



Frequently asked questions

Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main replacement, Christmas Island

May 2023

What is the Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main replacement project?

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the Department) has contracted Water Corporation to replace 3.5km of the Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main on Christmas Island.

The water main replacement works will commence from the Summit tank in the national park and extend towards the Drumsite tank along Murray Road. This section of the water main is the most difficult to access by Water Corporation to undertake repairs during the wet season and annual crab migration, and is also exposed to heavy vehicle movement.

Why is the project being undertaken?

The Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main is losing approximately 50 per cent of the community's drinking water supply every month through leaks. As the Island can be subject to drought conditions, the loss of this volume of water is not acceptable.

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/near the pipeline – this is evidenced by the reduction in leak repairs when this section of road is closed due to the annual red crab migration.

Who will be doing the project?

Water Corporation will deliver these infrastructure projects through their Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement with the Australian Government, through the Department.

Water Corporation has contracted Civcon Civil & Project Management Pty Ltd, a Western Australian company to undertake the constructions works.

To meet Australian Government requirements, it was necessary for Water Corporation to engage a contractor accredited with the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner. 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 high complex design and construction in accordance with the relevant standards. Civcon Civil & Project Management Pty Ltd met all these requirements.

Water Corporation has been providing water and wastewater services to the CI community since 2000.

When will the work start?

On 17 February 2022, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works approval was received to undertake the water main replacement works.

Construction works are expected to commence on-island in May 2023 and is expected to be completed in November 2023.

How will the community be consulted?

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

Information and updates on the projects will be made available to the community through media releases, community bulletins, fact sheets and the Department's website. At times, members of the project team will be on CI to talk directly to key stakeholders and community members about the projects.

How can I get further information?

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