

# Serpentine Dams





## Serpentine Dams

Situated amid beautiful scenery in the Darling Scarp, the two dams on the Serpentine River are an important link back to Perth's industry boom of the late 1950s and 60s.

You can appreciate both the history and the natural beauty in a day out at Serpentine.

## History of the Serpentine Dams

In the late 1950s, Perth was on the brink of the rapid industrial growth which changed it in a matter of years into a bustling, modern city.

The Kwinana industrial area south of the city was then in its infancy but growing at such a rate that new water sources were urgently needed. Planners saw the potential of the Serpentine River as a major water supply source – and so began the Serpentine Scheme.

The project aimed to increase storage capacity in the Hills by 170 per cent. This scale made it the biggest construction project undertaken by the then Water Authority since 1940, when Canning Dam had been completed.

The first stage was a Pipehead Dam, seven kilometres upstream from the Serpentine Falls. The official opening of the Pipehead Dam in 1957 also marked the beginning of work on the Serpentine Main Dam which was finished in 1961. The main dam's capacity of 137.7 million kilolitres, makes it one of the biggest supplying the Perth metropolitan area. Water from the Serpentine Scheme is piped under gravity to the city from the Pipehead Dam through two 55 kilometre long pipelines.



Did you know...?

### **Serpentine Main Dam – Earthfill Embankment Dam**

Reservoir capacity	137.7 million kilolitres
Surface area at full storage	1067 hectares
Catchment area	664 square kilometres
Reservoir length	16 kilometres
Height above lowest foundation	55 metres
Width of base	350.5 metres

Did you know...?

### **Serpentine Pipehead Dam – Concrete Gravity Plus Earthfill Embankment Dam**

Reservoir capacity	3.14 million kilolitres
Surface area at full storage	60.8 hectares
Catchment area	28 square kilometres
Reservoir length	6 kilometres
Height above lowest foundation	16 metres
Volume of wall (concrete)	5,000 cubic metres
(earth)	10,000 cubic metres



## Have a great day out

### Barbecues and picnics

On a day out at Serpentine, you'll find plenty of attractive picnic spots and barbecue facilities. Gas barbecues are free at both dams.











At the Pipehead Dam, the picnic area has a natural bush theme with a cleared gravel area surrounded by shady native plants. There is a playground, drinking water fountains and toilets. Follow the steps down to the recreation lake, a perfect spot for sailing model boats or watching the bird life.

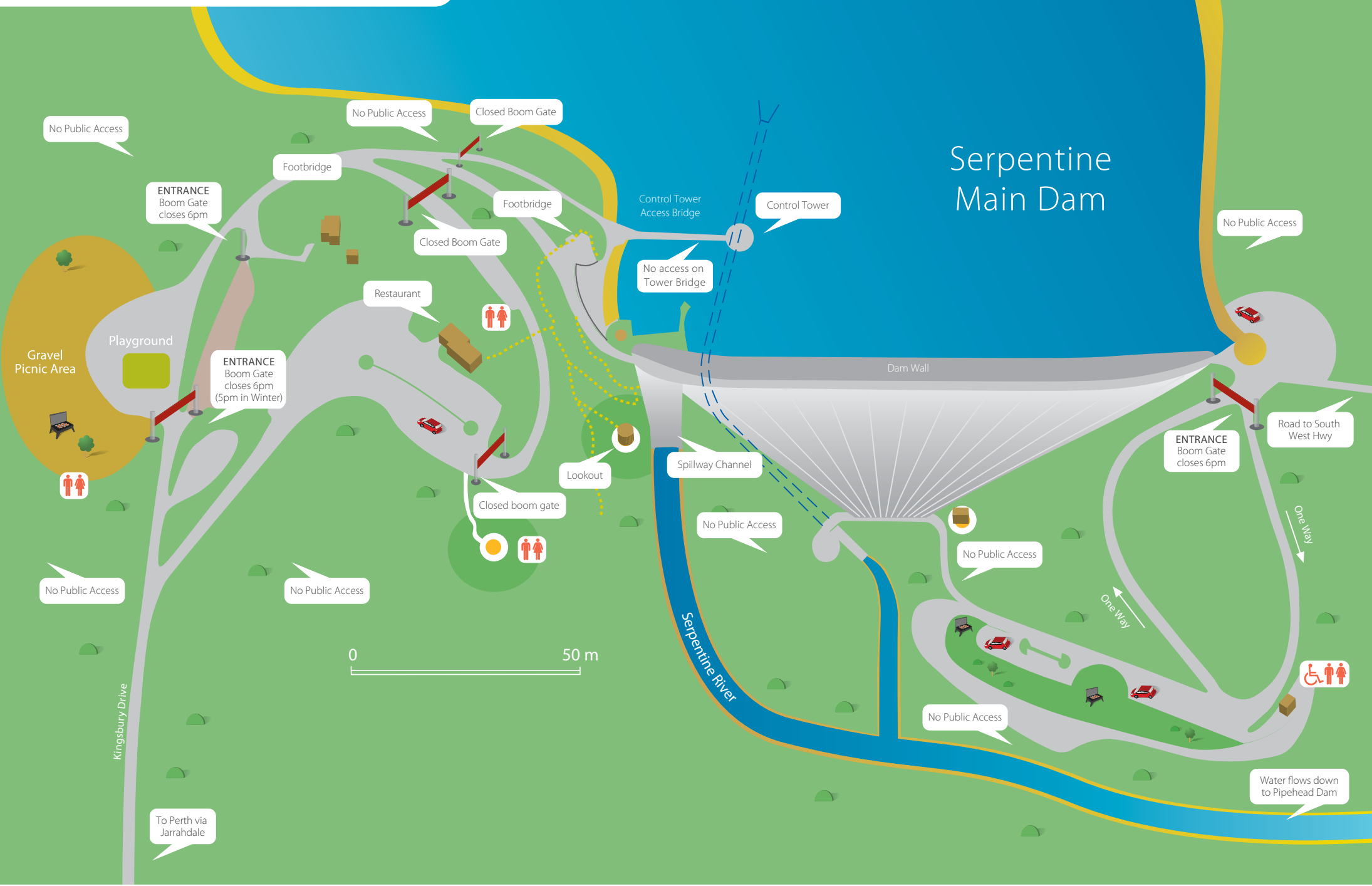
The Main Dam has a large picnic area with an adjoining playground, again with drinking water and toilets nearby. The grassed lower picnic area downstream of the dam wall also has free gas barbecues. If you'd prefer a casual meal in a comfortable setting, you'll find a restaurant near the main carpark.

