

The Ross River Dam. Picture: Evan Morgan

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill said the pipeline was council's number one infrastructure priority and work was already underway to get stage two rolled out.

She said council had already spoken with landowners and have had to create a new easement to be able to get the pipeline down to the Clare weir.

"We've already started work doing all the surveys ... getting the corridors and having the cultural and environmental surveys done," she said.

"At the moment the stalling point isn't the State Government, we need to work through the Federal Government to get out EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) approvals.

"I think that's the last phase of all of this before we can start putting shovels in the ground."



Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill and Deputy Premier Steven Miles at Iplex Australia in Townsville. Picture: Natasha Emeck

Mayor Hill remained cautiously optimistic that good water levels may hold at the Ross River Dam so no significant water restrictions are triggered in Townsville before the pipeline is ready in 2025.

“I haven’t got a crystal ball to see what’s going to happen in 18 months but at the moment the dam’s pretty close to 90 per cent and it’s July,” she said.

“I think we’re in a pretty good position, even with a poor wet season, to be able to get into the commissioning of the pipe well before we have any concerns about water or significant water restrictions.”

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said the Haughton Pipeline will secure Townsville’s future for decades to come.

“It means secure access to water, and will help delivering future economic growth for Townsville,” Minister Stewart said.

“Iplex Australia has local operations here in Townsville and the local jobs being supported during construction shows the pipeline is already pumping big dollars into Townsville.

“During Stage 1, about 200 local businesses benefited from \$100 million in project spending and Council reports 1000 workers were inducted to work on-site. Stage 2 will be supporting more than 200 construction jobs, including local advanced manufacturing jobs like those at Iplex Australia.”