



INTERNET ARTICLE

Mpumalanga Provincial Operations seeks stakeholder inputs on proposed raw water charges.

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The stakeholder consultation process for setting raw water charges in the Limpopo-Olifants CMA is a vital part of South Africa's water management strategy. By involving various stakeholders and considering numerous factors, this process helps guarantee that water charges are fair, equitable and sustainable.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Olifants Proto-CMA conducted raw water tariff consultations in the Olifants River Basin under the Limpopo-Olifants Catchment Management Agency. These consultations took place throughout the month of July in Giyani, Tzaneen and Groblersdal within the Limpopo Province and the final one took place Emalahleni in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Department has already proposed tariffs for raw water users from various sectors to review and provide feedback before they are approved and implemented according to the National Water Act. for the 2025/2026 financial year, the Department is using the 2007 Raw Water Pricing Strategy. however, there is newly approved Raw Water Pricing Strategy effective from 1 June 2024 and it will be applicable for 2026/2027 financial year. This new pricing strategy is available on the Department's website.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback or make suggestions before the tariff proposals are reviewed during the sector specific consultations on August 15 and the National consultation on 28 August 2024.

In his opening remarks Mr. Nkuna on behalf of the Mpumalanga Provincial Operations Provincial Head stated that, "as part of the budgetary process for the next upcoming financial year, we must consult with stakeholders. This is an annual thing. We need to consult so when the process unfolds, we have consensus with stakeholders. We are here to solicit your valuable input in terms of CMA charges and Infrastructure charges. He further mentioned that the funds collected through the tariffs will be used to facilitate the smooth running of operations as well as for maintenance and water resource management for the upcoming financial year 2025/2026".

The proposed abstraction tariff for domestic and industry for the 2025/2026 financial year remains unchanged, with a 0% increase. However, there is a 5,10% increase for irrigation and a 43% increase for forestry.



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Ms. Mabotane, a water user from Giyani urged the Department not to increase the tariff for the upcoming 2025/2026 financial year due to financial constraints. these challenges are primarily due to the extreme heat and low rainfall, which have resulted in reduced farming productivity.

During these consultations stakeholders were reminded of the importance of registering on WARMS system for water use authorisation. This registration process will be finalized within 90 days of registering. "We will ensure that most if not all water users are issued water rights licenses, for one to use water they need to have license, one cannot use water without a license" said Mr. Nkuna, a Director at the Olifants Office DWS: Mpumalanga Provincial Office.

The proposed tariff for Infrastructure for the 2025/2026 financial year, will have an increase from 0-15%. The Tariffs will differ per the Catchments.

As south Africa is a water-stricken country, stakeholders were urged to protect water resources and prevent water pollution. "Polluters will pay. They will be liable for covering the costs", said Mr Ishmael Mpoyana from Water Resources Regulations.

In conclusion, DWS Mpumalanga Provincial Head, Ms. Dudu Sifunda thanked all attendees for participating in the consultation. She expressed appreciation to the stakeholders for their involvement. "Thank you very much stakeholders for making time to be with us. It is our responsibility as DWS to share views with you. Please send those comments and all the queries that you have and do not be afraid to approach our offices", she said.

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