FACTS AND FIGURES

- Construction on Chaffey Dam began in 1976 and was **completed in 1979** to meet **irrigation** and **stock and domestic** use. More water was also needed for the rapidly growing city of **Tamworth**, which relied on wells and a small dam on Dungowan Creek.

- The dam holds a maximum of **100,500 ML of water**, or the equivalent of about **40,000 Olympic swimming pools**.

- The dam provides water for **irrigating crops** including **cotton**, **wheat**, **lucerne**, **vegetables**, **fruit trees**, **oil seeds** and **fodders**, as well as **pastures** for **sheep** and **cattle**.

- Chaffey Dam features the **larger** of only **two morning glory spillways in Australia**, named because the spillway is a similar shape to a **flower**. Rather than spilling over the dam, **high water levels** spill into a giant concrete egg-shaped funnel.

- The dam is **named for** two **former parliamentary members** for **Tamworth**, **Frank Chaffey** who represented the district for **27 years** to 1940, and his **son Bill** who followed in his footsteps for **33 years** until 1973.

- Chaffey Dam underwent an **upgrade** that was **completed in 2016** to allow it to **store more water** and **meet modern safety standards**.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Up-to-date dam information is available at [waternsw.com.au](http://waternsw.com.au)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>62 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>500 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water depth</td>
<td>30 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full supply level</td>
<td>518 m above sea level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage capacity</td>
<td>100,500 ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface area</td>
<td>524 ha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catchment area</td>
<td>420 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spillway capacity</td>
<td>78,000 ML per day</td>
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</tbody>
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WaterNSW is the state’s bulk water supplier and river operator. We supply two thirds of water used in NSW from our 42 dams, rivers and pipelines to regional towns, irrigators and local water utilities.
Visit Chaffey Dam

Chaffey Dam is situated on the Peel River, 35 km south-east of Tamworth in the New England region of NSW. The dam is about 400 km north of Sydney. Entry is free and the dam grounds are open 24 hours a day, all year round. Parking at Bowling Alley Point Recreational Reserve is $5 per car. Visitors can enjoy views of the lake, rock wall and morning glory spillway tower from the dam’s main lookout point.

Driving times
Tamworth: 45 minutes  
Gunnedah: 2 hours  
Singleton: 2 hours 35 minutes  
Sydney: 5 hours

Activities
The lake and foreshores around Chaffey Dam are a popular destination for water sports and fishing enthusiasts, nature lovers, bushwalkers, campers and picnickers. Murray cod, yellowbelly, silver perch, catfish and rainbow trout are some of the fish that can be found in the lake. Camp sites are available on the lake foreshore at Bowling Alley Point Recreation Reserve.

Contact us
Call us on 1300 662 077  
Visit us at waternsw.com.au  
Follow us on @WaterNSW

If you have questions about recreation at Chaffey Dam, you can contact Destination Tamworth by phone on (02) 6767 5300 or email tourism@tamworth.nsw.gov.au.