### Nature walks

Enjoy beautiful natural bush surroundings by keeping to the marked nature walks. Birds in the area include kookaburras, black cockatoos, parrots, magpies and wrens. At the Main Dam, several trails lead to scenic lookouts.

Take a trip out to the nearby Serpentine Falls, which is managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation. In the wildflower season from July to November, the surrounding bush is carpeted with a brilliant array of native flowers.

-  Gravel Road
-  Sealed Road
-  Walkway
-  Toilets
-  Disabled Toilets
-  Picnic Area
-  No dogs permitted on site
-  Parking
-  Building
-  Gas Barbecue



## Please do:

- Follow and comply with all directional and informational signs.
- Always monitor the whereabouts of children as they explore the site.
- Report all safety hazards and suspicious behaviour to the onsite Ranger, staff or by calling 13 13 75.

## Please do not:

- Climb on pipework or other operational infrastructure.
- Climb walls, fences or bridges.
- Deface safety and security signs.
- Trespass into signposted operational and 'No Entry' areas.
- Attempt to operate operational taps, valves or controls.
- Block emergency and operational access gates and roadways with vehicles.





## The Serpentine Falls

The scenic Serpentine Falls are also well worth a visit. Enjoy a picnic lunch against the spectacular backdrop of this waterfall on the Serpentine River.

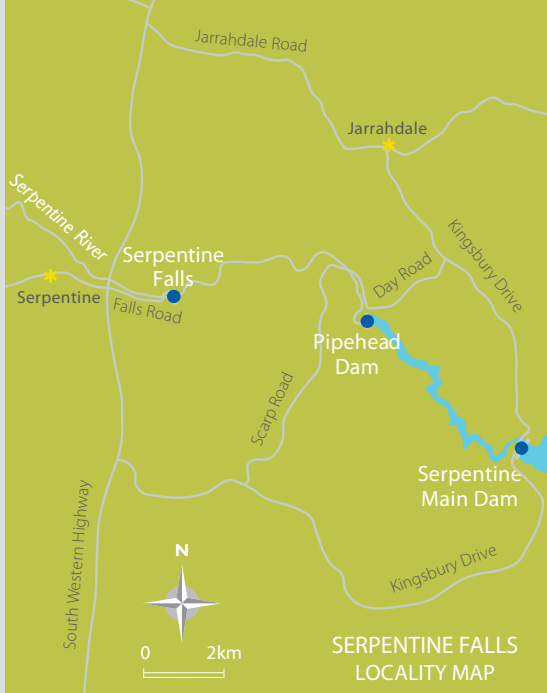
To reach the Falls from Perth, you'll need to drive approximately another 7km past the turnoff to Jarrahdale along South Western Highway. Then follow the signposts along Falls Road (see map shown above).

## Other dams

Serpentine Pipehead and Main Dams are just two of the dams where the Water Corporation has provided facilities for your enjoyment.

Approximately half of Perth's water supply and most of the water distributed through the Goldfields and Agricultural System now comes from catchments in the Darling Range.

These supply water of very high quality at a low cost to the community.



## How to get there

From Perth City centre, take the Kwinana, Tonkin or Albany Highway to Armadale. Then follow the South Western Highway for 18km to Jarrahdale Road. Turn left, continue on for 5km and turn right into Kingsbury Drive. Turn right after 3km into Day Road for the Pipehead Dam, or continue along Kingsbury Drive to the Main Dam.

## Further information

For more information about this dam and others in Western Australia call 13 13 85 or visit our website [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)



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