to capture it, treat it and deliver it through the water network.

Without investment in the infrastructure required to access additional supply, Cairns faces the real possibility of a **drinking water shortage** in the very near future.

What is the solution?

The Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project will secure our city's water needs well into the next decade. The plan involves sourcing "new" water from a run of river supply in Mulgrave River. It will also enable a significantly enhanced treatment process to be applied to Council's existing Behana Creek water supply, thereby increasing the volumes of water able to be drawn from this source.

THIS INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WILL COMPRISE

INTAKE
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPLY AND MAINS
CONNECTION PIPELINES

A TREATMENT PLANT
AND RESERVOIRS

The project will deliver new water like a dam, but at a fraction of the cost and with a much lighter environmental footprint

Can't we just save water?

Water demand management activities like water education, leak detection improvements, and effective metering and pricing, have delivered significant results for Cairns. Most notably a 38% reduction in water usage per capita over the past 15 years. Permanent water conservation measures remain in place year-round to promote responsible and efficient use of this precious commodity.


Water conservation has been, and will remain, an important component of Council's water management strategy, indeed we aim to reduce consumption by a further 10 per cent. Whilst demand management has delivered real results, we now need investment in infrastructure to deliver new water capacity.

Why have we waited?

We haven't. Cairns Councils have been investigating and planning for the long term water needs of the Cairns community for decades. Options considered included the Mulgrave Aquifer, Nullinga Dam and sourcing water from the Barron River. But for a variety of reasons (including environmental and agricultural concerns, cost etc), those options have not progressed.

After 18 months of extensive consultation and detailed advice coordinated through the Council's Water Security Advisory Group, the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project was identified in 2015 as the best solution to meet Cairns's immediate water security needs.

We've been actively progressing the project since that time with land acquisition, hydrology and hydraulic testing, cost analysis and pilot testing all complete. Council will deliver this critical project for Cairns when it's needed. But who should pay for it?



HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE PAID FOR?

Capital cost of the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project
\$215 MILLION

Construction needs to start
JUNE 2024

There are two ways the project can be funded

**COUNCIL
(OUR COMMUNITY)
TAKES ON A
\$215M DEBT**

If Council borrow to pay for the project upfront the loan would need to be repaid over several years. To cover the repayments Council would face difficult choices such as increasing rates and charges, reducing services, reducing investment, and deferring other worthy community projects. Cairns should not have to make these choices, particularly as we recover from the financial hardship caused by Covid-19.

OR

**FEDERAL & STATE
GOVERNMENTS
FUND THE PROJECT**

**AS THEY HAVE FOR
OTHER PARTS OF QLD**

(For example, over \$400 million for the Haughton pipeline projects in Townsville and \$367 million for the Rookwood Weir project in Rockhampton). We're not saying these regions don't deserve funding. In fact, Federal and State funding for water infrastructure is exactly the type of investment Queensland regions need in order to grow and prosper.

Above all else, water security will be critical for our future quality of life and prosperity. That's why we are calling on the State and Federal Governments to invest in the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project, as they have for other regions in Queensland.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

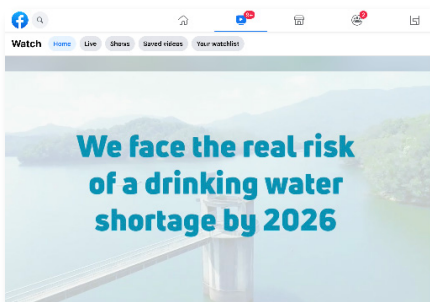
Our Federal and State Members of Parliament support the project but we need to help them fight for Cairns to get funding. The Cairns community needs to show our politicians that this matters, and all of us are behind this project

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Chat to your family and talk about water and how important it is for a clean secure water system for their future

Go to cairns.qld.gov.au/watersecurity and familiarise yourself with why we need the Cairns Water Security Project

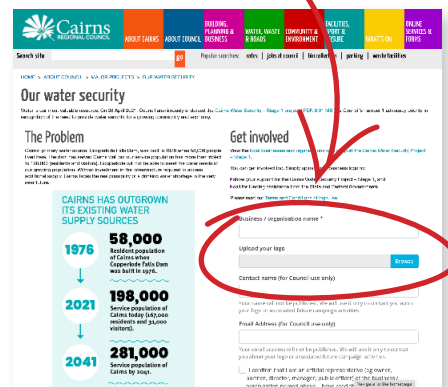
Head to Council's facebook page and share the videos with your friends to spread the word



AS A BUSINESS

We have created a Project Support Board on Council's website to enable all businesses to upload their business logo as a stamp of support.

Go to cairns.qld.gov.au/watersecurity and upload your logo



THESE SMALL ACTIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE
Together, we have a strong voice

For more information on the
Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project
visit cairns.qld.gov.au/watersecurity

