



## A brief history

Freshwater Creek was the original source of Cairns' water supply. Population growth led to the need for another water source. In 1935, former Cairns City engineer, Mr. E.R. Morris, discovered what he regarded as a suitable site for a dam to store water. Subsequent surveys confirmed his estimation. Eventually government approval for the construction of an earth and rock fill dam at Copperlode Falls near the headwaters of Freshwater Creek was given. The original construction cost was estimated at \$3,000,000 but by completion on March 25 1976, the actual cost had risen to approximately \$6,400,000.

The total area cleared was 336 hectares. The rock and earth fill dam impounds 37,000 megalitres of water and has a rainforest catchment area of 44km<sup>2</sup>. The dam comprises a 45m high zoned earth and rock fill dam of 122m in length. The embankment has a crest level of 403.84m AHD and a width of 6.4m.

The dam was officially named Lake Morris in honour of the man who located the site and had the foresight to see its water storage potential for Cairns. Additional water supply is now provided from Behana Creek with investigations into another water supply for Cairns' increasing population in progress.



## How to get there

### Lake Morris - Copperlode Falls Dam

From Cairns, heading west along Reservoir Rd. heading towards Brinsmead, turn off at the tourist information sign "Copperlode Dam 16km". Follow Lake Morris Rd. up the mountains. Vehicle size limits apply on this road (no caravans or coaches).

### Facilities open to the public 7 days

#### Gates Open from 8am to 6pm

**Kiosk Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 8am to 3pm** (Closed Monday)

- Picnic grounds and shelters • Gas and wood BBQ's
- Rainforest walks • Disabled Access to toilets & picnic grounds
- Wet Tropics, World Heritage viewing deck & information display
- Kiosk, coffee shop, gifts & souvenirs

### Lake Morris Kiosk

Ph: (07) 4055 7414 Fax: (07) 4055 7285

Email: [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)



119 - 145 Spence St., Cairns QLD 4870

PO Box 359 Cairns, QLD 4870

**Ph: (07) 4044 3044** Fax: (07) 4044 8228

Email: [cairnswater@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:cairnswater@cairns.qld.gov.au)



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# LAKE MORRIS

## Copperlode Falls Dam

**Cairns - Tropical North Queensland**



# A Water Reserve within a Wet Tropics World Heritage Area



## The Catchment

Lake Morris (also known as Copperlode Falls Dam) is 22km from Cairns City. From the turnoff on Reservoir Road, the access road to Lake Morris climbs steadily along the face of Whitfield Range and passes through various types of landscape including pristine rainforest. Magnificent scenic panoramas can be seen from the lookout points on the access road, the highest point of which is 500m above sea level.

There are BBQ facilities near the dam, but as the water in the dam is intended for human consumption, boating and swimming are prohibited.

Lake Morris is situated at the headwaters of Freshwater Creek. Water is released from the dam into Freshwater Creek and is picked up again at an intake structure just upstream from Crystal Cascades where it gravitates to the Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant. After treatment, the water is piped to Cairns suburb's reservoirs for distribution to residents.



BBQ Area



Lake Morris Kiosk



Circular Intake Tower



Spillway Channel and Bridge



Spillway Overflow



View from picnic area