

# Manton Dam Recreation Area



## Fact Sheet

**Manton Dam is a great spot to escape the heat and relax by the water. Hugely popular for watersports, the Dam is often a hive of activity.**

Built in 1942, Manton Dam was Darwin's first reliable water supply. Today, although its water is still used in emergencies, it is a popular, recreation area. Its relatively undisturbed drainage area is also a valuable catchment and conservation area.

This area is important to Aboriginal people from a number of language groups: Larrakia, Limilngan, Wulna, Waray and Koongurrukun.

### Access (see map)

Turn west off the Stuart Highway about 70 km south of Darwin, all roads are sealed and accessible throughout the year.

### When to Visit

The Recreation Area is open from sunrise to sunset everyday, including public holidays.

### What to See and Do

Manton Dam is a pleasant destination for an easy day trip from Darwin.



**Picnicking** - picnic and barbecue facilities are situated amongst lawns and large shady trees.



**Fishing** - fishing is permitted in the Dam. The Department of Primary Industry and Resources regularly releases farm-bred fingerlings into Manton Dam.



**Boating** - power boats and water skiing are popular at the Dam.

The area has been zoned for these activities. There is a separate zone for Low Speed Boating (see map). Please ensure you read the By-laws displayed at the boat ramp and ski beach.



**Jet-skiing** - enjoy the open water in the Jet-ski Zone set aside for this activity.

All craft must carry required safety equipment.

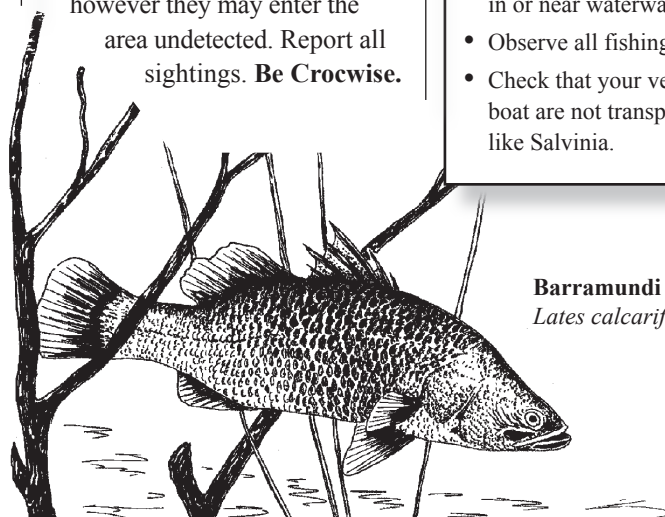
### History

The Manton River was impounded in 1942 to build the Dam which was Darwin's first water supply reservoir. In 1951, its catchment was declared as Woolnough Water Catchment and Flora and Fauna Reserve. In 1972 a dam was constructed on the Darwin River, to the north-west, which then became the main water supply for Darwin's expanding population.

Manton Dam was opened for recreation in 1989. Some areas of the Dam are closed to protect water quality.



**Saltwater Crocodiles** - are removed from the Dam through an ongoing crocodile management program, however they may enter the area undetected. Report all sightings. **Be Crocwise.**



**Barramundi**  
*Lates calcarifer*

### Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Emergency Call Device located in the carpark.
- Observe recreation zones, speed limits and restrictions.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Ensure your vehicle and/or boat is well maintained and equipped.
- Beware of theft. Lock vehicles and secure valuables.

### Please Remember

- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you.
- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted in this Park.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Take care with fire, light fires only in fireplaces provided.
- Avoid using soaps and detergent in or near waterways.
- Observe all fishing regulations.
- Check that your vehicle and boat are not transporting weeds like *Salvinia*.

### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Berry Springs Office  
Ph: (08) 8988 6310

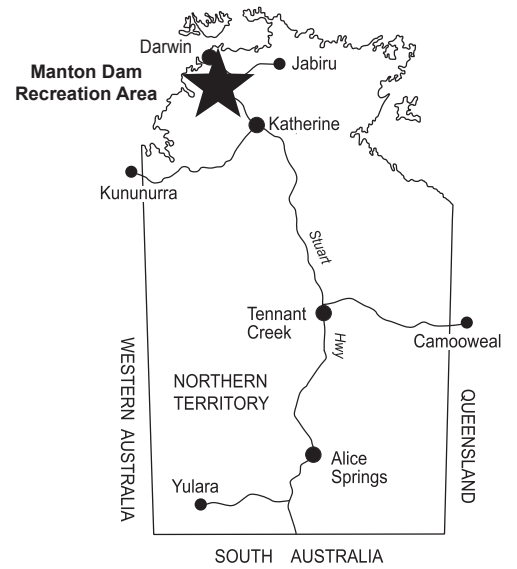
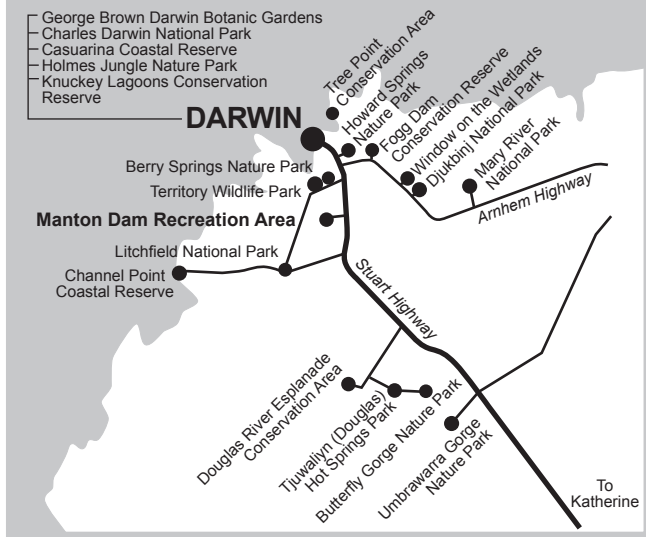
[www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au)

