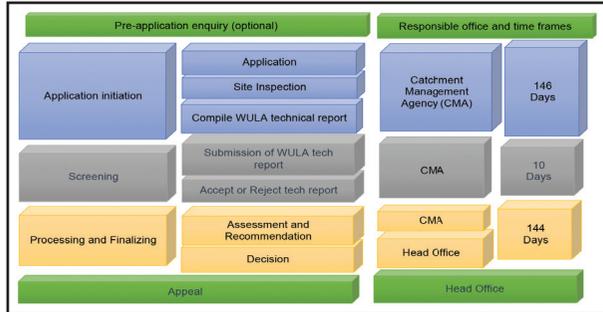


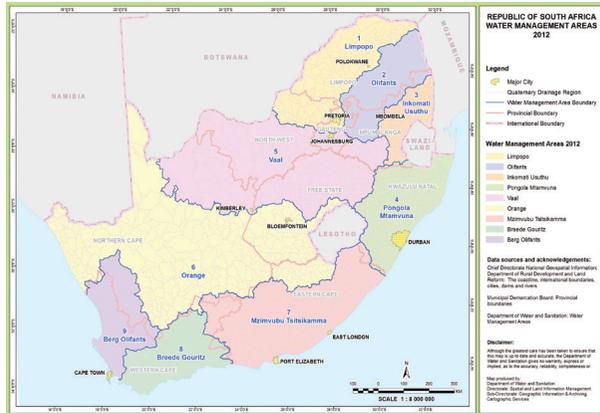
**WATER USE LICENCE**

Any new water use(s) which is not permissible in terms of the types of water use authorisations explained above may only be exercised by means of a Water Use Licence.

**WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR A WATER USE LICENCE AND HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**



**WHERE ARE THE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCIES LOCATED?**



**CONTACT DETAILS**

STATION	NUMBER
Call Centre (Toll Free)	0800 200 200
Head Office 158 Francis Beard Street Pretoria 0001	(012) 336 7496

STATION	NUMBER
<b>Limpopo – North West Proto CMA</b> Azmo Place, 49 Joubert Street, Polokwane 0700	(015) 290 1200
<b>Olifants Proto CMA</b> 22 Rooth St, Bronkhorstspuit, 1020	(013) 932 2061
<b>Inkomati - Usuthu CMA</b> MAXSA Building, 13 Streak Street, Nelspruit, 1200	(013) 753 9000
<b>VaalProto CMA</b> 285 Francis Beard Street, Pretoria, 0001	(012) 392 1300
<b>Pongola - Mzimkulu Proto CMA</b> Southern Life Building, 88 Field Street, Durban, 4000	(031) 336-2700
<b>Orange Proto CMA</b> Public Works building, Knight and Stead street, Kimberly, 8800	(053) 830-8800
<b>Mzimvubu – Tsitsikama Proto CMA</b> 2 Hargreaves Avenue, King Williams Town, 5600	(043) 701-0376
<b>Breede – Gouritz Proto CMA</b> 51 Baring Street, Worcester, 6850	(023) 346 8000
<b>Berg – Olifants Proto CMA</b> 17 Strand Street, Bellville, 7532	(021) 941 6000

Email: [wula@dws.gov.za](mailto:wula@dws.gov.za)

Website: [www.dws.gov.za](http://www.dws.gov.za)

**ANTI-CORRUPTION STATEMENT**

The Department of Water and Sanitation has a zero tolerance approach to fraud, corruption and any other irregular conduct. Applicants are urged to report any potential corrupt activity by any employee of the Department of Water and Sanitation to the **National Anti-Corruption Hotline: 0800 701 701, Fax Number: 0800 204 965 or Postal Address: PO Box 582, Umhlanga Rocks, KwaZulu-Natal, 0432.**

Compiled by: Chief Directorate: Water Use Authorisation,  
Branch: Water Sector Regulation

**WATER USE  
AUTHORISATION**  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY Toll-Free 0800 200 200 [www.dwa.gov.za](http://www.dwa.gov.za)



**water & sanitation**  
Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER USE AUTHORISATION**

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa  
National Water Act, Act No 36 of 1998  
National Water Amendment Act, 27 of 2014  
Regulations: The Procedural Requirements for Water Use  
Licence Applications and Appeals

**WHY DO WE AUTHORIZE WATER USES?**

- To protect water resources;
- To promote equitable access to water;
- To facilitate social and economic development;
- To protect aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity; and
- To meet international obligations.

**Which activities constitute water uses, which require Authorisation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (The Act)?**

Water Use	Example
a) Taking water from a water resource;	Abstracting water from a river or borehole for the following purposes: domestic use, irrigation, watering of livestock, industrial, mining, water bottling or any other purposes.
b) Storing water;	Raw water containment facilities constructed in-stream and in off-channel dams.
c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;	Construction of structures/ facilities within surface water resources, e.g. weirs, bridge, pipelines and etc.
d) Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity;	Plantation of forestry species (Eucalyptus, pine and wattle).

Water Use	Example
e) Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 38(1) of the Act;	Irrigation with water containing waste, artificial recharge of aquifer, modification of atmospheric precipitation and in-stream power generation activities.
f) Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource;	Discharging of water containing waste into a surface water resource, e.g. discharging treated effluent into a river or a wetland.
g) Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource;	Disposal of effluent into a water containment facility, dust suppression and stockpiles.
h) Disposing in any manner of water which contains waste from or which has been heated in, any industrial or power generation process;	Discarding of industrial/ power generation waste water or water which has been heated.
i) Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse;	Construction of structures/ facilities within surface water resources, e.g. weirs, bridge, pipelines and etc. Introduction of unnatural characteristics to the resource.
j) Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of the people; and	Extraction of water from underground workings for safe continuation of activities.
k) Using water for recreational purpose.	The use of surface water resources for fishing, boating, etc.

**TYPES OF WATER USE AUTHORIZATIONS SCHEDULE 1**

Schedule 1 Water Use constitutes water taken for reasonable domestic use in a person's household from any resource, small gardening (but not for commercial purposes), watering of livestock (excluding feedlots) that graze on that land (within the carrying capacity of that property), storing and using run-off water from a roof (Rain water harvesting), in emergencies, e.g. fire - fighting and recreation e.g. swimming, angling and etc. A catchment management agency may limit the taking of water in terms of Schedule 1 (Schedule 3(2)(e) of the Act). Water users in this category can commence with their activities without informing the Department.

**CONTINUATION OF AN EXISTING LAWFUL USE**

Existing Lawful Water Use means the use of water authorised by or under any law that took place at any time for a period of two years before the commencement of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).

An Existing Lawful Water Use, with any conditions attached, is recognised but may continue only to the extent that it is not limited, prohibited or terminated by this Act. No licence is required to continue with an Existing Lawful Water Use until a responsible authority requires a person claiming such an entitlement to apply for a licence. If a licence is issued it becomes the source of authority for the water use. If a licence is not granted the use is no longer permissible. This authorisation requires a registration with the Department.

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS**

General Authorisation is an authorisation to use water without a licence, provided that the water use is within certain limits and complies with conditions set out in the Gazetted General Authorisation. This authorisation requires a registration with the Department prior to exercising the water use(s).

**DISPENSING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENCE/EXEMPTION**

A responsible authority may dispense with the requirement for a water use licence if it is satisfied that the purpose of this Act will be met by a licence, permit or other Authorisation granted under any other law. Person(s) intending to use water in this category should write a letter, attaching the relevant authorisation, to request the Department to dispense with the requirements of a water use licence.