



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **The Department of Water and Sanitation Engages with Stakeholders in Raw Water Use Charge Consultation for the 2025/26 Financial Year**

29 July 2024

The Limpopo-Olifants Proto CMA recently held public consultation sessions for the 2025/26 financial year raw water use charges. The sessions, held from July 23 to 26, 2024, in Groot Marico, Thabazimbi, Brits, and Bela-Bela, aimed to gather input from stakeholders in the water sector, ensuring transparency and a common approach to water pricing. The consultations are a crucial step in the directorate's efforts to manage water resources sustainably and equitably, as per the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) constitutional mandate.

The Limpopo-Olifants CMA is responsible for protecting, using, developing, conserving, managing, and controlling water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner for the benefit of all persons in the region. To achieve this, they establish suitable water resource management institutions, ensuring community, racial, and gender representation. The directorate's core functions include:

- Regulatory oversight for water utilization
- Supervision and regulation of water usage, including reservoir safety
- Prevention and mitigation of water contamination
- Sustainable water resource management and efficient utilization
- Invasive aquatic plant management
- Restructuring of water distribution policies
- Hydrological data management systems
- Monitoring and preservation of water quality
- Enforcement and adherence to water regulations
- Preservation and restoration of river ecosystems
- Community engagement and river adoption initiatives
- Development and support of water management institutions
- Empowerment and engagement of stakeholders
- Promotion and awareness-raising for water conservation
- Education and skills development for water management professionals

During the sessions, various presentations were made under the chairmanship of Mr. Peet Venter, covering a range of topics. These included a raw water tariff progress report presented by Ms. Esme Madumo, an update on the River Eco-status monitoring program by Ms. Lillian Siwelane, and an overview of the waste discharge charge system by Ms. Mbali Dlamini.

Additionally, Ms. Mosupye presented the proposed budget and tariffs for the 2025/26 financial year, while Mr. Sam Thobejane discussed the establishment of the CMA. Further presentations were made by Mr. Noxolo Yoko on the Water Discharge Charge System (WDCS), Mr. Richard Mahlangu on the Water Use License Application for 2023/2024, and Mr. Vusi Mashaba, Mr. Masango, and Mr.

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Maswanganye on the proposed budget and tariffs for 2025/26, including O&M budget and expenditure.

These presentations aimed to inform stakeholders about the current state of water management and the proposed charges for the upcoming financial year, as well as informing them of the previous financial year budget. The sessions provided a platform for stakeholders to engage with the directorate, ensuring their concerns and inputs are considered in the decision-making process.

The consultation sessions demonstrated the Limpopo-Olifants CMA's commitment to transparency and stakeholder engagement in water resource management. By involving stakeholders in the decision-making process, the directorate ensures that water resources are managed in a sustainable and equitable manner, benefiting all persons in the region.

Stakeholders, including farmers and mines, who use raw water in large quantities, had the opportunity to provide input on the proposed tariffs and budget. This ensures that their concerns and needs are taken into account, promoting a fair and equitable water management system.

The Limpopo-Olifants CMA's efforts promotes the DWS's legislative mandate which states that any person registered in terms of a regulation under section 26 of the National Water Act, 1998 to pay all charges under section 57 in respect of water use, and the region's adherence to engage with stakeholders and ensure transparency in water pricing is commendable.. As the region moves forward, it is essential to continue this collaborative approach, ensuring that water resources are managed in a way that benefits all stakeholders and promotes sustainable development.

PONTSHO BODIBE