



Fact sheet—Replacement of Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main, Christmas Island

September 2025

The project

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the Department) has contracted Water Corporation to undertake replacement of a 4.5km section of the Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main on Christmas Island (CI) in two stages.

The Australian Government has provided funding over two years to complete the project. Stage one project works commenced in May 2023 and were completed in September 2024.

Water Corporation will deliver this infrastructure project through their Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement with the Department. Water Corporation has been providing water and wastewater services to the CI community since 2000.

To meet Australian Government requirements, it was necessary for Water Corporation to engage a contractor accredited with the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner for stage one. As the water main is classified as a Major Works contract by Water Corporation, it was also necessary for their successful contractor to have Tier 1 Health Safety and Environment accreditation due to the complex design and construction, in accordance with the relevant standards. Civcon Civil & Project Management Pty Ltd met all these requirements.

Stage two works were assessed as a Medium Project by Water Corporation. Saltire Infrastructure Pty Ltd have been engaged for these works which are due for completion in late September 2025.

This project will ensure a secure water source into the future, with leaks in this section of water main currently resulting in loss of community water supply.

The water main replacement works will commence from the Summit tank in the National Park and progress towards the Drumsite tank. This section of the water main is the most difficult for Water Corporation to access to undertake repairs during the wet season and annual crab migration, and is also exposed to heavy vehicle movement.

For the community's safety, access is likely to be restricted around these areas and surrounding locations while works are under way. Traffic management plans will be put in place when necessary.

On 17 February 2022, the Department received Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Medium Works approval for stage one of the project to proceed. Approval for stage two of the project to proceed was obtained on 10 October 2024.

The Department and Water Corporation are working together to ensure the community is kept informed at every stage of the project. It is critical that residents and visitors to the islands have access to safe drinking water.

Background

Christmas Island relies solely on rainwater infiltration into the groundwater system. The water accumulates in naturally formed caves and sinkholes. The principal water supply for the Island is sourced from Jeeda Cave and Jane-up Well, producing 80 per cent of the Island's water supply. A secondary source at Waterfall Spring supplements the town water.

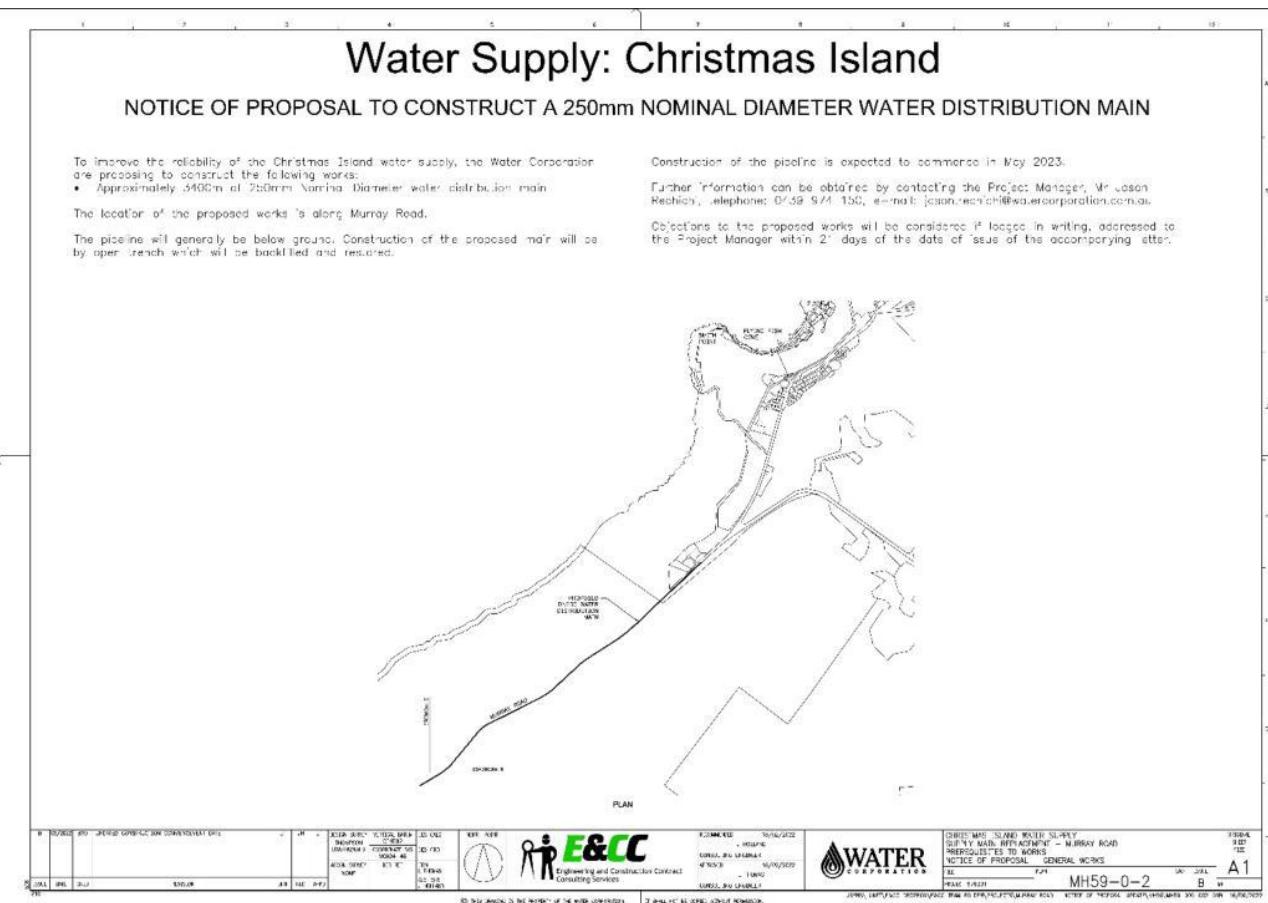
The pipeline was originally installed in the Murray Road verge. Over time, road maintenance has resulted in widening of the road. The widening of the road surface has escalated the leakage rate due to the vibration and impact of heavy traffic above and near the pipeline – this is evidenced by the reduction in leak repairs when this section of road is closed due to the annual crab migration.