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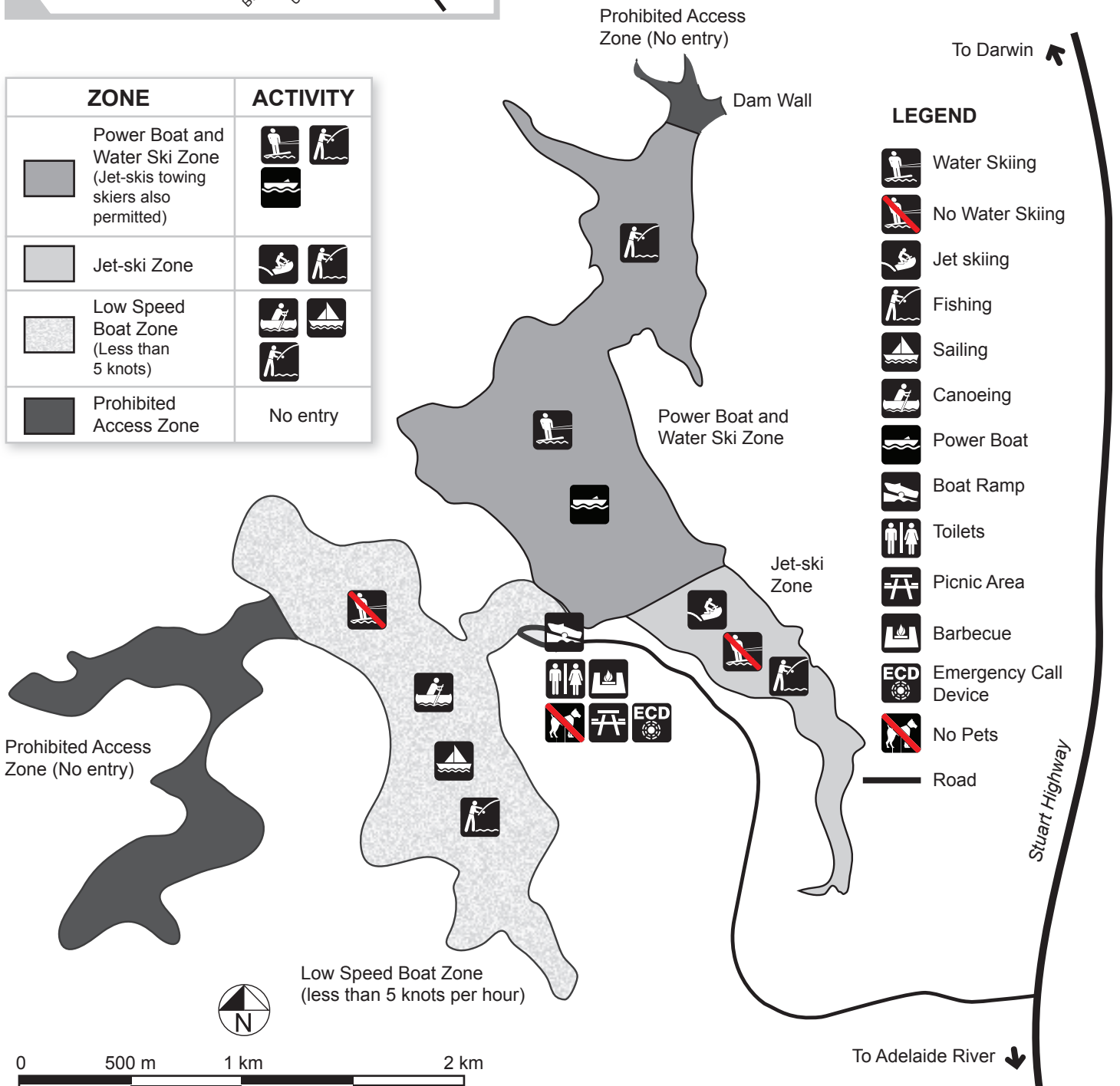
Ph: (08) 8999 4555



# Manton Dam Recreation Area



ZONE	ACTIVITY
Power Boat and Water Ski Zone (Jet-skis towing skiers also permitted)	
Jet-ski Zone	
Low Speed Boat Zone (Less than 5 knots)	
Prohibited Access Zone	No entry



0 500 m 1 km 2 km