Diagrams of the proposed works is provided below

Community and stakeholder engagement

Residents and community members more affected by the works will receive further direct communications from the relevant contractor. Residents in the area will be notified before any work is undertaken.

If you require any further information regarding the works, please contact the project team at IOTSDA@infrastructure.gov.au.



Water Supply: Christmas Island

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A 250mm DIAMETER WATER PIPELINE - STAGE 2

To improve the reliability of the Christmas Island water supply, the Water Corporation are proposing to construct the following works:

- Approximately 1507m of 250mm diameter water pipeline

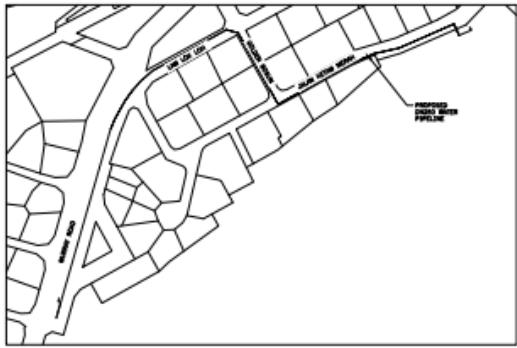
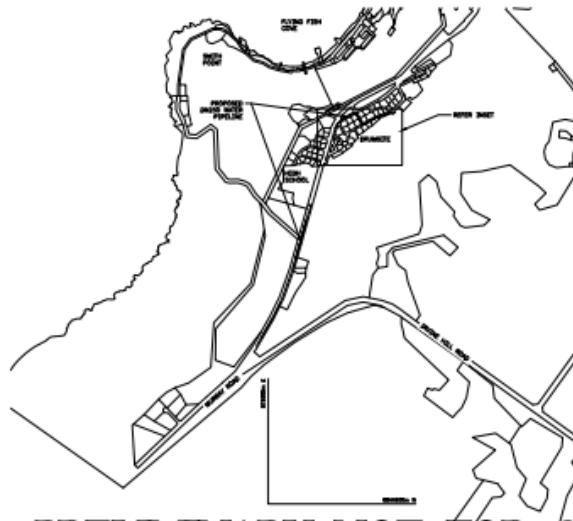
The location of the proposed works is along Murray Road, Lam Lok Loh, Golden Bosun and Jin Ketam Merah.

The pipeline will generally be below ground. Construction of the proposed main will be by open trench which will be backfilled and restored.

Construction of the pipeline is expected to commence between March and June 2025.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager, Mr Jason Rechichi, telephone: 0439 974 150, e-mail: Jason.Rechichi@watercorporation.com.au

Objections to the proposed works will be considered if lodged in writing, addressed to the Project Manager within 21 days of the date of issue of the accompanying letter.



PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION 3/09/24 11:15

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